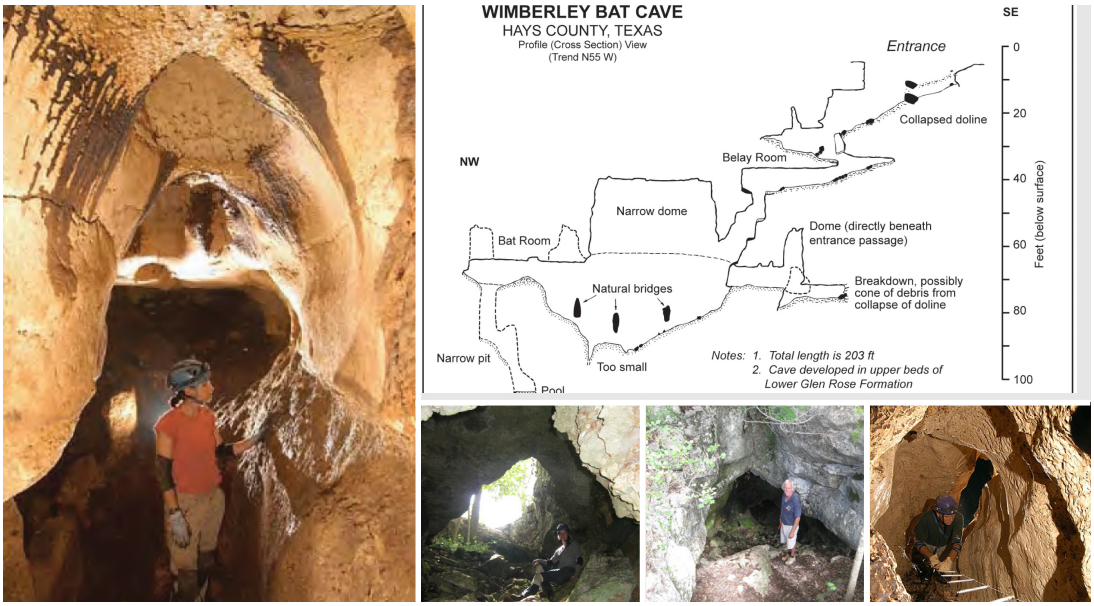
WVWA seeks to reinvest first round funding of Coleman's Canyon Preserve in additional fee simple land purchase and conservation easements to strengthen the Cypress Creek Watershed Conservation Network. Collaborating with researchers and community leaders to restore Coleman's Canyon and add it to Jacob's Well Natural Area, we have identified further lands and open space in alignment with the County's Parks and Open Space Plan. The Dry Cypress Creek Trail project, using Coleman's Canyon Preserve proceeds, can close on 79 acres further protection in Jacob's Well Groundwater Management Zone, with an informal understanding that up to 39 additional acres may be conserved through permanent easement. This protects the karst aquifer recharge zone and creates more recreational opportunities through expanding the trail network and connecting the Wimberley Bat Cave with Jacob's Well Natural Area. Preserving the environment at the source protects watershed, habitat, and businesses. Dry Cypress, as a tributary to Cypress Creek, is a key financial underpinning of Hays County, an economic multiplier to be widely known in our shared stewardship to sustain what we love.



