

TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Activities FY18 Quarter 2 Update: 1 January – 31 March 2018

BCCP Administration	
Public Participation	Nine BCCP applications were received and processed from January 1 – March 31, 2018. Three Participation Certificates were issued for a total of \$45,375.00 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.
Reports	The FY2017 BCCP Annual Report was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in January and is available online at: https://www.traviscountytexas.gov/tnr/bccp/reports .
Personnel	Environmental Specialist, Kayla Miloy, resigned in February. The position will be re-filled.
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo	The first Golden-cheeked warbler spring arrival on Travis County BCP tracts was documented on March 5 th . The first Black-capped vireo was observed on March 29 th . Warbler and vireo surveys began about a week after first documentation. Approximately 13 acres of potential Black-capped vireo habitat on the Kotrla Unit was treated mechanically to create the shrub structure preferred by vireos.
Karst Invertebrates	Winter season faunal surveys were performed at eleven caves and cave cricket exit counts were conducted at seven caves; <i>Cicurina</i> spiders were collected from four BCCP caves and three other BCP-managed caves and were sent to a taxonomist for identification. This resulted in several locality confirmations for BCCP-listed karst species of concern; BCP staff gave a presentation on BCCP cave monitoring, management, and protection efforts at the Austin Cave Festival event.
Jollyville Plateau Salamanders	Occupancy surveys were conducted at Long Hollow Creek and in three tributaries to Cypress Creek. Jollyville Plateau salamanders were documented at three new sites.
Plant and Animal Control	
Feral Hogs	Fifty-three hogs were harvested from the Kotrla Unit, and the Concordia CE, Karnik, Sam Hamilton East, and Ribelin tracts.
White-tailed Deer	Thirty-eight deer were harvested on the Kotrla Unit, and the Medway, Snowden, and Vireo Ridge tracts.
Tawny Crazy Ants	Tawny crazy ant surveys were conducted at No Rent and Whirlpool caves.

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Invasive Plants	Invasive plants (Chinaberry, Ligustrum sp., Nandina, Photinia, Chinese Tallow, Vinca, bamboo, tree of heaven, Johnsongrass, and Japanese honeysuckle) were removed from nine tracts. Staff installed shade cloth on some of the Vinca control plots on the Bunten tract. Volunteers assisted with the removal of vinca and bamboo at the Bunten tract and Japanese honeysuckle and Johnsongrass on the Snowden tract.
Land Stewardship	
Fence Construction	Approximately 8,500 feet of new fence was installed at the Kotrla Unit.
Wildfire Preparedness	Fuel mitigation projects were completed on the BCP along the roadway on the Toops and Volente tracts.
Cleanups	A large Trails End tract debris removal project was completed in February. Many trash piles were removed along with two busses and a boat.
Conservation Easements	Three annual reviews on properties with conservation easements were conducted this quarter. Two of the properties were not in compliance with their CE agreement; one has since been resolved and one is in the process of getting into compliance.
Vegetation Issues	One issue of back-of-lot tree cutting on the Steiner Ranch CE was resolved by having the resident plant trees on the Preserve. Staff and volunteers planted dozens of native plants, including kidneywood, cedar elm, Texas ash, pink boneset, Carolina buckthorn, and zexmenia on the Nootsie, Snowden, and Bunten tracts. Plants were donated by the City of Austin BCP staff.
Law Enforcement	
Trespass and Criminal Mischief	Law enforcement action was taken on three individuals who were involved in illegal cutting of vegetation, minor dumping, and illegal use of fire within the BCP; two incidents of cut fences, one incident of a cut chain and lock, and several trespassers were also documented during this quarter.
Outreach/Volunteers	
<i>See BCP Partner Education Summary FY18 Second Quarter: January - March, 2018</i>	