

# Partnering in Transportation for Endangered Species Protection

Bree McMurray  
Senior Environmental Specialist  
MoDOT  
TEAM 2018

# Perry County, MO

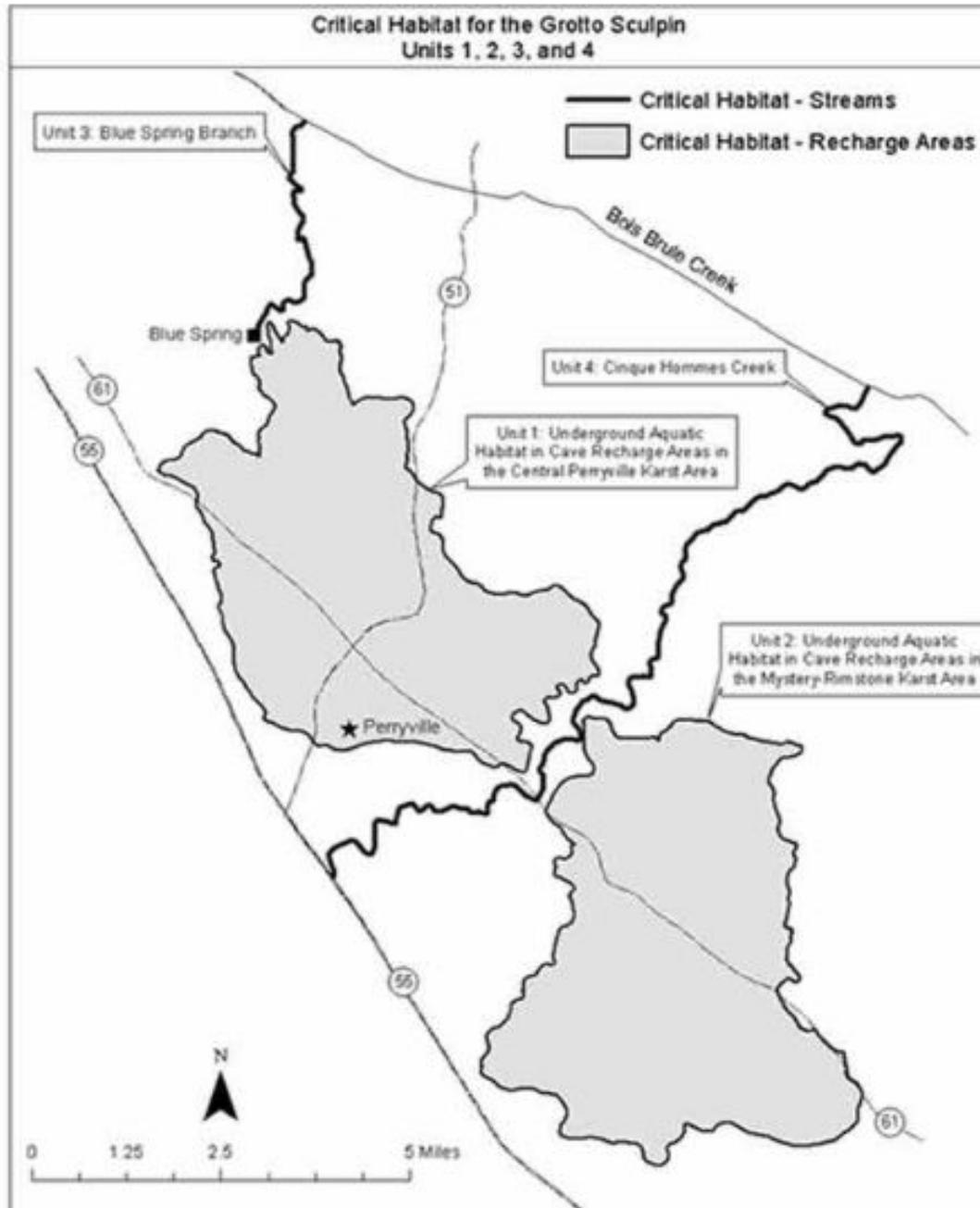




# Grotto Sculpin a cave-dwelling fish

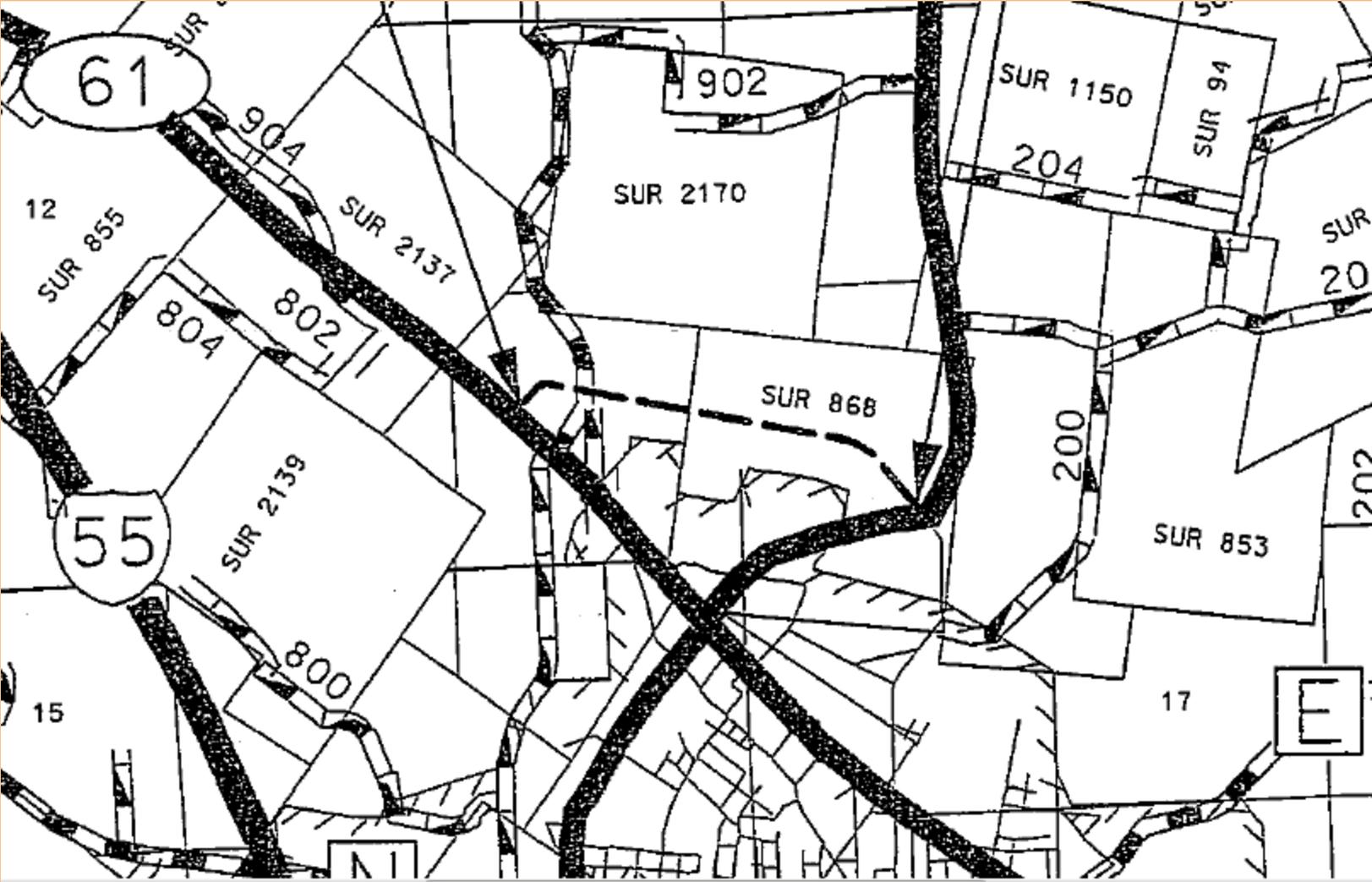
- Occurs only in 5 caves and 2 surface streams in Perry Co Mo
- Proposed for listing Sep 2012; public meeting Oct 2012
- Draft economic plan released Mar 2013-4 potential Formal Consultations for transportation
- MoDOT commented with justification no Formal Consultations-reduce impacts and partner for conservation
- Listed endangered Sep 2013

