

# 20 Years of Protecting Barton Springs Naturally: The Water Quality Protection Lands



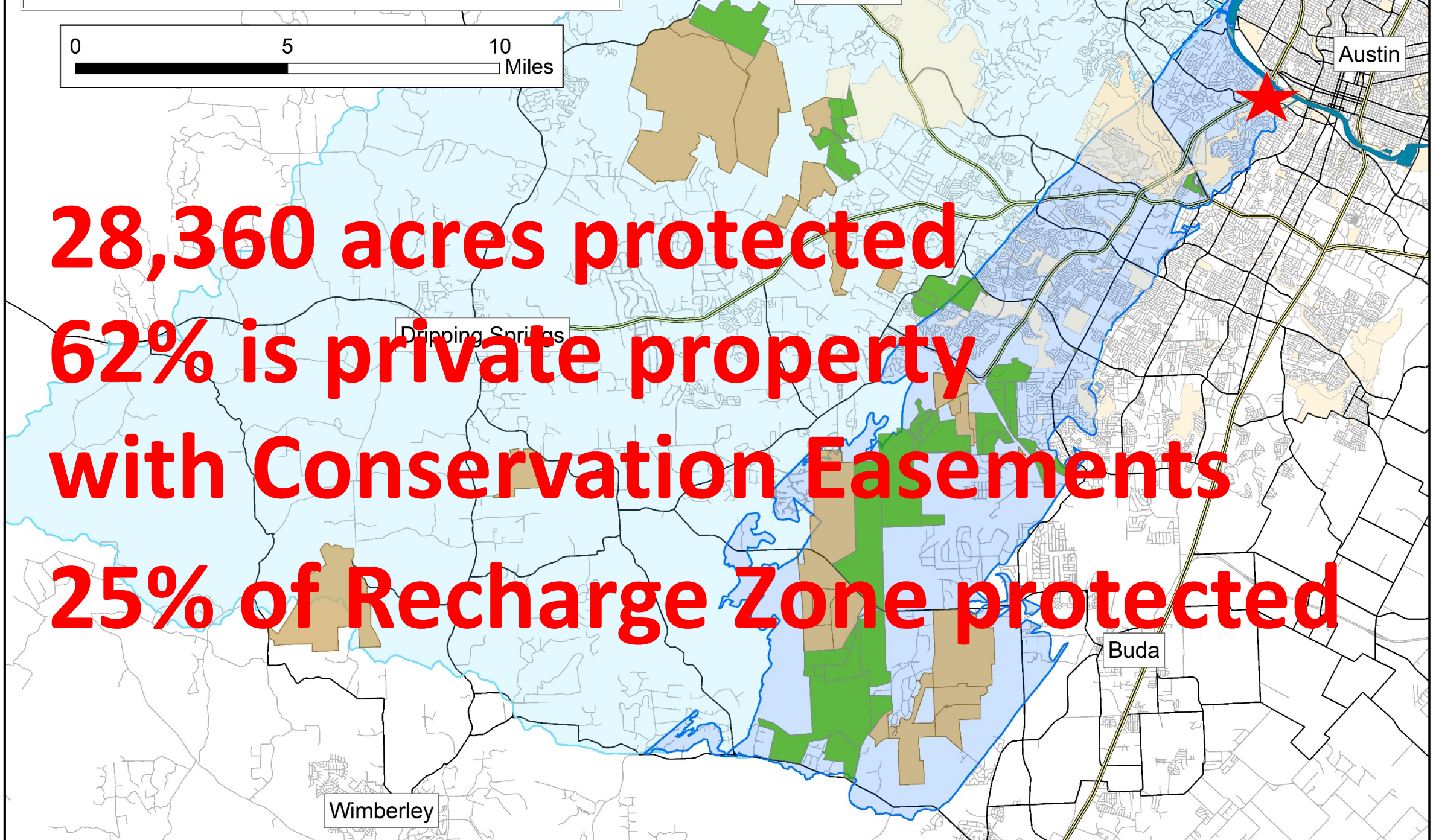
Sherri Kuhl  
Wildlands  
Conservation  
Division Manager



