

TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP Quarterly Activities: 1 August 2014 –30 September 2014

BCCP Administration	
Public Participation	<p>7 BCCP applications were received and processed; 4 Participation Certificates were issued for a total of \$11,150.</p> <p>At the end of FY 2014, there were a total of 19 Participation Certificates issued for 265 acres, and total revenue of \$481,525 for the year.</p> <p>All funds in these categories are evenly divided 50:50 between City of Austin and Travis County.</p>
Land Acquisition and Protection	<p>No new acquisitions occurred during this reporting period.</p> <p>Current Preserve Totals: 30,540 acres for endangered birds; 47 of the 62 BCCP caves with some protection.</p>
Personnel	<p>Natural Resources Program Manager Wendy Connally's last work day was August 29th. Wendy accepted a position with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Natural Resources Program Manager position is being advertised until October 18th.</p> <p>The Volunteer Coordinator Position is currently vacant while the position is being reviewed by Personnel.</p>
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked warbler and Black-capped vireo	Both the Golden-cheeked warblers and Black-capped vireos have headed south to their winter ranges.
Karst Invertebrates	<p>Summer season faunal surveys performed at eight BCCP-listed caves, and one other endangered species cave.</p> <p>Summer season cave cricket exit counts performed at five BCCP-listed caves, and one other endangered species cave.</p> <p>Monitored protection efforts for karst features within and near the area of LCRA's T-160 power line upgrade.</p>
Jollyville Plateau salamander (JPS)	Conducted monthly water quality monitoring at nine Jollyville Plateau salamander (JPS) sites and three other sites. Collected water from twenty-one sites and sediment from two sites for laboratory analysis.
Plant and Animal Control	
Deer	Conducted deer surveys on the Jollyville Unit and at Hamilton Pool. Deer harvests with a contracted service provider will begin in October.
Feral hogs	2 hogs were trapped and dispatched from the Sam Hamilton East tract; Trap sites at the Sam Hamilton East and Woody Hollow tracts are currently being baited.

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Red imported fire ants (RIFA) and Tawny Crazy ants (TCA)	Conducted an assessment and survey of the tawny crazy ant infestation at Whirlpool Cave.
Invasive Plants	Removed invasive plants (<i>Nandina</i> , <i>Ligustrum</i> , Tree of Heaven, and Johnsongrass) from the Snowden tract.
Land Stewardship	
Fencing	A fence (2,372 linear feet) was installed along the northern boundary of the Gandview Hills South tract.
Wildfire Preparedness	Currently marking fuel mitigation areas to be treated this fall/winter; Projects on the Steiner Ranch, Webb, Grandview Hills, and Canyon Vista tracts are tentatively scheduled.
	The Community Wildfire Protection Plan has been submitted to elected officials with the City and County for review. A rollout date has been set for November 14 th .
	FEMA's contractor is completing an Environmental Assessment (EA) of Travis County's Hazardous Fuel Mitigation grant submitted to FEMA; The EA is the final task required before grant approval.
Infrastructure	Coordinated with the City of Austin and LCRA regarding LCRA's T-160 transmission line upgrade project which will involve pole replacement on a section of transmission line crossing through the BCP. Approved a temporary construction easement on the Lucas tract which allowed LCRA to clear a 0.6 acre area within the infrastructure corridor for equipment access to pull cables at a critical junction. LCRA installed new poles on the Lucas and Steiner tracts.
Transportation	LISD is pursuing an individual ESA 10(A) permit for the proposed road project in the infrastructure corridor through Travis County Ribelin, Sam Hamilton East, and private 10(A) mitigation lands; SWCA was granted a Travis County Scientific Research Permit for karst, cultural resources, and waters of the US environmental assessment. City of Austin and Travis County sent SWCA existing JPS data to review.
	Texas 45 Southwest: DEIS was released for public comment on 27 June; DEIS documents can be found here: http://www.sh45sw.com/environmental/draft-eis.php . Written comments on the DEIS were due on August 15 th .
	Additional schedule: FEIS submittal 28 October 2014; FEIS signed 12 November 2014; and Record of Decision 9 January 2015.
	Travis County commissioned a feasibility study for the realignment of Steiner Ranch Boulevard/Comanche Trail which is under review.

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Adjacent Development	Coordinating with City of Austin and developers on current and future development projects adjacent to the Concordia, Cuevas, Nootsie, and Steiner Ranch tracts.
Law Enforcement	
Trespass and Criminal Mischief	Trespassing continues to be a problem on the Volente tract. Photos of multiple groups of people, some entering in motorized vehicles, have been documented on surveillance cameras. Trespassers cut a lock and removed a cable gate. A hot air balloon made an emergency landing on the Volente tract on August 9th. Park Police helped the owners remove the balloon.
	Someone removed a lock and chain from a Cuevas tract gate.
	A surveillance camera photographed a group of trespassers on the Collins tract.
	Two cases of illegal tree clearing behind residences are being investigated at Steiner Ranch. Staff is working with the Steiner Ranch Community Association to resolve these cases.
Outreach/Volunteers	
<i>See BCP Partners Education Summary August - September, 2014</i>	