

By: Baxter

H.B. No. 1837

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to federal approval of land for habitat conservation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 83, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Section 83.021 to read as follows:

Sec. 83.021. FEDERAL APPROVAL OF LAND ACQUISITIONS. (a)
This section applies to a conservation agreement, as defined by
Section 83.005, a habitat conservation plan, or a regional habitat
conservation plan that:

(1) received a federal permit before September 1,
1999;

(2) has planned the acquisition of more than 1,000
acres of land under the permit; and

(3) has not completed the planned acquisitions by
September 1, 2003.

(b) Permit holders shall amend a plan or agreement to which
this section applies to include land or conservation easements
acquired by the permit holders with public money for any other
environmentally related purpose after the submission of the
original plan to the federal government. The permit holders shall
submit the amended plan or agreement to the appropriate federal
agency under the federal act, for the federal agency to determine if
any of the land acquired can be counted toward the land planned for
acquisition under the original habitat preservation plan or

1 agreement.

2 (c) If the federal agency approves the use of all or part of
3 the land included under Subsection (b) for partial completion of
4 the planned acquisitions under the original plan or agreement, the
5 permit holders shall reduce appropriately the number of acres that
6 need to be acquired to complete land acquisitions under the
7 original plan or agreement.

8 (d) This section expires on September 1, 2005.

9 SECTION 2. (a) A permit holder to whom Section 83.021, Parks
10 and Wildlife Code, as added by this Act, applies shall file an
11 amended permit with the federal government not later than December
12 1, 2003.

13 (b) This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.