

Public Access and HCP's

**Thoughts for the Southern Edwards HCP Biological Advisory
Team**

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BCCP and Public Access

- HCP addresses conservation and public policy
- Multiple land uses and available conservation lands
- Organizational Capacity to manage uses



HCP Addresses Conservation and Public Policy

ESA Compliance:

- A statutory response
- Biological threat or need
- Social, economic, public safety implications
- HCP as a tool to address diverse expectations



HCP Addresses Conservation and Public Policy

Conservation/Recovery

- Mitigate threats
- Conserves habitat
- Analyzes and documents effects
- Authorizes Take
 - Outside preserve
 - Inside preserve
 - Monitoring
 - Management
 - other

Public Policy

- Provide for economic growth
- Assure public safety
- Other ecosystem services
- Social expectations
- Establishes a public trust

Multiple Land Uses and Available Conservation Lands

- BCCP covers an urban and urbanizing setting
- At its inception much of the undeveloped habitat had preexisting land uses or planned land uses
- Many undeveloped tracts had “social” land uses

Multiple Land Uses and Available Conservation Lands

- Existing dedicated parks
 - Parks with traditional uses and undeveloped access
 - Nature preserve parks
 - District parks
- New dedicated parks
 - Wilderness parks and greenbelts
- Bond funded preserve lands
 - Bond covenants that provided for “passive” public Access”

Multiple Land Uses and Available Conservation Lands

Public access and species effects:

- No baseline for extent or intensity of preexisting uses in parks or for unauthorized uses on private lands
- No baseline for species monitoring prior to public access
- In a recovery environment there is little research focused on effects of recreation on species recovery

An HCP is Public Policy

- The HCP, BO, and federal permit establish public policy.
- Their implementation will be subject to interpretation.
- Interpretation (and implementation) without a defined process will be chaotic.
- Contemplate appropriate processes to drive interpretation.

BCCP Lessons Learned

- Document the research on effects
- Be clear about what will be authorized and what will not
- Recognize that your planning today will not address all the possibilities or changing social values
- Provide specific policy
- Include processes with clear direction to address changing expectations, perceptions, values, and knowledge

BCCP Lessons Learned

- As a BAT focus on what you can control.
- Understand that your HCP will not focus solely on conservation or recovery.
- Anticipate public policy commitments
- Anticipate conservation challenges they bring
- Define baseline conditions
- Build a process that will allow practitioners to correlate social needs with conservation needs in a manner that assures conservation will prevail.

BCCP Lessons Learned

Other issues to consider:

- Transportation
- Public services infrastructure
- Wildland Urban Interface
 - Wildland fire
 - Nuisance wildlife
 - Uninformed neighbors

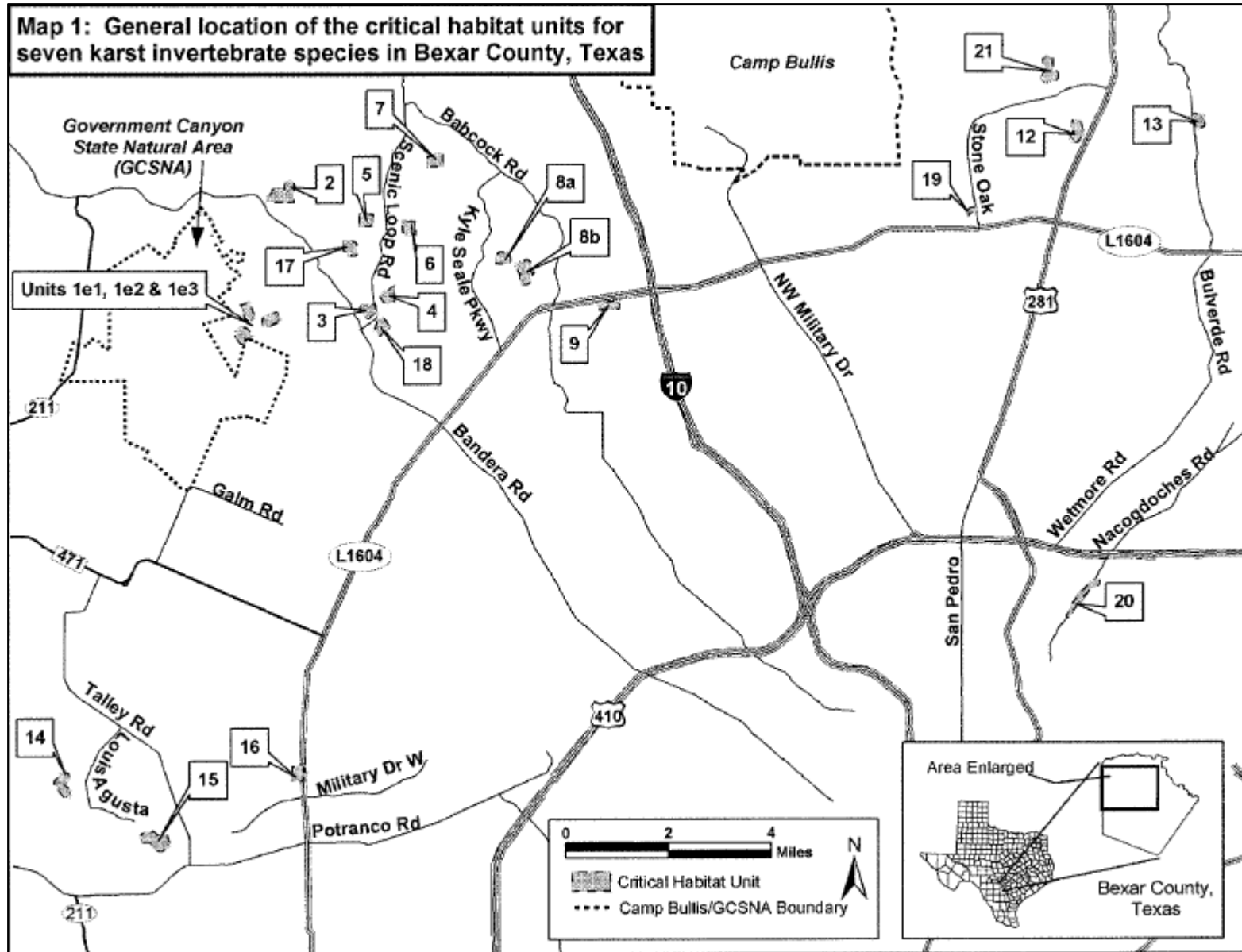
Presentation slides from Jean Krejca (Zara Environmental) regarding the location and configuration of karst Critical Habitat Units in Bexar County.

