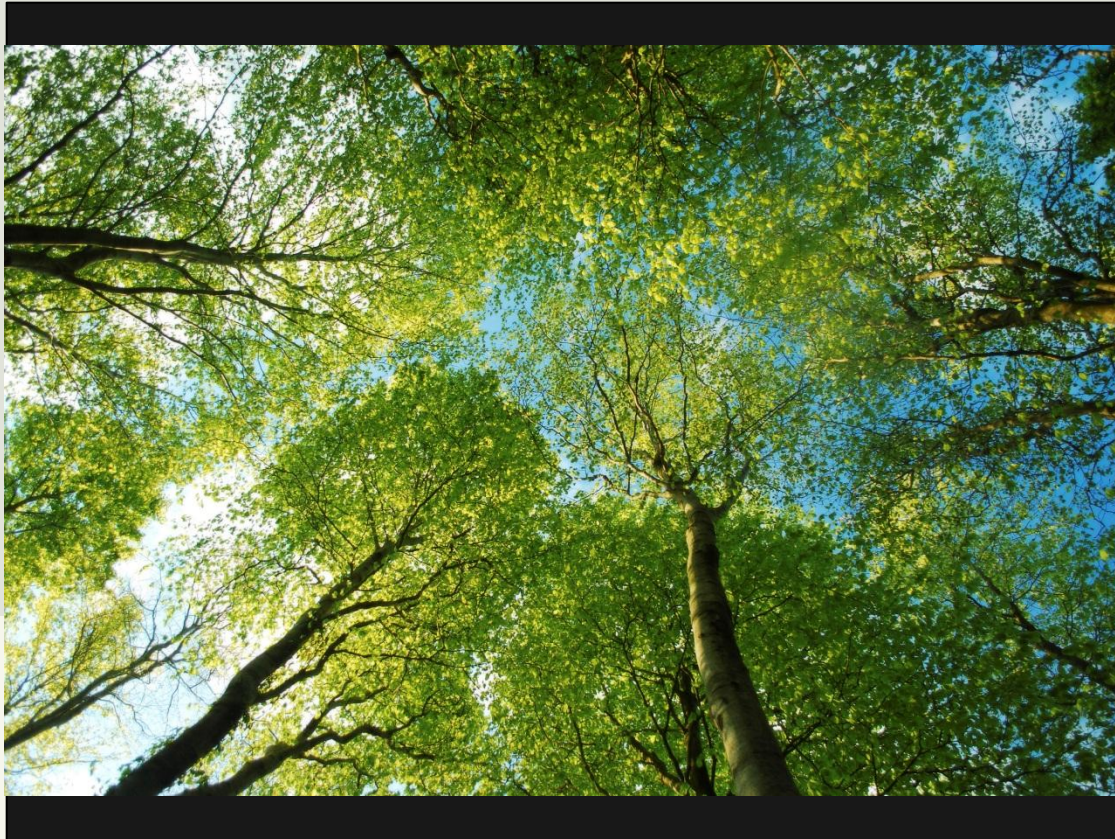




The Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust
Todd H. Votteler, PhD






...to preserve the unique natural heritage of the Guadalupe watershed for future generations, by protecting open landscapes, working farms and ranches, and wildlife habitat through conservation easements, education, and outreach that connects people to the water and the land.



The GBR Trust is a
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 **1,100 land trusts exist nationally with approximately 30 in Texas**


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- A ***nonprofit organization*** whose mission is to preserve natural resources and open space
- Land trusts work with willing landowners to protect property and natural resources
- **56 million acres across the national protected by land trusts through 2015.**
- **2 million acres conserved across Texas through 2015.**



Benefits of Land Conservation

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-  **Preserve prime farm and ranch lands**

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 **Protect water quality**

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- Protect water quality

 **Reduce the impact of urban sprawl**


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Create recreational opportunities through parks and trails

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 - Create recreation opportunities through parks and trails
-  **Protect wildlife habitat and threatened ecosystems**

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Enhance the quality of life



Most of the GBR Trust's work is accomplished through conservation easements

Conservation easements...

1) are voluntary agreements between a landowner and a land trust under which a landowner limits certain uses of the property to protect its natural, productive or scenic features.

Conservation easements...

2) protect natural resources while ensuring property remains privately owned and managed, and stays on the local tax rolls

Conservation easements...

