U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Range-wide Indiana Bat Survey Guidelines

Indiana Bat

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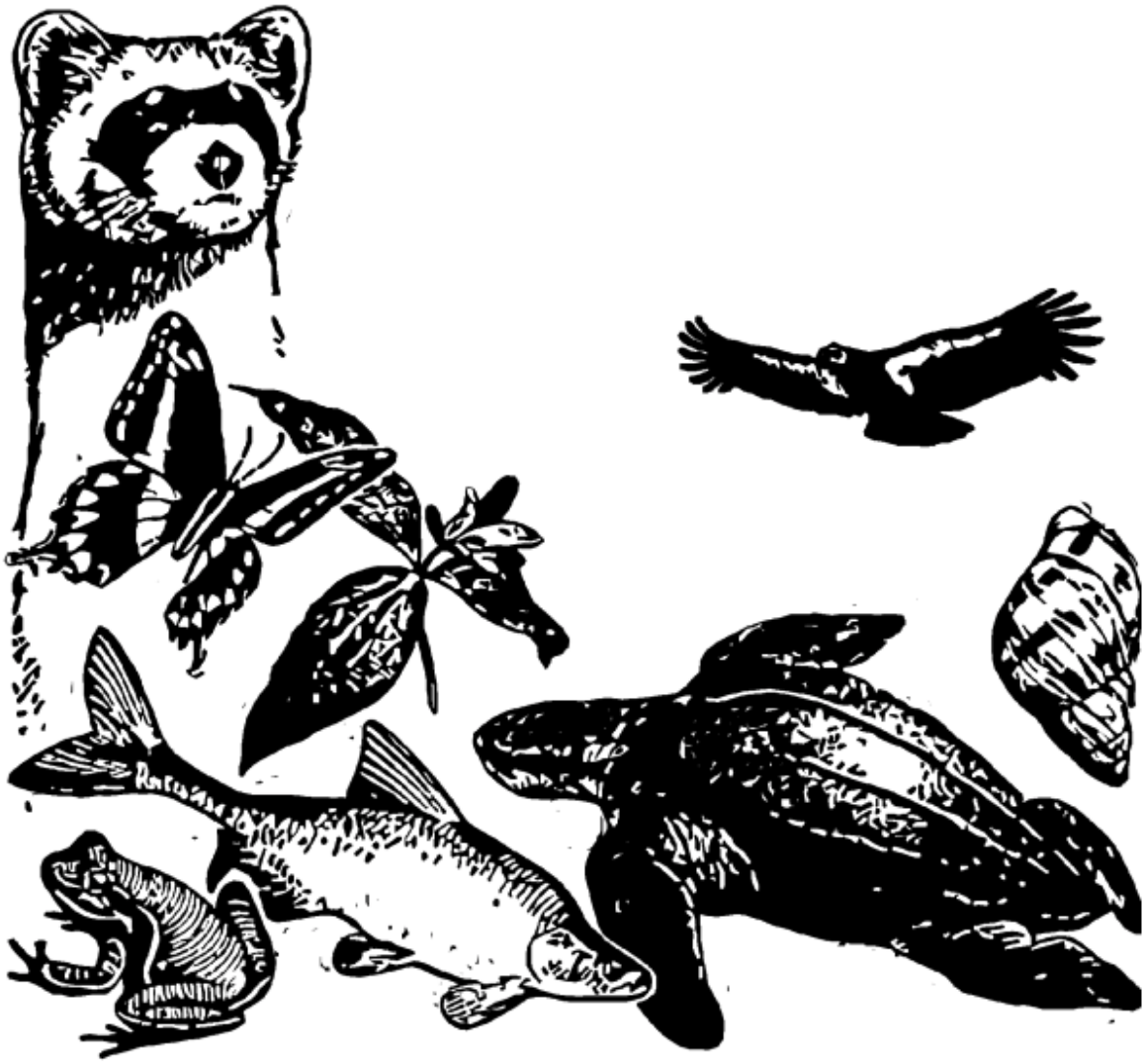

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

RANGE-WIDE INDIANA BAT SURVEY GUIDELINES

April 2019

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION 2
OBJECTIVES 3
BACKGROUND 3
GENERAL PROCESS 3
PHASE 1 – INITIAL PROJECT SCREENING 4
Step 1. Coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office(s) regarding existing Indiana bat summer and/or winter occurrence information. 4
Step 2. Conduct Habitat Assessment 5
Step 3. Assess potential for adverse effects to Indiana bats. 5
PHASE 2 – SUMMER PRESENCE/ABSENCE SURVEYS (NETTING OR ACOUSTIC SURVEYS) 6
Step 4. Conduct Mist-Netting Surveys following Recovery Unit-based Protocols 7
Step 5. Conduct Acoustic Surveys 8
Step 6. Conduct Automated Acoustic Analyses for each site that had HF or Myotid calls from Step 5 or ALL sites if Step 5 was not conducted. 9
Step 7. Conduct Qualitative Analysis of Calls. 9
PHASE 3. CONDUCT MIST-NETTING SURVEYS TO CAPTURE INDIANA BATS 10
PHASE 4. CONDUCT RADIO-TRACKING AND EMERGENCE SURVEYS. 10
PHASE 5. CONDUCT POTENTIAL HIBERNACULA SURVEYS 10
APPENDIX A: PHASE 1 HABITAT ASSESSMENTS 15
APPENDIX B: PHASE 2 or 3 MIST-NETTING 21
APPENDIX C: PHASE 2 ACOUSTIC SURVEYS 31
APPENDIX D: PHASE 4 RADIO-TRACKING 40
APPENDIX E: PHASE 4 EMERGENCE SURVEYS 45
APPENDIX F: LINEAR PROJECT GUIDANCE 50
APPENDIX G: THE OUTER–TIER GUIDANCE 52
APPENDIX H: POTENTIAL HIBERNACULA SURVEY GUIDANCE 55

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2019
RANGE-WIDE INDIANA BAT SURVEY GUIDELINES

(changes from the 2018 guidelines are in **blue**)

INTRODUCTION

The Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) was originally listed as being in danger of extinction under the Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966 (32 FR 4001, March 11, 1967), and is currently listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended. This survey protocol provides the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) recommended guidance on survey methods and outlines additional reporting requirements for surveyors.

The following guidance is designed to determine whether Indiana bats are present[1] or absent (P/A)[2] at a given site during the summer (May 15 to August 15; Table 1). The phased-approach, which includes coordination with the USFWS[3], habitat assessments, and acoustic, mist-net, radio-tracking, and emergence surveys, supersedes all prior summer survey guidance. This document also provides newly finalized range-wide guidance for conducting 1) P/A surveys within the outer-tier of conservation buffers surrounding some known capture or detection records (see Appendix G); and 2) P/A surveys of potential Indiana bat hibernacula (i.e., caves and abandoned mines) (see Appendix H; Table 1). Future changes to this guidance may occur and will be posted on the USFWS Indiana bat survey guidance website (http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/inba/inbasummersurveyguidance.html). Please check this website to ensure use of the most current version of the guidance.

These protocols may be different from those designed for general bat monitoring as part of the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat)[4]. NABat surveys may be thought of as similar to breeding bird surveys and are not project-specific surveys in most cases. Information from NABat surveys can be considered as part of "best available" information when assessing whether there is already some existing information on presence of Indiana bats in the vicinity of a given project.

NOTE: These protocols can also be used for northern long-eared bat (NLEB) P/A summer surveys for the 2019 field season. The only differences from Indiana bat guidelines at present are 1) our definition of suitable summer habitat for NLEBs, 2) a weather-related exception in the northern portion of the NLEB range, and 3) that internal P/A surveys of potential hibernacula are not allowed for NLEB due to difficulty/low confidence in visually detecting their presence.

[1] The guidance are not intended to be rigorous enough to provide sufficient data to fully determine population size or structure.
[2] Recognizing protocols are not 100% likely to detect Indiana bats when present and identification errors may occur.
[3] Coordinate with the appropriate state natural resource agencies and any involved federal agency(ies) whenever "USFWS" coordination is listed. USFWS FO(s) may direct project sponsors to state agencies for existing occurrence information. Coordinate with your local USFWS FO(s) to understand the process for their area of jurisdiction.
[4] Loeb et al. 2015 available at https://www.fort.usgs.gov/products/23886

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of Indiana bat survey guidelines are to: (1) standardize range-wide survey procedures; (2) maximize the potential for detection/capture of Indiana bats at a minimum acceptable level of effort; (3) make accurate presence/absence determinations; and (4) aid in conservation efforts for the species by identifying areas where the species is present.

BACKGROUND

In 2011, the USFWS developed a multi-agency team to determine whether improvements could be made to the 2007 Indiana Bat Mist-Net Protocols. The team included members of the four USFWS regions (Midwest, Northeast, Southeast, and Southwest) where Indiana bats are known to occur, representatives of state natural resource agencies from three of those four regions (Midwest, Northeast, and Southeast), and representatives from three federal agencies (U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Department of Defense, and U.S. Forest Service). We obtained informal peer review of the draft guidelines in February 2012, gathered additional information in 2012, and made a revised version available for public comment in 2013 [78 FR 1879, January 9, 2013, and 78 FR 9409, February 8, 2013]. The USFWS implemented revised guidance in 2014. The USGS conducted initial independent testing of automated acoustic software programs during the winter of 2014-15 and continues to test new versions of available software. The USFWS made some additional revisions to the guidelines each year from 2015 to 2018.

We considered the best available information for all aspects of the guidance. For example, please see our white paper[5] and 2018 addendum outlining the methodologies used to determine the minimum level of survey effort. The USFWS continues to work with local, State, and Federal biologists; scientific and academic institutions; commercial organizations; and other interested parties to collect additional data on the distribution, ecology, and biology of the Indiana bat and looks forward to receiving any additional pertinent information.

GENERAL PROCESS

Indiana bat surveys for some proposed projects will require modification (or clarification) of this guidance through coordination with the USFWS FO(s) responsible for the state(s) in which the project occurs[6]. If not already required by federal permit, federal action agencies and surveyors should develop a proposed survey study plan in coordination with the USFWS FO(s) so that all parties fully understand which methods will be deployed, what assumptions will be made, and what the various outcomes would be based on the results of each step. Project proponents may stop survey

[5] The white paper and 2018 addendum are available at http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/inba/inbasummersurveyguidance.html

[6] For example, project sponsors for large acreage and/or landscape-scale projects that do not result in permanent habitat loss and would not pose an ongoing threat of lethal take, especially those proposed by land management agencies, may work with local USFWS FOs to apply different scales of surveys (broad vs. project-level) or different types of surveys, such as long-term monitoring results (e.g., forest-wide acoustic transect data) and/or targeted survey efforts (e.g., sub-sampling of large project areas), to address P/A concerns.

work at any point once an assumption or documentation of Indiana bat presence occurs. Pre-survey coordination typically will preclude the need for subsequent reviews of intermediate steps by USFWS FO(s) during the busy field season. An online directory of USFWS FO(s) is available at http://www.fws.gov/offices/. Unless otherwise agreed to by the USFWS, negative P/A survey results obtained using this guidance are valid for a minimum of five years[7] from the completion of the survey unless new information (e.g., other nearby surveys) suggest otherwise. If not already required by federal permit, please submit all results (negative or positive) from any phase to the USFWS FO(s). We strongly encourage this coordination as it improves the USFWS' understanding of (1) the level of survey effort underway and (2) the distribution of the species. A single report can be submitted at the end of all phases conducted for a given project.

USFWS FO-level coordination is also important during the survey planning process. The guidelines that are described in this document are designed to be implemented in typical habitats that are conducive to the standard survey techniques described herein. However, the USFWS recognizes that occasionally there may be some site-specific conditions in summer habitats or at potential hibernacula sites that do not lend themselves to being surveyed using the standard survey options (e.g., mist nets, acoustic detectors or harp traps) even though a site may otherwise meet the definition of suitable Indiana bat habitat. Therefore, we strongly encourage coordination with the FO(s) prior to using methods that may not be appropriate for site-specific habitat conditions.

Because Indiana bat surveys may result in take, such surveys should only be conducted by a qualified biologist[8]. Generally, a recovery permit for the Indiana bat authorizes the capture of bats for identification, and handling of bats for measurements, photography, and radio transmitter attachment; some (but not all) may also authorize entry into potential hibernacula to conduct internal surveys. Following this guidance will meet standard USFWS requirements; however, surveyors also need to ensure they meet all applicable state permitting and reporting requirements. Failure to follow the survey guidance, as written, and/or failure to follow a study plan which has received concurrence from the local USFWS FO(s), may result in a USFWS FO requesting additional survey effort.

The following provides a step-by-step outline of how Indiana bat summer surveys and/or potential hibernacula surveys should be conducted in 2019. Some of these steps can occur concurrently.

PHASE 1 – INITIAL PROJECT SCREENING

Step 1. Coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office(s)[9] regarding existing Indiana bat summer and/or winter occurrence information. [*Projects located within known Indiana bat summer habitat and/or known hibernacula/spring-staging/fall-swarming zones will not proceed to Phase 2 of this process unless the project meets the*

[7] The timeframe may be reduced if significant habitat changes have occurred in the area or increased based on local information.
[8] A qualified biologist is an individual who holds a USFWS Recovery Permit (Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit) for Indiana bats in the state/region in which they are surveying and/or has been authorized by the appropriate state agency to net and handle Indiana bats. Several USFWS offices maintain lists of qualified bat surveyors, and if working in one of those states with authorizations in lieu of a Recovery Permits, the individual will either need to be on that list or submit qualifications to receive USFWS approval prior to conducting any field work.
[9] Coordinate with the appropriate state natural resource agencies and any involved Federal Action agencies whenever "USFWS" coordination is listed. USFWS FO(s) may direct project sponsors to state agencies for existing occurrence information. Coordinate with your local USFWS FO(s) to understand the process for their area of jurisdiction.

