



BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2022 First Quarter: October 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

1st Quarter: Outreach & Education (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth*	Adults*	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	268	464	2205	138.5
Programs / Presentations	Offsite	19	316	395	2
	Onsite	11	110	73	8
Visiting Group/Educators	Onsite	13	9	135	
Land Stewardship	Onsite	107	19	387	1021.5
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	34	2	75	250.25
Administration	Onsite	4	4	3	27.5
Training	Onsite	1	0	1	4
Campouts	Onsite	1	4	4	
October-December Total		458	928	3,278	1,451.75

Monetary value of volunteer work (\$26.43/hour): \$38,369.75

*Numbers indicate total participation during events not unique individuals

SELF-GUIDED PUBLIC ACCESS (Estimated Annual Visitation)

These numbers are not included in the Outreach & Education chart above. They represent a sample of BCP areas with public access – we hope to include more complete visitation numbers in future reports.

Hamilton Pool: 30,000+

Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve: 8,906

Baker Sanctuary: 558



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CITY OF AUSTIN



- City of Austin BCP staff has continued to amplify the Lights Out for Birds initiative by resharing posts on social media platforms and including them in our newsletter.
- We've talked to neighbors and the public about spiders, wildfire, the wildland urban interface (WUI), and co-existing with coyotes with the Wild Neighbors webinar series in conjunction with Travis County.
- Guided hikes were reintroduced, and there was a successful hike on the BCP's Reicher Ranch.
- Workdays on the Vireo, JJT, and Long Canyon tracts have continued with seeding, lots of tree planting and care, and invasive plant control.
- In November, we gathered outside to thank volunteers for continuing to share their time and talents.



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BAKER SANCTUARY (TRAVIS AUDUBON)



- Due to the February ice storm, a good deal of damage was inflicted upon Ashe Junipers and Live Oaks, with many branches coming asunder and even entire trees splitting and falling. Cleaning up the damage not only involves cutting and clearing the material from public spaces but also chipping the countless cubic yards of brush. Luckily, TAS has had a good deal of help spreading mulch on the trails from local Boy Scout troop 97; without their assistance, many bitter tears would have been shed.
- Continuing in the Zoom tradition, a riveting, some whisper transformative, Powerpoint presentation was given to 295 fourth grade students from Deer Creek, Cypress, and Naumann elementary schools (LISD). The talk covered basic central Texas ecology with a special emphasis on the Golden-cheeked Warbler.



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TRAVIS COUNTY



- We were very happy to welcome volunteers back for the 2021 Christmas Bird Count (pictured above). This was the 122nd year of the CBC nationally, and our volunteers helped us count over 55 species.
- Travis County BCP staff has been active in the Lights Out Texas campaign, working with the Commissioners Court to pass resolutions to turn out non-essential lights at downtown County buildings during bird migration each year. They also publicized the initiative through BCP social media, County social media (working with the PIO), and through local neighborhood and organizational newsletters.
- The Wild Neighbors monthly webinar series continued this quarter in partnership with the City of Austin featuring public presentations on Learning to Love Spiders, Co-existing With Coyotes, and Wildfire, Wildlands, and You.
- In December, we hosted the first guided hike open to the public on the Travis County BCP since February 2020. The group hiked the Grandview Hills Canyon Loop Trail and was greeted with fantastic weather while learning about the Preserve and our mission.
- The fall survey period for Bird Strike Monitoring concluded at the end of October. Volunteers contributed over 43 hours of survey time and found four confirmed bird strikes. This information will be used to help reduce bird strikes in the future.



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WESTCAVE PRESERVE



- Fall at Westcave was full of surprises and exciting experiences! Rarely sighted wildlife joined in for many tours, including an American woodcock and tricolored bat. The education department hosted a wonderful tree Identification hike for beginners and celebrated volunteerism at the Preserve during December's annual volunteer appreciation party.
- Field trips also resumed during the fall, with over 108 students from 3 schools visiting the grotto at Westcave. In addition, we have seen a large increase in the number of requests for field trips from homeschool co-ops and groups, with homeschool field trips comprising the bulk of our fall field trip events.
- Due to the presence of venomous snakes on the grotto trail at the preserve, guides have added a demonstration to our tours of how to practice snake safety using fake rubber snakes. Guests have responded positively to the new approach to snake education, and we continue to develop our outreach efforts to protect even the least popular wildlife at Westcave.



