



Madeline Parker &lt;mjparker@burnetcountytexas.org&gt;

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**(Response Requested) Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge to acquire land from Interested Willing Landowners(s) off of Hwy 1174**

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**Purkey, Kelly** <kelly\_purkey@fws.gov>

Fri, May 30, 2025 at 4:00 PM

To: "countyjudge@burnetcountytexas.org" &lt;countyjudge@burnetcountytexas.org&gt;, "mjparker@burnetcountytexas.org" &lt;mjparker@burnetcountytexas.org&gt;

Dear Honorable Judge Bryan Wilson, Burnet County, TX,

Good afternoon, sir. I am Kelly Purkey, the Refuge Manager of the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge (BCNWR). We are part of the US Fish and Wildlife Service under the Department of Interior. The BCNWR was established back in 1992 for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler and black-capped vireo. Since then, we have worked hard to protect habitat for wildlife, while still offering public access for hunting, hiking, birdwatching, and/or recreating. We are also focused on environmental education for all, but prioritize educating local children. We have land within Burnet, Williamson, and Travis County, however our most popular hiking trail, which gets over 100,000 visits per year, sits in Burnet County along Hwy 1174. BCNWR currently owns approximately 5,000 acres in Burnet County. I would love to meet you and give you (and/or your staff) a tour if ever you are interested.

Currently, there is a proposal to use up to \$3,511,000 of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) federal land acquisition funding to acquire properties from an interested and willing seller in Burnet County, Texas (off of Hwy 1174). This property, if acquired, would be managed as part of the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge in support of wildlife-dependent public recreation (including hunting, hiking, etc) and wildlife conservation.

We appreciate and will continue our ongoing conservation partnership with Burnet County to enhance public recreational opportunities by providing access to public lands. We would be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have. With that, we are seeking a "no objection" response from your office for use of these FY 2025 LWCF federal land acquisition funds.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. I appreciate your time.

Kind regards,

*Kelly Purkey*  
Refuge Manager  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge  
24518 FM 1431  
Marble Falls, TX 78654-4096  
(512) 339-9432 x. 20020  
(512) 267-6530 – Fax  
(830) 265-3024 - Cell