CONTEXT – A Watershed Under Pressure


Jacob's Well

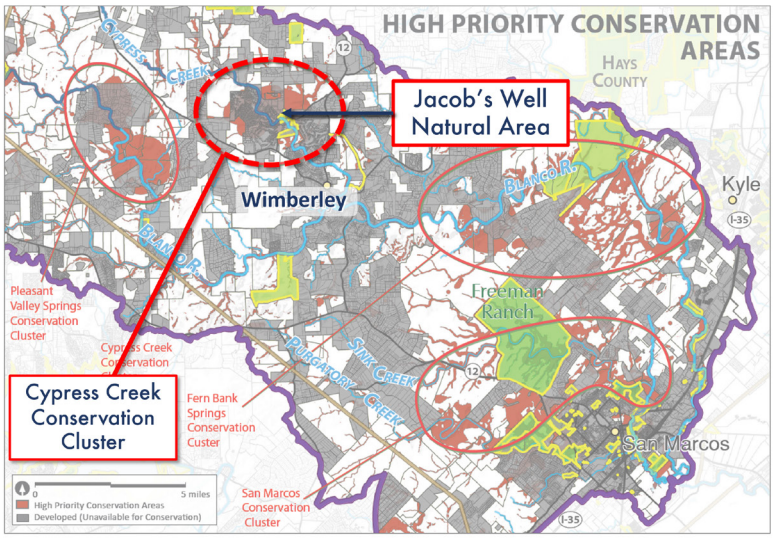

Texas Hill Country Suburban Sprawl


Cypress Creek


Blue Hole

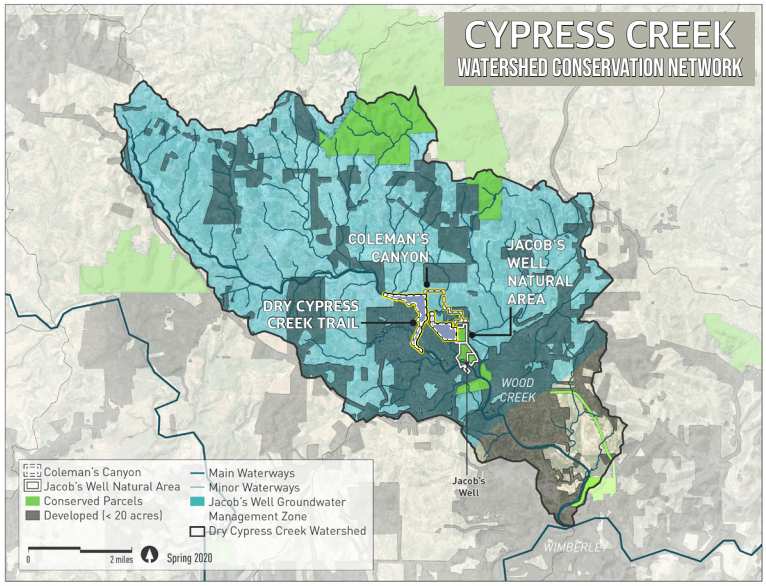
CONTEXT
High Priority Conservation Areas