3) are typically tax deductible based on appraised fair market value of a property's development rights

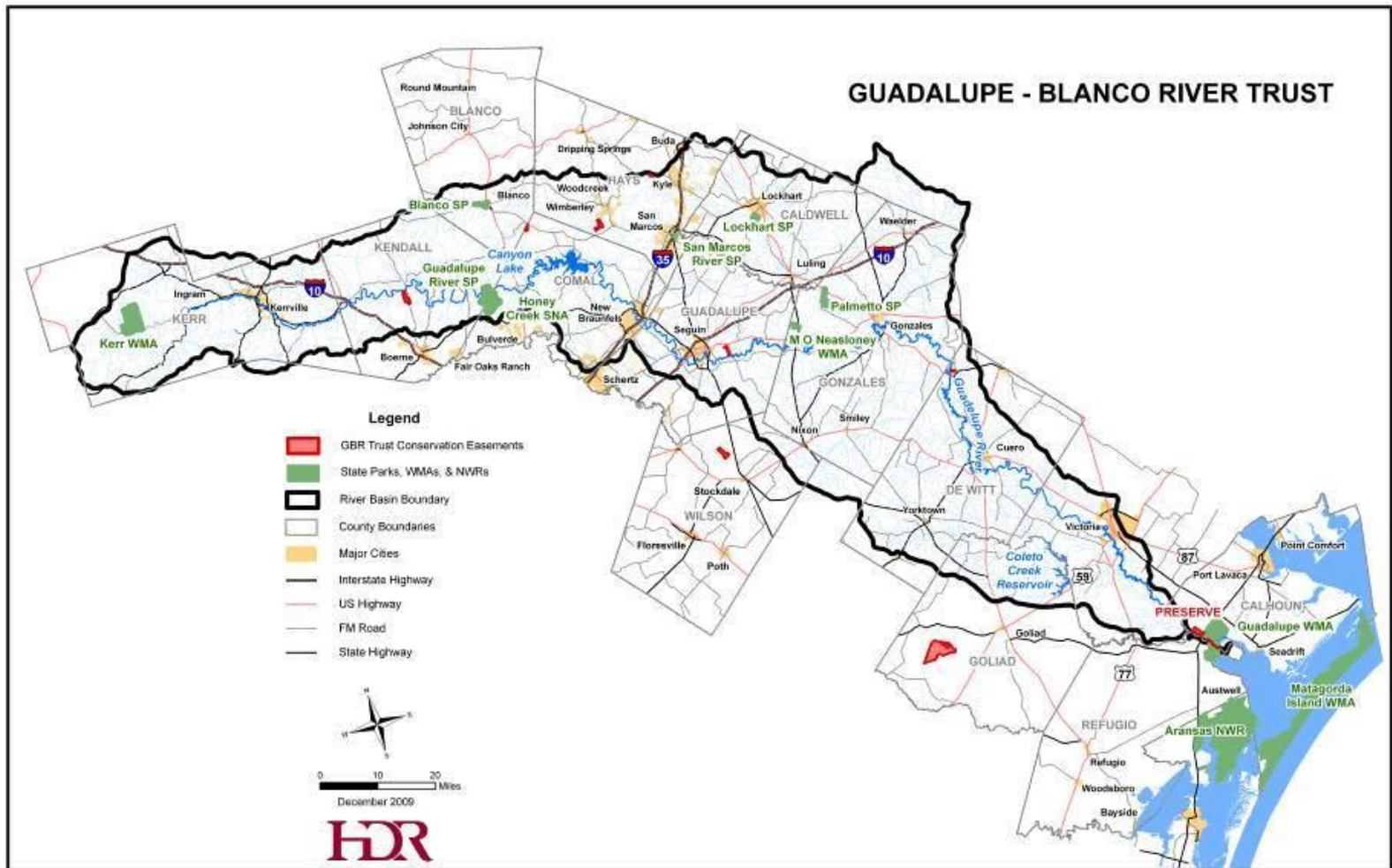
Conservation easements...

4) allows landowners to use the property for open space purposes such as farming, ranching, hunting, etc.

Conservation easements...

5) In 2015, Congress :

- Raised the deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement to 50%, from 30%, of his or her annual income;**
- Extended the carry-forward period for a donor to take a tax deduction for a conservation agreement to 15 years from 5 years; and**
- Allowed qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their income, increased from 50%.**