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ACTIVITY DEFINITIONS

Guided Hikes

Hikes on the BCP guided by staff or volunteers; includes education about the BCP, wildlife, and land management practices.

Programs / Presentations

Presentations by staff or volunteers about the BCP and related scientific and land management topics; includes educational events and programs.

Land Stewardship

Volunteer work on the BCP that includes removing invasive species, preparing for prescribed burns, creating fuel breaks, restoring habitat, patrolling, and maintenance of grounds, trails & facilities.

Ecological Monitoring

Includes surveys of endangered species, vegetation, and nuisance species such as cowbirds, hogs and red imported fire ants.

Campouts

Campouts on the BCP, usually organized by outside groups such as the Boy Scouts.

Visiting Groups / Educators

Groups visiting or hosting an event on the BCP that was not organized by BCP staff.

Administrative Help

Volunteer help with administrative work such as office work, research, and event coordination.

Training

Volunteer training & other trainings that support the BCCP's mission. Examples include educating emergency response and infrastructure maintenance staff about protecting sensitive environmental features and complying with clearing restrictions.



BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2022 Second Quarter: January 1, 2022 – March 31, 2022

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

2nd Quarter: Outreach & Education (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth*	Adults*	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	266	513	2347	21
Programs / Presentations	Offsite	15	15	421	6
	Onsite	12	432	95	4
Visiting Group/Educators	Onsite	1	25	25	0
Land Stewardship	Onsite	94	41	269	1,167.5
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	24	0	48	186.75
Administration	Onsite	1	0	1	5
Training	Onsite	1	0	11	12
Campouts	Onsite	2	42	23	40
January-March Total		416	1,068	3,240	1,442.25

Monetary value of volunteer work (\$26.43/hour): \$38,369.75

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CITY OF AUSTIN



- The Wild Neighbors Speaker Series has continued to be a success. The January presentation, Reforesting Degraded Landscapes, with the City's Jim O'Donnell had an audience from all over the world, including US, Canada, Greece, Serbia, and Belgium!
- Volunteer workdays on the Vireo and JJ&T tracts has continued. A new bioswale at JJ&T was completed and was followed by planting and mulching many new native trees.
- An invasive privet pulling workday took place on the Long Canyon tract, moving the effort forward of making space for more native plants.
- A few BCP biologists gave separate presentations for organizations such as the National Speleological Society (NSS) and Capital Area Master Naturalists (CAMN).



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BAKER SANCTUARY (TRAVIS AUDUBON)



- Zane Hagler and Boy Scout Troop 271 constructed a new Chimney Swift tower for Baker Sanctuary, bringing the total of structures up to eleven.
- Multiple workdays were hosted at the Sanctuary, typically attended by Boy Scouts, and focused on the distribution of the mulch pile, affectionally known as 'Kevin', unto the trail system. Kevin is mostly the by-product of tree damage from the 2021 ice storm. Some Boy Scouts claim that no matter how much is removed from Kevin, he never grows any smaller. Time will tell if that is indeed true.
- Finally, with the loosening of Covid-induced restrictions, Travis Audubon has, once again, begun guided hikes for the community. Over the last quarter, TAS has hosted five such events for a myriad of folks, regaling them with the wonders and mysteries of the closed canopy juniper/oak woodland and its wily inhabitants.



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TRAVIS COUNTY



- In March, we hosted a group as part of the Its My Park Day Spring event to remove Vinca at a restoration site on the Bunten Tract. Volunteers had a great time learning about the BCP and removed a lot of invasive Vinca.
- TNR Biologist Paul Fushille joined Volunteer Coordinator Jeremy Hull to lead a Warbler Walk on the SAS Canyon Trail (pictured above). Attendees had a great time learning bird calls and identification tips with Paul and were lucky enough to spot a male Golden-cheeked warbler in all his glory.
- The Snowden Wednesday workdays continue strongly with volunteers putting in over 200 hours this quarter working on the native plant gardens surrounding the Snowden house and nearby area.
- Volunteers were trained on using game cameras for a new project collecting data for a researcher at Texas State University to determine a relationship between coyote occupancy and canopy cover. Cameras have been deployed on seven different tracts so far.



