Partnering in Transportation for Endangered Species Protection

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MoDOT
TEAM 2018
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
• 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
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.

...folding 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