



## Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust

933 East Court Street • Seguin, Texas 78155  
www.gbrtrust.org

Change Service Requested

## GBR Trust Receives SEP Funding

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust has received \$34,676.00 dollars from the Supplemental Environmental Projects funding provided through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA requires violators to achieve and maintain compliance with Federal environmental laws and regulations and to pay a civil penalty. As a method to further the EPA's goals to protect and enhance public health and the environment, in certain instances environmentally beneficial projects, or Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs), may be part of the settlement.

SEPs are defined as environmentally beneficial projects that a defendant/

Photo by Steve Sykes



respondent agrees to undertake in settlement of an enforcement action, but which the defendant/respondent is not otherwise legally required to perform. Environmentally beneficial means a SEP must improve, protect, or reduce risks to public health, or the environment at large.

The Trust will be using the SEP funds as part of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Wetland Enhancement project. Located at the Myrtle-Foester Whitmire Preserve in Indianola, Texas. This project will help to further enhance and restore critical wetland habitat that will benefit hundreds of thousands of waterfowl, wading and shorebirds.

Threatened and endangered species found on the Whitmire Unit include the whooping crane, peregrine falcon, aplomado falcon, and the brown pelican. Birds of management concern include the wood stork, reddish egret, roseate spoonbill and osprey. Common waterfowl species using the Whitmire Unit include the northern pintail, mottled duck, redhead, canvasback, ring-necked duck, American wigeon, and greater white-fronted goose.

## Upcoming Trust Events

### May 1, 2010

Tour of property in the Texas Hill Country that shows cedar clearing and has been preserved with a conservation easement, Kendall County.

### May 15, 2010

Tour a 100-acre conservation easement where the land has been restored to a native grassland, Hays County.

### May 12, 2010

Trust Board meeting located at the GBRA River Annex, 901 Nolan Street, Seguin, Texas 78155

For more information about upcoming events or to learn more about the GBR Trust, please visit [www.gbrtrust.org](http://www.gbrtrust.org).

### Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust

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#### Preservation Matters

Spring 2010

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Janet Thome - Grants and Projects Specialist

GBR Trust retains the right to determine the editorial content and presentation of information contained herein. Articles or opinion written by guest writers do not necessarily reflect official views of the Trust or its Board of Trustees.

The Trust is a charitable, non-profit 501(c)3 organization that was founded to conserve the land and water of the Guadalupe River watershed for its natural, recreational, scenic, historic and productive value. The mission of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust is to promote and encourage the conservation, stewardship and enjoyment of the land and water resources of the Guadalupe River watershed, while maintaining its unique and irreplaceable natural heritage.

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# Preservation Matters

[www.gbrtrust.org](http://www.gbrtrust.org)

Issue 1 - Spring 2010

## Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust Secures 6,200-Acre Conservation Easement



Photo by James Fuller

More than 6,200 acres of property along the San Antonio River in Goliad County is being preserved through a conservation easement with the Fuller family and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust (GBR Trust). The easement, executed December 16, 2009, becomes the largest tract of property secured by the GBR Trust since its inception in 2001. A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a conservation organization or government agency that permanently limits a property's uses in order to protect the property's conservation value.

Dr. James Fuller, his wife Mary and family own the 6,201-acre tract that features seven miles of San Antonio River frontage and diverse topography. The Fullers plan to pass the land to their three sons who are actively involved with the management of the land. "We wanted to see this beautiful property preserved for our three sons and ultimately for their families, rather than being fragmented and developed," Dr. Fuller said.

"All of us love the ranch, and our sons are environmentally conscious and concerned about keeping the property in tact – preserving it for future generations. This easement will help us

do that," Mary Fuller explained. The Fullers also participate in the Conservation Crop Rotation Program with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), which provides food, cover and water for livestock and wildlife, specifically quail.

In addition to NRCS, the family also works with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to manage their land for wildlife, yet still manage an active ranch. They also practice wildlife management techniques, such as controlled burns. The Fuller's homestead is situated at the highest point on the property, which allows a stunning view from the wrap-around front porch.

As the Fullers began to acquire the land over the years, they worked hard to clean up the land of abandoned homes and other debris that past owners left behind.