***definition of an "outer-tier project" outlined in Appendix G.*]**

a) If a project (located within or outside of a known maternity colony home range or spring-staging/fall-swarming zone of a known hibernaculum) is already covered under an existing Endangered Species Act (ESA) incidental take authorization (e.g., HCP, BO), then no further summer and/or potential hibernacula surveys are needed, follow the procedures previously authorized by the USFWS FO(s).

b) If there are known Indiana bat occurrences (e.g., known roost trees, capture locations, foraging locations or hibernacula) within the project action area[10]; **OR**

   if there are no known Indiana bat summer or spring/fall/winter occurrences within the proposed project area itself, but the project area is located within a known maternity colony home range and/or the spring-staging and fall-swarming zone of a known hibernaculum[11]; **OR**

   if the project is located outside a known maternity colony home range and/or spring-staging and fall-swarming zone of a hibernaculum, but is within the range of the Indiana bat (note this can change over time), then proceed to Step 2.

Step 2. Conduct Habitat Assessment (Desktop or Field-based; see Appendix A and Appendix H).

a) If suitable summer habitat and/or a potential hibernaculum(a) is present within the action area, then proceed to Step 3.

b) If both suitable summer and winter habitat (i.e., potential hibernaculum) are absent within the action area, then no further P/A surveys are necessary; however, additional coordination with the USFWS FO(s) may be necessary if Indiana bats may be present in an action area during other seasons (e.g., spring and fall migration) and may be affected by the proposed project.

Step 3. Assess potential for adverse effects to Indiana bats.

a) If the project is not anticipated to result in adverse effects to Indiana bats (as proposed), then no further summer and/or potential hibernacula surveys are necessary, coordinate with the USFWS FO(s).

b) If the project may result in adverse effects to Indiana bats, but the impacts can be adequately assessed and conservation measures can be designed to minimize those effects without additional P/A information (this includes **all** proposed projects within known summer maternity colony home ranges and/or at known hibernacula and their surrounding spring-staging and fall-swarming zones, but may include other areas as

[10] The "action area" is defined as all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action. [50 CFR Section 402.02]
[11] See USFWS Indiana Bat Section 7 and Section 10 Guidance for Wind Energy Projects (Questions 4 & 5) http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/inba/WindEnergyGuidance.html

well), then no further surveys are necessary. Coordinate with the USFWS FO(s) regarding an assessment of the project's potential effects, development of conservation measures, and determination of the need for any ESA incidental take authorization.

c) If the project does not meet the conditions of 3a or 3b, then proceed to **Phase 2** and/or **Phase 5**.

PHASE 2 – SUMMER PRESENCE/ABSENCE SURVEYS (NETTING OR ACOUSTIC SURVEYS)[12]

During the summer of 2019, P/A of Indiana bats may be determined by conducting either Step 4 (mist-netting; see Appendix B) or Step 5 (acoustics; see Appendix C) as outlined below. It is the project proponent's choice as to which option to use but they can only choose one method for each survey area unit (i.e., ≤123-acre area or 1-km section of linear project). Under no scenario can a project proponent use either mist-netting or acoustic Phase 2 surveys to challenge the other methods results.

However, acoustics at the Phase 2 level of effort (LOE) (or otherwise agreed to with the USFWS FO) may be used as a coarse screening tool for conducting subsequent mist-netting at the Phase 2 LOE. For example, if NO high-frequency (HF) calls (≥35 kHz) are detected, then no netting is required within that 123-acre (non-linear) or 1-km (linear) survey area due to the probable MYSO absence. If ANY HF calls are detected, then mist-net at the Phase 2 LOE. Any project study plan that includes use of both acoustics and netting needs to be written clearly to avoid potential misunderstandings between the project proponent and the USFWS FO.

Also, Phase 2 acoustic results should be used to inform whether, when, and where to conduct any optional Phase 3 mist-netting. In this case, acoustics is the P/A method and if probable presence is detected (HF screen, automated/MLE, or manual vetting), then MYSO probable presence is established. Negative results from follow-up mist-netting (at any LOE) does not refute a previously established positive acoustic result. The goal of Phase 3 netting is simply to verify where MYSO are active and to capture and track individuals to document roost trees and population size to further inform consultation or coordination under the ESA.

The summer survey season is from 15 May through 15 August[13] for either survey option. The minimum prescribed survey level of effort for any given survey area unit (i.e., ≤123-acre area or 1-km section of linear project) **cannot** be completed in a single calendar night regardless of which survey method (netting or acoustic) is used (i.e., minimum survey effort must be spread over at least 2 calendar nights). If netting is chosen as the preferred P/A method and an Indiana bat(s) is captured, then surveyors may immediately begin Phase 4/radio-tracking. Project proponents must decide

[12] NOTE: acoustic and/or mist-net surveys should be conducted in the best suitable habitat possible for each survey type to increase the likelihood of detecting/capturing Indiana bats. In some cases, the most suitable habitat for effectively conducting surveys may occur outside a project site boundary and may be sampled if landowner permission is available. For projects with multiple survey areas (e.g., >123 acres or >1 km), survey methods may be interchanged. For example, acoustics could be used for one 123-acre survey area and netting could be used for another 123-acre area.

[13] With prior USFWS FO approval, a survey may be completed after August 15 if it was initiated in time to be completed by August 15 and extenuating weather circumstances resulted in delaying completion. Delays as a result of not meeting the acceptable weather requirements are the ONLY valid justification for surveying after August 15.

whether they will proceed to Phase 4 in coordination with the USFWS FO before any mist netting occurs. Submit Phase 2 study plans to USFWS FO prior to conducting surveys.

Step 4. Conduct Mist-Netting Surveys following Recovery Unit-based Protocols[14] (see Figures 1 and 2 and Appendix B)

Northeast and Appalachian Recovery Units (CT, DE, MA, MD, NC, NJ, NY, PA, eastern TN, WV, VA, VT):

Linear projects: a minimum of 10 net nights per km (0.6 miles) of suitable summer habitat (see Appendix F).

Non-linear projects: a minimum of 42 net nights per 123 acres (0.5 km^2) of suitable summer habitat.

For example:

- 7 sites, 2 nets/site for 3 calendar nights = 42 net nights
- 7 sites, 3 nets/site for 2 calendar nights = 42 net nights
- 3 sites, 2 nets/site for 7 calendar nights* = 42 net nights

*Maximum of 3 nights of consecutive netting at any given net location. After 3 consecutive nights of netting at the same location, you must change net locations or wait at least 2 calendar nights before resuming netting at the same location.

a) If no capture of Indiana bats, then no further summer surveys are necessary[15].

b) If capture of Indiana bat(s), then stop or proceed to **Phase 4** as previously decided in coordination with the FO.

Midwest and Ozark-Central Recovery Units (AL, AR, IA, IL, IN, GA, KY, MI, MO, MS, OH, OK, central & western TN, and Lee County, VA):

Linear projects: a minimum of 2 net nights per km (0.6 miles) of suitable summer habitat (see Appendix F).

Non-linear projects: a minimum of 9 net nights per 123 acres (0.5 km^2) of suitable summer habitat.

For Example:

[14] The Indiana bat populations in the Northeast and Appalachian Recovery Units have been most heavily impacted by white-nose syndrome to date; therefore, we recommend higher survey effort when compared to the Midwest and Ozark-Central Recovery Units. We have no recommendations for reducing the minimum level of effort required to demonstrate probable absence for projects <123 acres in size. Level of effort is based on detection probabilities and occupancy estimates that were derived from past survey efforts that used the same acreage threshold. Level of effort is designed to reach 90% confidence in negative survey results (see Niver et al. 2013).

[15] NOTE: For Phase 2 Presence/Absence Surveys, wherever the phrase "no further summer surveys are necessary" occurs within this document, the USFWS FO(s) is in affect assuming probable absence of Indiana bats.

- 3 sites, 1 net/site for 3 calendar nights = 9 net nights
- 1 site, 3 nets/site for 3 calendar nights = 9 net nights

The sampling period for each net shall begin at sunset[16] and continue for at least 5 hours (longer survey periods may also improve success).

*Maximum of 3 nights of consecutive netting at any given net location. After 3 consecutive nights of netting at the same location, you must change net locations or wait at least 2 calendar nights before resuming netting at the same location.

a) If no capture of Indiana bats, then no further summer surveys are necessary.
b) If capture of Indiana bat(s), then stop or proceed to **Phase 4** as previously decided in coordination with the FO.

OR

Step 5. Conduct Acoustic Surveys[17] (see Figures 1 and 2 and Appendix C)

Linear projects: a minimum of 2 detector nights per km (0.6 miles) of suitable summer habitat (see Appendix F).

Non-linear projects: a minimum of 8 detector nights per 123 acres (0.5 km^2) of suitable summer habitat.

At least 2 detector locations per 123 acre "site" shall be sampled until at least 8 detector nights has been completed over the course of at least 2 calendar nights (may be consecutive).

For example:

- 4 detectors for 2 nights each (can sample the same location or move within the site)
- 2 detectors for 4 nights each (can sample the same location or move within the site)
- 1 detector for 8 nights (must sample at least 2 locations and move within the site – we recommend evenly distributing LOE among locations)

The acoustic sampling period for each site must begin at sunset[18] and end at sunrise each night of sampling.

Optional coarse screening - for high frequency (HF) or myotid calls (depending on available H/L frequency filters) or Proceed to Step 6

[16] Surveys may need to start a little earlier or later than official sunset times (i.e., at "dusk") in some settings such as a deep/dark forested valleys or ridge tops to avoid missing early-flying bats or capturing late-flying birds, respectively. Sunset tables for the location of survey can be found at: http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneYear.php
[17] Acoustic surveys are available as a Presence/Absence option throughout the range (i.e., Northeast, Appalachian, Midwest, and Ozark-Central Recovery Units).
[18] Surveys may need to start a little earlier or later than official sunset times (i.e., at "dusk") in some settings such as a deep/dark forested valleys or ridge tops to avoid missing early-flying bats or capturing late-flying birds, respectively. Sunset tables for the location of survey can be found at: http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneYear.php

i) If no positive detection of HF calls (≥35 kHz) or myotid calls, no further summer surveys necessary.

ii) If positive detection of HF or myotid calls, then
(a) proceed to Step 6 for further acoustic analysis; **OR**
(b) assume presence of Indiana bats and coordinate with the USFWS FO(s); **OR**
(c) assume presence and proceed to **Phase 3**.

Step 6. Conduct Automated Acoustic Analyses for each site that had HF or Myotid calls from Step 5 or ALL sites if Step 5 was not conducted. (NOTE: cannot skip this step and proceed directly to Step 7)

Use **one or more** of the currently available 'approved' acoustic bat ID programs[19] (use most current approved software versions available and manufacturer's recommended settings for Indiana bat P/A surveys). 'Candidate' programs are not yet approved by USFWS for stand-alone use for Indiana bat P/A surveys, but may be used in conjunction with one or more of the approved programs. Include your plans for which specific software program(s) you will use in your survey study plan and submit for USFWS FO(s) review prior to conducting surveys. Beginning with acoustic data from night one at each acoustic site, run each night's data for each site through your chosen ID program(s). Review results by site by night from each acoustic ID program used[20].

a) If Indiana bat presence is considered unlikely by all of the approved and candidate program(s) used in analysis, then no further summer surveys necessary.

b) If Indiana bat presence is considered likely at one or more sites on one or more nights by any approved or candidate program(s) used in analysis, then

i) proceed to Step 7 for qualitative ID; **OR**
ii) assume presence of Indiana bats and coordinate with the USFWS FO(s); **OR**
iii) assume presence and proceed to **Phase 3**.

Step 7. Conduct Qualitative Analysis of Calls.

At a minimum, for each detector site/night a program considered Indiana presence likely (from MLE results) review all files (including no IDs) from that site/night. Qualitative analysis[21] (i.e., manual vetting) must also include a comparison of the results of each acoustic

[19] Approved and candidate programs are listed at http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/mammals/inba/surveys/inbaAcousticSoftware.html
[20] The approved acoustic identification programs all have implemented a maximum likelihood estimator (MLE) at this time. If the analysis of collected calls at a given site on a given night results in the probable presence of Indiana bats with high levels of certainty ($P<0.05$), then select one of the options available in Step 6b.
[21] Qualitative analysis of each acoustic site and night with probable detections of Indiana bats during Step 6 must include the entire night's high-frequency call data and not just those files making it through the acoustic analysis tools as probable Indiana bats.

ID program by site and night (see Reporting Requirements in Appendix C).

a) If no visual confirmation of probable Indiana bats, then no further summer surveys necessary[22].

b) If visual confirmation of probable Indiana bats, then

   i) assume presence of Indiana bats and coordinate with the USFWS FO(s); **OR**
   ii) assume presence and proceed to **Phase 3**.

PHASE 3. CONDUCT MIST-NETTING SURVEYS TO CAPTURE INDIANA BATS.

