

**TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities FY17 Quarter 4 Update: 1 July 2017 – 30 September 2017**

<b>BCCP Administration</b>	
Public Participation	Thirteen BCCP applications were received and processed from July 1 – September 30, 2017. Two Participation Certificates were issued for a total of \$37,200.00 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.
Land Acquisition	Travis County purchased the 6.2 acre McCarthy tract in the Lime Creek Unit on July 21, 2017. A conservation easement agreement was finalized for the Martin tract on August 1, 2017. This 8.1 acre conservation easement was conveyed to Travis County from a private landowner as a condition of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-issued 10(a)(1)(b) permit. This tract is located on City Park Road and will contribute to the acreage requirement for the North Lake Austin Macrosite, which has yet to be met.
<b>Rare and Endangered Resources Management</b>	
Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo	Vireos and warblers migrated to their wintering grounds in Mexico and Central America during this time period. Staff began analyzing survey data and preparing the annual report.
Karst Invertebrates	Summer season faunal surveys were performed at ten caves and cave cricket exit counts were conducted at seven caves; A karst feature survey and assessment effort is being implemented on the Kotrla Unit. A contractor is excavating newly discovered features and assessing the karst invertebrate habitat.
<b>Plant and Animal Control</b>	
Feral Hogs	Fifty-four hogs were harvested from the Kotrla Unit and the Sam Hamilton East, Karnik, Woody Hollow, Vireo Ridge, Ribelin, and Canyon Vista tracts.
White-tailed Deer	Deer surveys were started in September and will continue through October. The surveys will be used to provide population estimates and harvest recommendations for the BCP deer population.
Tawny Crazy Ants	In June, staff confirmed a new tawny crazy ant site in Travis/Williamson County, located near the intersection of FM 620 and Anderson Mill Road. Surveys confirmed that this population extends onto the Collins tract, which is the first documentation of tawny crazy ants on a BCP property;  A final report was completed for a USFWS Traditional Section 6 grant which researched tawny crazy ant impacts to karst invertebrates and control methods for use within sensitive karst environments. This effort was a collaboration with local tawny crazy ant specialist Dr. Ed LeBrun of UT's Brackenridge Field Lab, and provided valuable insights into tawny crazy ant use of cave environments, impacts to karst invertebrates, and feasibility of a host specific microsporidian pathogen for use as a tool for biological control.

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Invasive Plants	Invasive plants (Chinaberry, Ligustrum sp., Crepe Myrtle, Fig, Nandina, Photinia, Pyracantha, Vinca, Vitex, honeysuckle, and tree of heaven) were removed from 12 tracts. Staff mapped the extent of the vinca infestation and initiated a solarization study on the Bunten tract. In September, staff treated over 1,400 invasive plants in one day in Talus Spring canyon at Grandview Hills.
<b>Land Stewardship</b>	
Fence Construction	The fence on the Lucas tract was repaired after a car drove through it. Fence construction and gate replacement projects are being planned for this winter on the Kotrla, Jollyville, and Cypress Creek Units.
Wildfire Preparedness	Currently planning for several fuel mitigation projects to begin in October. Projects will occur on the BCP along the Wildlife-Urban Interface in the Crossings, Volente, and Steiner Ranch tracts. Staff flagged the treatment areas and removed invasive plants.
Water Quality Issues	An Austin Water wastewater line broke along FM 620 adjacent to the Cuevas East tract on August 29 <sup>th</sup> , spilling about 100,000 gallons of sewage. Most of the water was redirected to another sewage line but some of it ran through a culvert to the opposite side of FM 620 into the Bull Creek watershed. Austin Water repaired the break and Watershed Protection and Travis County Natural Resources monitored water quality in the creek. Results indicated that there was not any long-term damage to the creek.
Vegetation Issues	<p>An oak wilt center was identified on the Jollyville Unit. The area will be trenched to prevent further spread of the disease;</p> <p>Several trees that were causing damage to fences along the BCP boundary with neighbors were removed. Some of the trees had blown down during Hurricane Harvey;</p> <p>Staff identified and investigated several sites where trees on the BCP were cut by neighbors. Staff is working with neighbors to rectify these issues.</p>
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	
Trespass	Trespassing is an ongoing issue and four groups of trespassers were given verbal warnings during this period. Additional trespassers were documented with surveillance cameras. New gates that are more difficult to climb are being installed in some of the problem areas, which should reduce the activity.
<b>Outreach/Volunteers</b>	
<i>See BCP Partner Education Summary FY17 Fourth Quarter: July 1 – September 30, 2017</i>	