Over the years the family had considered entering into a conservation easement and recently decided it was time to move forward with the easement to protect the land from future development and to preserve it for future generations.



# Highlights of GBR Trust Completed Projects throughout the Basin

The basin map shows the location of projects that have been completed with your support. The GBR Trust works with landowners, teachers, conservation organizations, and state and federal agencies to educate the public on conservation options and programs to preserve the natural resources of the Guadalupe River Basin.

## 1. Kendal County Conservation Easement

Two sisters have preserved 620 acres of Texas Hill Country property. Featuring pristine natural areas, Guadalupe River frontage, large cypress trees and spectacular views. You can also find fossils of dinosaur tracks in a dry creek bed on the property. Conservation of this property protects land at the beginning of three local watersheds and two tributaries (Violet Creek and Wasp Creek) that flow into the Guadalupe River.

## 2. Hays County Conservation Easement

This easement is located in an area that has seen tremendous growth. At one time this 100 acre property had been overgrazed and suffered the effects of overuse. The current landowners stated *“our agreement with the GBR Trust is a wonderful opportunity to protect our part of Texas even after we are gone. To be considered a steward of the land is a privilege. We are here now to enjoy and protect this land while also having the satisfaction of knowing that it will remain protected when we’re not here to do it ourselves.”*

## 3. Guadalupe County Conservation Easement

An active cattle ranch holds many childhood memories for its owner. *“So much development is eroding the land and driving out wildlife and things that are natural. I did not want that to ever happen to this land. I want it to be here for future generations.”* Stated this long time rancher and steward of the land. This property has both Guadalupe River frontage with a healthy riparian area and grass land used for grazing.

## 4. DeWitt County Conservation Easement

This conservation easement has preserved a riparian area along the Guadalupe River that has large pecan trees and an abundance of wildlife habitat. The remainder of the property is managed as a cattle ranch and family retreat.

## 5. Calhoun County Conservation Easement

Hosting 2.5 miles of Guadalupe River frontage located in the western gulf coastal floodplain, one of the most biologically diverse and ecologically complex regions of Texas. This habitat attracts thousands of migratory birds including pelicans, herons, egrets, spoonbills, shorebirds, ducks, and geese.



Photo by Keith Szafranski

## 6. Comal County Conservation Easement

The property is situated near the Blanco-Comal County line along the western perimeter and Rocky Creek runs along the eastern side. Conservation of this property includes the preservation of juniper and oak woodlands along the canyons and uplands, which serve as golden-checked warbler habitat. The endangered songbird has been seen in the area on at least two separate occasions.

## 7. Wilson County Conservation Easement

The property being preserved in this easement lies over the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer recharge zone. The property is comprised of sandy soils, undeveloped post oak woods and native grasses. The Little Alum Creek flows into the Cibolo Creek and finally into the San Antonio River.

