

LBJ National Grasslands Misc. Conservation Programs

Project Description Details - Detailed description of project & Master Naturalist role:

The U. S. Forest Service at LBJ National Grasslands on occasion has various special programs that could benefit from volunteer work with Master Naturalists. The programs can change from year-to-year and may only be short term. This project number encompasses these types of programs in the LBJ National Grasslands as they are requested.

An ongoing project that started in 2007 serves the U.S. Forest Service by maintaining and monitoring bluebird nesting boxes. The LBJ National Grasslands covers about 20,000 acres in Northern Wise County in 63 distinct units. Volunteers check the boxes during nesting season for eggs, hatchlings and fledglings. In the offseason the boxes are checked for cleaning and repairs.

A current project request is to assist Mary and Claire Curry in the collection of lichen species within the LBJ National Grasslands. The goal of the project is to provide an illustrated checklist of the lichen species found within the Grasslands.

As an example of past projects, Mary Curry was contracted in the summer of 2017 by the USFS to search for locations of a SGCN, G2 listed plant species (see paragraph below), Narrow Leaf Morning Glory (*Ipomoea shumardiana*) within the LBJ National Grasslands. This was a short term endeavor (about 100 hours) that has been completed.

Along with species that have been afforded legal protection due to risk of extinction, Texas hosts well over 1,300 species that are considered to be Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Native animals or plants designated as a SGCN are generally those that are declining or rare and in need of attention to recover or to prevent the need to list under state or federal regulation. These species are the focus of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's [Texas Conservation Action Plan](#) and guide the department's nongame conservation efforts.

Another example past project was assistance with conducting Quail Whistling/Call Surveys along a predetermined course in the Grasslands. This project was conducted during June of 2017 and may become an annual request by the USFS at the Grasslands.