TIMELINE

2009-06-01 CVA goes live on world wide web

2009-09-24 Motion to Delay & Expand Study Area

2010-02-15 1/4 scale model lattice tower tours region

2010-02-15 LCRA Open Houses second round

2010-04-19 LCRA / Fish & Wildlife Scoping Meetings

2010-07-28 Filing of CCN

2010-09-01 Hearing on the Merits, Austin Conv. Center

2010-12-17 ALJ issued PFD recommendation to PUC

2010-12-23 CVA filed Exceptions to PFD

2011-01-13 PUC routing deliberations / Final Order

TERMS

PFD Proposal for Decision

ALJ Administrative Law Judge

CVA Clear View Alliance

LCRA Lower Colorado River Auth

PUC Public Utilities Commission

CCN Certificate of Convenience &

Necessity

TPWD Tx Parks & Wildlife Dept.

PURA Public Utility Regulatory Act

CREZ Competitive Renewable

Energy Zones

CTO CREZ Transmission Optimiz

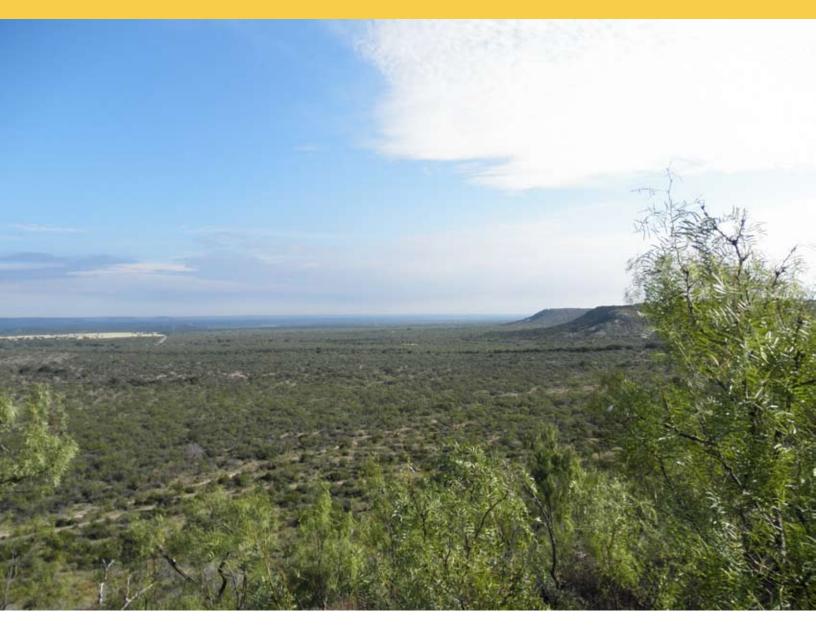
Wildlife Management www.ClearViewAlliance.org



Wildlife Management

Many landowners have a desire to see their land restored and/or conserved for its natural values – and this trend also provides huge benefits to local rural economies through increased nature-based tourism, hunting, bird-watching, canoeing and kayaking, and other forms of outdoor recreation. The wildlife and scenic resources of the Texas Hill Country are its greatest assets, and these are just as much a part of agricultural land use as is raising sheep and goats.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT



Wildlife Management

The ALJs did not address the agricultural uses of the land that is within the study area, but the way this land is being used and the basis for its value are reasons for rejecting the Preferred Route and avoiding routes that cut through the center of the Hill Country. The EA inaccurately assumes that the principal land use is for livestock grazing; instead a primary use for the native rangeland in much of the Study Area is wildlife management.

There are now over 1 million acres of Wildlife Management lands in the Texas Hill Country – by comparison, this exceeds the area of improved pastureland. In the counties impacted by McCamey D to Kendall alone, landowners declared Wildlife Management as the primary land use across some 300,000 acres, by 2007. Ranches with Wildlife Management officially declared as the primary land use in this area now exceed the combined area of cropland, pastureland, and orchards in the study area considered for McCamey D to Kendall. While this alone is an impressive statistic, it does not include the other millions of acres where landowners have demonstrated that wildlife management is a major determinant in their land use decisions.

On well-managed properties, the revenue from hunting leases can exceed revenue from livestock — but this is not the only factor driving land use decisions. Grazing, wildlife and recreation are all part of that, but there is an authentic motive of land stewardship behind many of the land use decisions in the area. Dr. Wilkins testified that many landowners have a desire to see their land restored and/or conserved for its natural values — and this trend also provides huge benefits to local rural economies through increased nature-based tourism, hunting, bird-watching, canoeing and kayaking, and other forms of outdoor recreation.





The wildlife and scenic resources of the Texas Hill Country are its greatest assets, and these are just as much a part of agricultural land use as is raising sheep and goats.

Across the counties impacted by McCamey D to Kendall, the appraised market values for agricultural lands increased by almost 4-fold during 1997-2007. Land values have similarly increased even in the extremely rural four-county area in the western part of the study area.

The Preferred Route (and all of the proposed links located in the center of Hill Country) cut through the middle section of the lands managed by the Doss-Harper Wildlife Management Association (WMA). Having been formed in the early 1980s, the Doss-Harper WMA is one of the oldest such cooperatives in the state, and has served as a template for state agency efforts that have resulted in several million acres under cooperative wildlife management in more than 140 wildlife management associations. Preferred Route MK13 would run through the center of the Doss-Harper WMA for approximately 12 miles. The right-of-way and its maintenance would create permanent challenges to wildlife management across those lands that have been intentionally managed and conserved for wildlife as an integral part of the ranch and agricultural operations in the area.

The ALJs reached the right result—rejection of the Preferred Route—but failed to include analysis of this important environmental consideration.