## 8. Goliad County Conservation Easement

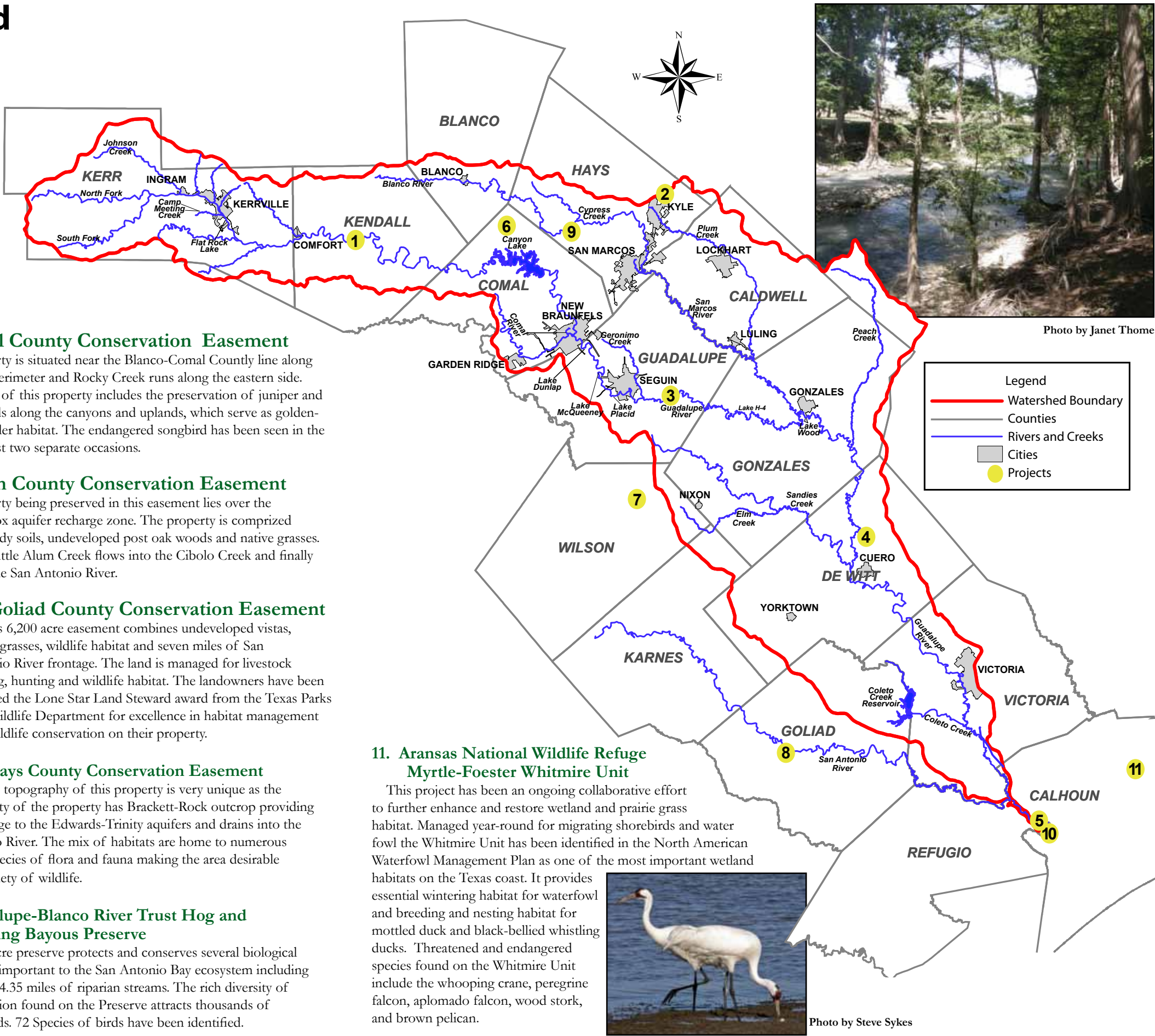
This 6,200 acre easement combines undeveloped vistas, native grasses, wildlife habitat and seven miles of San Antonio River frontage. The land is managed for livestock grazing, hunting and wildlife habitat. The landowners have been awarded the Lone Star Land Steward award from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for excellence in habitat management and wildlife conservation on their property.

## 9. Hays County Conservation Easement

The topography of this property is very unique as the majority of the property has Brackett-Rock outcrop providing recharge to the Edwards-Trinity aquifers and drains into the Blanco River. The mix of habitats are home to numerous native species of flora and fauna making the area desirable for a variety of wildlife.

## 10. Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust Hog and Schwing Bayous Preserve

This 646 acre preserve protects and conserves several biological communities important to the San Antonio Bay ecosystem including wetlands and 4.35 miles of riparian streams. The rich diversity of native vegetation found on the Preserve attracts thousands of migratory birds. 72 Species of birds have been identified.



## 11. Aransas National Wildlife Refuge Myrtle-Foester Whitmire Unit

This project has been an ongoing collaborative effort to further enhance and restore wetland and prairie grass habitat. Managed year-round for migrating shorebirds and water fowl the Whitmire Unit has been identified in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan as one of the most important wetland habitats on the Texas coast. It provides essential wintering habitat for waterfowl and breeding and nesting habitat for mottled duck and black-bellied whistling ducks. Threatened and endangered species found on the Whitmire Unit include the whooping crane, peregrine falcon, aplomado falcon, wood stork, and brown pelican.



Photo by Steve Sykes