BLANCO AND UPPER SAN MARCOS WATERSHED STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PRIORITIZATION



CONTEXT
Watershed Development Pressure

- Aquifer Overdraft
- Urgent Timing
- Watershed Protection Plan

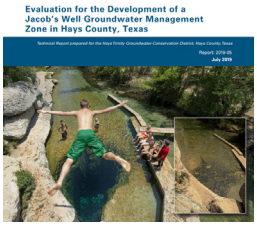


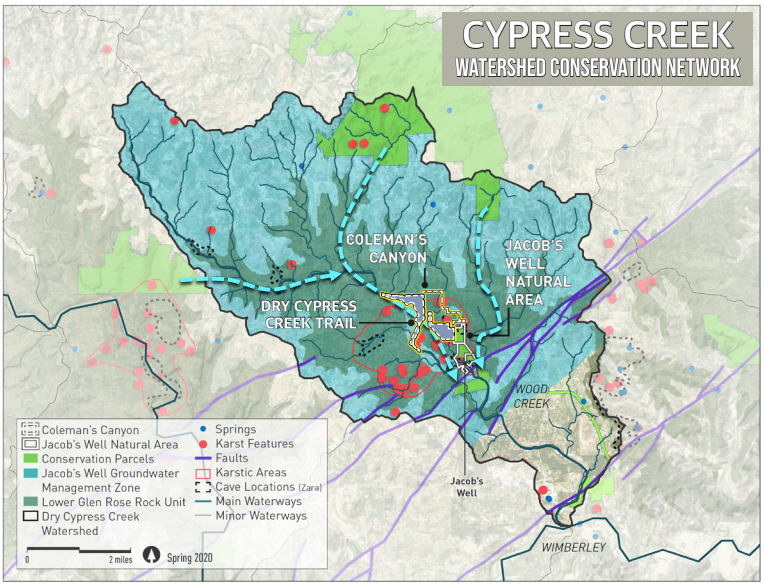
Regional Context

Dry Cypress Creek Trail jump starts buildout of the Wimberley Valley Trails project, providing identified linkages in the plan to Woodcreek North, following the path of Dry Cypress back to Jacob's Well. This project is at the heart of a high priority cluster identified by the 2017 "Blanco and Upper San Marcos Watershed Strategic Conservation Prioritization," sponsored by the Meadows Center at Texas State University. Much of the cluster contains parcels under 20 acres in size, thus this new natural acreage is one of the County's few conservation opportunities. Adding to Coleman's Canyon via this trail and program-related investment project protects surface and groundwater flows into Jacob's Well, karst features, golden-cheeked warbler habitat, groundwater recharge, and flood mitigation. Analysis designated Coleman's Canyon as perhaps irreplaceable to conserving the watershed.

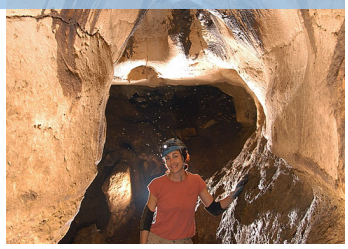
CONTEXT
Watershed Conservation Network

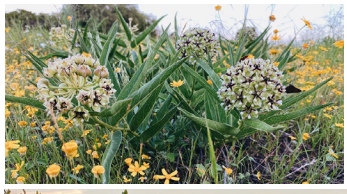
- Critical Groundwater Management Zone
- Enhance Aquifer Recharge
- Habitat Connectivity

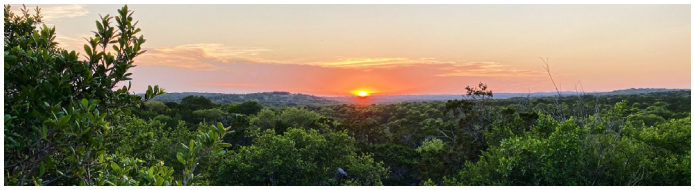




SITE ASSESSMENT

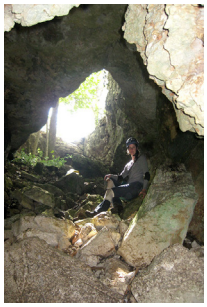


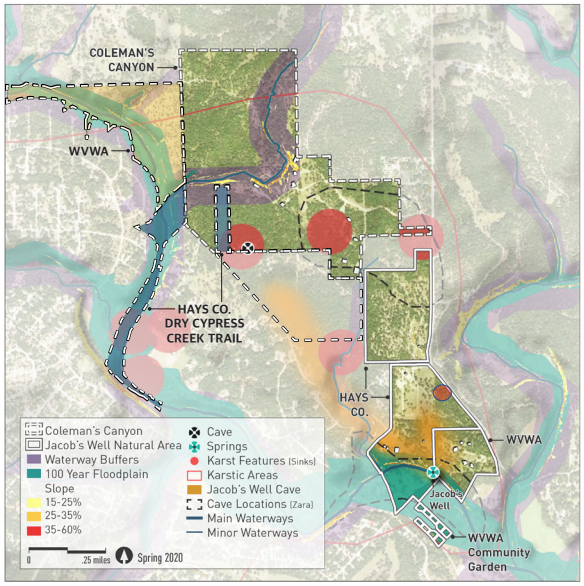




SITE ASSESSMENT
Water

- Wimberley Bat Cave Karst/Recharge Area
- Critical Waterways & Water Quality Buffers
- Floodplain Riparian Restoration
- Steep Slopes





