

located on the Government Canyon State Natural Area (GCSNA) and the majority of Unit 10 and all of Unit 11 were located on Department of Defense land at Camp Bullis. We did not include these six units in the final designation because we determined that the conservation plans for these areas provide adequate special management and protection, such that the areas do not meet the definition of critical habitat under section 3(5)(A)(i) of the Act. We also excluded these areas from

designation based on section 4(b)(2). (See "Lands Covered Under Existing Conservation Plans" section.) Two of the nine species, the Government Canyon Bat Cave meshweaver and the Government Canyon Bat Cave spider, occur only in caves on the GCSNA. As a result of not including in the final designation the four units originally proposed on the GCSNA, no critical habitat is being designated for these two species.

As a result of applying our revisions of the criteria used to delineate the unit

boundaries (as described above) we separated two units identified in the proposed rule into separate, smaller units in this final rule. Specifically, Unit 1e as described in the proposed rule has been separated into three smaller units (Units 1e1, 1e2, and 1e3), and we separated Unit 8 into Units 8a and 8b. Removing six units, separating Unit 1e into three smaller units and Unit 8 into two smaller units resulted in a net change of three fewer units in this final rule as compared to the proposed rule.

TABLE 2.—CHANGES IN UNIT NUMBER AND UNIT AREA BETWEEN PROPOSED AND FINAL RULES DESIGNATING CRITICAL HABITAT FOR SEVEN OF THE NINE BEXAR COUNTY KARST INVERTEBRATES

Proposed rule		Final rule	
Unit #	Total area of unit hectares (ha); acres (ac)	Unit #	Total area of unit hectares (ha); acres (ac)
1a	76 ha; 188 ac	1a	Government Canyon State Natural Area—excluded from critical habitat.
1b	47 ha; 116 ac	1b	
1c	47 ha; 116 ac	1c	
1d	47 ha; 116 ac	1d	
1e	341 ha; 842 ac	1e1	
		1e2	15 ha; 38 ac.
		1e3	16 ha; 40 ac.
2	99 ha; 245 ac	2	19 ha; 46 ac.
3	63 ha; 154 ac	3	37 ha; 92 ac.
4	63 ha; 154 ac	4	17 ha; 41 ac.
5	47 ha; 116 ac	5	16 ha; 40 ac.
6	45 ha; 111 ac	6	16 ha; 40 ac.
7	50 ha; 123 ac	7	16 ha; 40 ac.
8	174 ha; 428 ac	8a	16 ha; 40 ac.
		8b	28 ha; 69 ac.
9	71 ha; 175 ac	9	16 ha; 40 ac.
10	367 ha; 906 ac	10	Camp Bullis—excluded from critical habitat.
11	1,273 ha; 3,143 ac	11	Camp Bullis—excluded from critical habitat.
12	105 ha; 258 ac	12	21 ha; 51 ac.
13	51 ha; 125 ac	13	16 ha; 40 ac.
14	173 ha; 426 ac	14	26 ha; 64 ac.
15	195 ha; 481 ac	15	34 ha; 85 ac.
16	61 ha; 152 ac	16	16 ha; 40 ac.
17	48 ha; 118 ac	17	16 ha; 40 ac.
18	40 ha; 100 ac	18	16 ha; 40 ac.
19	59 ha; 146 ac	19	5 ha; 12 ac.
20	160 ha; 395 ac	20	23 ha; 57 ac.
21	155 ha; 382 ac	21	27 ha; 68 ac.
Totals: 25 units; 3,857 ha; 9,516 ac		(1) 22 units; 431 ha; 1,063 ac.	

Critical Habitat

Critical habitat is defined in section 3(5)(A) of the Act as—(i) the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by a species, at the time it is listed in accordance with the Act, on which are found those physical or biological features (I) essential to the conservation of the species and (II) which may require special management considerations or protection; and (ii) specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by a species at the time it is listed, upon a determination that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.

"Conservation," as defined by section 3(3) of the Act, means the use of all methods and procedures which are necessary to bring an endangered or a threatened species to the point that measures provided pursuant to the Act are no longer necessary.

Section 7(a)(2) of the Act requires that Federal agencies shall, in consultation with the Service, insure that any action they authorize, fund, or carry out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. Section 7 also requires conferences on Federal actions that are likely to result in the

destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat. Aside from the added protection that may be provided under section 7, the Act does not provide other forms of protection to lands designated as critical habitats. Consultation under section 7 of the Act does not apply to activities on private or other non-Federal lands that do not involve a Federal nexus (*i.e.*, Federal funding or authorization), and consequently critical habitat designation does not afford any additional regulatory protection or result in additional regulatory requirements under the Act in those circumstances. (See "Effects of Critical Habitat