



USFWS Mussel Study

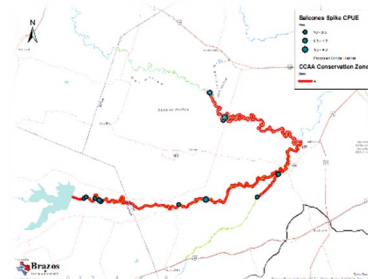
Two species of freshwater mussels (*Truncilla macrodon*, the Texas Fawnsfoot, and *Fusconaia iheringi*, the Balcones Spike) are currently candidates for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA has proven to be one of the nation's strongest conservation laws and federal protection of either species under the ESA can significantly impact current and future water supply operations.

To provide conservation for the species and to reduce threats to the populations in the basin and to reduce the exposure of BRA's water supply system to ESA liabilities, BRA elected to pursue a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). A CCAA is a voluntary agreement between the USFWS and a property owner or a state or local government entity, whereby the entity agrees to implement conservation measures aimed at reducing threats to candidate species in exchange the CCAA author receives assurances, that the USFWS will not require the permittee perform additional conservation measures should the species be federally protected.



The Project

Negotiate a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurance (CCAA) permit with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to reduce the exposure of BRA's water supply system to ESA liabilities. Additional tasks in project include field data collection to support CCAA development, development of a Habitat Quantification Tool, and develop sampling plans and standard operating procedures to comply with the CCAA.



Current Project Status 8/12/2022

- Middle Brazos and Clear Fork surveys completed
- Draft Drought Contingency Plan submitted to USFWS
- Landowner workshop presentations in conjunction with TPWD to provide public outreach and gain landowner input for Zone A stakeholder group
- Plan for tolerance study sampling

Planned Schedule

Note: BRA Fiscal Years run Sept to Aug



Budget Summary

FY 2022 Budget	\$345,000
FY 2022 Project Expenses (As of 6/30/2022)	\$92,828