



Review of CREZ Transmission Lines

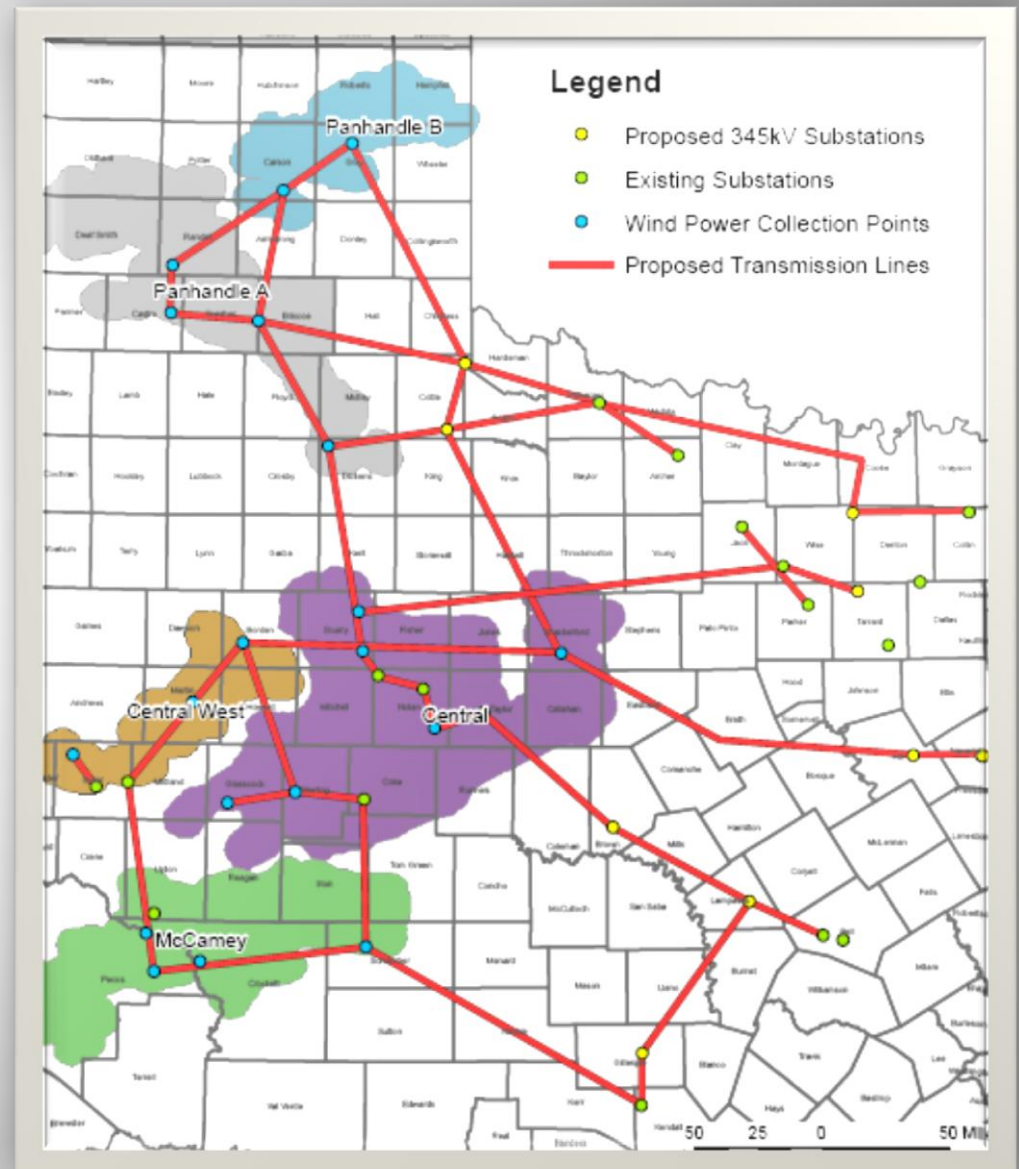
Background

In 2005, SB 20 implemented the Competitive Renewable Energy Zone (CREZ) process with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

PUC and ERCOT commissioned the CREZ Transmission Optimization Study

Study identified 4 possible scenarios for transmission lines

PUC chose Scenario Two



TPWD Involvement

- **TPWD is the state agency with primary responsibility for protecting the state's wildlife resources and has statutory authority to provide information and recommendations for protection of those resources in connection with proposed development projects (Parks and Wildlife Code § 12.0011)**
- **TPWD Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program has an agreement with the PUC to review, comment, and provide recommendations on all transmission line projects.**

