

Fort Hood Recovery Credit System

Fort Hood **pays private landowners** to conserve and manage endangered species habitat on their ranches and in return Fort Hood receives **credits** that it may use to offset impacts to habitat on the base.

David Wolfe
dwolfe@edf.org





Goals

- Fort Hood: Increased Training Flexibility
- Warbler: Recovery Actions on Private Lands
- Maximize Conservation Benefits/\$

System Development

Three Committees: Science, Economics, Policy

State Agencies,
Federal Agencies,
NGOs and
Landowner Representatives



Fort Hood



Habitat Impacts



Program Administrator

Texas Watershed Management Foundation.



Aggregate Credits
Management
Monitoring

Private
Landowners



Habitat
Conservation

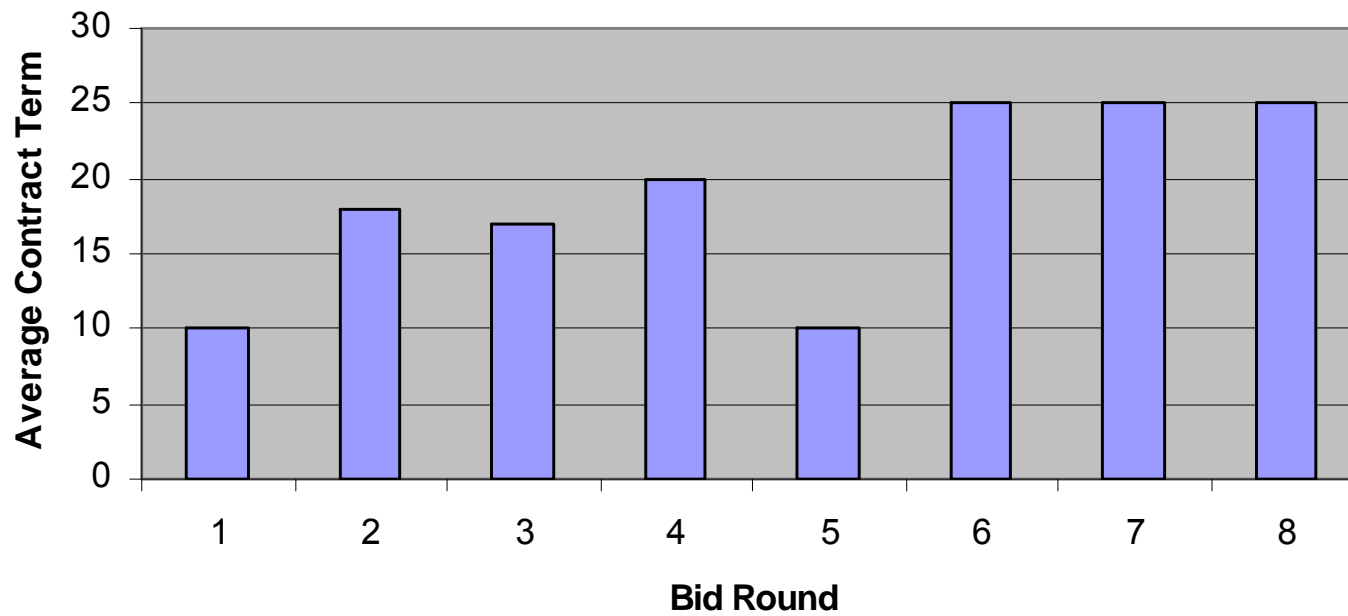
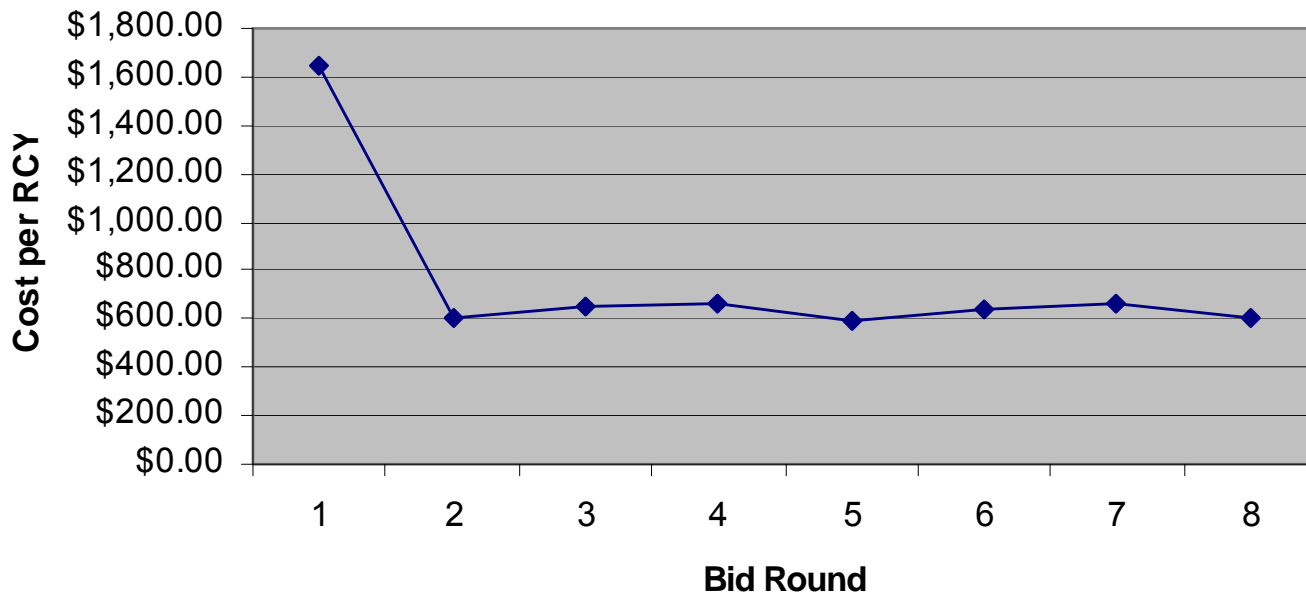


