

**Section 6 (Texas Non-traditional) Report Review**

Attachment to letter dated APR 14 2009

TPWD signature date on report 1/28/09

**Nontraditional Program (check one):**

Project Title: Storm Ranch Conservation Easement

- ☐ Recovery Land Acquisition
- ☒ HCP Land Acquisition
- ☐ HCP Planning Assistance
- ☐ Safe Harbors / CCAAs

Final or Interim Report? Final

Job #: WER

Grant #: E-41-HL

Reviewer Station: Austin ESFO

Lead station was contacted and concurs with the following comments:

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not applicable (reviewer is from lead station)

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**Interim Report (check one):**

**Final Report (check one):**

☐ is acceptable as is

☒ is acceptable as is

☐ is acceptable as is, but comments below  
need to be addressed in the next report

☐ is acceptable, but needs minor revision  
(see comments below)

☐ needs revision (see comments below)

☐ needs major revision (see comments below)

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**Comments:**

**FINAL REPORT**

As Required by

**THE ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM**

**TEXAS**

**GRANT E-41-HL**

**Storm Ranch Conservation Easement**

Prepared by Frank Davis



Carter Smith  
Executive Director

Clay Brewer, Acting Director  
Wildlife Division

January 28, 2009

## **FINAL REPORT**

**State:** Texas

**Grant Number:** E-41-HL

**Grant Title:** Storm Ranch Conservation Easement

**Grant Program:** Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation (15.615)

**Contract Period:** November 1, 2002 through October 31, 2008

**Reporting Period:** November 1, 2002 through October 31, 2008

**Objective:** To acquire by conservation easement 5,685 acres or any part or percentage of interest of Storm Ranch, as funding permits.

### **Accomplishments:**

During this reporting and contract period, Hill Country Conservancy and the Storm Family completed acquisition of Phase I of the conservation easement (2,283 acres), and Phase II of the Storm Ranch conservation easement, (1,318 acres). Phase I was acquired in August 2005 for \$3,847,000, of which USFWS contributed \$1,044,550. Phase II was acquired in May 2008 for \$2,354,672, with USFWS contributing 1,766,004.

An Easement Documentation Report was created for each property and signed by the Grantor of the conservation easement and HCC at closing. Annual monitoring reports were completed and filed by Hill Country Conservancy Director of Land Stewardship Frank Davis in each of the 3 years following acquisition of Phase I. No violations were noted during any of those monitoring visits or interviews with the Storm family.

The Storms completed brush management and habitat restoration work in 2007 on two large pastures (the "Pear Tree" and Arrowhead" pastures) totaling approximately 500 acres. A Natural Resources Conservation Service grant to improve water quality in the Edwards Aquifer through Ashe juniper chainsaw removal provided 50% of the funding for that project. In addition, the Storms continued preparations for a prescribed burn with funding assistance from a USFWS Private Stewardship Grant. However, the recent drought and county burn bans have prevented implementation of the burn. There are preliminary plans to perform the burn in late winter or early spring of 2009. Hill Country Conservancy has hosted several volunteer days to assist with these projects, along with on-site special events and tours to increase public awareness of conservation and habitat issues.

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Finally, in September 2008, Hill Country Conservancy applied for an additional \$6,000,000 through the USFWS Nontraditional Section 6 Grants Program, for acquisition of a conservation easement on the remaining 2,084 acres of the ranch. The grant proposal included further protection for the endangered Barton Springs Salamander, in addition to creation and enhancement of habitat for two endangered songbirds, the Black-capped Vireo and the Golden-cheeked Warbler.

**Deviations:** None

**Costs:** \$2,805,610.40 – HCC share of Phase I acquisition costs  
\$1,044,550.00 – USFWS share of Phase I acquisition costs  
  
\$588,668.00 – HCC share of Phase II acquisition costs  
\$1,766,004.00 – USFWS share of Phase II acquisition costs

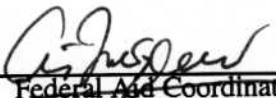
**Prepared by:**



Frank Davis, Project Manager

**Date:** 01/20/2008

**Approved by:**



Federal Aid Coordinator

*Endangered Species Grants*

**Date:** 28 Jan 09

**Federal Aid Project  
Summary of Land Costs  
Costs Claimed**

**State:** Texas

**County:** Hays

**Grant No.:** E-41-HL      **Segment No.:** 1      **Grant Period:** 11/01/2002 – 10/31/2005

**Grant Title:** Storm Ranch Conservation Easement

**Acquisition Name:** Storm Ranch Conservation Easement

**Grantor:** Hill Country Conservancy

**Date Acquired:** June 15, 2005

**Acreage:** 2,282.964

**Appraised Value:** \$3,847,000.00

**Purchase Price:** \$3,847,000.00

**Appraisal Costs:** \$0.00

**Relocation Costs:** \$0.00

**Survey Costs:** \$0.00

**Closing Costs:** \$3,240

**Salaries, Per Diem:** \$0.00

**In-kind Value:** \$0.00

**Miscellaneous:** \$0.00

**Total Costs to Acquire Property:** \$3,850,240.00

**Grant Cost Share Percentages:** Federal 75% State 25%

**Total Federal Reimbursement Requested:** \$1,044,550.00 (75%)

**State/3<sup>rd</sup> Party Share:** \$348,183.33 (25%)

**Total of Grant Expenditures:** \$1,392,733.33

**Total Allowable Grant Costs (Phase 1):** \$2,544,550.00

**Excess Match (Phase 1):** \$2,544,550.00 minus \$1,392,733.33 = \$1,151,816.67