

Subject: Hog Management Report for BCA - April 2018

Greetings,

This is the monthly report for the BCA hog management program for April 2018. Jesse Paul took 66 hogs in April. This month 42 hogs were taken with dogs vs. 24 in traps, as noted below.

Property breakdown is as follows:

1st Place: 3 with dogs and 18 in a trap.

2nd Place: 7 with dogs and 2 in a trap.

3rd Place: 8 with dogs.

4th Place: 6 with dogs.

5th Place: 5 with dogs.

6th and 7th (TIE): 4 in a trap / 4 with dogs

8th, 9th and 10th (TIE): 3 with dogs.

The remainder of the properties: had no hogs this month.

Cowbird Trapping Report

Cowbirds have finally arrived. Jesse Paul is running 13 cowbird traps in addition to his hog duties. For the month of April, he has removed a total of 363 cowbirds (214 males and 149 females). This is less than half the numbers from last year, in line with observations all around the Central Texas area. Nobody knows whether this is a 'normal' fluctuation in cowbird numbers, if migration patterns are shifting due to heat/drought/climate cycles, or if the state-wide cowbird control program is impacting population levels. Whatever the cause, I'm sure the Hill Country songbirds (and the birders who love to watch them) are grateful for the respite. Biologists at Fort Hood tell me that they have not seen a parasitism event so far this season in their studies of black-capped vireos and golden-cheeked warblers.

This has been a pleasantly cool spring, and early mornings are still brisk, but summer heat is moving in, and rainfall totals are running behind averages. The combination of dry and hot conditions will start to restrict hog movement to nighttime hours, and if the dry weather continues, they will limit their wanderings to stream corridors. This means they have higher potential this time of year to cause extensive damage to creek banks and springs. I know that your water resources are a prized component of your property, so keep an eye on those areas and let JP know where the hogs are causing damage.

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