If netting was not conducted as the P/A method, then netting may be conducted in Phase 3 to capture and characterize (e.g., sex, age, reproductive condition) the Indiana bats that are present in an area and to facilitate Phase 4 efforts. We encourage working with the FOs to develop Phase 3 netting plans based on best available information (e.g., positive acoustic locations). There are no minimum requirements for this phase as this is not a P/A phase.

a) If no Indiana bats are captured, then coordinate with the USFWS FO.

b) If Indiana bats are captured, then proceed to **Phase 4**.

PHASE 4. CONDUCT RADIO-TRACKING AND EMERGENCE SURVEYS (See Appendices D and E).

PHASE 5. CONDUCT POTENTIAL HIBERNACULA SURVEYS

(See Appendix H)

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[22] If you identify any suspected mis-identifications from programs, the Service will share those results with the software manufacturer(s) and the USGS to assist with future improvements and testing of software.

Report SRS-208. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 112 p.

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TABLE 1. Standard survey seasons for conducting P/A surveys for Indiana bats.

Survey Season	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Internal Winter Hibernacula Surveys[1]												
Acceptable survey window (1 Jan. - 28 Feb.)												
Traditional survey window of known sites (15 Jan. - 15 Feb.)												
Spring & Fall Surveys at Entrances of Potential Hibernacula[2,3]												
Acceptable survey window (1 - 21 Apr. & 15 Sep. - 31 Oct.)												
Summer Surveys of Suitable Summer Habitat[4]												
Acceptable survey window (15 May - 15 Aug.)												
Optimal survey window (1 Jun. - 31 Jul.)[5,6]												

[1] visual and photographic surveys conducted within known and/or potential hibernacula (if deemed safe to enter).

[2] conducted using harp traps or mist nets at cave/mine entrances.

[3] if State/USFWS FO approve, spring and fall survey windows can "drift" a bit earlier or later to better accommodate prevailing weather patterns and/or climate conditions in the location of the proposed survey. For example, the fall survey window in nothern portions of the Ibat range may begin on or after 1 Sep. and end prior to 31 Oct. pending local State and FO approval. Likewise, if agencies approve, spring surveys of potential hibernacula may be pushed back/extended a few days or longer due to an exended period of unseasonably cold spring weather.

[4] conducted using mist nets or acoustic detectors deployed within suitable flight corridors and foraging areas.

[5] the middle of the maternity season (June and July) is considered by many to be the best or "optimal" time to capture resident bats.

[6] due to concerns with transmission of white-nose syndrome, some USFWS FO(s) and state natural resource agencies have delayed the start of the Indiana bat summer field survey season/mist-netting until June 1. Surveyors/applicants should always coordinate with local USFWS FO(s) and state natural resource agencies to confirm acceptable dates before beginning surveys.

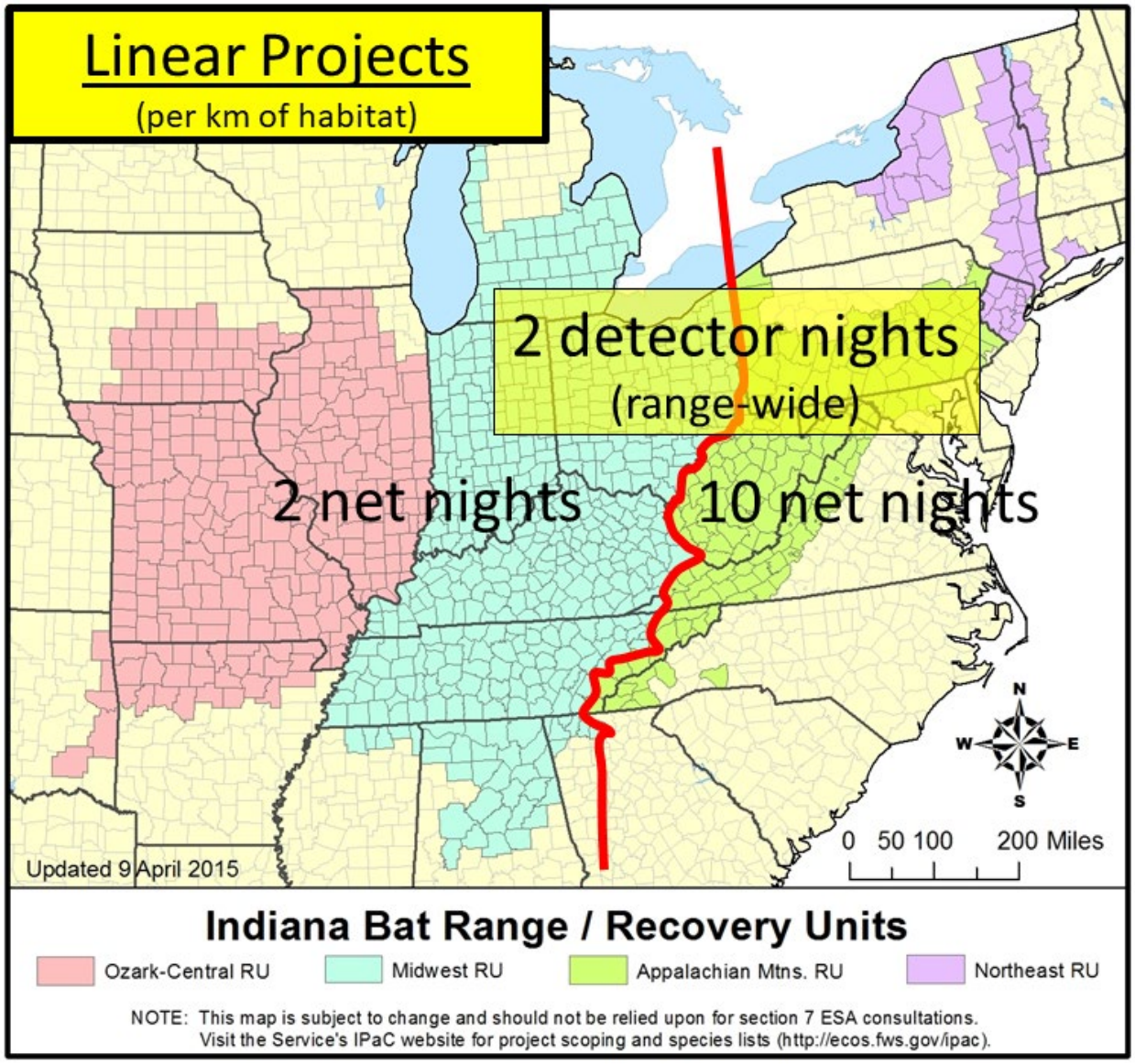

FIGURE 1. 2019 minimum survey level of effort for mist netting and/or acoustic options for linear projects by recovery unit.

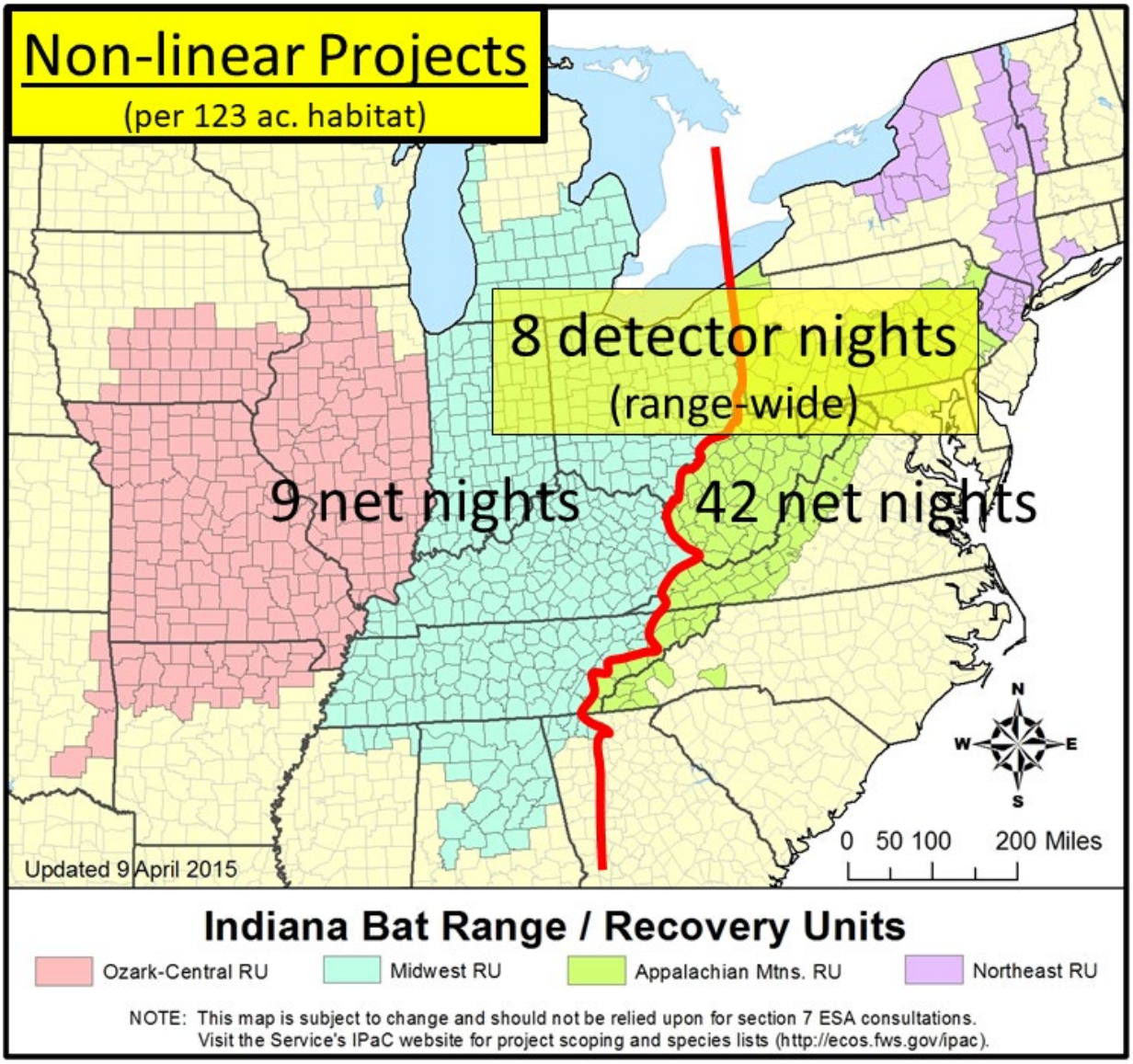

FIGURE 2. 2019 minimum survey level of effort for mist netting and/or acoustic options for non-linear projects by recovery unit.

APPENDIX A: PHASE 1 HABITAT ASSESSMENTS

Summer habitat and potential hibernacula assessments are Step 2 of Phase 1- Initial Project Screening. The information below is provided to assist applicants, consultants, and/or project proponents (hereinafter termed the "applicant") in establishing whether surveys for Indiana bats should be conducted. As a reminder, the first step for determining presence of Indiana bats at a given site is to determine whether there is any existing occurrence data available for the vicinity of the project from the local USFWS FO. This step can be conducted remotely via a desktop analysis (e.g., use of aerial photography to assess the potential presence of suitable summer habitat). The applicant is responsible for developing and providing sufficient information as to whether suitable summer Indiana bat habitat and/or potential hibernacula exist within a proposed project area. If suitable habitat is present, the applicant should calculate the amount and submit this to the USFWS FO(s) and determine the need for any presence/absence surveys (Phase 2). **NOTE**: if Indiana bats are present or assumed to be present during any phase, more detailed habitat information may be necessary to adequately assess the potential for impacts (see attached example Indiana Bat Habitat Assessment Datasheet). If no suitable habitat is present, no surveys are needed to assess risk during the summer. Habitat assessments for Indiana bats can be completed any time of year and applicants are encouraged to submit results and proposed Phase 2 study plans well in advance of the summer survey season.

PERSONNEL

Habitat assessments should be completed by individuals with a natural resource degree or equivalent work experience.

DEFINITION FOR POTENTIALLY SUITABLE INDIANA BAT SUMMER HABITAT

Suitable summer habitat for Indiana bats consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats[23] such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags ≥5 inches dbh[24] (12.7 centimeter) that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or hollows), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of other forested/wooded habitat. We recommend that project proponents or their representatives coordinate with the appropriate

[23] Non-forested habitats typically should be excluded from acreages used to establish a minimum level of survey effort for Phase 2 surveys.

[24] While trees <5 inches (<12.7 cm) dbh that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or hollows may have some potential to be male Indiana bat summer roosting habitat, the USFWS does not consider early-successional, even-aged stands of trees <5 inches dbh to be suitable roosting habitat for the purposes of this guidance. Suitable *roosting* habitat is defined as forest patches with trees of 5-inch (12.7 cm) dbh or larger. However, early successional habitat with small diameter trees may be used as foraging habitat by Indiana bats. Therefore, a project that would remove or otherwise adversely affect ≥20 acres of early successional habitat containing trees between 3 and 5 inches (7.6-12.7 cm) dbh would require coordination/consultation with the USFWS FO to ensure that associated impacts would not rise to the level of take. The USFWS may request P/A surveys if >20 acres of early successional habitat were proposed for removal.

USFWS Field Office to more clearly define suitable habitat for their particular region as some differences in state/regional suitability criteria may be warranted (e.g., high-elevation areas may be excluded as suitable habitat in some states).

Examples of unsuitable habitat:

- Individual trees that are greater than 1,000 feet from forested/wooded areas;
- Trees found in highly-developed urban areas (e.g., street trees, downtown areas); and
- A pure stand of less than 3-inch dbh[25] trees that are not mixed with larger trees.