# Map of proposed Critical Habitat for the grotto sculpin.

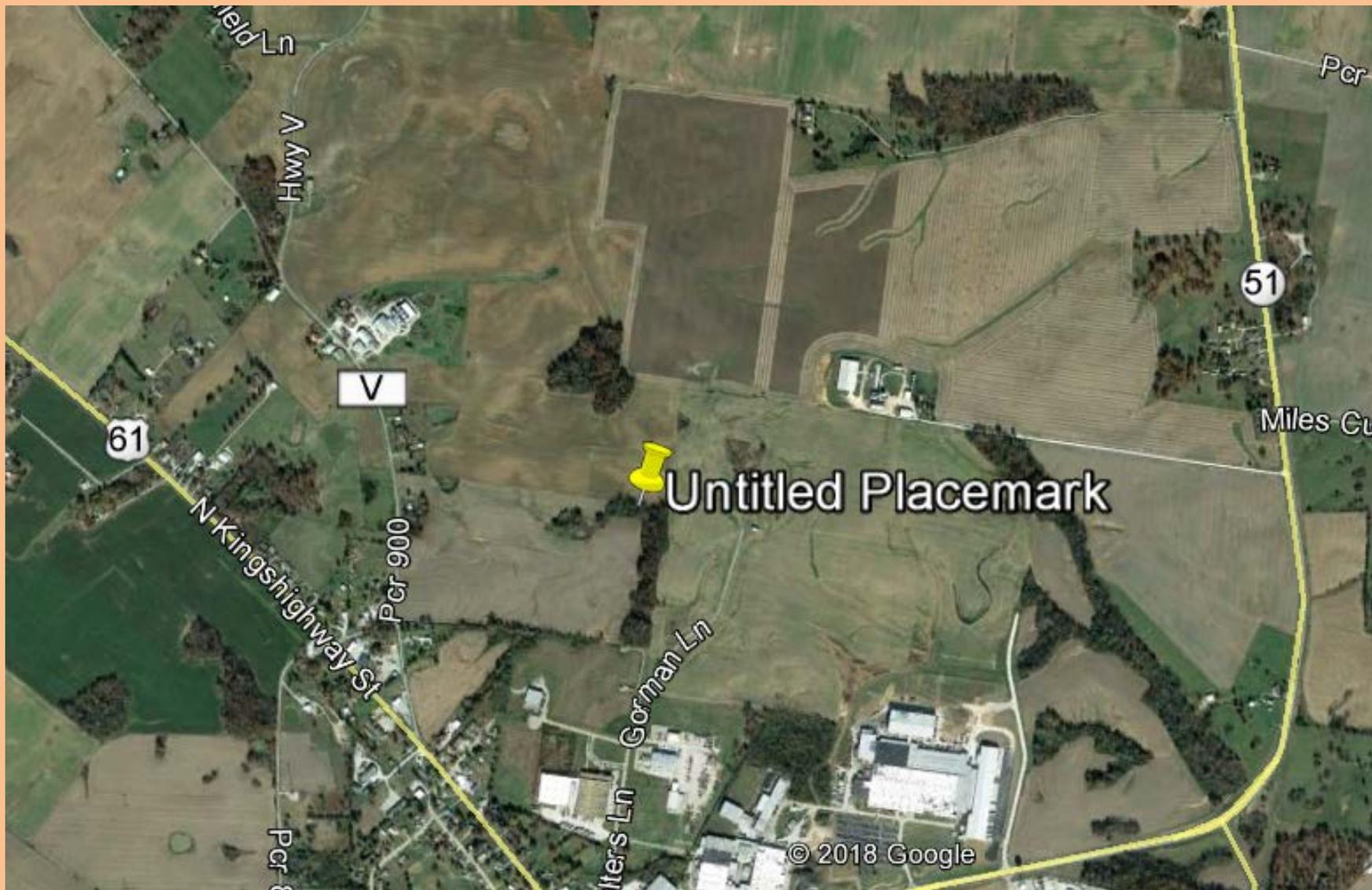


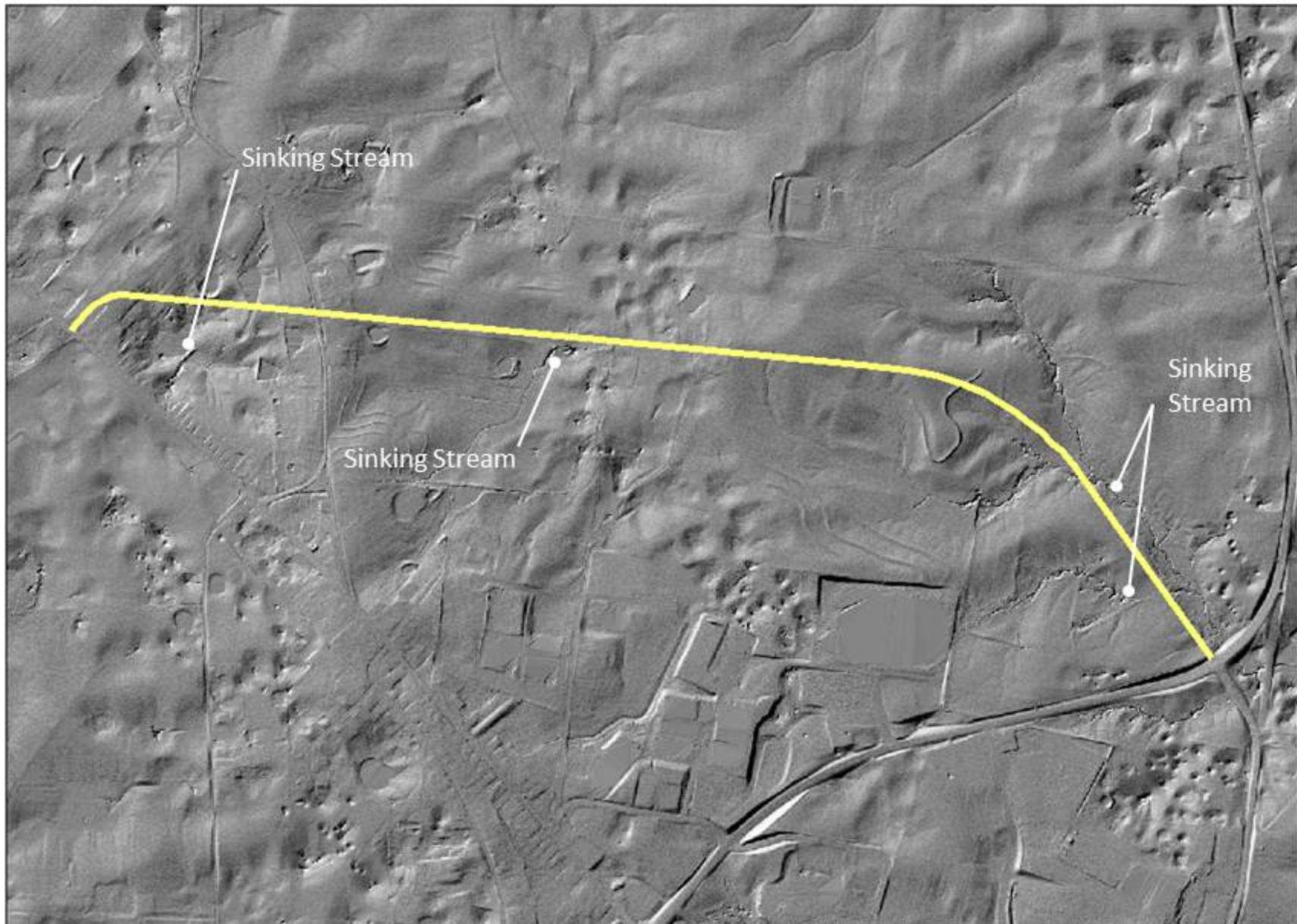
- MoDOT public meeting released alignment Nov 2014.
- Within days, MoDOT Environmental, USFWS, FHWA were in discussions with MoDOT SE district and Missouri Speleological Survey
- Cave ceiling only 10' below proposed centerline-cave destruction and grotto sculpin concerns—Formal Consultation meetings

