

be used to cover the \$2.5 needed for research. Blackwell asked about the \$7 million in unspent funds. Sec. Lopez suggested a follow-up at a later date.

## TOPIC 2

### TEXAS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH/OKLAHOMA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

#### TEXAS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH/OKLAHOMA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Sen. Schulz told the task force that Texas was dealing with over 100 species and that their scope was much broader than Oklahoma's. He said that their task force closely resembled the Oklahoma task force in its member constituency. The task force talked about working with Congressional delegations in Washington D.C. to alter the Endangered Species Act to make sure that hard science existed to verify the claims of endangered species, he explained.

Sen. Schulz added that some issues cross state borders and noted the possibility of a joint visit of the Oklahoma and Texas task forces to Washington, D.C. to present their findings to Congressional delegations from both states. Texas has been doing the task force much longer than Oklahoma, he said, and cited the good work and good ideas that emerged during his time in Texas.

Sherrod asked the task force for help in gaining access to lands where landowners are reticent to open up their land for research purposes. Co-Chair Schultz said that Texas had passed legislation regarding property confidentiality and land use rights for owners. Co-Chair Lopez said that it was important to communicate well with landowners. Sherrod said that counts needed to be certified from all angles-research, legislative, and landowner-and stressed to the task force the need to consider the differing interests in the process.

Rep. Blackwell asked about a scheduled flyover to begin the counting process. Co-Chair Schulz said that outreach programs would be needed to assure landowners of confidentiality and transparency during research operations.

Co-Chair Lopez noted that the task force in Texas had a close relationship with its local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service representatives.

Co-Chair Lopez discussed possible outreach to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and asked the task force for the best time to coordinate a trip to Washington, D.C.

Sec. Sherrer suggested working with Sen. Inhofe to set up the meeting.

Sec. Lopez noted that the Texas delegation and Attorney General's office were undertaking communications efforts with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

## TOPIC 3

### OUTLINE FOR TASK FORCE REPORT

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Sec. Lopez discussed the format of the final report to be submitted to the legislature. Rep. Blackwell suggested the inclusion of actions taken to the report.

Sec. Ridley asked about discussion earlier in the morning regarding research funding and if the funding was intact and readily available. Sec. Lopez said he was not familiar with the timing of the funding.

Sec. Sherrer noted that other organizations had talked about funding the research and that his department would be stepping up its efforts in the next few days.

Sec. Ming noted that the task force was under time constraints and that development,