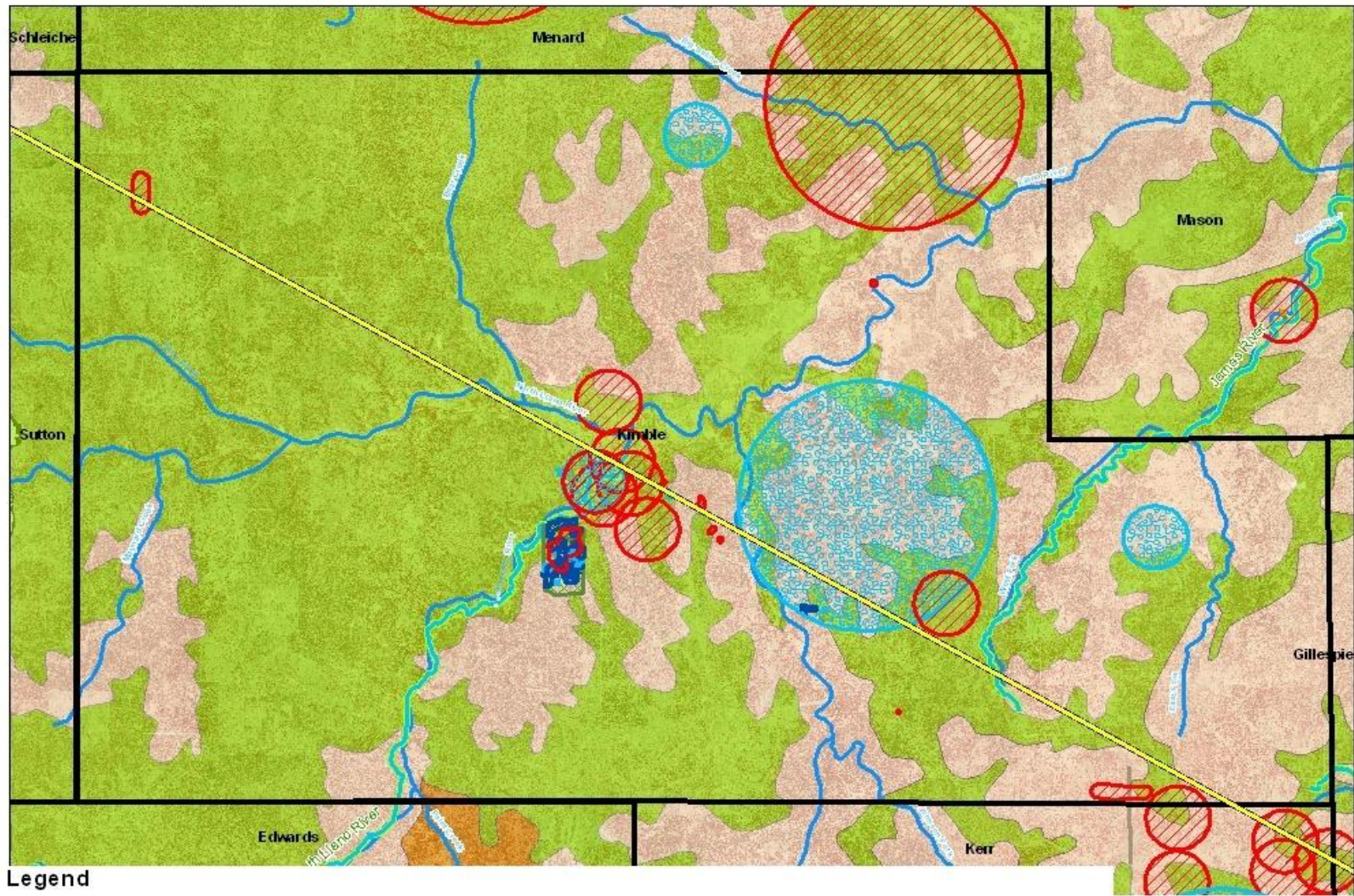
TPWD Role

- TPWD's role is to identify wildlife resources that may be impacted and provide information and recommendations to protect and manage those resources.
- TPWD does not represent or advocate for private landowners or developers before the PUC.
- TPWD cannot agree to serve or appear as an expert witness or otherwise testify on behalf of any party, except TPWD, in connection with a permit, license, or construction project.
- TPWD HAS NO REGULATORY AUTHORITY TO STOP A PROJECT OR FORCE THE PUC TO CHOOSE THE ALTERNATIVE WITH THE FEWEST POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO WILDLIFE!!

Information provided to developers includes:

- **Recommendations for avoidance, minimization, and mitigation**
- **Information concerning natural resources including**
 - **Vegetation**
 - **Water resources**
 - **State and federal lands**
 - **Rare and protected species (Texas Natural Diversity Database)**

