

**TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities FY18 Quarter 1 Update: 1 October 2017 – 31 December 2017**

<b>BCCP Administration</b>	
Public Participation	Sixteen BCCP applications were received and processed from October 1 – December 31, 2017. Eleven Participation Certificates were issued for a total of \$219,125.00 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.
Land Acquisition	Travis County purchased the 17.592 acre Franklin tract in the Cypress Creek Macrosite along Anderson Mill Road on November 21, 2017. Travis County also acquired the 1.648 acre Montandon II property on December 12, 2017. This property is adjacent to the Montandon parcel of the BCP along Bullick Hollow Road. The 5.38 acre Richards II tract in the Bull Creek Macrosite closed on December 26, 2017.
Personnel	Maintenance Worker, Mark Montgomery, retired in October. The position will be refilled in early 2018.
<b>Rare and Endangered Resources Management</b>	
Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo	Vireos and warblers are on their wintering grounds in Mexico and Central America during this time period. Staff analyzed survey data and prepared the annual reports; Planning is underway for vireo habitat restoration on the Kotrla Unit, which will be implemented in February 2018.
Karst Invertebrates	Fall season faunal surveys were performed at six caves and cave cricket exit counts were conducted at four caves; A karst feature survey and assessment effort was implemented on the Kotrla Unit. The contractor excavated several newly discovered features and assessed the karst invertebrate habitat. They provided a written report of their work, which includes 23 karst feature assessments and cave fauna observations/collections.
<b>Plant and Animal Control</b>	
Feral Hogs	Twenty-one hogs were harvested from the Kotrla Unit, and the Concordia CE, Karnik and Ribelin tracts.
White-tailed Deer and Exotic Ungulates	Deer surveys were conducted in the fall and deer harvest began in December. Twenty-five deer were harvested on the Kotrla Unit, and the Medway and Snowden tracts; In December, four oryxes which had wandered onto the Kotrla Unit from a neighboring ranch, were live-trapped and returned to their owner.
Red Imported Fire Ants	Fall season red-imported fire ant surveys and boiling water treatments were conducted at nine caves.
Invasive Plants	Invasive plants (Chinaberry, Ligustrum sp., Nandina, Photinia, Chinese Tallow, Vinca, bamboo, and tree of heaven) were removed from 12 tracts. Staff continued with the vinca solarization study on the Bunten tract. A group of 23 volunteers from Oracle assisted with Vinca removal in November.

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<b>Land Stewardship</b>	
Fence Construction	New fence construction occurred on the Kotrla Unit and the Travaasa CE tract. New gates were put in at several locations on the Jollyville Unit where trespassing was occurring. The new gates are designed to be more difficult to climb.
Wildfire Preparedness	Fuel mitigation projects were completed on the BCP along the Wildlife-Urban Interface in the Travaasa CE, Volente, and Steiner Ranch tracts.
Infrastructure	Staff assisted with the BCCP Infrastructure Workshop which was held at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center on October 13 <sup>th</sup> . This workshop was designed to help explain the significance of the BCP and provide guidance to infrastructure service providers that cross the BCP or that pass through endangered species habitat outside of the preserve;  Staff coordinated with Austin Energy to design a vegetation maintenance plan that allows them to trim under their utility lines in a way which benefits the black-capped vireo.
Facilities	A small house within the floodplain on the Snowden tract was demolished in October.
Conservation Easements	Annual reviews were conducted on seven conservation easements. One easement was out of compliance, but the issue was resolved.
Vegetation Issues	An 3-acre oak wilt center on the Jollyville Unit was trenched in November to prevent further spread of the disease;  Staff identified and investigated several sites where trees on the BCP were cut by neighbors. Staff is working with neighbors to rectify these issues.
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	
Trespass	Trespassing on the Jollyville Unit declined over this period. New gates that are more difficult to climb were installed in some of the problem areas. These gates seem to be having a positive effect.
<b>Outreach/Volunteers</b>	
<i>See BCP Partner Education Summary FY18 First Quarter: October 1 – December 31, 2017</i>	