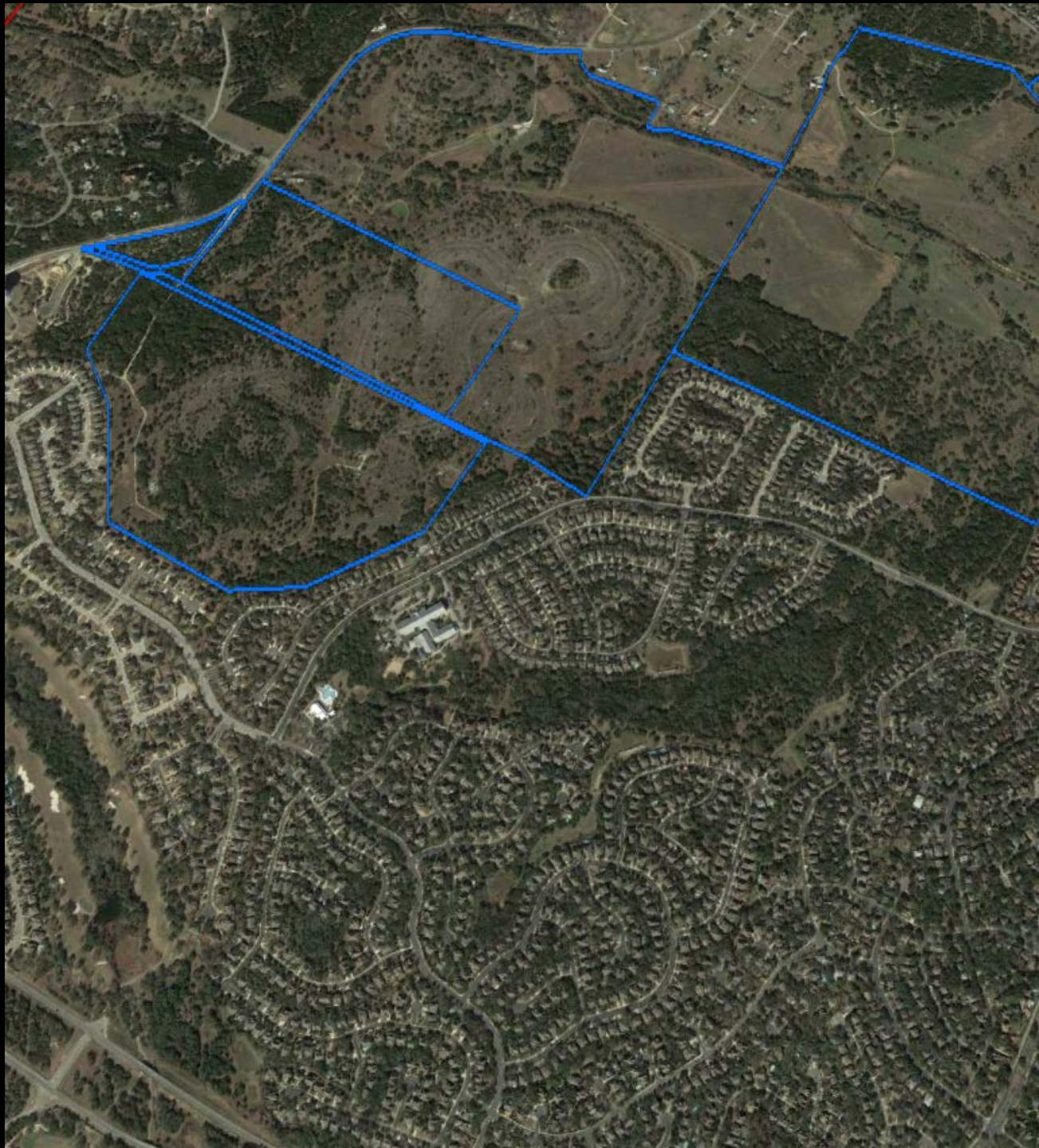






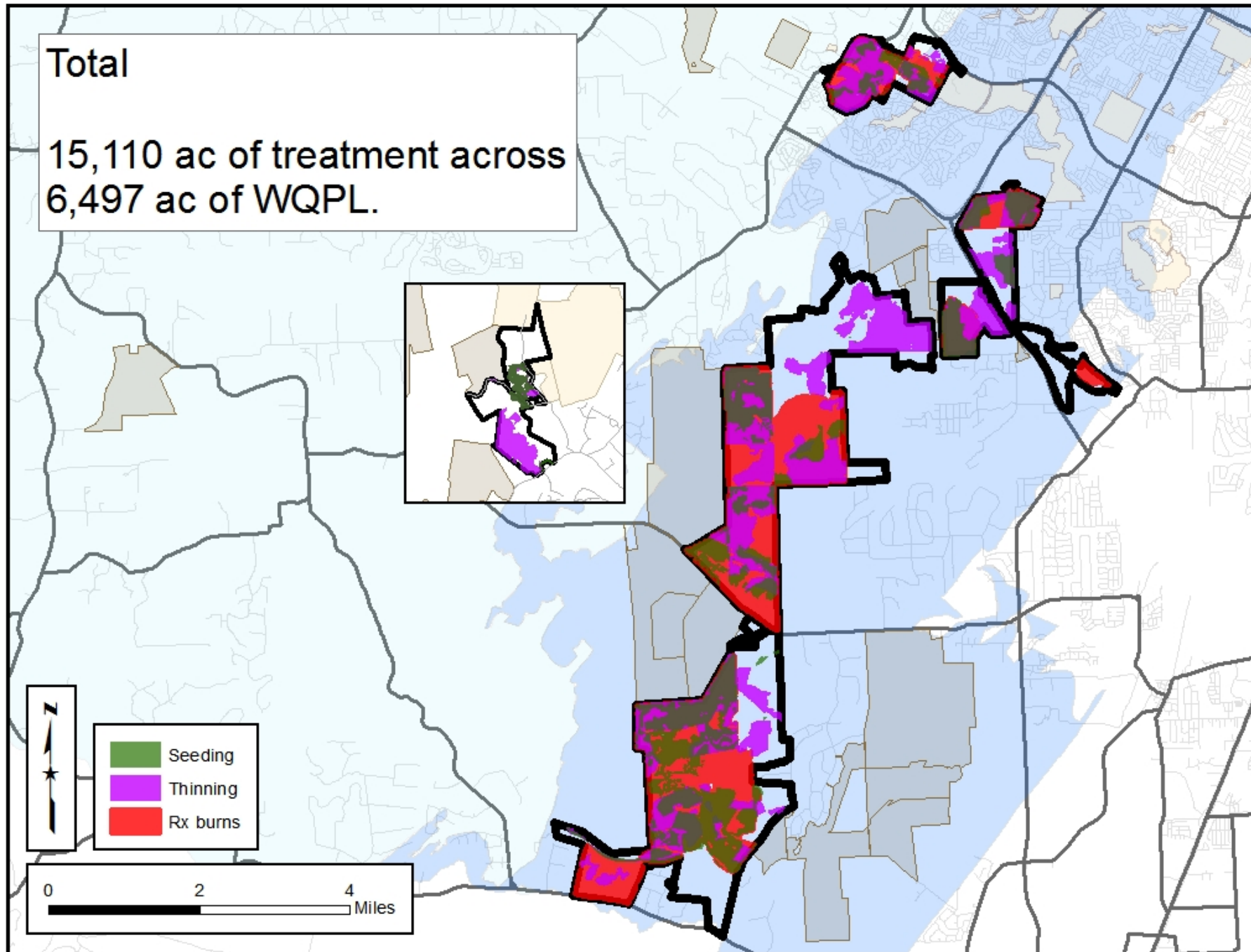






Total

15,110 ac of treatment across  
6,497 ac of WQPL.





We also work to keep karst features and caves working to keep taking in water that eventually makes it to Barton Springs.