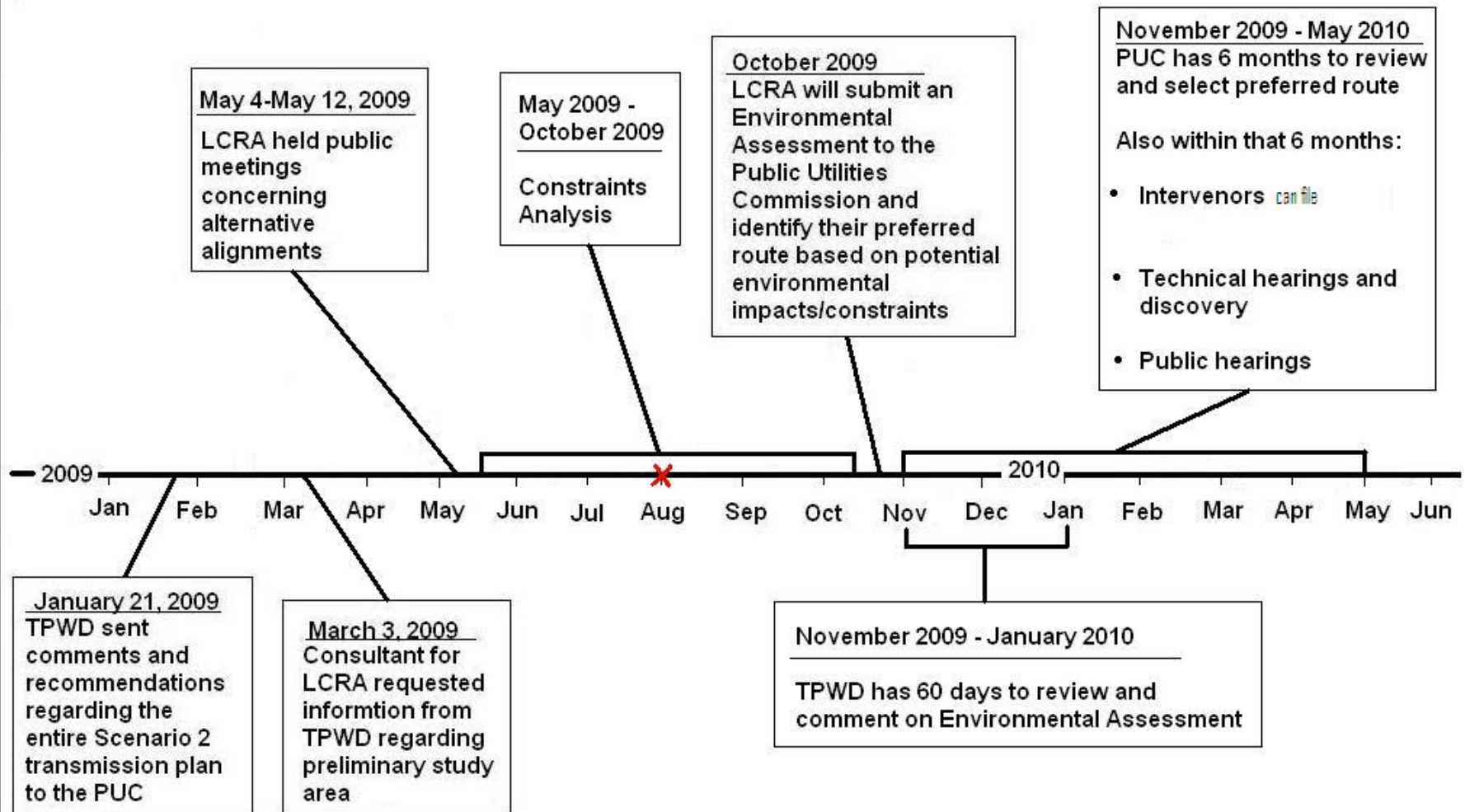
GIS Data Provided



Legend

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed CREZ Line Managed Areas | Vegetation Types of Texas (1984) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live oak - Ashe juniper Parks Live oak - Mesquite-Ashe juniper Parks Live oak - Ashe juniper Woods | Texas Natural Diversity Database <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal Assemblage Invertebrate Animal Nonvascular Plant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Terrestrial Community - Other Classification Vascular Plant Vertebrate Animal |
|---|--|---|---|

Timeline: Twin Buttes – Kendall Transmission Line



Private landowners may request technical guidance from TPWD

- If the property is currently covered by a TPWD wildlife management plan, technical guidance can be requested from the biologist with whom you have been working.
- If the property is not covered by a TPWD wildlife management plan, TPWD Wildlife Habitat Assessment and/or other Wildlife Division staff may be able to provide technical guidance. However, **staff is limited and time is short!**
- Private biological consultants can provide information regarding potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

Private landowners may request technical guidance from TPWD

- If TPWD provides technical guidance, a single comment letter can be sent to the landowner regarding wildlife resources potentially impacted by the project. TPWD or the landowner can provide that letter to the PUC if permission is granted (see below).
- Information collected by TPWD on private land while providing technical guidance is confidential by law (Parks and Wildlife Code § 12.0251)
- A signed landowner permission form is required to allow the release of information about private land to the PUC.
- Once information is released to the PUC it becomes public information and may be posted on the PUC website.

Resources for Landowners

- High Wire article in July issue of TWA magazine
- State bar of Texas lawyer referral service at 1-877-9TEXBAR
- Sign up for email information at the end of this meeting