

...’Deep in the Heart’

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The film aims to conserve Texas’ wild places, show the connectivity of water and wildlife and to recognize the importance of conservation in Texas on a continental scale.

“There are some direct calls to action in the film. One of them is the ocelots. We’ve got 80 ocelots in the entire state, which is our most beautiful cat, and it’s found nowhere else. There’s a lot more we could be doing with the ocelot to help them out,” Masters said.

Filming the ocelots took about nine months because they’re so rare, but Masters said the outcome was rewarding.

“Nobody’s ever filmed them before, so we just kind of had to figure it all out,” Masters said. “Once we did get them dialed in, we were able to get this beautiful sequence with a mom raising her kittens. It’s just really cool to get to see these sights that nobody’s ever gotten to see before.”

While working on Deep in the Heart, Masters filmed on different ranches and some farms in the Panhandle and other areas of the state. He said they’ve seen first-hand the important role landowners, farmers and ranchers play in wildlife and habitat conservation.

“One of the trends that I saw across the state was how much love and passion different landowners and ranchers put into their place, the improvements they put into it, and a lot of the sacrifices they make in order to have good wildlife and wildlife habitat,” Masters said. “As a person who loves wildlife, I’d just like to say, thank you for doing that.”

The ocelot sequence featured in Deep in the Heart was filmed on a working cattle ranch.

“I thought that was really cool that a working ranch had done such a good job of conserving [the ocelots’] habitat that it has the largest population of our most beautiful cat in the United States,” Masters said. “To all the guys and ladies out there



FCCLA! Robert Lee High School FCCLA made the trip to San Diego, California, to attend the National Leadership Conference, held June 29 - July 3, 2022.

that work on land and make room for wildlife and improve the habitat, thank you.”

A list of theaters playing Deep in the Heart is available at www.deepintheheartwildlife.com/watch.

The film will be available to

stream on Apple TV, Amazon Prime and Google Play July 18.

Physical DVD, UHD and Blu-ray copies of the film, and the associated book, can be ordered at shop.deepintheheartwildlife.com. T-shirts and caps are also available.

Kimble, King, Kinney, Knox, La Salle, Lamb, Lampasas, Lavaca, Live Oak, Llano, Loving, Lubbock, Lynn, Martin, Mason, Matagorda, Maverick, McCulloch, McLennan, McMullen, Medina, Midland, Mills, Mitchell, Moore, Motley, Navarro, Nolan, Oldham, Orange, Parker, Parmer, Pecos, Potter, Presidio, Randall, Real, Reeves, Refugio, Roberts, Rockwall, Runnels, San Patricio, San Saba, Schleicher, Scurry, Shackelford, Sherman, Somervell, Stephens, Sterling, Stonewall, Sutton, Swisher, Tarrant, Taylor, Terrell, Terry, Tom Green, Travis, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Victoria, Waller, Ward, Webb, Wharton, Wichita, Wilbarger, Williamson, Wilson, Winkler, Yoakum, Zavala

The declaration gives assurance to landowners that

they will not be penalized for managing their agricultural lands during drought conditions. Farmers and ranchers who need to remove livestock or cannot harvest a crop because of the prolonged drought conditions can maintain agricultural valuation until conditions allow for normal production once again.

“If a drought declaration has been issued, then the Texas Tax Code doesn’t require farmers and ranchers to meet the ‘degree of intensity’ to maintain agricultural valuation of the land,” Billy Howe, Texas Farm Bureau associate director of Government Affairs, said.

Significantly low rainfall and prolonged dry conditions also continue to increase the threat of wildfire across these counties.

To view the counties in a burn ban, visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/Burnbans>.

Gov. Abbott issues drought declaration for Texas

The ongoing drought across much of Texas prompted Governor Greg Abbott today to announce a disaster declaration for 164 counties.

The counties included as of July 8 are:

Andrews, Aransas, Armstrong, Atascosa, Austin, Bailey, Bandera, Baylor, Bee, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Borden, Bosque, Brazoria, Brewster, Briscoe, Brown, Burnet, Caldwell, Calhoun, Callahan, Cameron, Camp, Castro, Chambers, Childress, Cochran, Coke, Coleman, Colorado, Comal, Comanche, Concho, Coryell, Cottle, Crane, Crosby, Culberson, Dallam, Dawson,

Deaf Smith, DeWitt, Dickens, Dimmit, Eastland, Ector, Edwards, Ellis, Erath, Fisher, Floyd, Foard, Fort Bend, Franklin, Frio, Gaines, Galveston, Garza, Gillespie, Glasscock, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hale, Hall, Hamilton, Hansford, Hardeman, Harris, Hartley, Haskell, Hays, Hidalgo, Hill, Hockley, Hood, Howard, Hudspeth, Irion, Jackson, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Johnson, Jones, Karnes, Kendall, Kent, Kerr,

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 Agent
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 PO Box 1079
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 (325) 453-4505 office
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