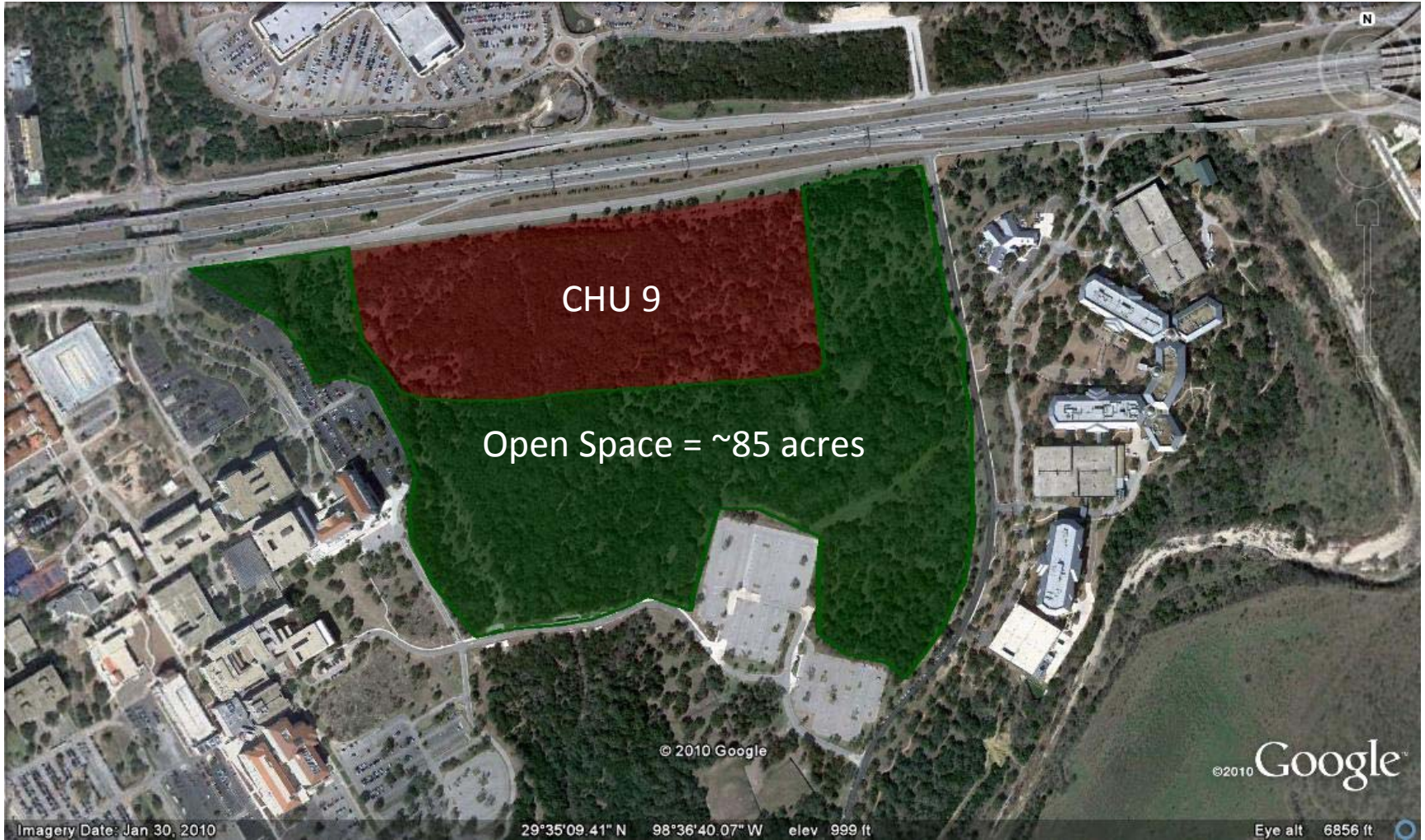
Google Earth Pro - Google Earth uses the latest available aerial photography (1-3 years old)

