

Recovery Credit System: **Proof of Concept for GCWA**

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What is a Recovery Credit System

A recovery credit system is a tool that allows a federal agency to develop and store conservation credits that can be used at a later time to offset negative impacts to listed species.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R9-ES-2008-N00166; 92220-1112-0000-FY08-EA]

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Recovery Crediting Guidance

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce the availability of guidance to promote implementation of the Endangered Species Act. The guidance describes a crediting framework for Federal agencies in carrying out recovery measures for threatened and endangered species. The text of the guidance is included in this notice. Under the guidance, Federal agencies may show how adverse effects of agency activities to a listed species are offset by beneficial effects of actions taken elsewhere for that species. The combined effects of the adverse and beneficial actions must provide a net benefit to the recovery of the species.

Recovery Credit System Proof of Concept for GCWA



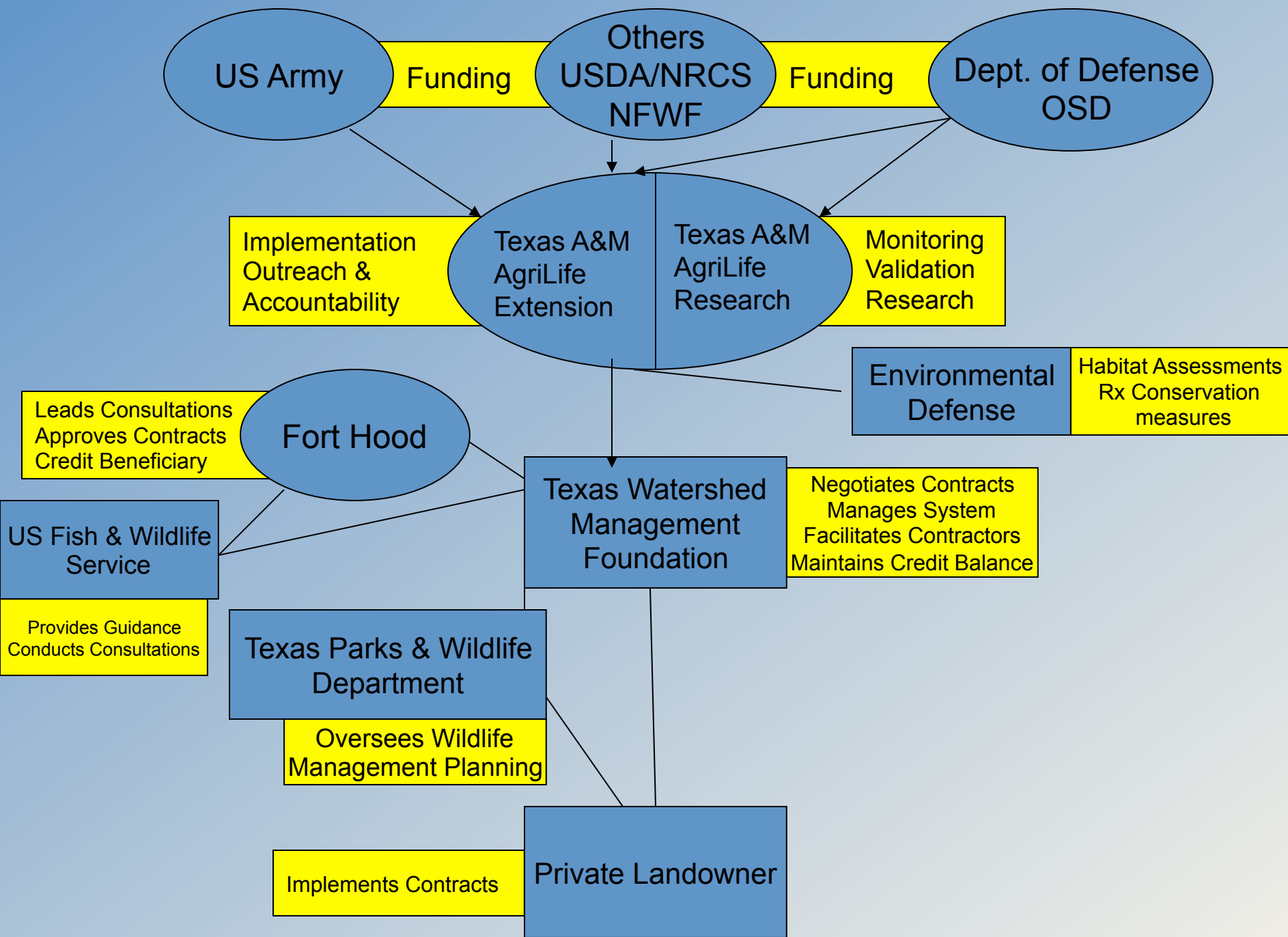


Background: Recovery Credit System

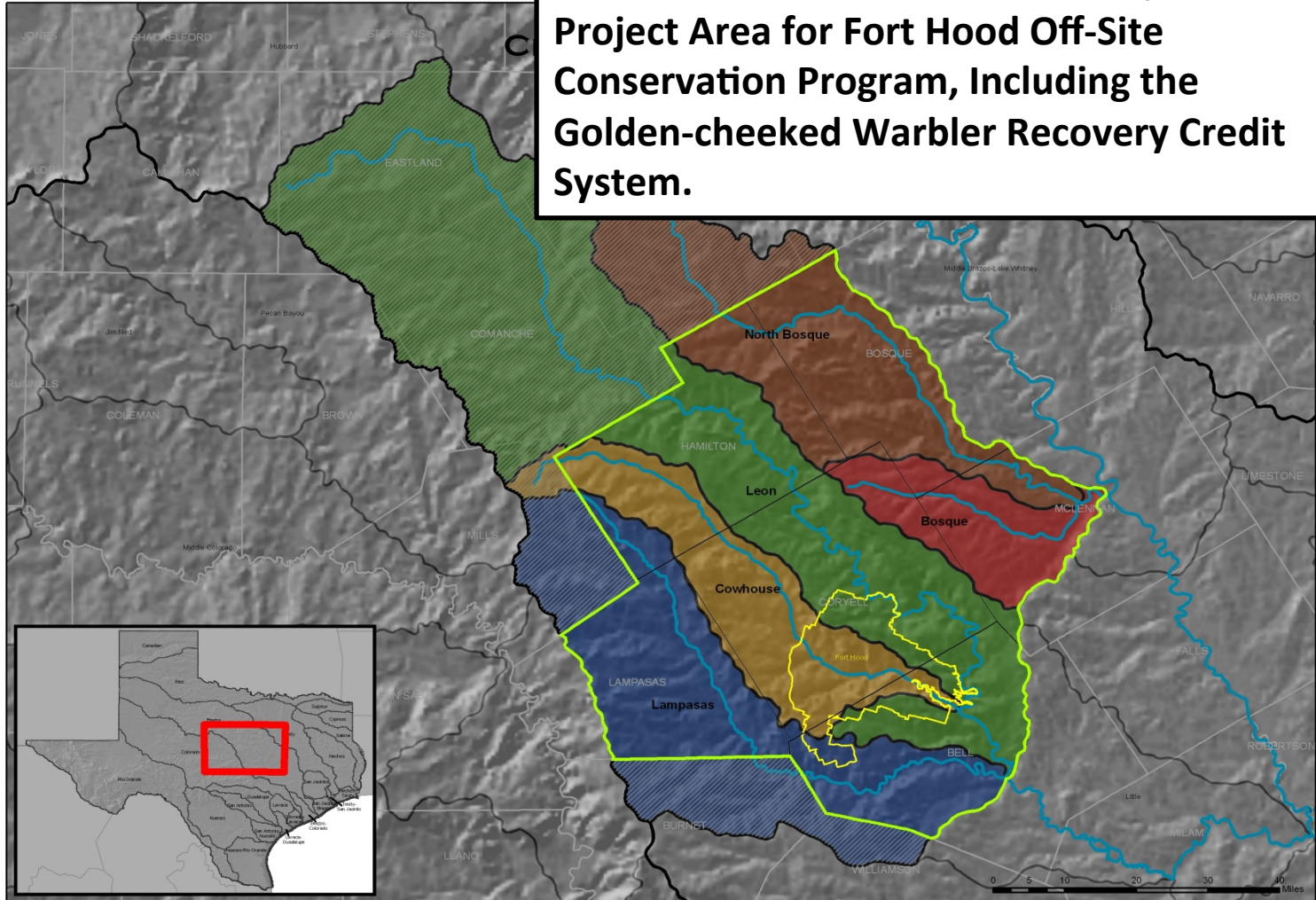
- Developed for Fort Hood by Statewide Working Group organized by Texas Department of Agriculture.
- Policy, Economic and Science Committees
- Allows Fort Hood to secure training flexibility and reduce future training constraints
- Develops off-site “recovery credits” through contracts with private landowners