# General project area



# Surrounding landscape





Proposed Connector between Rt. 51 and Rt. 61, Perryville, MO

Active sinkhole  
formations in farm fields  
Inadequate buffers for  
closed/standpipe sinks



# Multi-agency site visit Dec 2014









# Old and new alignments



# New shifted alignment



June 2015













- Losing stream enters subsurface below the edge of the field



- Mudline from soil erosion, about 8 ' from the lowest point of the stream

# Nov 2016 MoDOT construction photo



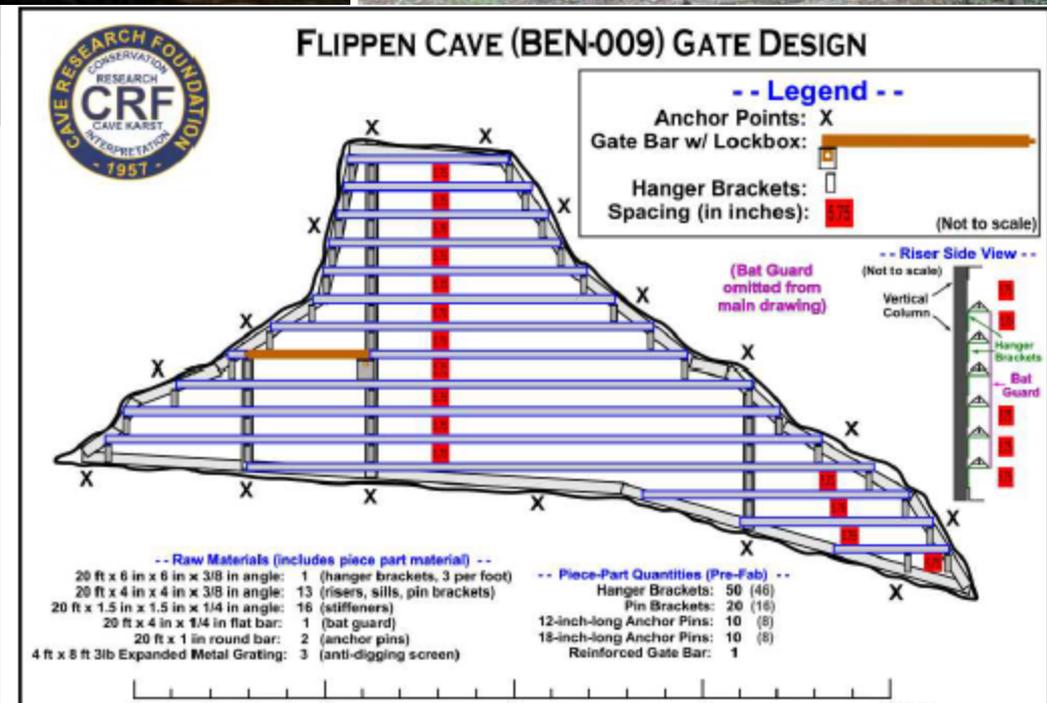
draft  
Feb 17



# Stewardship and Partnership

- MoDOT will not actually have any ownership of Crevice cave, but we will protect it, and several others, regardless.
- MoDOT does own at least 63 caves- determined by entrance in MoDOT right of way
- Some are pretty substantial features, and some even house endangered species