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WILD BASIN PRESERVE



- We had an event for neighbors who are donors which consisted of Ray Benson stories on the deck, as seen in the photo on the top left.
- We have had volunteers doing work on the trails and facilities.
- We also reopened the Visitor Gallery area of the Research Center.
- Finally, another major highlight is that we were able to open our new Outdoor evaporative toilet restroom facility, Eloo, pictured above on the right.



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BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2022 Third Quarter: April 1 – June 30, 2022

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

3rd Quarter: Outreach & Education (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth*	Adults*	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	282	304	1662	417
Programs / Presentations	Offsite	3	30	64	
	Onsite	45	703	481	65
Visiting Group/Educators	Onsite	14	0	149	0
Land Stewardship	Onsite	124	31	460	1182.75
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	107	0	73	550
Administration	Onsite	2	0	1	12.5
April-June Total		577	1068	2890	227.25

Monetary value of volunteer work (\$26.43/hour): \$44,706.35

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SELF-GUIDED PUBLIC ACCESS

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BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2022 Third Quarter: April 1 – June 30, 2022

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

CITY OF AUSTIN



- Social media outreach has continued and almost finished both seasonal series of #WarblerWednesday and the bilingual #VireoViernes.
- Volunteer workdays have continued on both the JJ&T and Vireo tracts of the BCP and consist of lots of tree watering and care as well as mulching and other maintenance.
- Had multiple guided hikes with volunteers and stewards.
- Wild Neighbors Speaker series has continued with talks on spring bird migration, turtles, and parking lot birding.
- Wrapped up another successful Golden-cheeked Warbler resighting season and hosted a resighter appreciation event at Reicher Ranch.



BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

FY 2022 Third Quarter: April 1 – June 30, 2022

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

TRAVIS COUNTY



- Travis County BCP hosted several corporate groups this quarter with a combination guided hike and invasive plant removal workday. Groups from JeDunn construction, UFCU, and Deolitte participated.
- A group of seniors from Westlake Highschool (pictured above right) joined us to remove invasive plants as part of their senior service day project.
- In late April, Travis County BCP hosted a Bioblitz as part of the 2022 City Nature Challenge (pictured above left). We have been hosting these for several years now, and they are always a great time. Volunteers hike the preserve and document as many plants and animals as possible on iNaturalist.
- Bat hikes with our friends at Bat Conservation International began again in May after a two-year break due to COVID. Outdoor Afro members were invited out to learn about bats of Texas and took a lovely hike on the Grand View Hills Bat Pond Trail.
- A BCP 101 talk and short hike were given to students and parents at Laurel Mountain Elementary as part of their 2022 Spring Fling event. Attendees learned about the preserve surrounding their school and the species the BCP protects, then took a short hike.



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FY 2022 Third Quarter: April 1 – June 30, 2022

City of Austin, Travis County, The Nature Conservancy, Westcave Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, and Travis Audubon's Baker Sanctuary

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

- Hosted a field day in conjunction with Capitol Area Master Naturalists.
- The Nature Conservancy, in conjunction with the University of Texas's Ornithology class, hosted a banding demonstration.
- TNC helped out with the University of Texas's herpetology class field days.
- Helped with a St. Edwards vegetation analysis field day.
- Had 60 volunteers complete 231 hours of work on trails, invasive species, old fence removal, and fence repair.
- 1 BSA Cub Pack 284 campout – Outdoor Activity Award earned



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WILD BASIN



- **Artist in Residence Reception** - In May, Wild Basin held Artist in Residence Reception and Art Show for Danika Ostrowski, Wild Basin's Fall 2021 Artist in Residence. The public was able to view Danika's beautiful paintings of Wild Basin habitats, landscapes, and species that she created while working at and learning about the preserve during the three-month residency. Danika also created special habitat and native species illustrations (paintings) for 8 new interpretive signs that will be installed along the trails in September.
- **Immersive Endangered Species Art Event** - In June, the Wild Basin held an immersive art event for the public created by our spring Artist in Residence, Juliet Whitsett. The event aimed to provoke exploration around Texas' rarest species through mixing color, conversation, and information about Texas Endangered Species.
- **Guided Hike: Keep Texas Beautiful Conference Participants** - Wild Basin Trail Guide Volunteers and Master Naturalists, Carl Fabre, Skip Beard, and Gary Sertich, gave guided hikes to participants of the annual Keep Texas Beautiful Conference.