DEFINITION FOR POTENTIALLY SUITABLE NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT SUMMER HABITAT

Suitable summer habitat for NLEB consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts (i.e., live trees and/or snags ≥3 inches dbh that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or cavities), as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit characteristics of suitable roost trees and are within 1,000 feet of other forested/wooded habitat[26]. NLEB has also been observed roosting in human-made structures, such as buildings, barns, bridges, and bat houses; therefore, these structures should also be considered potential summer habitat[27]. NLEBs typically occupy their summer habitat from mid-May through mid-August each year[28] and the species may arrive or leave some time before or after this period.

Examples of unsuitable habitat:

- Individual trees that are greater than 1,000 feet from forested/wooded areas;
- Trees found in highly-developed urban areas (e.g., street trees, downtown areas); and
- A pure stand of less than 3-inch dbh trees that are not mixed with larger trees.

[25] Suitable *roosting* habitat is defined as forest patches with trees of 5-inch (12.7 cm) dbh or larger. However, early successional habitat with small diameter trees may be used as foraging habitat by Indiana bats. Therefore, a project that would remove or otherwise adversely affect ≥20 acres of early successional habitat containing trees between 3 and 5 inches (7.6-12.7 cm) dbh would require coordination/consultation with the USFWS FO to ensure that associated impacts would not rise to the level of take. The USFWS may request P/A surveys if >20 acres of early successional habitat were proposed for removal.

[26] This number is based on observations of bat behavior indicating that such an isolated tree (i.e., ≥1000 feet) would be extremely unlikely to be used as a roost. This distance has also been evaluated and vetted for use for the Indiana bat. See the "Indiana bat Section 7 and Section 10 Guidance for wind Energy Projects," question 33, found at: http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/inba/WindEnergyGuidance.html

[27] Trees found in highly-developed urban areas (e.g., street trees, downtown areas) are extremely unlikely to be suitable habitat.

[28] Exact dates vary by location.

APPENDIX A: PHASE 1 HABITAT ASSESSMENTS

SUBMISSION OF PHASE 1 HABITAT ASSESSMENT & PHASE 2 AND/OR PHASE 5 STUDY PLAN (IF NEEDED)

If a proposed project may affect (positively or negatively) Indiana bats and the conditions outlined in Step 3 a or b are not met, a habitat assessment report should be submitted to the appropriate USFWS FO(s) (and/or to the lead Federal Action Agency, such as the USACE, as appropriate) along with a draft study plan for the Phase 2 (acoustic or netting) and/or Phase 5 (potential hibernaculum) survey(s) (if suitable habitat(s) is present). Complete Phase 1 reports will include the following:

1. Full names and relevant titles/qualifications of individuals (e.g., John E. Smith, Biologist II, State University, B.S. Wildlife Science 2007) completing the habitat assessment and when the assessment was conducted
2. A map and latitude/longitude or UTM clearly identifying the project location (or approximate center point) and boundaries
3. A detailed project description (if available)
4. Documentation of any known/occupied spring staging, summer, fall swarming, and/or winter habitat for Indiana bats within or near the project area
5. A description of methods used during the habitat assessment
6. A summary of the assessment findings and a completed Indiana Bat Summer Habitat Assessment Datasheet (see attached below; use of this particular datasheet is optional)
7. Other information that may have a bearing on Indiana bat use of the project area (e.g., presence of fall or winter habitat [caves, crevices, fissures, or sinkholes, or abandoned mines of any kind], bridges and other non-tree potential summer roosts.)
8. A Phase 1 Habitat Assessment on all potential hibernacula that could be affected by the proposed project (see Appendix H for additional instructions for completing this assessment and sample datasheet), if necessary
9. Any other information requested by the local USFWS FO(s) related to the project

In addition, Phase 2 Study Plans should contain the following:

1. A statement as to which type of P/A surveys will be conducted (i.e., mist netting or acoustic surveys) and how the proposed survey level of effort (i.e., total # of net nights or detector nights) was calculated/determined;
2. A map depicting the proposed number of survey sites (mist netting or acoustic) and their tentative distribution throughout the project area;
3. A tentative list of surveyors names and copies of relevant federal permits (if applicable);
4. A tentative survey schedule (e.g., start date, duration, end date);
5. For mist netting surveys with planned Phase 4 radio-tracking – the approximate number and distribution of transmitters (e.g., prioritization of sex/age, maximum number per site)

and a request that bats targeted for tracking may be held for up to 45 minutes[29] to allow for application of transmitters; and

6. For acoustic surveys - information on which specific program(s) will be used and what level of acoustic analyses will be conducted.

If potential hibernacula are identified, then Phase 5 Study Plans should contain the following:

1. A completed USFWS Project Proposal Form (see Appendix H);
2. A map depicting all identified potential hibernacula identified and their tentative distribution throughout the project area;
3. A written justification if an entrance(s) survey is proposed instead of an internal survey;
4. A written justification if mist-nets are proposed instead of harp traps; and
5. For surveys of entrances that are inter-connected and unfeasible to survey on the same night, a proposed modified method to complete the survey (see Phase 2, #5 in Appendix H).

[29] Current standard federal Section 10 bat permit conditions require prior written approval from the Field Supervisor in the USFWS FO(s) if capture times may exceed 30 minutes.

APPENDIX A: PHASE 1 HABITAT ASSESSMENTS

INDIANA BAT HABITAT ASSESSMENT DATASHEET

Project Name:_____ Date:_____

Township/Range/Section:_____

Lat Long/UTM/ Zone:_____ Surveyor:_____

Brief Project Description

Project Area

	Total Acres	Forest Acres		Open Acres
Project				
Proposed Tree Removal (ac)	Completely cleared	Partially cleared (will leave trees)	Preserve acres- no clearing	

Vegetation Cover Types

Pre-Project	**Post-Project**

Landscape within 5 mile radius

Flight corridors to other forested areas?
Describe Adjacent Properties (e.g. forested, grassland, commercial or residencial development, water sources)

Proximity to Public Land

What is the distance (mi.) from the project area to forested public lands (e.g., national or state forests, national or state parks, conservation areas, wildlife management areas)?

APPENDIX A: PHASE 1 HABITAT ASSESSMENTS

Use additional sheets to assess discrete habitat types at multiple sites in a project area

Include a map depicting locations of sample sites if assessing discrete habitats at multiple sites in a project area
A single sheet can be used for multiple sample sites if habitat is the same

Sample Site Description
Sample Site No.(s): _____

Water Resources at Sample Site				
Stream Type (# and length)	Ephemeral	Intermittent	Perennial	Describe existing condition of water sources:
Pools/Ponds (# and size)		Open and accessible to bats?		
Wetlands (approx. ac.)	Permanent	Seasonal		

Forest Resources at Sample Site				
Closure/Density	Canopy (> 50 ')	Midstory (20-50')	Understory (<20')	1=1-10%, 2=11-20%, 3=21-40%, 4=41-60%, 5=61-80%, 6=81=100%
Dominant Species of Mature Trees				
% Trees w/ Exfoliating Bark				
Size Composition of Live Trees (%)	Small (3-8 in)	Med (9-15 in)	Large (>15 in)	
No. of Suitable Snags				

Standing dead trees with exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, or hollows. Snags without these characteristics are not considered suitable.

IS THE HABITAT SUITABLE FOR INDIANA BATS? _____

Additional Comments:

Attach aerial photo of project site with all forested areas labeled and a general description of the habitat

Photographic Documentation: habitat shots at edge and interior from multiple locations; understory/midstory/canopy; examples of potential suitable snags and live trees; water sources

APPENDIX B: PHASE 2 or 3 MIST-NETTING

Mist-netting can be used as a presence/probable absence method (Phase 2 surveys) or it can be conducted for the purpose of attempting to capture Indiana bats after detection during acoustic presence/probable absence surveys (Phase 3 surveys). The same recommendations (e.g., season, personnel, equipment, net placement, checking nets) apply for either use of mist-netting surveys.

SUMMER MIST-NETTING SEASON: May 15[30] – August 15[31]

Capture of reproductive adult females (i.e., pregnant, lactating, or post-lactating) and/or young of the year during May 15 – August 15 confirms the presence of a maternity colony in the area. Since adult males and non-reproductive females have commonly been found summering with maternity colonies, radio-tracking results will be relied upon to help determine the presence or absence of a maternity colony or large concentrations of bats in the area when only males and/or non-reproductive females are captured.

PERSONNEL

A qualified biologist(s)[32] must (1) select/approve mist-net set-ups in areas that are most suitable for capturing Indiana bats, (2) be physically present at each mist-net site throughout the survey period, and (3) confirm all bat species identifications. This biologist may oversee other biological technicians and manage mist-net set-ups in close proximity to one another as long as the net-check timing (i.e., every 10 minutes) can be maintained while **walking** between nets.

COORDINATION WITH USFWS FO(s)

If not already required by federal permit, we recommend that applicants submit a draft study plan for all survey phases to the USFWS FO(s) for review and approval. Study plans should include a map/aerial photo identifying the proposed project area boundaries, suitable bat habitats and acreages within the project area, and the proposed number and tentative locations of net sites.

EQUIPMENT

Use the finest, lowest visibility mesh mist-nets commercially available, as practicable. Currently, the finest net on the market is 75 denier, 2 ply, denoted 75/2 (Arndt and Schaetz 2009); however, the 50 denier nets are still acceptable for use at this time. The finest mesh size available is approximately 1½ inches (38 millimeters).

[30] Due to concerns with transmission of white-nose syndrome, some USFWS FO(s) and state natural resource agencies have delayed the start of the Indiana bat summer field survey season/mist-netting until June 1. Surveyors/applicants should always coordinate with local USFWS FO(s) and state natural resource agencies before beginning surveys.
[31] With prior USFWS FO approval, a survey may be completed after August 15 if it was initiated in time to be completed by August 15 and extenuating weather circumstances resulted in delaying completion. Delays as a result of not meeting the acceptable weather requirements are the ONLY valid justification for surveying after August 15.
[32] A qualified biologist is an individual who holds a USFWS Recovery Permit (Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit) for Indiana bats in the state/region in which they are surveying and/or has been authorized by the appropriate state agency to net and handle Indiana bats. Several USFWS offices maintain lists of qualified bat surveyors, and if working in one of those states with authorizations in lieu of a Recovery Permits, the individual will either need to be on that list or submit qualifications to receive USFWS approval prior to conducting any field work.

APPENDIX B: PHASE 2 or 3 MIST-NETTING

No specific hardware is required. There are many suitable systems of ropes and/or poles to hold nets. The system of Gardner et al. (1989) has been widely used. See NET PLACEMENT for minimum net heights, habitats, and other netting requirements that affect the choice of hardware.

To minimize potential for disease transmission, any equipment that comes in contact with bats should be kept clean and disinfected, following approved protocols; this is particularly a concern relative to white-nose syndrome (WNS). Disinfection of equipment to avoid disease transmission (e.g., WNS) is required; protocols are posted at http://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/. Federal and state permits may also have specific equipment restrictions and disinfection requirements.

MINIMUM PRESENCE/ABSENCE MIST-NETTING LEVEL OF EFFORT (PHASE 2)

The level of netting survey effort required for a non-linear project will be dependent upon the overall acreage of suitable habitat that may be impacted by the action (directly or indirectly). To determine the survey effort, quantify the amount of suitable summer habitat within the project area. **NOTE**: for projects where other impacts than tree removal are likely (e.g., collision), ensure that presence/probable absence surveys are designed to cover all suitable habitat within the entire project area (where exposure to any kind of impacts may be anticipated) and NOT just the locations where tree removal is planned. Additional guidance for linear project is in Appendix F.

Conduct Mist-Netting Surveys following Recovery Unit-based protocols[33] (See Figures 1 and 2)

Northeast and Appalachian Recovery Units (CT, DE, MA, MD, NC, NJ, NY, PA, eastern TN, WV, VA, VT):

Linear projects: a minimum of 10 net nights per km (0.6 miles) of suitable summer habitat (see Appendix F).

Non-linear projects: a minimum of 42 net nights per 123 acres[34] (0.5 km^2) of suitable summer habitat.

For example:

- 7 sites[35], 2 nets[36]/site for 3 calendar nights = 42 net nights
- 7 sites, 3 nets/site for 2 calendar nights = 42 net nights
- 3 sites, 2 nets/site for 7 calendar nights* = 42 net nights

[33] The Indiana bat populations in the Northeast and Appalachian Recovery Units (RUs) have been more heavily impacted by white-nose syndrome; therefore, we recommend higher survey effort in these RUs than the Midwest and Ozark-Central RUs.
[34] We have no recommendations for reducing the minimum level of effort required to demonstrate probable absence for projects <123 acres in size. Detection probabilities and occupancy estimates were derived from past survey efforts that used the same acreage threshold (see Niver et al. 2013).
[35] A site is defined as a geographic area to be sampled. It can include one or more nets that can be managed by one Qualified Biologist.
[36] A net is defined as any combination of individual panels and poles (e.g., single, double, triple high) to fill the area (e.g., corridor) being sampled.

Maximum of 3 nights of consecutive netting at any given net location. After 3 consecutive nights of netting at the same location, you must change net locations or wait at least 2 calendar nights before resuming netting at the same location.

a) If no capture of Indiana bats, then no further summer surveys are necessary[37].
b) If capture of Indiana bat(s), then stop or proceed to **Phase 4** as previously decided in coordination with the FO(s).

Midwest and Ozark-Central Recovery Units (AL, AR, GA, IA, IL, IN, KY, MI, MO, MS, OH, OK, and central & western TN):

Linear projects: a minimum of 2 net nights per km (0.6 miles) of suitable summer habitat (see Appendix F).