# Other worthy endeavors for partners

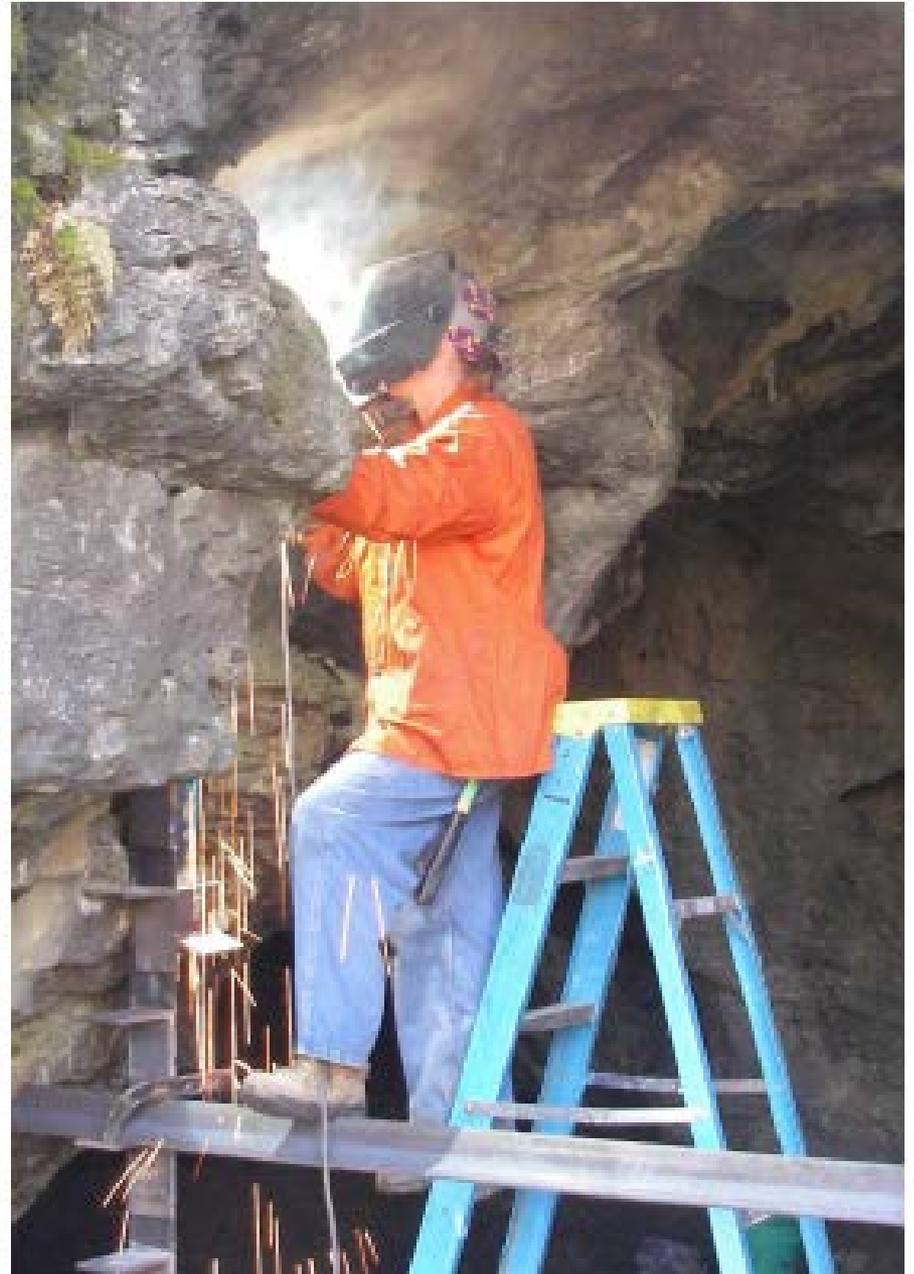


# Survey, design, materials, mobilization, labor, construction



Two working women. **Below Left:** Bree McMurray cuts steel. Photo by Jim Cooley. **Below Right:** Alicia Wallace welds on one of the risers. Photo by Bill Gee.

olding chairs had been blown over – falling onto the



# Landowner, grants, volunteers



# McDonald County MoDOT caves

- In discussion about repairing and existing gate and building a new gate for protection of northern long-eared bats and a gray bat maternity colony