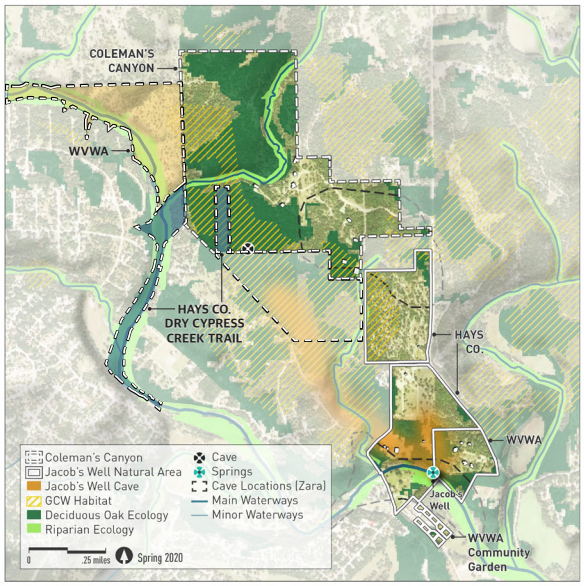
Site Conditions

Dry Cypress Creek Trail contributes subtantially to the Coleman's Canyon Preserve project, bolstering trail access and buffers to the Wimberley Bat Cave among other karst sites, 46 acres of golden-cheeked warbler habitat, prized invertebrate species, riparian vegetation, and water quality buffers. The trails are readily accessible for general public use as add-ons to the County's adjacent Coleman's Canyon and Jacob's Well Natural Area investments, creating an expanded upland experience supported by the County's plan, with extensive trails and incredible canyon vistas. Hays County residents of all ages, cultures, and income levels will enjoy the flora and fauna of this significant conservation center.

SITE ASSESSMENT

Natural Resources & Habitat

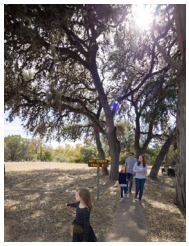
- Golden Cheeked Warbler
- Mexican Freetail Bats
- Salamanders & Amphipods in Bat Cave
- Deciduous Oak & Riparian Plant Communities
- Diverse Wildlife Habitat

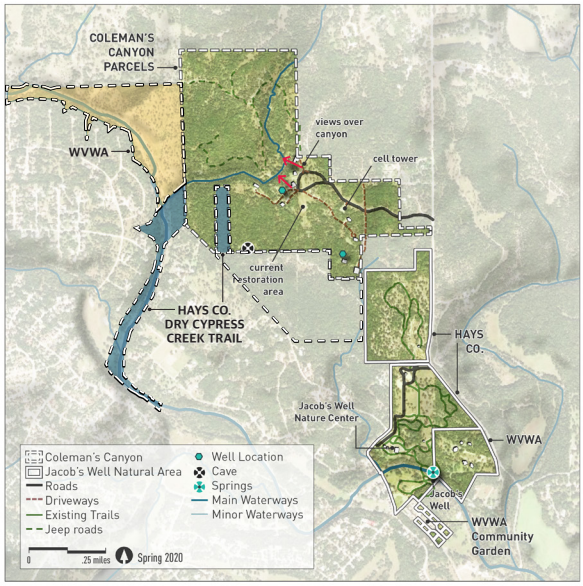


SITE ASSESSMENT

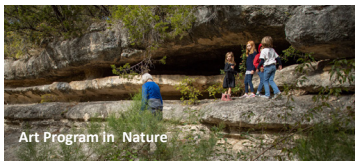
Existing Open Space & Trails

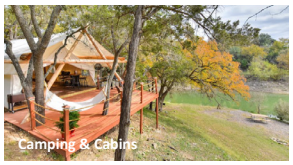
- Access
- Infrastructure – wells, structures, cell tower
- Views Over Canyon
- Existing trails at Jacob's Well Natural Area
- Jacob's Well Nature Center