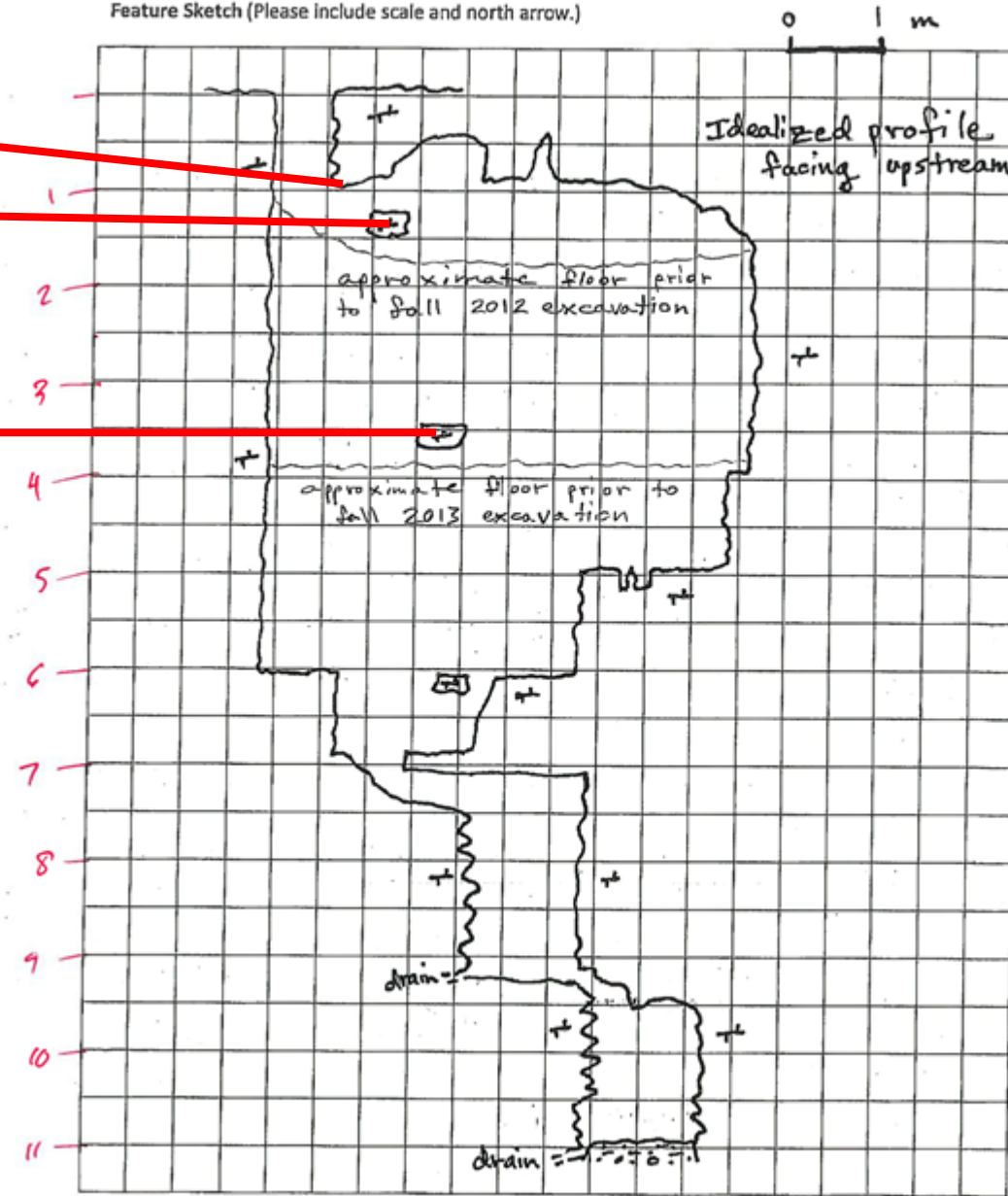




Crooked Oak Cave 10 oct 2013

Feature Sketch (Please include scale and north arrow.)

sketch by  
Saj Zappitello  
Zara Environment



How much removed?

53 cubic yards

About 4 dump trucks full

What does that restoration equal though?

# Water Quality

- Dense vegetation with great diversity means we have something growing whether drought or flood, our two normal conditions.
- Grassy swales /Grass filter strips are common BMPs, we have acres of it
- Slow down water, allow greater infiltration
- Prevent erosion
- Plants, dense roots, soil can help remove pollutants



What does that restoration equal though?

# Water Quantity

- Research has demonstrated lower canopy coverage = higher water yield across the planet
- You will not fill reservoirs this way, though.
- Effect is stronger with greater rainfall, lesser with lesser rainfall.
- Soil types demonstrate prairie/savanna ecosystems dominated areas where WQPL is located.
- Can be seen as maintaining the status quo of the preponderance of the past 10,000 years in terms of water yield.

What does that restoration equal though?

# Biodiversity

- 448 species of plants found on Onion Creek Management Unit
  - About 3,500 acres, located in Hays County
- Hays County has ~435,000 acres
  - Onion Creek Unit is 0.7% of the Hays County acreage
- Total species in Hays County = 916
- So on 0.7% of land, we have 49% of the plant biodiversity!
- Good for quail, good for monarchs, good for most living things,
  - people included.



A WILD IDEA - 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Water Quality Protection Lands  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Onion Creek Management Unit - Driftwood, TX

Join us at 1:00 pm for the premiere of *A Wild Idea*, or come early for a day on the wildlands.

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Guided restoration ecology hikes. Additional registration required: [austintexas.gov/wildlandevents](http://austintexas.gov/wildlandevents)

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Tacos, live music featuring Harvest Thieves, and a family-friendly cave simulator.  
Share your memories - new or old - of the Water Quality Protection Lands in the wildland story corps booth!

1:00 - 2:00 pm

Welcome reception and premiere of *A Wild Idea*, a new documentary film about the Water Quality Protection Lands.

2:00 - 3:00 pm

Social hour: more time for music, activities, and tall tales.

Learn more and RSVP here: [bit.ly/2BhQPGW](http://bit.ly/2BhQPGW)

Learn about other upcoming events and year-round guided hikes by following Austin Wildland Conservation on Facebook.

Please Join us  
on October 6th!