Methodology:

- Create polygons around the open space bordering CHUs
- Calculate acreages of polygons of open space
- Use large roads or development as borders to open space polygons
- Exclude areas with little or no vegetation such as agricultural fields, rock quarries, or ranch land with few trees

Map 1: General location of the critical habitat units for seven karst invertibrate species in Bexar County, Texas





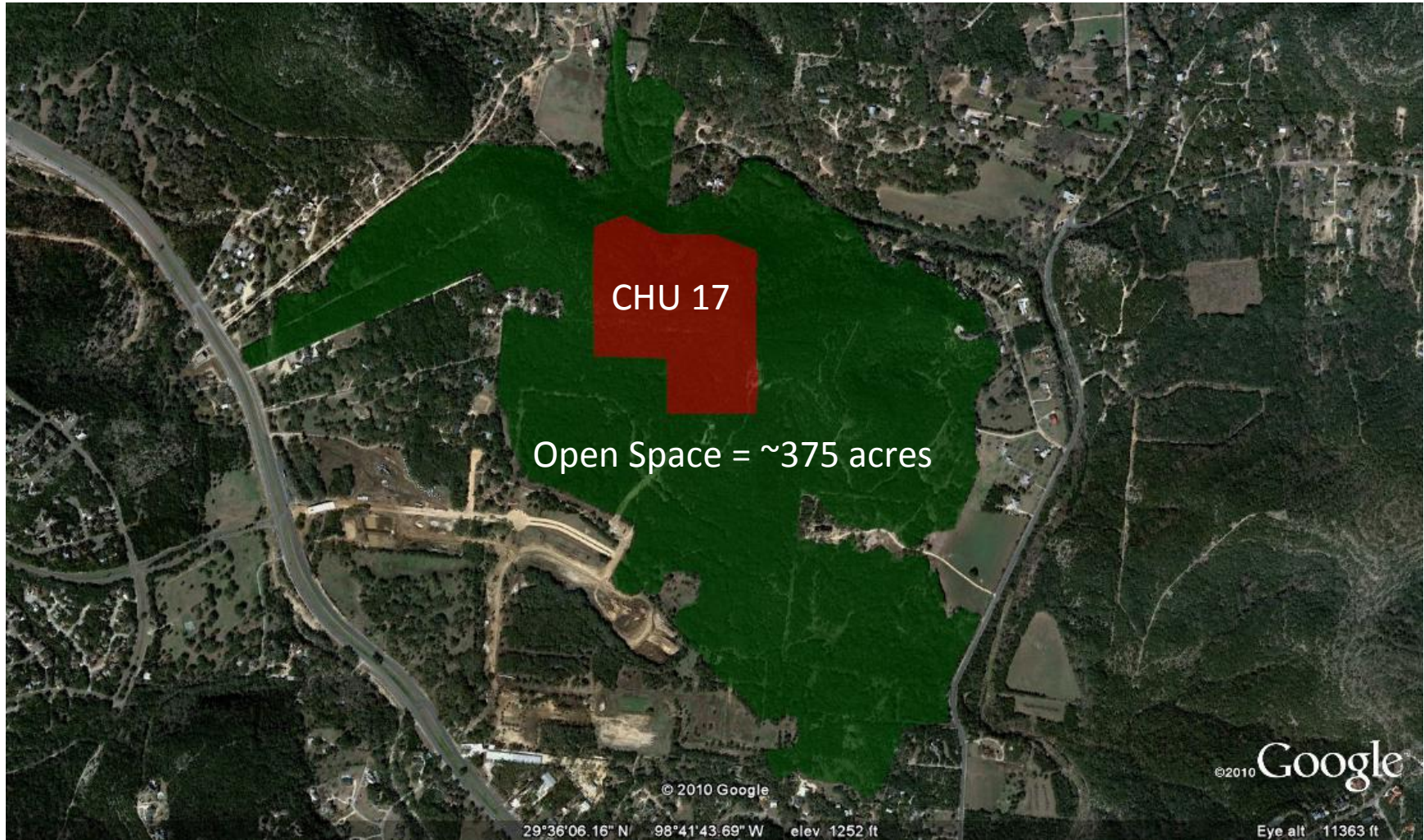
CHU 9

Open Space = ~85 acres

Imagery Date: Jan 30, 2010

29°35'09.41" N 98°36'40.07" W elev 999 ft

Eye alt 6856 ft



CHU 17

Open Space = ~375 acres

© 2010 Google

29°36'06.16" N 98°41'43.69" W elev 1252 ft

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Eye alt 11363 ft



CHU 20

Open Space = 0 acres

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Imagery Date: Jan 30, 2010

29°30'13.56" N 98°27'35.75" W elev 828 ft

Eye alt 7274 ft