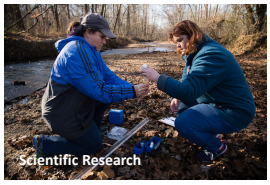




SITE POTENTIAL

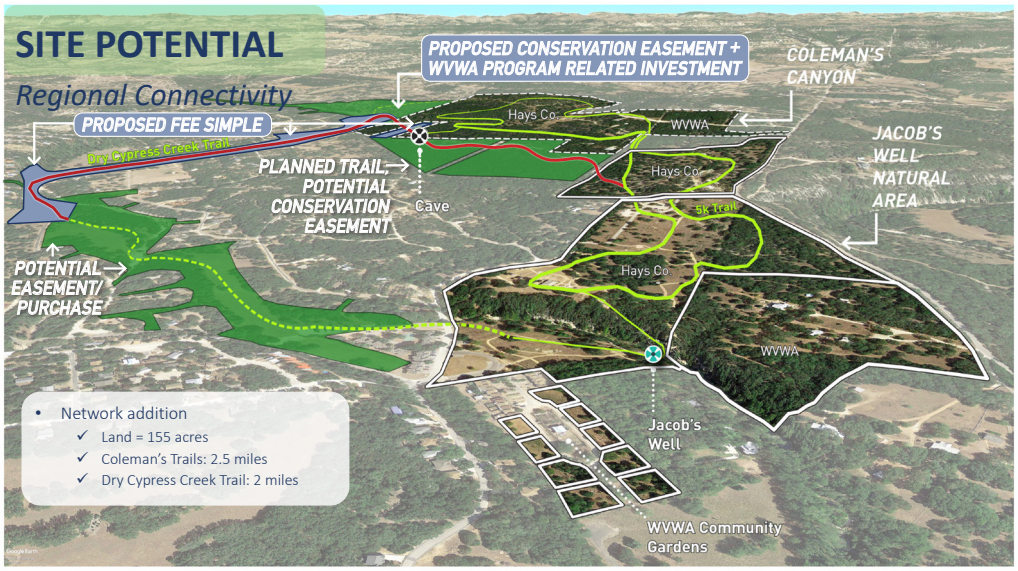


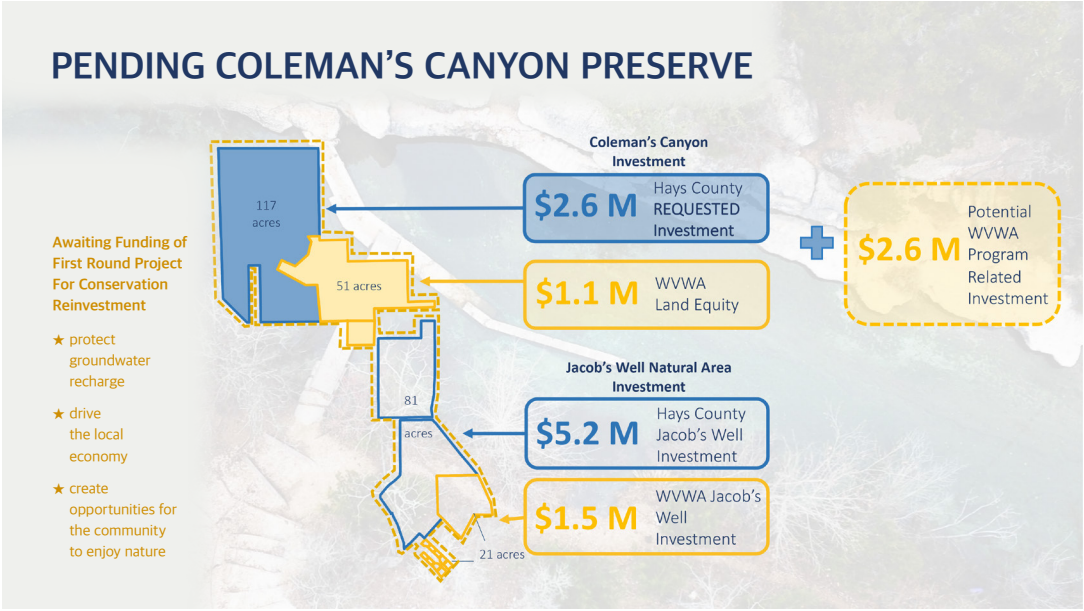


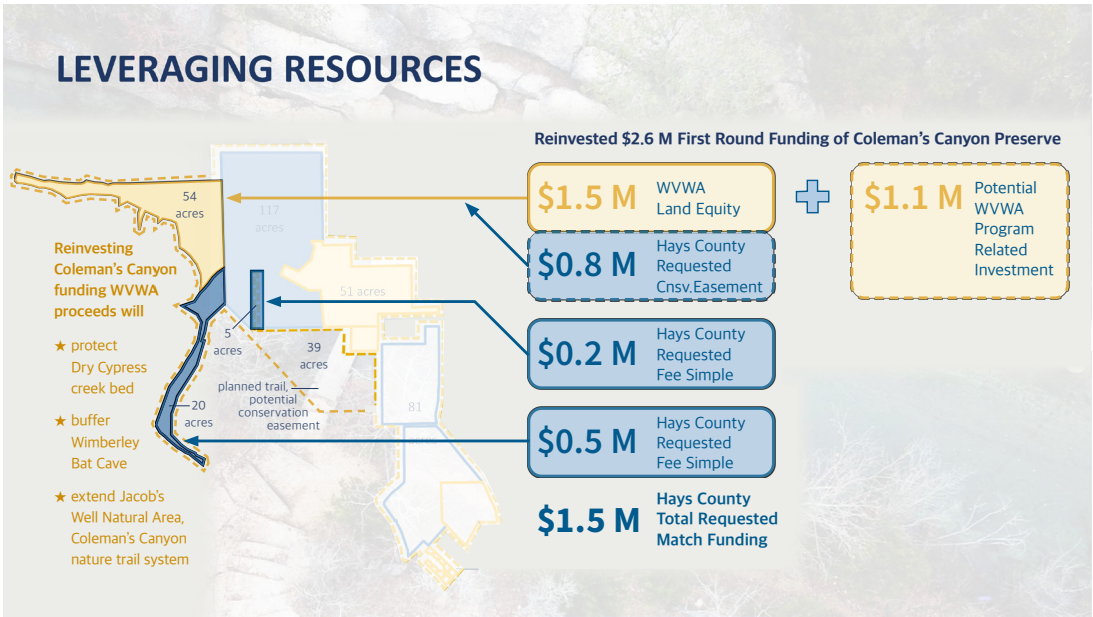


Site Potential

Dry Cypress Creek Trail is the logical next step after Coleman's Canyon Preserve's doubling of Jacob's Well Natural Area in size. The trail is key to a sustainable plan to alleviate development pressures outside JWNA/ Coleman's borders while adding high priority facilities envisioned in the County plan: Cypress Creek access, multi-use trails suitable for a 5K trail run and longer. Restored habitat and groundbreaking watershed scientific research and environmental education will complement new and unique outdoor recreation and entertainment. Jacob's Well Natural Area is a proven County site, with demonstrated operations supported by experienced nonprofit WVWA and plentiful knowledgeable volunteers.







Economic Breakdown

This proposal stems from reinvestment of the pending Coleman's Canyon Preserve project funding and highest-ranked among first round submissions. WVWA will have $1.5 million land equity on closing, and requests $1.5 million from Hays County for fee simple purchase of a combined 25 acres and a permanent conservation easement on an additional 54 acres. WVWA will further retain $1.1 million in potential program-related investmet funds for facilities, additional lands, and operations. Leverage to secure a $3.0 million community asset and further protect the source of Jacob's Well requires commitment from the County of just $1.5 million.