GBR Trust Completed Projects

Protecting over 15,000 acres from the Hill Country to the San Antonio Bay



Hays County Ranch, Wimberley
665 acres with 1,500 feet of Blanco River frontage



Kendall County Ranch, Sisterdale

620 acres with 1,500 feet of Guadalupe River frontage



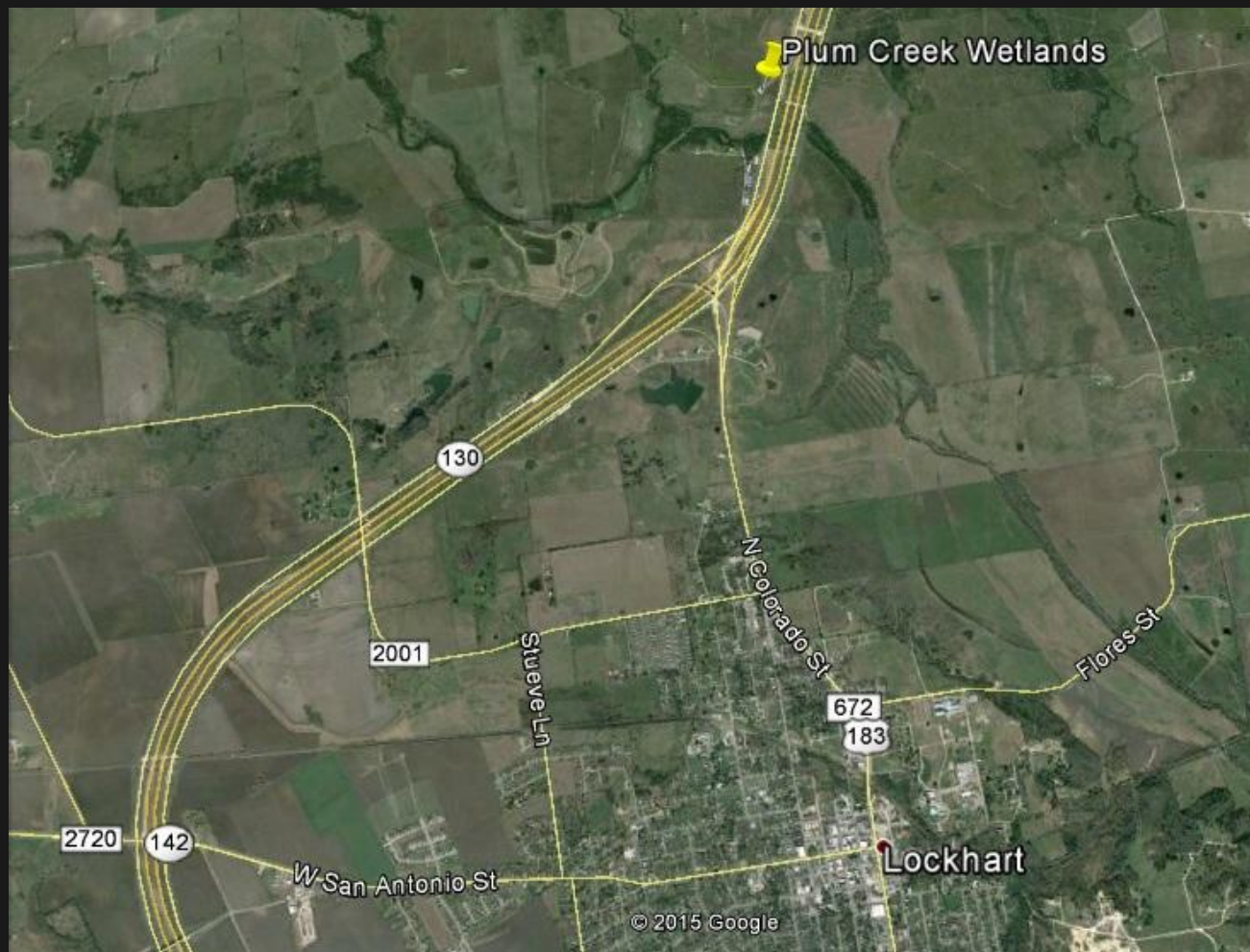
Hog and Schwing Bayou's Preserve, Tivoli

816 acres with over four miles of bayou frontage



SH 130 Wetland Mitigation Site

Caldwell County, Texas



- 265 acres north of Lockhart, along SH 130
- Contains Plum Creek and portions of Elm Creek
- TXDOT mitigation property for wetland impacts constructing SH 130

Plum Creek Wetlands Preserve

Owned and Managed by
the Guadalupe Blanco River Trust



*Operation plan under development.
No public access allowed at this time.*



800-413-4130
www.gbrtrust.org

- Property was deeded to GBR Trust
- A management plan will be created that guides appropriate activities and ensuring protection of the conservation values on the property
- TXDOT has removed dead and downed trees and has agreed to perform some road/trail maintenance

Primary Management Goals

- 1. Protect, maintain and enhance the wetland, riparian and additional wildlife habitat on the property.**
- 2. Provide appropriate outdoor recreational opportunities while protecting the conservation values of the property.**
- 3. Provide scientific and educational opportunities related to wetlands, wildlife and conservation.**

- **Landowner outreach workshops**
- **Wetland restoration in Calhoun County**



Other Projects and Accomplishments

From the springs and canyons of the Hill Country to the marine environment of the Gulf Coast wetlands and San Antonio Bay.

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