Non-linear projects: a minimum of 9 net nights per 123 acres (0.5 km^2) of suitable summer habitat.

- 3 sites, 1 net/site for 3 calendar nights = 9 net nights
- 1 site, 3 nets/site for 3 calendar nights = 9 net nights

Maximum of 3 nights of consecutive netting at any given net location. After 3 consecutive nights of netting at the same location, you must change net locations or wait at least 2 calendar nights before resuming netting at the same location.

a) If no capture of Indiana bats, then no further summer surveys are necessary.
b) If capture of Indiana bat(s), then stop or proceed to **Phase 4** as previously decided in coordination with the FO(s).

MIST-NETTING SURVEYS TO CAPTURE INDIANA BATS AFTER ACOUSTICS WERE USED AS P/A METHOD (PHASE 3)

If netting was not conducted as the P/A method, then netting may be conducted to capture and characterize (e.g., sex, age, reproductive condition) the Indiana bats (documented through the Phase 2 acoustic P/A survey) present in an area and to facilitate radio-tracking (Phase 4) efforts. We encourage working with the FO(s) to develop Phase 3 netting plans based on best available information (e.g., positive acoustic locations). There are no minimum requirements for this phase as this is not a P/A phase.

a) If no Indiana bats are captured, then coordinate with the USFWS FO.
b) If Indiana bats are captured, then proceed to **Phase 4** as previously decided in coordination with the FO(s).

[37] NOTE: For Phase 2 Presence/Absence Surveys, wherever the phrase "no further summer surveys are necessary" occurs within this document, the USFWS FO(s) is in affect assuming probable absence of Indiana bats during the summer.

APPENDIX B: PHASE 2 or 3 MIST-NETTING

NET PLACEMENT

Potential travel corridors (e.g., streams, logging trails) typically are the most effective places to net (although other places may also be productive; see Carroll et al. 2002). Place nets approximately perpendicular across the corridor. Nets should fill the corridor from side to side, extending beyond the corridor boundaries when possible, and from stream (or ground) level up to the overhanging canopy. Nets of varying widths and heights may be used as the situation dictates. A typical set is at least 5 m to 9 m high consisting of two or more nets stacked on top one another and from 6 m to 18 m wide. If netting over water, ensure there is enough space between the net and the water so that captured bats will not get wet.

Occasionally it may be necessary or desirable to net where a suitable corridor is lacking. The typical equipment described in the section above may be inadequate for these situations, requiring innovation on the part of the surveyor (see Humphrey et al. 1968). See Kiser and MacGregor (2005) for additional discussion about net placement.

Although no minimum spacing between mist-nets is being specified, surveyors should attempt to evenly distribute net set-ups throughout suitable habitat and must provide written justification in their report if net set-ups were not distributed throughout suitable habitat (i.e., why were they clumped?). Net set-ups can be repeatedly sampled throughout the project, but generally no more than 2-3 nights at a single location is recommended. In addition, changing locations within a project area may improve capture success (see Robbins et al. 2008; Winhold and Kurta 2008). Photo-document placement of nets.

SURVEY PERIOD

The survey period for each net shall begin at sunset[38] and continue for at least 5 hours (longer survey periods may also improve success).

CHECKING NETS

Each net set-up should be checked approximately every 10 minutes (Gannon et al. 2007). If surveyors monitor nets continuously, take care to minimize noise, lights and movement near the nets. Monitoring the net set-up continuously with a bat detector (ideally using ear phones to avoid alerting bats) can be beneficial: (a) bats can be detected immediately when they are captured, (b) prompt removal from the net decreases stress on the bat and potential for the bat to escape (MacCarthy et al. 2006), and (c) monitoring with a bat detector also allows the biologist to assess the effectiveness of each net placement (i.e., if bats are active near the net set-up but avoiding capture), which may allow for adjustments that will increase netting success on subsequent nights. There should be no other disturbance near the nets, other than to check nets and remove bats. Biologists should be prepared to cut the net if a bat is severely entangled and cannot be safely extracted within 3 or 4 minutes (CCAC 2003; Kunz et al. 2009).

[38] Surveys may need to start a little earlier or later than official sunset times (i.e., at "dusk") in some settings such as a deep/dark forested valleys or ridge tops to avoid missing early-flying bats or capturing late-flying birds, respectively. Sunset tables for the location of survey can be found at: http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneYear.php.

APPENDIX B: PHASE 2 or 3 MIST-NETTING

Capture and handling are stressful for bats. Emphasis should be on minimizing handling and holding bats to as short a time as possible to achieve field study objectives. Indiana bats should not be held for more than 30 minutes after capture, unless the individual is targeted for radio-tracking. Bats targeted for radio-tracking should be released as quickly as possible, but no longer than 30 minutes[39] after capture, or as allowed in federal and state permits. See Kunz and Kurta (1988) for general recommendations for holding bats.

WEATHER, LIGHTING, AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Severe weather adversely affects capture of bats. Some Indiana bats may remain active despite inclement weather and may still be captured while others in the same area become inactive. Therefore, negative surveys combined with any of the following weather conditions throughout all or most of a sampling period are likely to require an additional night of mist-netting[40]: (a) temperatures that fall below 50°F (10°C)[41]; (b) precipitation, including rain and/or heavy fog, that exceeds 30 minutes or continues intermittently during the survey period; and (c) sustained wind speeds greater than 9 miles/hour (4 meters/seconds; 3 on Beaufort scale) for 30 or more minutes.

NOTE: Provided that nets are not dripping wet, surveyors can resume netting to meet the minimum 5-hour requirement after short periods of adverse weather. If nets are under good cover, light rain may not alter bat behavior. However, if no bats are being captured during marginal weather, coordinate with the USFWS FO(s).

It is typically best to place net set-ups under the canopy where they are out of moonlight, particularly when the moon is half-full or greater. Net set-ups illuminated by artificial light sources should also be avoided.

The shining of lights, and noise should be kept to a minimum with no smoking around the survey sites. In addition, the use of radios, campfires, running vehicles, punk sticks, citronella candles and other disturbances will not be permitted within 300 feet of mist nets (or acoustic detectors) during surveys.

DOCUMENTATION OF INDIANA BAT CAPTURES

If an Indiana bat(s) is captured during mist-netting, protocols for radio-tracking and emergence survey requirements, as provided in Appendix D and E, respectively, should be followed. In addition, the appropriate USFWS FO(s) must be notified of the capture within 48 hours (or in accordance with permit conditions), and the sex and reproductive condition of the bat and GPS coordinates of the capture site should be provided. Ensure GPS coordinates are recorded for each individual net set on datasheets.

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[39] Current standard federal Section 10 bat permit conditions require prior written approval from the Field Supervisor in the USFWS FO(s) if capture times may exceed 30 minutes.

[40] With prior USFWS FO approval, a survey may be completed after August 15 if it was initiated in time to be completed by August 15 and extenuating weather circumstances resulted in delaying completion. Delays as a result of not meeting the acceptable weather requirements are the ONLY valid justification for surveying after August 15.

[41] If using this guidance for NLEB: Overnight survey temperatures may be lower in northern portions of the NLEB range, please coordinate with the local USFWS FO in the northern portion of the range for any variation in temperature requirements.

APPENDIX B: PHASE 2 or 3 MIST-NETTING

Several species of bats from the genus *Myotis* share common features which can make identification difficult; Indiana bats and little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus)* can be particularly difficult to distinguish. Photo-documentation of all bats captured and identified as Indiana bats and the first 10 little brown bats per project are requested to verify the identifications made in the field.

Photo-documentation should include diagnostic characteristics:

- a ¾-view of face showing ear, tragus, and muzzle
- view of calcar showing presence/absence of keel
- a transverse view of toes showing extent of toe hairs

If a bat from the genus *Myotis* is captured during mist netting that cannot be readily identified to the species level, then species verification may be attempted through fecal DNA analysis. Collect one or more fecal pellets (i.e., guano) from the bat in question by placing it temporarily in a holding bag (15 minutes is usually sufficient, no more than 30 minutes is recommended). The pellet (or pellets) collected should be placed in a small vial (e.g., 1.5 ml) with silica gel desiccant; pellets from each individual bat should be stored in separate vials and out of direct light. Fees charged by independent laboratories for sequencing fecal DNA samples is generally inexpensive (approx. $50 per guano sample), however, it has been challenging to identify labs willing to consistently conduct these analyses. Any additional information and a list of available laboratories will be made available on the Indiana bat webpage on the USFWS's Region 3 website (http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/mammals/inba/index.html).

SUBMISSION OF MIST-NETTING RESULTS

Provide results of netting surveys to the appropriate USFWS FO(s) in accordance with previously agreed upon[42] timeframes and formats[43]. If Indiana bats are captured, this report should also include the results of subsequent radio-tracking and emergence counts. Reports should include the following:

1. Copy of prior phase reports (if not previously provided).
2. Explanation of any modifications from original survey plan (e.g., altered net locations).[44]
3. Description of net locations (including site diagrams), net set-ups (include net heights), survey dates, duration of surveys, weather conditions, and a summary of findings.
4. Map identifying netting locations and information regarding net set-ups, including lat/long or UTM, individual net placement, net spacing (i.e., include mist-netting

[42] As discussed in the Introduction, we encourage coordination with USFWS FO(s) prior to implementation of any surveys to ensure that all parties agree upon the need for surveys, the methods proposed, and the decisions from various survey results.

[43] In 2016, the USFWS implemented a new standardized approach for reporting of bat survey data. In addition to a traditional written report, federal permit holders are now required to submit their survey data using the standardized permit reporting spreadsheets available on the R3 Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidance webpage (http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/mammals/inba/inbasummersurveyguidance.html).

[44] If the USFWS previously agreed upon the study plan we need to understand whether the revised work still accomplished the agreed upon methods

equipment in photographs of net locations), and adequate justification if net set-ups are not evenly distributed across suitable habitat within the project area.

5. Full names of mist-netting personnel attending each mist-net site during an operation, including the federally-permitted/qualified biologist present at each mist-net site. Indicate on the field data sheet the full name of person who identified bats each night at each site.
6. Legible copies of all original mist-netting datasheets (see example datasheet below) and a summary table with information on all bats captured during the survey including, but not limited to: capture site, date of capture, time of capture, sex, reproductive condition, age, weight, right forearm measurement, band number and type (if applicable), and Reichard's wing damage index score (Reichard and Kunz. 2009).
7. Photographs of all net set-ups, as well as **all** Indiana bats and the first 10 little brown bats captured from each project, so that the placement of netting equipment and identification of species can be verified. Photographs of bats should include all diagnostic characteristics that resulted in the identification of the bat to the species level.
8. Any other information requested by the local USFWS FO(s) related to the project.

REFERENCES

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APPENDIX B: PHASE 2 or 3 MIST-NETTING

Sample Data Sheets for Indiana Bat Surveys

Site No.				**Project/Firm:**									**Date:**					
Location:																		
County:				**State:**		**Quad:**							**Quadrant:**					
Lat/Long (DMS):		**N**		**W**				**Zone:**					**Surveyors:**					

#	Time	Species	Age	Sex	Repro. Cond.*	RFA (mm)	Mass (g)	Net/ Ht	Guano/ Hair	Wing Score	Band # Type
1											
2											
3											
4											
5											
6											
7											
8											
9											
10											
11											
12											
13											
14											
15											
16											
17											
18											
19											
20											
21											
22											
23											
24											
25											
26											
27											
28											
29											
30											

Moon Phase:		**%**
	Rise	**Set**
Moon:		
Sun:		

Time	**Temp**	**Sky**	**Wind**	**# Bats**
Avg				

Sky Code	
0	Clear
1	Few Clouds
2	Partly Cloudy
3	Cloudy or overcast
4	Smoke or fog
5	Drizzle or light rain
6	Thunderstorm

Beauford Wind Code	
0	Calm (0 mph)
1	Light wind (1-3 mph)
2	Light breeze (4-7 mph)
3	Gentle breeze (8-12 mph)
4	Moderate breeze (13-18 mph)

***Repro. Cond (Reproductive Condition): (P) pregnant; (L) lactating; (PL) post-lactating; (NR) non-reproductive, (TD) testes descended**

APPENDIX B: PHASE 2 or 3 MIST-NETTING

Sample Data Sheets for Indiana Bat Surveys

Net Site Diagram	Dominant Vegetation
	1
	2
	3
	4
	5

Net Site(s) by Habitat				
Habitat	A	B	C	
River				
Stream				
Pond				
Road Rut				
Corridor				
Cave/mine				
Total				

No. of Poles X Net length				
A	=		X	
B	=		X	
C	=		X	
D	=		X	

Other Species:

Comments:

APPENDIX C: PHASE 2 ACOUSTIC SURVEYS

SUMMER ACOUSTIC SURVEY SEASON: May 15 – August 15[45]

PERSONNEL[46]

Overall: Acoustic surveyors should have either completed one or more of the available bat acoustic courses/workshops (e.g., BCM, ERM, Titley/AnaBat, Wildlife Acoustics, USFWS) or be able to show similar on-the-job or academic experience.

Detector Deployment: Acoustic surveyors should have a working knowledge of the acoustic equipment and Indiana bat ecology. Surveyors should be able to identify appropriate detector placement sites and establish those sites in the areas that are most suitable for recording high-quality Indiana bat calls. Thus, it is highly recommended that all potential acoustic surveyors attend appropriate training and have experience in the proper placement of their field equipment.