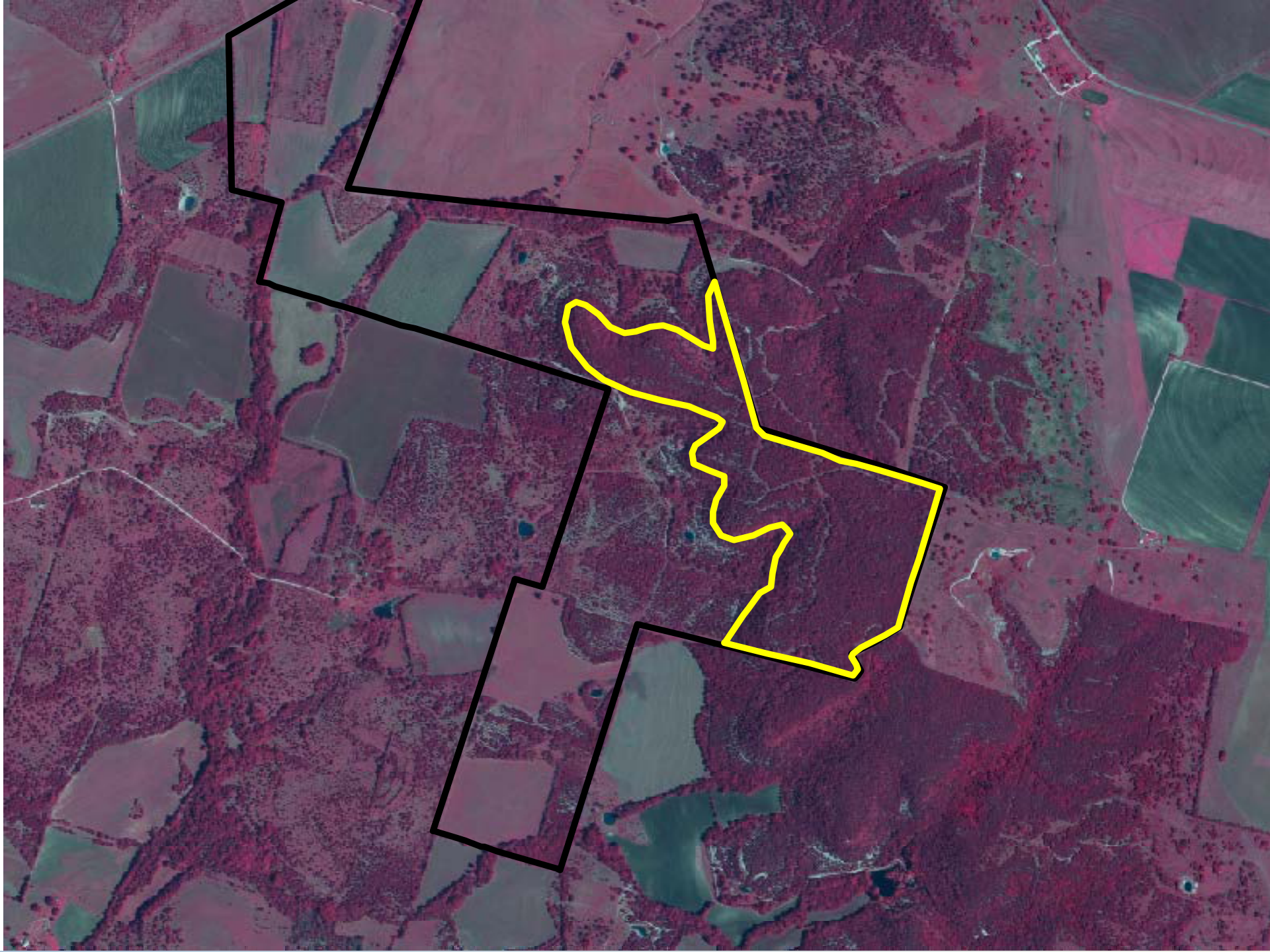
Structure

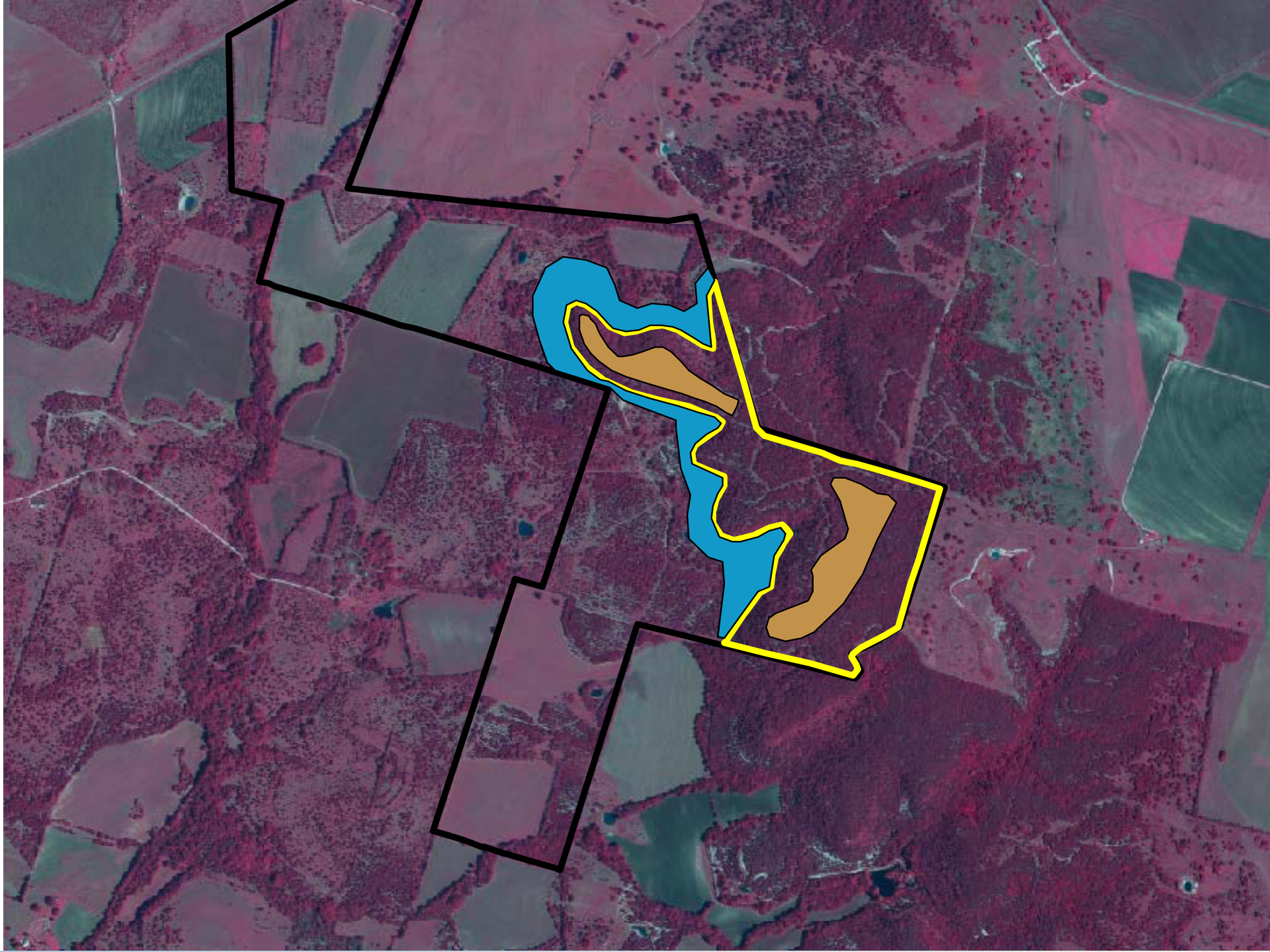


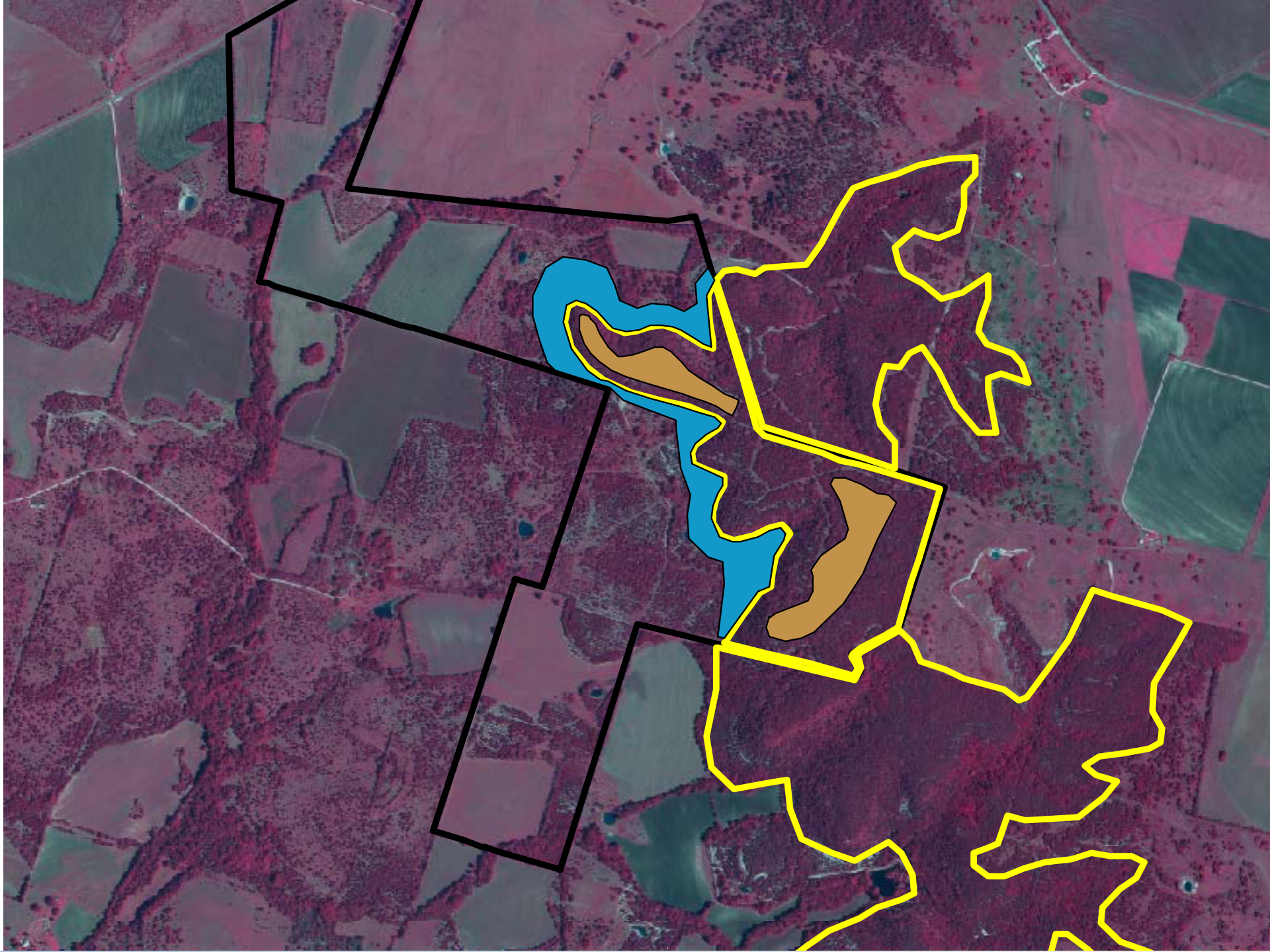
**Area for “Proof-of-Concept”
Project Area for Fort Hood Off-Site
Conservation Program, Including the
Golden-cheeked Warbler Recovery Credit
System.**











Implementation of Market Driven Bid Process

- Opportunity to allow for the cost of credits to reflect “true cost”
- Encouraged realistic management goals
- Allowed for flexibility in payment types