Q & A

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY
Biodiversity Center

2415 Speedway, PAT 128 • C0990 • Austin, Texas 78712
https://biodiversity.utexas.edu/

July 9, 2018

Mr. Lew Adams
PO Box 341013
Lakeway, TX 78734

Dear Mr. Adams,

My staff and I really enjoyed meeting you here at the University Biodiversity Center to learn more about your incredible creek canyon on the Pedernales River. Your video narrated by Andy Glusenkamp the former Texas Parks & Wildlife Biologist, was very enlightening and revealing about the canyon's rich diversity and pristine watershed.

You and your family's stewardship and protection of the land for almost 80 years stands as testament to the many rare species that continue to survive there today.

The canyon is prime nesting habitat for both the Golden-cheeked Warbler and the Black-capped Vireo, and the site of a recently discovered and yet unnamed salamander collected in one of its natural springs. The creek is home to the Guadalupe Bass, and plant surveys conducted by Texas State Botanists, are invaluable in providing students with greater learning capabilities in the years to come.

Having visited and explored the canyon, and I can personally attest to its biodiversity. This isolated canyon truly is a "time capsule" and would be a valuable asset to the University and its on-going programs in higher education.

Thank you for hosting our Environmental Science Classes last year at the canyon. We are hopeful that this is just the beginning of a long relationship between your family and its property, and the Biodiversity Center.

The University of Texas Biodiversity Center is very interested in pursuing some type of partnership with you and creating another location and study area to provide students with greater understanding for decades to come.

We are looking forward to these prospects.
Sincerely,

David Hillis - Director

DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Colin R. Morrison – PhD Program in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior
Phone: (702) 378·2832 · Email: crmorrison@utexas.edu
2415 Speedway · Austin, TX 78712
J.T. Patterson Laboratories

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is in support of establishing a Conservation Easement (CE) on the Adams and Askins properties fronting Roy Creek. My name is Colin Morrison, and I am a PhD Candidate at the University of Texas at Austin (UT). Lew Adams and Jody Askins contacted me in 2020 through my major advisor, Dr. Larry Gilbert. They invited me to come survey their properties for invasive species like fire ants and noxious weeds to support them in conserving Roy Creek Canyon's pristine natural state. I agreed to come because I value supporting landowners in their conservation efforts.

I realized that the connection with Jody and Lew was an opportunity to assess the quality of the area for my PhD studies and the Gilbert Lab research program in general. We study passion vines, prickly pear cactus, and the herbivorous insects that eat them. This property has two species of hill country passion vines, a healthy prickly pear population, and a variety of insects that specialize on eating them. Roy Creek Canyon is an exceptional location to support our research agenda.

I will remark further on the significance of continued observation and sampling of native prickly pear cactus on the Adams and Askins properties. My access to Roy Creek Canyon is well-timed because the invasive cactus moth (*Cactoblastis cactorum*), a voracious consumer of native pricky pear cactus, has recently established on the Texas Gulf Coast and is likely to spread into the hill country soon. This is an excellent location for monitoring native and invasive cactus moth populations. Comparing native cactus moth biology with that of the newly established invasive species is an urgent research priority for the Gilbert Lab outfit at Brackenridge Field Laboratory. Key findings of this research were filmed onsite, broadcast by KXAN, and reported on by several central Texas new outlets including KUT.

Overall, the quality of Roy Creek Canyon is remarkable with respect to land that I have surveyed in the Pedernales River watershed, and the hill country in general. The watershed, plant and animal life are rich and stable. Quality land like this is invaluable to researchers intent on conducting accurate biodiversity surveys. The value of this canyon to its endemic blind salamander population, the native flora and fauna that it supports is abundantly clear. Establishment of a CE on Roy Creek in perpetuity would facilitate ongoing and future efforts to embrace our natural heritage by conserving pristine land, watersheds, and the numerous plants and animals that they support.

Best regards,

Colin Morrison
PhD Candidate

Colin R. Morrison