Acoustic Analysis: Acoustic surveyors should have a working knowledge of the approved acoustic analysis programs. Thus, it is highly recommended that all potential acoustic surveyors attend appropriate training and have experience in the analysis of acoustic recordings.

Qualitative Analysis: Individuals qualified to conduct qualitative analysis of acoustic bat calls typically have experience: (1) gathering known calls. This provides a valuable resource in understanding how bat calls change and the variation present in them; (2) identifying bat calls recorded in numerous habitat types; (3) familiarity with the species likely to be encountered within the project area; and (4) individuals must have multiple years of experience and must have stayed current with qualitative ID skills. A resume (or similar documentation) must be submitted along with final acoustic survey reports for anyone making final qualitative identifications.

COORDINATION WITH USFWS FO(s)

If not already required by federal permit, we recommend that applicants submit a draft study plan for all survey phases to the USFWS FO(s) for review and approval. Study plans should include a map/aerial photo identifying the proposed project area boundaries, suitable bat habitats and acreages within the project area, the proposed number and tentative locations of acoustic monitoring sites, and the identification of the approved acoustic software program(s) (and version #) used for analysis of calls for the specific project. If a single software program is used for analysis, surveyors will not be allowed to switch programs from what was originally identified in their final study plan.

DETECTOR AND MICROPHONE REQUIRED CHARACTERISTICS

Full-spectrum (FS) and/or zero-crossing (ZC) detectors are suitable for use in this survey protocol. Directional, hemispherical, and omnidirectional microphones are acceptable for acoustic surveys. The use of external microphones on an extension cable is the preferred deployment as it further limits

[45] With prior USFWS FO approval, a survey may be completed after August 15 if it was initiated in time to be completed by August 15 and extenuating weather circumstances resulted in delaying completion. Delays as a result of not meeting the acceptable weather requirements are the ONLY valid justification for surveying after August 15.
[46] Coordinate with your local FO regarding any state-specific requirements.

degradation of call quality. Recording without directional horns on hemispherical and omnidirectional microphones is preferred as the addition of these systems may result in some signal degradation and directional microphones are commercially available.

Use recommended manufacturer detector settings for conducting Indiana bat P/A surveys unless otherwise noted on the Service's Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidance webpage. For ZC detectors (as well as when converting WAV files to ZC files), the data-division ratio must be set to 8.

ACOUSTIC SAMPLING PROTOCOL

Detector/Microphone Placement

Detector/Microphone placement is critical to the successful isolation of high-quality bat call sequences for later analysis. The following locations are likely to be suitable sites for detectors/microphones, including, but not limited to: (a) forest-canopy openings; (b) near water sources; (c) wooded fence lines that are adjacent to large openings or connect two larger blocks of suitable habitat; (d) blocks of recently logged forest where some potential roost trees remain; (e) road and/or stream corridors with open tree canopies or canopy height of more than 33 feet (10 meters); and (f) woodland edges (Britzke et al. 2010). Of equal importance to acoustic site selection is the surveyor's working knowledge of the sampling volume and area of highest sensitivity within the zone of detection around a given microphone, which helps to ensure that detector placement as well as microphone selection and orientation are best suited for a particular site to ensure the detection zone is free of clutter. Detection distance, placement (e.g., location, orientation, height of microphone), and specific features (e.g., vegetation, water, and other obstructions) at the sample site should dictate whether a directional, hemispherical, or omnidirectional microphone is used. If detectors/microphones are placed in unsuitable locations, effective data analysis may be impossible, and the results of the sampling effort will likely be invalid.

Many features (e.g., vegetation, water, wind turbines, high-tensile power-lines, micro-wave towers) can obstruct and reflect call sequences recorded in the field and thereby reduce the surveyor's ability to record high-quality bat call sequences. The following recommendations are provided to aid surveyors in their selection of acoustic sites (also see Chenger and Tyburec 2014). If surveyors choose acoustic sites outside of these recommendations, then adequate justification for doing so should be provided with the acoustic survey report provided to the USFWS FO(s); otherwise, results from these sites will not be accepted. Surveyors should deploy microphones: (a) at least 10 feet (3 meters) in any direction from vegetation or other obstructions (Hayes 2000; Weller and Zabel 2002; Chenger and Tyburec 2014); (b) in areas without, or with minimal[47], vegetation within 100 feet (30 meters) of highly directional microphones or 33 feet (10 meters) from other microphones; (c) parallel to woodland edges; and (d) at least 49 feet (15 meters) from known or suitable roosts[48] (e.g., trees/snags, buildings, bridges, bat houses, cave or mine portal entrances).

[47] If necessary, surveyors can remove small amounts of vegetation (e.g., small limbs, saplings) from the estimated detection zone at a site, much like what is done while setting up mist-nets. Deployment of detectors/microphones in closed-canopy locations that typically are good for mist-netting are acceptable as long as the area sampled below the canopy does not restrict the ability of the equipment's detection zone to record high-quality calls (i.e., vegetation is outside of the detection zone).

[48] If the surveyor discovers a potential roost and wishes to document bat use, please refer to Appendix E for guidance on conducting emergence surveys and contact the USFWS FO(s).

Elevating a detector greater than 3 meters above ground level (AGL) vegetation may dramatically improve recording quality. Microphones can be attached horizontally to a pole to listen out into flight space, rather than just listening up from the ground. This will serve to increase the volume of airspace sampled and avoid the distortion effect of recording near the ground. However, the relationship between the zone of detection and the vegetation, not the placement of the detector is the most important consideration during site selection.

Surveyors should distribute acoustic sites throughout the project area or adjacent habitats. In most cases, acoustic sites should be at least 656 feet (200 meters) apart. If closer spacing is determined to be necessary or beneficial (e.g., multiple suitable habitats and acoustic sites immediately adjacent to each other), sufficient justification must be provided in the acoustic survey report submitted to USFWS FO(s).

Verification of Deployment Location

It is recommended to temporarily attach GPS units to each detector (according to manufacturer's instructions) to directly record accurate location coordinates for each acoustic site that is paired with the acoustic data files. Regardless of technique used, accurate GPS coordinates must be generated and reported for each acoustic detector location.

Verification of Proper Functioning

It is highly recommended that surveyors ensure acoustic detectors are functioning properly through a periodic verification of performance to factory specifications (a service currently offered or in development by several manufacturers). It may be possible that independent service bureaus would be willing to perform this service, providing that a standard test/adjustment procedure can be developed.

It is also recommended to ensure equipment is working during set-up in the field. This can be done simply by producing ultrasound (e.g., finger rubs, calibrator, or follow the equipment manufacturer's testing recommendations) in front of the microphone at survey start and survey finish. These tests document that the equipment was working when deployed and when picked up (and by assumption throughout the entire period). Detector field settings (e.g., sensitivity, frequency, etc.) should follow the recommendations provided by the manufacturer. Surveyors should also save files produced by detectors (e.g., log files, status files, sensor files) as an excellent way to provide documentation when equipment was functioning within the survey period. Many types of detectors allow for setting timers that initiate and end recording sessions. This saves battery life as well as reducing the number of extraneous noise files recorded. However, if the units are visited when the timer is on (i.e., unit is in standby mode), the surveyor cannot verify that the unit is functioning properly. This is particularly important in areas where no bat activity is recorded for the entire night or during the last portion of the night. In these cases, if the surveyor cannot demonstrate that the detector was indeed functioning properly throughout the survey period, then the site will need to be re-sampled, unless adequate justification can be provided to the USFWS FO(s).

Selection of acoustic sites is similarly important. Suitable set-up of the equipment should result in high-quality call sequences that are adequate for species identification. Nights of sampling at individual sites that produce no bat calls may need to be re-sampled unless adequate justification (e.g., areas with significant bat population declines due to WNS) can be provided to the USFWS FO(s). Modifications of the equipment (e.g., changing the orientation and/or microphone type) at the

same location on subsequent nights may improve quantity and quality of call sequences recorded, which can be determined through daily data downloads. If modifications of the equipment do not improve call identification, then the detectors will need to be moved to a new location.

Orientation

Detectors deployed with directional microphones should be aimed to sample the majority of the identified flight path/zone to maximize the number of call pulses recorded from individual bats. Omnidirectional microphones deployed on a pole in the center of the flight path/zone should be oriented horizontally. In some circumstances, it might be desirable to aim a directional microphone straight up in smaller forest openings. As always, the goal is to sample as large a volume of likely bat flight space as possible while minimizing clutter. Hemispherical microphones should be aimed vertically, creating a dome-like detection field. Hemispherical microphones are best suited for open areas where deploying at heights greater than 3 meters AGL is problematic because of the lack of structure to hide the microphone and prevent it from becoming a novel item of interest to bats. Vertical orientation, however, precludes the use of weatherproofing for protection of the microphone, since no currently-approved weatherproofing system will adequately protect the microphone of a detector aimed vertically. Once acoustic sites are identified, photographs documenting the orientation, detection zone (i.e., "what the detector is sampling"), and relative position of the microphone should be taken for later submittal to the USFWS FO(s) as part of the acoustic survey report (See Submission of Acoustic Survey Results for additional description).

Weather Conditions

If any of the following weather conditions exist at a survey site during acoustic sampling, note the time and duration of such conditions, and repeat the acoustic sampling effort for that night[49]: (a) temperatures fall below 50°F (10°C) during the first 5 hours of survey period; (b) precipitation, including rain and/or fog, that exceeds 30 minutes or continues intermittently during the first 5 hours of the survey period; and (c) sustained wind speeds greater than 9 miles/hour (4 meters/second; 3 on Beaufort scale) for 30 minutes or more during the first 5 hours of the survey period. At a minimum, nightly weather conditions for survey sites should be checked using the nearest NOAA National Weather Service station and summarized in the survey reports.

Weatherproofing

Most bat detectors are not weatherproof when delivered from the factory. Recording without after-market weatherproofing is preferred as the addition of these systems may result in some signal degradation. **The decision to weatherproof detectors or not should be determined nightly based on the likelihood of precipitation in the survey area.** If necessary, detectors should be placed in after-market weatherproof containers and an external microphone, attached by an extension cable should be deployed greater than 3 meters AGL.

For directional microphones, the use of a polyvinyl chloride (PVC) tube[50], generally in the form of a 45-degree elbow the same diameter as the microphone (Britzke et al. 2010) is acceptable, if the situation requires the use of after-market weatherproofing. The microphone should be placed facing

[49] With prior USFWS FO approval, a survey may be completed after August 15 if it was initiated in time to be completed by August 15 and extenuating weather circumstances resulted in delaying completion. Delays as a result of not meeting the acceptable weather requirements are the ONLY valid justification for surveying after August 15.

[50] The PVC option has only been tested with AnaBat SD1/SD2 detectors and directional microphones. It may not perform as well with other detector microphone combinations.

the open end of the elbow and as close to the opening as is consistent with the aim of weatherproofing. The microphone should be pointing at an angle below horizontal so water will not collect in it. Corben & Livengood (2014) showed that the direction of greatest sensitivity of tubes like this varies greatly depending on details of the specific tube shape and the exact position of the microphone. Often the greatest sensitivity will be pointed up at a substantial angle (up to 45 degrees) above horizontal when the microphone itself is pointing 45 degrees below horizontal. Users should be aware of the characteristics of the setup they use so they can know what region is actually being sampled. Again, the preferred option for weatherproofing detectors is to detach the microphone from the detector so that the detector can be placed in a weatherproof container but the microphone (tethered by a cable) remains unobstructed.

Other after-market weatherproofing systems may become available and approved by the USFWS provided they show that call quality and the number of calls recorded are comparable to those without weatherproofing.

MINIMUM LEVEL OF EFFORT (applies to all Recovery Units/range-wide) (See Figures 1 and 2)

The level of acoustic survey effort required for a project will be dependent upon the overall acreage of suitable habitat that may be impacted by the action (directly or indirectly). To determine the acoustic survey effort, quantify the amount of suitable summer habitat within the project area. **NOTE**: for projects where impacts other than tree removal are likely (e.g., collision), ensure that presence/probable absence surveys are designed to cover all suitable habitat within the entire project area and NOT just the locations where tree removal is planned.

> Linear projects: a minimum of 2 detector nights per km (0.6 miles) of suitable summer habitat (See Appendix F).
>
> At least 1 detector location for at least 2 calendar nights.
>
> Non-linear projects: a minimum of 8 detector nights per 123 acres (0.5 km^2) of suitable summer habitat.
>
> At least 2 detector locations per 123 acre "site" shall be sampled until at least 4 detector nights has been completed over the course of at least 2 calendar nights (may be consecutive).
>
> For example:
>
> - 4 detectors for 2 nights each (can sample the same location or move within the site)
> - 2 detectors for 4 nights each (can sample the same location or move within the site)
> - 1 detector for 8 nights (must sample at least 2 locations and move within the site – we recommend evenly distributing LOE among locations)

The acoustic sampling period for each site must begin at sunset[51] and ends at sunrise each night of sampling.

[51] Surveys may need to start a little earlier or later than official sunset times (i.e., at "dusk") in some settings such as a deep/dark forested valleys or ridge tops to avoid missing early-flying bats or capturing late-flying birds, respectively. Sunset tables for the location of survey can be found at: http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneYear.php

ANALYSIS OF RECORDED ECHOLOCATION CALLS

Step 5. Optional coarse screening - for high frequency (HF) or myotid calls (depending on available H/L frequency filters) or Proceed to Step 6.

a) If no positive detection of HF calls (≥35 kHz) or myotid calls, no further summer surveys necessary.

b) If positive detection of HF or myotid calls, then
   i) proceed to Step 6 for further acoustic analysis; **OR**
   ii) assume presence of Indiana bats and coordinate with the USFWS FO(s); **OR**
   iii) assume presence and proceed to **Phase 3**.