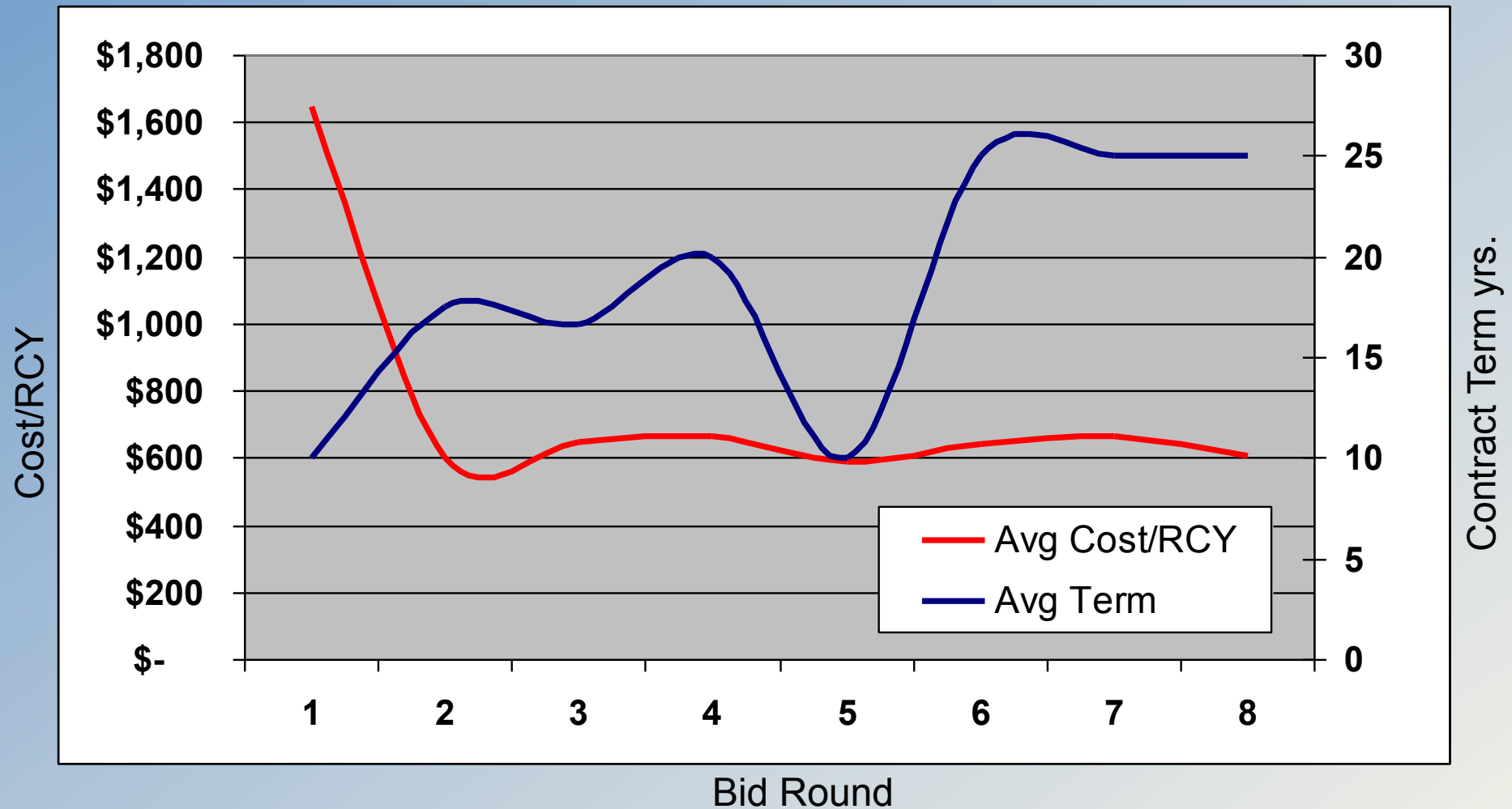
Bringing the Market to Bear..



- Initial contract investment reflected “current” conservation costs
 - mimicked traditional conservation approach
- Bid Round 2 introduced competitive bidding
 - Intent of pilot was to investigate which way the trend would go once market competition was brought to bear on contract process
- End result was that market competition resulted in fair valuation and ability to build credit generation

*Not all money for contracts came from DOD (the action agency)

