

Resolution to support establishment of a monitoring program and eradication strike team to detect and eliminate invasions of the Raspberry Crazy ant on the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP)

Whereas, the BCP provides incalculable value to the Nation and the citizens of the region of Austin, Texas by preserving the species unique to our Natural Heritage,

Whereas, the considerable investment in the ecological integrity and conservation value of the BCP is now threatened by the invasion of the Raspberry Crazy ant,

Whereas, preventing invasion of the BCP is far more cost effective than dealing with the invasion once the ants have invaded our wildlands,

Whereas, the Raspberry Crazy ant has now been found in Travis and Williamson Counties so immediate action to protect Public lands and resources is now necessary.

Now Therefore, we the BCP Scientific Advisory Committee recommends to the BCP Coordinating committee that:

a monitoring program is immediately created and funded to detect Raspberry Crazy ants before they become established on BCP lands,

a strike team is established to rapidly respond to infestations detected and eliminate the ants while it is still possible to do so,

staff are directed to coordinate with other entities in the region engaged in similar efforts in order to leverage our resources,

consideration is given to support development of biocontrols for the permanent suppression of the Raspberry Crazy ant invasion.