Reverse Auction

8 Bid Rounds Over 3 Years

Commodity:

Credits x Term (10-25 yrs) =
Recovery Credit Years (RCY)



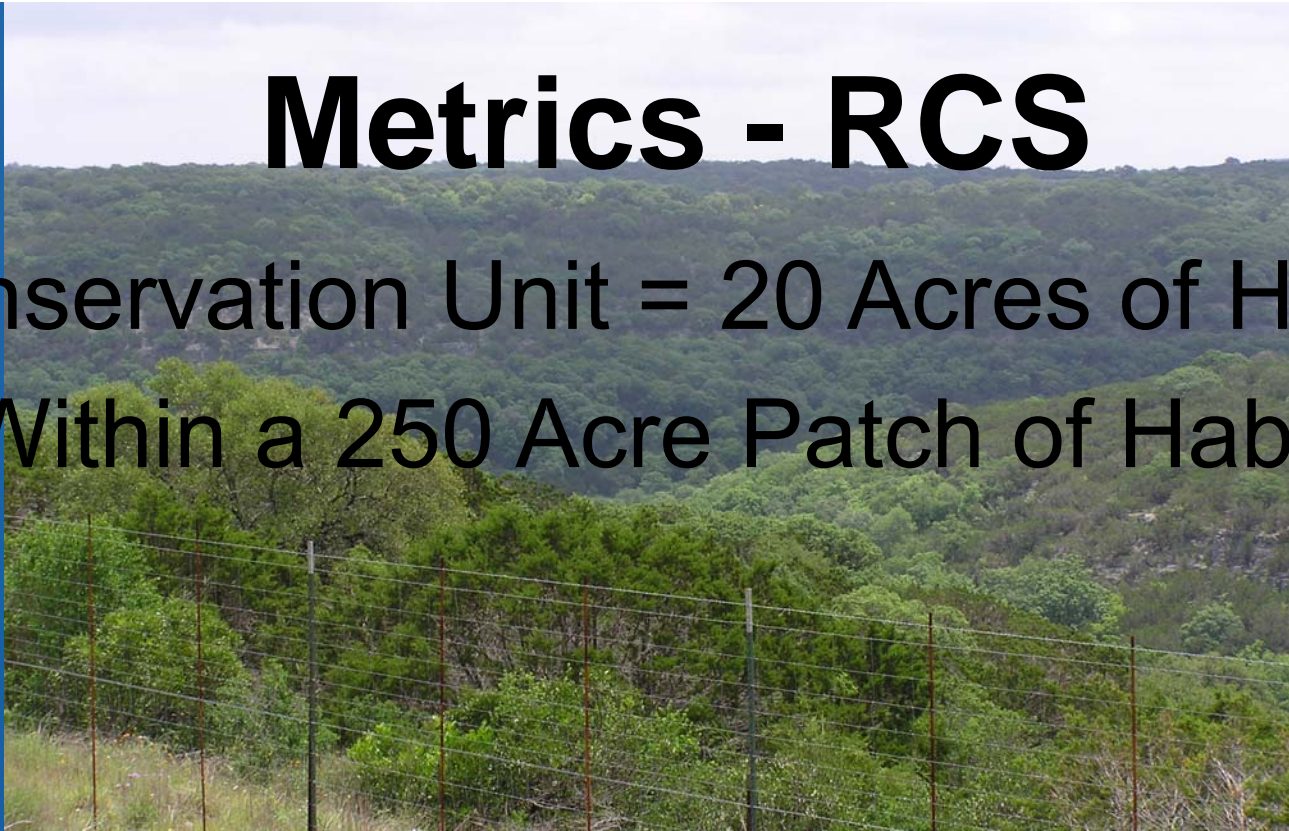
Results

Three Year Proof of Concept – Six Counties

- 20 Ranches
- 2,200 Acres of Habitat
- 10 – 25 Year Terms
- \$860/Acre

Metrics - RCS

1 Conservation Unit = 20 Acres of Habitat
Within a 250 Acre Patch of Habitat



Example: Assume 5 conservation units (100 acres) within 15km of Fort Hood (Recovery Region 3) that are situated within a block of 740 acres (300 ha) of contiguous habitat:

Number of units weighting
Recovery region multiplier
Proximity multiplier
Landscape multiplier

5 units = 6.0 credits
6 credits x 1.00 = 6.00 credits
6.00 credits x 1.2 = 7.20 credits
7.20 credits x 1.5 = **10.80 credits**

Metrics – RCS

Weaknesses

- Multipliers are Subjective
- Difficult to Relate to On-The-Ground Conditions

Metrics

Central Texas HCT Market

Functional Acre Credits

What is percentage of hardwood cover made up by any combination of the following: Texas (aka Spanish) oak, Lacey oak, Texas ash, escarpment black cherry, chinkapin oak, basswood or bigtooth maple?

67 - 100% = 3

33 - 66% = 2

0 - 32% = 1

Raw Score = 1, 2 or 3

Normalized Score = Raw Score/3

What is qualifying acreage of habitat?

250 acres or more = 3 points

41 - 249 acres = 2 points

20 - 40 acres = 1 point

Proximity to existing GCWA population

≤ 5 km = 3 points

5 - 15 km = 2 points

≥ 15 km = 1 point

Extent of surrounding GCWA habitat

> 2000 ha = 4 points

800 - 2000 ha = 3 points

200 - 800 ha = 2 points

100 - 200 ha = 1 point

Maximum normalized score is 4.0

Site Score (maximum possible, i.e., best condition is 1) *The site score is calculated as the raw score multiplied by 0.25, which creates a site score range from 0.31 to 1.0 (lowest to highest)*

Example

100 acres of GCWA habitat

40% cover of priority hardwoods

4 km from known GCWA population

Extent of surrounding habitat = 2300 ha

Site Score = 0.83

100 acres x 0.83 = 83 functional acre credits

Comments

The functional acre credits for this site could be increased by implementing management that increases the % of target hardwoods and/or by increasing the acreage of GCWA habitat.

Environmental Outcomes

Credit Side



Deferred Grazing,
Cowbird Control,
Deer Management,
Re-forestation



Environmental Outcomes

Debit Side