BCP PARTNER EDUCATION SUMMARY

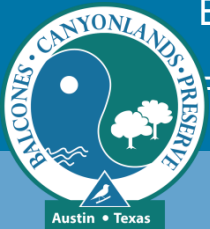
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BAKER SANCTUARY (TRAVIS AUDUBON)



- After a hiatus of several years due to the pandemic, the much anticipated Baker Nature Day made a triumphant return. Many hikes were lead, GCWA observed, crafts crafted, folks sweated, and Grimly the Black Vulture terrified one and all with his unsettling fast gait and knowing, slightly judgmental, gaze.
- A three-way Battle Royale of Eagle Scout projects commenced during the spring. Carson Collins with Troop 70, Jake Zawaideh with Troop 271, and David Parr with Troop 202 installed a total of seven trail benches. All were winners in that the benches are quite lovely and not a single scout was injured or lost during the process.
- Finally, the lucky 4th graders of C.C. Mason elementary (LISD) were mentally and spiritually transported deep into the mysterious Hill Country via an exceptional PowerPoint presentation. GCWA were cheered, non-native invasive plants derided, and the magical tapestry of the Hill Country food web sparkled in the eyes of all.



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4th Quarter: Outreach & Education (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth*	Adults*	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	210	679	2925	220.5
Programs / Presentations	Offsite	6	0	190	0
	Onsite	9	79	90	
Visiting Group/Educators	Onsite	9	0	73	
Land Stewardship	Onsite	104	27	201	1157
Training	Onsite	5	0	38	3
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	22	8	25	274.25
July-September Total		365	793	3,542	1,654.75

Monetary value of volunteer work (\$28.14/hour): \$46,564.67

*Numbers indicate total participation during events not unique individuals

ANNUAL SUMMARY: Outreach & Education (All Partners)

Activity	Location	Events	Youth*	Adults*	Volunteer Hours
Guided Hikes	Onsite	971	4773	8596	567
Programs / Presentations	Onsite	40	690	260	15
	Offsite	49	400	1030	8
Land Stewardship	Onsite	311	81	888	3422
Ecological Monitoring	Onsite	73	8	111	545
Visiting Groups / Educators	Onsite	28	34	292	
Training	Offsite	6	0	50	19
Administration	Onsite	5	4	4	32.5
Oct 2021 – Sept 2022 Total		1483	5990	11231	4608.5
Monetary value of volunteer work (\$28.14/hour): \$129,683.19 *Numbers indicate total participation during events not unique individuals					

SELF-GUIDED PUBLIC ACCESS

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Hamilton Pool: 30,000+

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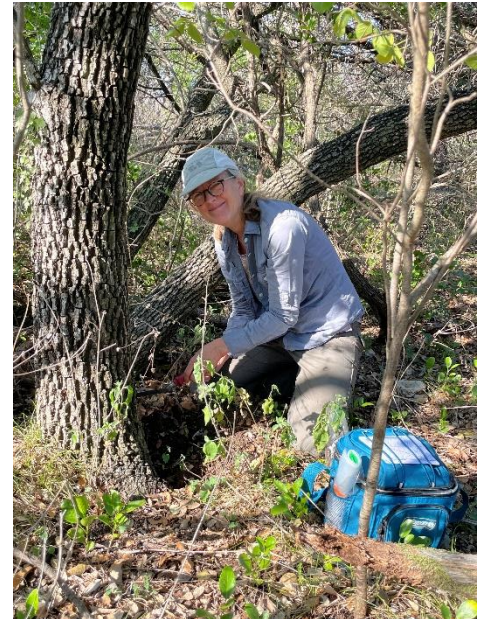


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CITY OF AUSTIN



- We have begun fall tree planting and nursery workdays at the JJ&T tract. With many new berms done, the work to get new native trees in the ground has begun during tree planting season. The goal is to plant hundreds of native trees and shrubs this fall to rebuild healthy soil and sequester carbon, increase biodiversity, support pollinators, and promote habitat for the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler.
- During the last week of September, the first community-based study of mycorrhizal fungi took place on the BCP. Volunteers, alongside Travis County biologists, spent ten days collecting mycorrhizal samples from tree roots to inform habitat restoration and preserve management.