Step 6. Conduct Automated Acoustic Analyses for each site that had HF or Myotid calls from Step 5 or ALL sites if Step 5 was not conducted.

Use **one or more** of the currently available 'approved' acoustic bat ID programs[52] (use most current approved software versions available and manufacturer's recommended settings for Indiana bat P/A surveys) as previously identified in your Phase 2 study plan. 'Candidate' programs are not yet approved by USFWS for stand-alone use for Indiana bat P/A surveys, but may be used in conjunction with one or more of the approved programs. Include your plans for which specific software program(s) you will use in your survey study plan and submit for USFWS FO(s) review prior to conducting surveys. Beginning with acoustic data from night one at each acoustic site, run each night's data for each site through your chosen ID program(s). Review results by site by night from each acoustic ID program used[53].

a) If Indiana bat presence is considered unlikely by the approved and candidate program(s) used in analysis, then no further summer surveys necessary.

b) If Indiana bat presence is considered likely at one or more sites on one or more nights by any approved or candidate program(s) used in analysis, then
   i) proceed to Step 7 for qualitative ID; **OR**
   ii) assume presence of Indiana bats and coordinate with the USFWS FO(s); **OR**
   iii) assume presence and proceed to **Phase 3**.

Step 7. Conduct Qualitative Analysis of Calls.

At a minimum, for each detector site/night a program considered Indiana presence likely, review all files (including no IDs) from that site/night. Qualitative analysis[54] (i.e., manual

[52] Approved and candidate programs are listed at http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/mammals/inba/surveys/inbaAcousticSoftware.html

[53] The approved acoustic identification programs all have implemented a maximum likelihood estimator (MLE) at this time. If the analysis of collected calls at a given site on a given night results in the probable presence of Indiana bats with high levels of certainty ($P<0.05$), then select one of the options available in Step 6b.

[54] Qualitative analysis of each acoustic site and night with probable detections of Indiana bats during Step 6 should include the entire night's high frequency call data, including "no ID" files, and not just those files making it through the acoustic analysis tools as probable Indiana bats in Step 6.

vetting) must also include and present within a written report a comparison of the results of each acoustic ID program by site and night (see Reporting Requirements below).

a) If no visual confirmation of probable Indiana bats, then no further summer surveys necessary[55].

b) If visual confirmation of probable Indiana bats, then

   i) assume presence of Indiana bats and coordinate with the USFWS FO(s); **OR**
   ii) assume presence and proceed to **Phase 3**.

SUBMISSION OF ACOUSTIC SURVEY RESULTS

NOTE: All originally recorded (ZC or FS) data MUST be maintained for a period of 7 years and be made available to the USFWS FO(s), if requested. Failure to do so may result in invalidation of survey results.

Provide results of acoustic surveys to the appropriate USFWS FO(s) within 10 days of completing the survey unless otherwise agreed upon with the local USFWS FO(s)[56]. Each acoustic survey report should include the following[57] (also, see checklist at end of this appendix):

1. Copy of habitat assessment (if not previously provided)
2. Explanation of any modifications from original survey plan (e.g., altered site locations)[58]
3. Full names of all personnel conducting acoustic surveys, including those that selected acoustic sites and deployed detectors
4. Full name and resume of individual(s) conducting qualitative acoustic analyses (if applicable)
5. Description of acoustic monitoring sites, survey dates, duration of survey, weather conditions, and a summary of findings
6. Table with information on acoustic monitoring and resulting data, including but not limited to: detector GPS coordinates for each detector, survey dates, survey hours
7. Map identifying acoustic detector locations and a corresponding table including the GPS coordinates. Include arrow(s) showing direction(s) of microphone(s)

[55] If you identify any suspected mis-identifications from programs, the Service will share those results with the software manufacturer(s) and the USGS to assist with future improvements and testing of software.
[56] As discussed in the Introduction, we encourage coordination with USFWS FO(s) prior to implementation of any surveys to ensure that all parties agree upon the need for surveys, the methods proposed, and the decisions from various survey results.
[57] In 2016, the USFWS implemented a new standardized approach for reporting of bat survey data. In addition to a traditional written report, federal permit holders are now required to submit their survey data using the standardized permit reporting spreadsheets available on the Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidance webpage (http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/mammals/inba/inbasummersurveyguidance.html).
[58] If the USFWS previously agreed upon the study plan we need to understand whether the revised work still accomplished the agreed upon methods.

8. Photographs documenting the location of each detector, the orientation of the detector, and the intended sampling area. Please include detector and something for scale (e.g., vehicle, person) in photographs of acoustic sites
9. Description of acoustic detector and microphone brand(s) and model(s) used, microphone type, use of weatherproofing, acoustic monitoring equipment settings (e.g., sensitivity, audio division ratios), deployment data (i.e., deployment site, habitat, date, time started, time stopped, orientation), and call analysis methods used
10. A description of how proper functioning of bat detectors was verified
11. Discussion of what software program(s) was/were used (including settings)
12. Acoustic detector log files renamed by site identifier
13. Acoustic analysis software program output/summary results by site by night (i.e., number of calls detected, species composition, MLE results, settings files)
14. Discussion for any site/nights with zero bat calls (were additional nights added? was detector functioning? was placement appropriate?)
15. If manual vetting was used, discussion of how this was done (e.g., what keys were used?)
16. If manual vetting was used, detailed analysis and results of any qualitative acoustic analysis conducted on those projects where a program(s) considered Indiana bat presence likely, including justification for rejecting any program MLE results (if applicable). We recommend providing a table with each species ID from the program(s), suggested species ID from manual vetting, and rationale for any changes.
17. Any other information requested by the local USFWS FO(s) related to the project

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General Checklist for Acoustic Surveys of Indiana Bats

The following items should be documented and clearly presented within acoustic bat survey reports submitted to the Service

.

ACOUSTIC SURVEY INFO

- ☐ Project Name
- ☐ Site ID No./Name
- ☐ State and County
- ☐ Site Lat./Long. Coordinates (e.g., decimal degrees, NAD83)
- ☐ Approx. accuracy of Lat./Long. Coordinates
- ☐ Survey Date(s)
- ☐ Person who Selected Acoustic Site(s)
- ☐ Person who Deployed Detector(s)
- ☐ Detector Brand & Model
- ☐ Microphone Brand & Model
- ☐ Microphone Type: Directional/Hemispherical/Omnidirectional
- ☐ Type of Weatherproofing (if any)
- ☐ Microphone Height above Ground-level Vegetation(m)
- ☐ Distance from Nearest Vegetation or other Obstruction (m)(apart from veg. on ground)
- ☐ Horizontal Orientation of Microphone (1-360°)
- ☐ Vertical Orientation of Microphone (assuming 0° is parallel with horizon)
- ☐ Photographs of Detector Set-up at each Site
- ☐ Detector Settings and/or Log Files (all settings used for each brand/model of detector. For example, sensitivity, gain, data division, 16k high filter, sample rate, min/max duration, min trigger freq., trigger level, etc.)
- ☐ Survey Start Time (military)
- ☐ Survey End Time (military)
- ☐ Methods used to Field-test proper Functioning of Detector
- ☐ Were calls collected in Full Spectrum or Zero Crossing?
- ☐ Habitat Type and/or Feature Surveyed
- ☐ Weather Conditions during Survey Period

ACOUSTIC ANALYSIS INFO

- ☐ Program used to convert Full Spectrum to Zero Cross (if applicable)?
- ☐ Filter(s) used (if any) and parameters used (e.g., CFRead, noise, bug, etc.)
- ☐ Name of Service-approved Bat ID Software Program(s) and Version(s) used and Candidate program(s)(if used)
- ☐ Program Settings (if applicable):
  - o Min. # of pulses for species ID
  - o Min. # of pulses per group ID
  - o Min. discrim. prob. for species ID
  - o Other relevant settings affecting ID
  - o Suite of species/groups included in program analysis
- ☐ Table summarizing Number of Calls ID'd for each Species/Site/Night/Program (including MLE p-values)
- ☐ If Qualitative Analysis was conducted, include Number of Calls Confirmed through Qualitative ID for each Species/Site/Night
- ☐ Full Name of Person(s) who conducted Qualitative Analysis
- ☐ Additional Survey Reporting Requirements
- ☐ Acoustic Report Appendices:
  - o data sheets and maps,
  - o photographs of detector set-ups,
  - o computer screen captures of representative bat species identified during acoustic analyses, and
  - o resume(s) highlighting relevant qualifications of person(s) who conducted qualitative analysis (e.g., experience visually identifying *Myotis*, certificates of training, publications etc.)

APPENDIX D: PHASE 4 RADIO-TRACKING

PERSONNEL

Transmitter Attachment: A qualified biologist[59] who is experienced in handling Indiana bats and attaching radio transmitters must perform transmitter attachments, as further explained in the protocol below.

Tracking: Biological technicians and/or a qualified biologist who is experienced in tracking transmittered bats must be present and actively involved in all tracking activities for Indiana bats as further explained in the protocol below.

METHODS

If one or more Indiana bats are captured, the following radio-tracking protocols will be applicable:

1. Biologists should coordinate in advance with USFWS FO(s) regarding recommendations for the number and distribution of transmitters (e.g., prioritization of sex/age, maximum number per site) and whether foraging data would be beneficial to collect. Also, professional judgment should be used to determine whether attachment of transmitters could compromise the health of a bat. Since the maximum holding times for Indiana bats targeted for radio-tracking is 30 minutes[60], or as allowed in federal and state permits, surveyors should be prepared to place transmitters on bats immediately following their capture to minimize holding times.

2. The radio transmitter, adhesive, and any other markings (e.g., wing bands) should weigh less than 5% of pre-attachment body weight (Aldridge and Brigham 1988, American Society of Mammalogists 1998), the total weight of the package (transmitter and adhesive) may not exceed 6% of the bat's body weight, and must comply with any USFWS and state permits. In all cases, the lightest transmitters capable of the required task should be used, particularly with pregnant females and volant juveniles. With pregnant bats, biologists should always use the lightest transmitter possible but no more than 5% of their expected non-pregnant weight.

3. Proposed radio telemetry equipment (e.g., receivers, antennas, and transmitters) and frequencies should be coordinated with the appropriate state natural resource agency and USFWS FO(s).

4. The qualified biologist or biological technician(s) should track all radio-tagged bats captured to diurnal roosts in accordance with permit requirements. We generally recommend tracking

[59] A qualified biologist is an individual who holds a USFWS Recovery Permit (Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit) for federally-listed bats in the state/region in which they are surveying and/or has been authorized by the appropriate state agency to mist-net for Indiana bats. Several USFWS offices maintain lists of qualified bat surveyors, and if working in one of those states with authorizations in lieu of a Recovery Permits, the individual will either need to be on that list or submit qualifications to receive USFWS approval prior to conducting any field work.
[60] Current standard federal Section 10 bat permit conditions require prior written approval from the Field Supervisor in the USFWS FO(s) if capture times may exceed 30 minutes

until the transmitter fails, fall off, or cannot be located for at least 7 days and should conduct a minimum of 2 evening emergence counts at each identified roost (See Appendix E for Emergence Survey Protocols). However, biologists are encouraged to continue radio-tracking efforts for the life of the transmitter. Biologists should contact the USFWS FO(s) immediately if they plan to cease tracking efforts before the 7-day tracking period ends. If landowner access is denied, approximate roost locations (i.e., coordinates) should be determined using triangulation.

5. Daily radio telemetry searches for roosts must be conducted during daylight hours and should be conducted until the bat(s) is located or for a minimum of 4 hours of ground or 1 hour of aerial-searching effort per tagged bat per day for 7 days. However, multiple bats captured at the same net location or nearby may be tracked simultaneously. Once a signal is detected, tracking should continue until the roost is located. At a minimum, biologists should document all ground and aerial-searching effort for all bats not recovered during radio-tracking for submittal with the survey report. For each roost identified during tracking, the biologist should complete a "USFWS Indiana Bat Roost Datasheet".

6. To minimize potential for disease transmission, any equipment that comes in contact with bats should be kept clean and disinfected, following approved protocols; this is particularly a concern relative to WNS. Protocols are posted at http://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/. Federal and state permits may also have specific equipment restrictions and disinfection requirements.

SUBMISSION OF RADIO-TRACKING RESULTS

Phase 4 radio-tracking results should be included with the Phase 2 or 3 mist-netting report and submitted to the appropriate USFWS FO(s). Each report should include the following information related to radio-tracking efforts[61]:

1. Copy of prior phase reports (if not previously provided)
2. Explanation of any modifications from original survey plan (e.g., number of transmitters used, frequency of transmitters changed)[62]
3. Map and narrative detailing all ground and aerial searching effort for all bats not recovered during radio-tracking and relative to the negotiated or agreed effort as determined by the appropriate USFWS FO(s)
4. Map summarizing Indiana bat data collected from summer surveys for the proposed project (e.g., project area boundary and results from the site habitat assessment, acoustic survey, mist-net survey, radio-tracking, and emergence surveys)
5. Full names and permit numbers of personnel who attached transmitters to Indiana bats and full names of all personnel conducting radio-tracking efforts
6. Photographs of all roosts identified during radio-tracking
7. Legible copies of all original USFWS Indiana Bat Roost Datasheets

[61] In 2016, the USFWS implemented a new standardized approach for reporting of bat survey data. In addition to a traditional written report, federal permit holders are now required to submit their survey data using standardized permit reporting spreadsheets available on the Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidance webpage (http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/mammals/inba/inbasummersurveyguidance.html).
[62] If the USFWS previously agreed upon the study plan we need to understand whether the revised work still accomplished the agreed upon methods.

