

A fillable template built by Travel Twist Biologist LLC and organized to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Austin ESFO requirements for GCWA habitat assessments (Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit requirements and Habitat Assessment Area Data Reporting Instructions, both July 2025). Not a USFWS form. Submit the completed assessment and GIS or Excel data to GCWAreporting@fws.gov with the subject "GCWA Habitat Assessment." Always confirm against the current USFWS documents.

1 Property and assessor

PROPERTY NAME (PROP_NAME)		COUNTY	ACRES (PROP_ACRES)
LANDOWNER OR CLIENT		PLANNED ACTIVITY	PLANNED CLEARING DATE
ASSESSOR	COMPANY (COMP_NAME)		USFWS PERMIT NO.
DATE COMPLETED (YYYYMMDD)	EMAIL	PHONE	

2 Required maps

Map with a clear delineation of the property location within the county (attached)	
Aerial photo with a clear delineation of the property boundary (attached)	
AERIAL IMAGERY SOURCE	AERIAL PHOTO DATE (AS RECENT AS POSSIBLE)

3 Methods used to make the determination

Aerial imagery review	Site visit
GIS analysis	Records review (for example, TXNDD or IPaC)
SITE VISIT DATE(S)	TIME ON SITE / SURVEYORS

DESCRIBE THE FACTORS AND METHODS USED TO DECIDE GCWA SURVEYS WOULD NOT BE CONDUCTED

4 Habitat description

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE HABITAT ON SITE, INCLUDING VEGETATION ASSOCIATIONS

VEGETATION UNITS (USE THE AERIAL MAP UNIT LABELS). MATURE JUNIPER = 15 FT TALL AND 5 IN DBH OR LARGER

Unit	Acres	Dominant trees and shrubs	Mature juniper? (Y/N)	Total canopy %	Canopy height (ft)
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5 Habitat criteria (USFWS July 2025, from Campbell 2003)

POTENTIAL GCWA HABITAT PRESENT

- Mature Ashe juniper (15 ft, 5 in dbh) mixed with oaks, elms, or other hardwoods; 50–100% canopy; 20 ft+ tall
- Mature Ashe juniper with scattered live oaks (10%+); total canopy over 35%; 20 ft+ tall
- Creek or drainage bottomlands, 35%+ deciduous canopy (20 ft), mature Ashe juniper in or near
- Post oak and/or blackjack oak (10–30%) with scattered mature Ashe juniper; canopy over 35%; 20 ft
- Shin (scaly bark) oak (10–30%) with scattered mature Ashe juniper; canopy over 35%; 20 ft
- Uplands adjacent to the woodlands above

NON-HABITAT ASSOCIATIONS PRESENT

- Small Ashe juniper averaging under 15 ft and 5 in dbh (invading rangeland, cleared areas, old fields)
- Pure stands of mature Ashe juniper with few or no oaks or other hardwoods
- Open, park-like woodland or savanna with under 35% tree canopy
- Small Ashe juniper and other trees along existing fence lines
- Small juniper (under 15 ft) under hardwoods where juniper was removed in the past 20 years

6 Determination

No potential GCWA habitat on the assessed area (non-habitat determination)

Potential habitat present and not surveyed (report as "TPWD Habitat not surveyed")

Potential habitat present; presence/absence survey recommended (March 15 to June 1)

EXPLAIN WHY A GCWA SURVEY WAS NOT PERFORMED

EXPLAIN WHY THE SITE WAS DETERMINED TO BE UNSUITABLE FOR THE GCWA (IF APPLICABLE)

7 Habitat assessment area data (GIS shapefile or Excel)

GIS polygon shapefile (preferred)

BOUNDARY ACRES (SITE_TYPE 1)

Excel spreadsheet plus a map of the boundaries

HABITAT NOT SURVEYED ACRES (SITE_TYPE 2)

DATA FILE NAME

SURVEY AREA FILE (IF SURVEYED)

8 Submittal and follow-up

SUBMITTED TO USFWS (DATE)

RESPONSE WINDOW ENDS

NON-CONCURRENCE?

CLIENT NOTIFIED (WITHIN 10 BUSINESS DAYS)

NOTES

USFWS does not issue concurrence for habitat assessments, and a lack of response does not imply concurrence.

PREPARED BY (SIGNATURE OR TYPED NAME)

DATE