

TRAVIS COUNTY'S BCCP FY19 Quarter 2 Update: January 1 – March 31, 2019

BCCP Administration	
Public Participation	Eighteen BCCP applications were received and processed from January 1 - March 31, 2019. Eight Participation Certificates were issued for a total of \$498,300.00 in mitigation payments. Fees were split 50:50 between Travis County and City of Austin.
Land Acquisition	In January, Travis County received the donation of an 8.2 acre Conservation Easement, the Brown Tract, as per the terms of the landowner's USFWS 10a permit.
BCCP Annual Report	The BCCP Annual Report was submitted to USFWS on January 31st. It can be viewed at https://www.traviscountytx.gov/tnr/bccp/2018-annual-report .
Personnel	Four permanent and 4 seasonal positions were filled in February and March. David Morgan started as a Supervisory Biologist, Sam Berg was promoted from Maintenance Worker to a Land Management Tech, Amanda Fernandez was hired as a Wildlife Tech, and Holly Kreiner was hired as a Contract and Grant Administrator. The Seasonal Techs, who will be assisting primarily with bird surveys, include Kristen Gold, Audrey Kuhl, Nancy Sandoval, and Benjamin Stubbs.
Rare and Endangered Resources Management	
Golden-cheeked Warblers	Golden-cheeked warblers were first observed back on the Travis County BCP on March 8 th . Surveys started in mid-March. A lawsuit to remove the golden-cheeked warbler from the federal endangered species list was rejected on February 6 th , preserving the warbler's endangered status; however, the plaintiff in the case, the General Land Office, filed a Notice of Appeal on March 1 st .
Black-capped Vireos	Black-capped vireos were first observed back on the Travis County BCP on March 26 th . Surveys will begin in early April. Travis County Natural Resources and Parks staffs conducted a 15-acre prescribed burn on the Kotrla Unit in January. They burned to encourage growth of the shrubland habitat that vireos prefer; an additional 12 acres of habitat on the Kotrla Unit was mechanically manipulated to enhance vireo habitat.
Karst Invertebrates	Winter season faunal surveys were performed at 11 caves and cave cricket exit counts were conducted at 7 caves.
Jollyville Plateau Salamanders	County and City staff began salamander occupancy surveys on Tributaries 5 and 6 of Bull Creek on March 28 th and will complete the surveys in early April.
Plant and Animal Control	
Feral Hogs	Thirty-seven hogs were removed from the Kotrla Unit, Ribelin Tract, and Webb Tract.
White-tailed Deer	Twenty deer were harvested on the Kotrla Unit, Jollyville Unit, and Volente Tract. The meat was donated to Caritas of Austin.
Brown-headed Cowbirds	Four traps were opened in March and 28 cowbirds were trapped. Traps will remain open during the spring months.

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Red Imported Fire Ants and Tawny Crazy Ants	<p>Fire ant control was conducted around 5 BCCP named caves.</p> <p>Arthropod sampling was conducted on the Jollyville Unit as part of a study investigating the impact of tawny crazy ants on the golden-cheeked warbler's prey base.</p>
Invasive Plants	<p>Invasive plants (Chinaberry, Ligustrum sp., Nandina, Photinia, Vinca, English ivy, Wisteria, Hedge parsley, and Japanese honeysuckle) were treated on 12 tracts. The American Conservation Experience (ACE) donated over 230 hours of labor from hand crews to treat invasive plants. Volunteers assisted with the removal of Vinca and Hedge parsley on the Bunten Tract.</p>
Land Stewardship	
Fence Construction	<p>Approximately 2.7 miles of new boundary fence was constructed on the Kotrla Unit and the Cuevas, Cuevas East, and Volente Peak Tracts.</p>
Wildfire Preparedness	<p>Fuel mitigation projects were completed on the BCP in the Wildlife-Urban Interface along the Wheless and Woods of Greenshores Tracts.</p>
Infrastructure	<p>LCRA and PEC conducted inspections and routine vegetation maintenance along some of the transmission lines that cross through Travis County BCP land.</p>
Facilities	<p>The driveway to the Natural Resources Field Office on the Nootsie Tract was paved.</p> <p>The driveway and parking lot at Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve was paved and striped.</p>
Conservation Easements	<p>During this quarter, staff conducted one annual conservation easement monitoring on a property that is privately owned, but managed by Travis County through a conservation easement agreement. Compliance issues were identified and rectified on the conservation easement property.</p>
Law Enforcement	
Trespass and Criminal Mischief	<p>Tent campsites on the Cuevas Tract, Wheless Tract, and the Kotrla Unit were located and removed.</p> <p>A chain was cut on a Trails End Tract gate and there was evidence of vehicles entering the tract to access an overlook and historic party site. A new fire ring and trash were found at the site.</p> <p>Evidence of digging, presumably to excavate for archeological artifacts, was observed at a shelter cave on the Grandview Hills Tract.</p> <p>Cut fences were found at 5 locations on the Grandview Hills Tract and Kotrla Unit.</p>
Outreach/Volunteers	
<p>See <i>BCP Partner Education Summary FY19 Second Quarter: January 1 – March 31, 2019</i></p>	