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BAKER SANCTUARY (TRAVIS AUDUBON)



- Never comfortable idle, the Boy Scouts of America were at it again, this time with the installation of a Chimney Swift kiosk, incidentally installed by a tower built by a Boy Scout several years prior, which is next to a picnic table also constructed by the tireless scouts.
- Aside from the sign kiosk, all other volunteer events this quarter were somehow involved with the destruction wrought by that winter tempest known as Ice Storm Uri. The storm ravaged Baker Sanctuary, felling trees every which way, even upon the immaculately tended and groomed trails which are the envy of all land managers in Travis County. While the tireless steward of Baker, in a heroic effort some compare to the cleaning of the Augean Stables, cleared the obstructions in a timely manner so hikers could continue to enjoy the wonder found only in the Hill Country, much work remained. Volunteers spread countless cubic yards of mulch formed from the shredding of the formerly majestic trees and dispersed brush piles hither and yon to discourage snakes from taking up residence and to restore the much-acclaimed Feng Shui of that outdoor space.
- Finally, three guided hikes were undertaken with the highlight being the spotting of a particularly fine specimen of the elusive Bricklebush.



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TRAVIS COUNTY



- Volunteers completed the camera trap project collecting data for a researcher at Texas State University on coyote and fox presence/absence in heavily wooded areas of the BCP near urban development. Data were collected on 14 Travis County BCP tracts with dozens of target animal detections. A unique animal photographed during the project was a pair of North American river otters (*Lontra canadensis*, pictured left).
- A BCP 101 and introduction to volunteering talk was given to the new trainee class of the Balcones Canyonlands Texas Master Naturalist chapter.
- The first ever volunteer MycoBlitz project to collect mycorrhizal samples was undertaken in September and was a great success. Dozens of volunteers and staff collected samples from many different tracts on both Travis County and City of Austin BCP (pictured right). This is a multi-year research project undertaken with our BCP partners at the City of Austin, and we look forward to continuing it in 2023.



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WILD BASIN



- **Trail Guide Training:** In September, Wild Basin Creative Research Center hosted a two-day Trail Guide Training workshop. Seventeen volunteer trail guides were “refreshed” or newly trained in natural science interpretation, Wild Basin protocol and strategies for guiding school groups on trails, as well as learning the basics of the Bee Creek watershed, and the plants, animals and geology of the preserve. The training was facilitated by Interpretive Consultant, Clark Hancock.
- **Guided Hike:** In September, after a more than two-year hiatus, Wild Basin Creative Research Center resumed its guided hike program for school field trips. Seventeen middle school students from City School in Austin, along with three teachers and four parents visited Wild Basin Wilderness Preserve and were led by three volunteer trail guides and our Environmental Education Coordinator, Paul Vickery.
- **Training Collaboration with Texas Conservation Corps:** At the end of September, Wild Basin Creative Research Center hosted the Texas Conservation Corps (TxCC) for their fall new member orientation “Trails Training.” The new Americorps members worked with the Preserve Manager and two San Juan Diego Catholic High School interns. The group helped with deferred maintenance along Ledge and Woodland Trails. Most of the work was focused on water drainage features and stabilization. The crews also constructed three new benches for Wild Basin as part of an “Introduction to Carpentry ” training, led by TxCC staff.



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WESTCAVE PRESERVE



- On Sunday, September 4th, one of our educators, Lacy Smith, captured on film a Texas Red headed Centipede (*Scolopendra Heros*) eating a bat on the ceiling of our cave (most likely either a Cave Myotis (*Myotis velifer*) or Tri-colored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) in our cave system). It was first spotted before gam and was observed by staff and guests almost the entire day hanging from the ceiling and eating this bat. Tropical centipedes in South America have been documented catching bats from the ceiling; however, to our knowledge this has not been documented before from the Texas Red-headed centipede in the United States. Texas Red-headed centipede has been documented to consume include invertebrates, small vertebrates, like snakes, lizards, and toads. Everyone is excited to see and have documentation of this event!
- This last month Westcave welcomed the Fall Equinox with Open Space Yoga, and instructor Jennifer Zavaleta, through a silent guided meditative hike followed by a Sound Bath in our Environmental Learning Center. The program was a complete success with both guests and staff walking away relaxed, refreshed, and repurposed for a new direction of Westcave toward wellness. Stay tuned for more upcoming wellness specialty events.



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Administrative Help

Volunteer help with administrative work such as office work, research, and event coordination.

Training

Volunteer training & other trainings that support the BCCP's mission. Examples include educating emergency response and infrastructure maintenance staff about protecting sensitive environmental features and complying with clearing restrictions.