Impacts of Competitive Bi

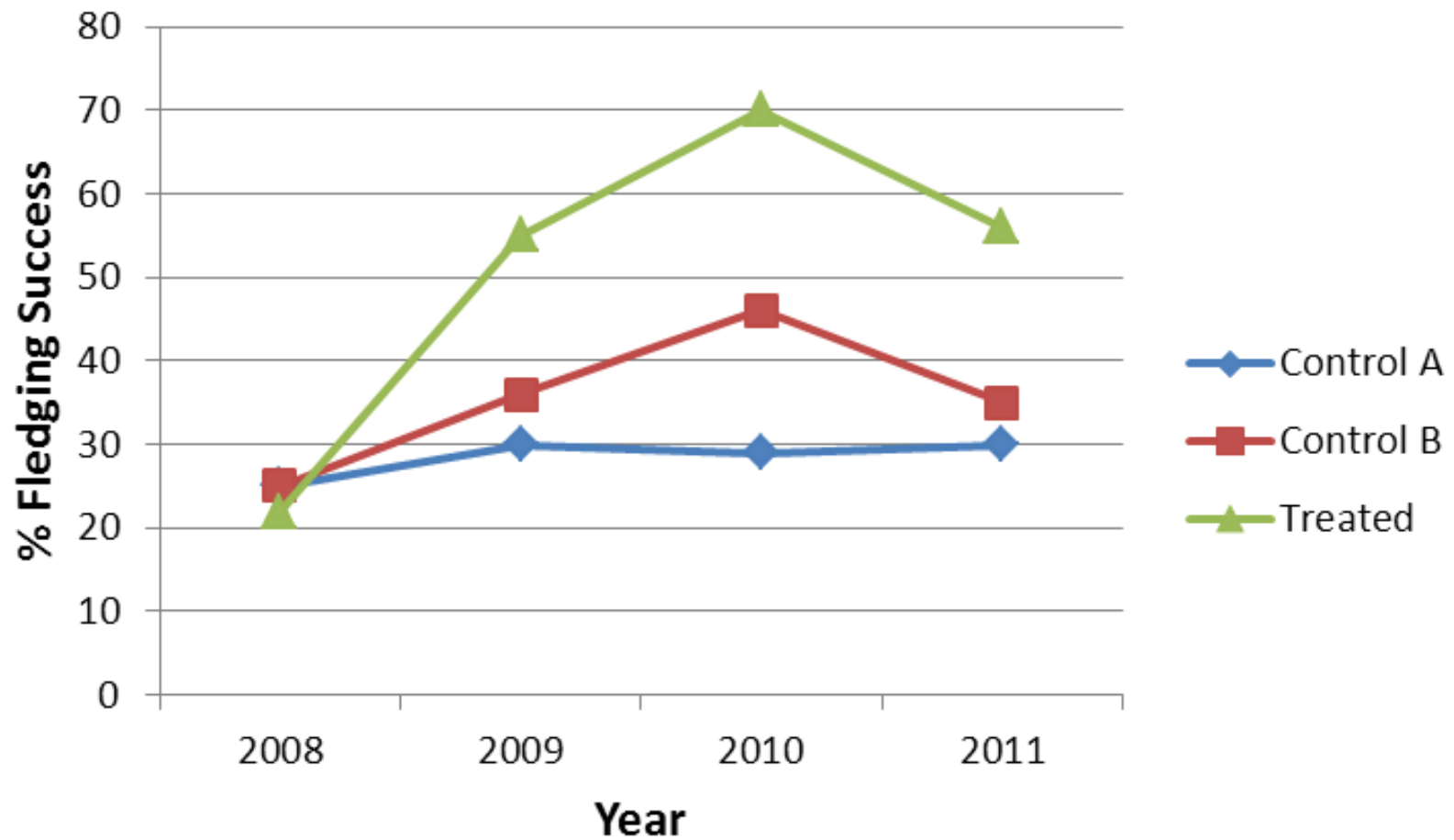


Summary of Recovery Credit System

- Total Investment to Date: **\$1,954,666**
- Landowner Cost Share: **\$451,295**
- Area Under Contract (\$141/acre): **13,782 acres**
- Existing Occupied GCW Habitat Under Contract (\$888/acre): **2201 acres**
 - 938 Acres of supporting GCWA Habitat
 - 373 Acres of BCVI Habitat
- Contract Length (50% under 25 year contract) **10-25 years**



Results: fledging success



Mike Marshall 2011

Final Outcome

- Third Party Review
- Completed February 2010
- First Debit 2009* using 25 year credits
 - 287 Acres

Takeaways

- Well informed science committees
- Partners
- Market driven system provides flexibility
 - More conservation on the ground
- Research component
- Adaptive management

Questions?

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