Texas A&M Forest Service’s Lost Pines Task Force recently worked alongside a fuels crew from Lake Travis Fire Rescue Emergency Services District 6 to create a shaded fuels break in an area at high risk for wildfire.

Firefighters worked along the boundary of the Lake Point community and a wildland area that is home to the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler.

“This is a high-risk wildland urban interface community adjacent to 134 homes,” said TFS Program Coordinator Rich Gray. “The fire department took a proactive approach to protecting the residents in this area. The 22-acre project met best management practices specifications for the Golden-cheeked Warbler and will make this area safer if a wildfire ignites.”

The project also offered an opportunity for multiple agencies to collaborate. Municipal fire departments that participate in the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) sent firefighters to assist with the project – allowing them to work on their task books while helping to expedite the project. Lake Travis ESD 6 and TFS provided mentors and evaluators to assist the trainees.

Values protected by the project totaled $58.9 million.

“This was a great collaborative effort by all involved,” Gray said. “When the project exceeded the locals’ capacity, TFS Task Force members stepped in to bolster the local department’s capacity so ESD 6 could complete the fuels project designed to protect their residents. This project not only protects the residents of Lake Point but it allowed several area responders to work together, build familiarity with each other and be a part of active land management.”

LAKE TRAVIS FUEL MITIGATION

Before

After