

Permit Duration



The permit duration, or permit term, is the length of time between the date that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issues the Incidental Take Permit and the date it expires. Take authorization is only valid during the authorized term of the permit. The EAHCP permit was issued for a term of 15 years, expiring on March 31, 2028. To continue the take authorization beyond this date, the EAHCP Permittees must extend the permit term.

Permit Renewal Options

Permit durations for regional or programmatic HCPs are typically 25–50 years.

- **Extend permit by another 15 years (to 2043)**
- **Extend permit by 20 years (to 2048)**
- **Extend permit by 30 years (to 2058)**
- **Extend permit by 50 years (to 2078)**

Permit Terms for Other Texas Programmatic or Regional HCPs

There are many programmatic or regional HCPs in Texas with permit terms over 15 years. Some examples are listed in the table below.

Habitat Conservation Plan	Duration (years)	Year Issued	Year Expiring
Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (Travis County)	30	1996	2026
Lost Pines HCP (Bastrop County)	30	2007	2037
Williamson County Regional HCP	30	2008	2038
Hays County Regional HCP	30	2009	2039
Lower Colorado River Authority Competitive Renewable Energy Zone HCP	30	2012	2042
Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan (Bexar County)	30	2016	2046
Lower Colorado River Authority Transmission Services Corporation HCP	30	2019	2039
CPS Energy Habitat Conservation Plan*	30	N/A	N/A

*Requested Permit Term is 30 years. Notice of Availability for Draft Environmental Assessment and Draft HCP published March 2021

Factors to Consider When Extending the Permit Duration beyond 2028

How far the Permittees can extend the permit beyond 2028 depends on factors related to how certain the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can be of the plan’s success in conserving Covered Species.

Factor	Shorter Permit	Longer Permit
Status of Covered Species	Poor or declining	Good or improving
Scientific uncertainty	High or increasing	Low or declining
Level of conservation	Mitigation only	Exceeds mitigation
Record of successful implementation	Weak or uncertain	Strong
Amount of take authorization left on permit	Little or none	A lot

Questions to Consider

What are the most important sources of uncertainty affecting the success of the EAHCP?
How might the permit renewal process address these uncertainties?