APPENDIX D: PHASE 4 RADIO-TRACKING

8. Any other information requested by the local USFWS FO(s) where work was conducted

REFERENCES

Aldridge, H., and R.M. Brigham. 1988. Load carrying and maneuverability in an insectivorous bat: a test of the 5% "rule." Journal of Mammalogy 69:379-382.

American Society of Mammalogists. 1998. Guidelines for the capture, handling and care of mammals. Journal of Mammalogy 79:1416-1431.

APPENDIX D: PHASE 4 RADIO-TRACKING

USFWS INDIANA BAT ROOST DATASHEET

Biologists (Full Name):_____ Date:_____

UTM: Zone_____ Easting _____ Northing_____ *OR*

LAT_____ LONG_____

Property Owner:_____ Phone#_____

State_____ County_____ Site #_____

Roost #_____ Roost Name:_____

Roost Tree Data

Species: _____ Live __ Snag __ Other __

(if other, explain) _____

DBH (in or cm)_____ Total Height (ft or m)_____

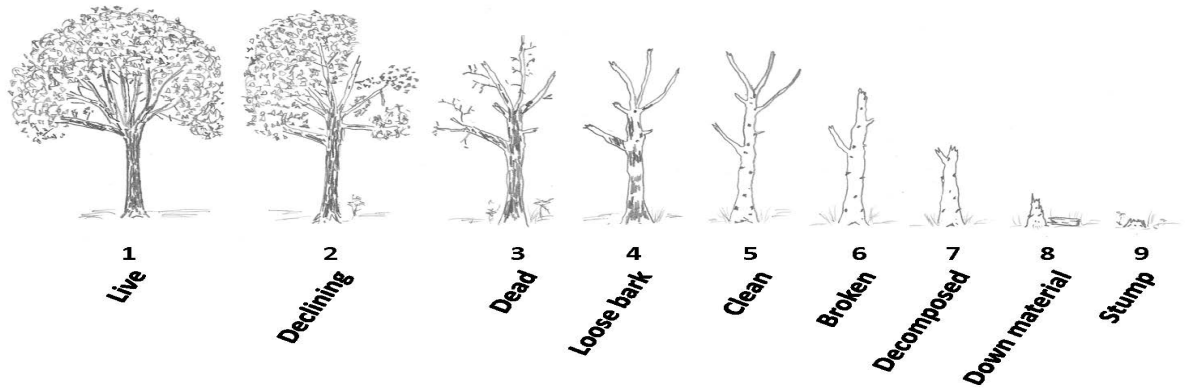
Height of roost area (if known)_____Dist. from capture site_____

Roost position aspect (deg)_____

Exfoliating bark on bole (%)_____ Describe: sloughing __ platy__ tight__

Cavities present? ____ If so, describe:_____

Roost Decay State: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 Other



APPENDIX D: PHASE 4 RADIO-TRACKING

Roost tree or snag canopy position: Dominant __ Co-Dominant __ Suppressed __

Surrounding Habitat Condition

Canopy closure at roost (%) _____

Approximate woodlot size (ac or ha)_____ Distance to non-forest (ft or m)_____

Describe forest/woodlot current condition (mature, partially cut-over, burned, insect damage, etc.)
_____

_____

_____
_____
_____
_____

Additional Comments_____

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APPENDIX E: PHASE 4 EMERGENCE SURVEYS

PERSONNEL

Qualified biologists[63], biological technicians, and any other individuals deemed qualified by a local USFWS FO may conduct emergence surveys for Indiana bats by following the protocols below.

EMERGENCE SURVEYS FOR KNOWN INDIANA BAT ROOSTS

The following protocols should begin as soon as feasible after identification of a diurnal roost (ideally that night):

1. Bat emergence surveys should begin one half hour before sunset[64] and continue until at least one hour after sunset or until it is otherwise too dark to see emerging bats. The surveyor(s) should be positioned so that emerging bats will be silhouetted against the sky as they exit the roost. Tallies of emerging bats should be recorded every few minutes or as natural breaks in bat activity allow. There should be at least one surveyor per roost. Surveyors must be close enough to the roost to observe all exiting bats but not close enough to influence emergence. That is, do not stand directly beneath the roost, do not make noise or carry on a conversation, and minimize use of lights (use a small flashlight or similar to record data, if necessary). Do not shine a light on the roost as this may prevent or delay bats from emerging. Use of an infra-red, night vision, or thermal-imaging video camera or spotting scope is encouraged but not required. Likewise, use of an ultrasonic bat detector may aid in identifying the exact timing of bats emerging and may be used to help differentiate between low- and high-frequency bats species, and therefore, is strongly recommended. If multiple roosts are known within a colony, then simultaneous emergence surveys are encouraged to estimate population size. [NOTE: If a roost cannot be adequately silhouetted, then the local USFWS FO(s) should be contacted to discuss alternative survey methods].

2. Bat activity is affected by weather; therefore emergence surveys should not be conducted when the following conditions exist: (a) temperatures that fall below 50°F (10°C); (b) precipitation, including rain and/or fog, that exceeds 30 minutes or continues intermittently during the survey period; and (c) sustained wind speeds greater than 9 miles/hour (4 meters/second; 3 on Beaufort scale).

3. Surveyors should use the attached (or similar) "Bat Emergence Survey Datasheet".

[63] A qualified biologist is an individual who holds a USFWS Recovery Permit (Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit) for federally-listed bats in the state/region in which they are surveying and/or has been authorized by the appropriate state agency to mist-net for Indiana bats. Several USFWS offices maintain lists of qualified bat surveyors, and if working in one of those states with authorizations in lieu of a Recovery Permits, the individual will either need to be on that list or submit qualifications to receive USFWS approval prior to conducting any field work.

[64] Surveys may need to start a little earlier or later than one half hour before official sunset times (i.e., before "dusk") in some settings such as deep/dark forested valleys or ridge tops, respectively. Sunset tables for the location of survey can be found at: http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/docs/RS_OneYear.php

APPENDIX E: PHASE 4 EMERGENCE SURVEYS

4. Surveyors should also complete an "Indiana Bat Roost Datasheet" for each roost known to be used by one or more Indiana bats (see Appendix D for an example).

5. Completed datasheets should be included in reports prepared for the USFWS.

EMERGENCE SURVEYS FOR POTENTIAL INDIANA BAT ROOSTS

In some limited cases (e.g., individual hazard tree removal during the active season), surveyors may have the option of conducting emergence surveys for individual potential Indiana bat roosts to determine use prior to removal. The following protocol applies to these surveys:

1. Consult with the local USFWS FO(s) to determine whether a tree(s) that needs to be felled/ cleared may be potential roosting habitat for Indiana bats and whether conducting an emergence survey is an appropriate means of avoiding take of Indiana bats[65]. In general, the USFWS only approves of conducting emergence surveys as a means of avoiding direct take of bats for projects that only affect a very small number of potential roosts (e.g., less than or equal to 10)[66] in relatively small project areas. An online directory of USFWS offices is available at: http://www.fws.gov/offices/.

2. If the USFWS FO(s) approves/concurs with Step 1, then follow the emergence guidelines for Emergence Surveys for Known Indiana Bat Roosts (above) to determine if any bats are roosting in the tree(s).

3. At the conclusion of the emergence survey:

    a. If **no** bats were observed emerging from the potential roost(s), then it maybe felled immediately. If safety concerns dictate that a tree cannot be felled immediately (i.e., in the dark), then the tree(s) should be felled as soon as possible after sunrise on the following day. If a tree is not felled during the daytime immediately following an emergence survey, then the survey has to be repeated, because bats may switch roosts on a nightly basis. Immediately after the tree is felled, a visual inspection of the downed tree must be completed to ensure that no bats were present, injured, or killed. The USFWS FO(s) should be contacted immediately, if bats are discovered during this inspection.

    b. If **1 or more** bats (regardless of species, because species identification cannot reliably be made during visual emergence counts alone) are observed emerging from the roost, then it should **not** be felled, and the USFWS FO(s) should be contacted the next working day for further guidance.

[65] If a potential bat roost tree poses an imminent threat to human safety or property, then emergency consultation procedures should be followed as appropriate. (50 CFR §402.05). If a hazard tree does not pose an imminent threat, then the USFWS requests that it be felled during the bat's inactive season (i.e., generally from October – March, but contact the FO for specific dates for your area.) When possible, felling of potential roost/hazard trees should be avoided during the primary maternity period (June – July) to avoid potential adverse effects to non-volant pups.
[66] Areas containing >10 hazard trees will be assessed by the USFWS on a case-by-case basis with the project proponent.

APPENDIX E: PHASE 4 EMERGENCE SURVEYS

SUBMISSION OF EMERGENCE SURVEY RESULTS

Emergence survey results should be included with the mist-netting survey report, unless the survey was completed as an evaluation of potential roosts, and should be submitted to the appropriate USFWS FO(s) for review. Each survey report should include the following information related to emergence survey efforts[67]:

1. Copy of prior phase reports (if not previously provided)
2. Explanation of any modifications from the Phase 4 emergence count study plan (e.g., number of potential roosts surveyed), if applicable
3. Summary of roost emergence data
4. Map identifying location of roost(s) identified during radio-tracking and/or emergence surveys for Indiana bat(s) including GPS coordinates
5. Full names of personnel present during emergence survey efforts and who conducted emergence surveys of roosts
6. Photographs of each identified roost
7. Copies of all "Emergence Survey" and "Indiana Bat Roost" datasheets
8. Any other information requested by the local USFWS FO(s) where work was conducted
9. Copy of the pre-approved site-specific written authorization from USFWS and/or state natural resource agency (if required)

[67] In 2016, the USFWS implemented a new standardized approach for reporting of bat survey data. In addition to a traditional written report, federal permit holders are now required to submit their survey data using standardized permit reporting spreadsheets available on the Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidance webpage (http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/mammals/inba/inbasummersurveyguidance.html).

APPENDIX E: PHASE 4 EMERGENCE SURVEYS

USFWS BAT EMERGENCE SURVEY DATASHEET

Date: _____ Surveyor(s) Full Name:_____

State: _____ County: _____ Project Name: _____

Site Name/#: _____ Roost Name/# _____ Bat #:_____

Lat/Long or UTM of Roost: _____

Description of Roost/Habitat Feature Surveyed: _____

_____

Bat Species Known to be using this Roost/Feature (if not known, leave blank):

_____

Other Suspected Bat Species (explain): _____

Weather Conditions during Survey (temperature, precipitation, wind speed):

_____

Survey Start Time: _____ Time of Sunset: _____ Survey End Time: _____

NOTE: Emergence surveys should begin ½ hour before sunset and continue until at least one hour after sunset or until it is otherwise too dark to see emerging bats. The surveyor(s) should position him or herself so that emerging bats will be silhouetted against the sky as they exit the roost. Tallies of emerging bats should be recorded every few minutes or as natural breaks in bat activity allow. Please ensure that surveyor(s) are close enough to the roost to observe all exiting/returning bats, but not close enough to influence emergence (i.e., do not stand directly beneath the roost and do not make unnecessary noise and/or conversation, and minimize use of lights other than a small flashlight to record data, if necessary). Do not shine a light on the roost tree crevice/cave/mine entrance itself as this may prevent or delay bats from emerging. If available, use of an infra-red, night vision, or thermal-imaging video camera or spotting scope and an ultrasonic bat detector are strongly recommended but not required.

Time	Number of Bats Leaving Roost*	Comments / Notes

APPENDIX E: PHASE 4 EMERGENCE SURVEYS

Site Name/#: _____ Roost Name/#: _____

Time	Number of Bats Leaving Roost*	Comments / Notes
Total Number of Bats Observed Emerging from the Roost/Feature During the Survey:		

* If any bats return to the roost during the survey, then they should be subtracted from the tally.

Describe Emergence: Did bats emerge simultaneously, fly off in the same direction, loiter, circle, disperse, etc. If a radio-tagged bat was roosting in the tree, at what time did it emerge?

_____

_____

_____

APPENDIX F: LINEAR PROJECT GUIDANCE

For linear projects (e.g., pipelines and roadways), surveyors have the option to use either mist nets or acoustic detectors in any given 1-km segment of suitable habitat. A survey site may also cover other associated linear project facilities (e.g., access roads) that are located within a pre-determined distance of each segment. When possible, surveyors should seek out the best available survey sites located within the footprint of the project alignment, and directly adjacent to, or near, the alignment if no suitable sites are available within the footprint. Because the best survey sites for capturing/detecting bats may fall outside of a project footprint, the surveyor and project proponent should coordinate with the appropriate USFWS FO to establish a project-specific maximum distance from the centerline or project boundary prior to initiating surveys.

Tentative survey site locations along linear projects should be included in a proposed study plan to be reviewed and approved by the USFWS FO. Adequate survey effort should be conducted within each approximate 1-km segment that contains suitable forested habitat along the proposed workspace. It is not appropriate to cumulatively add up each habitat block crossed until 1km of habitat has been traversed. Segments along a linear project that do not contain suitable habitat should be skipped until the next patch of suitable habitat is encountered (Figure 3). Establishing exactly how many survey sites are needed for presence/absence surveys along a linear project often involves some give and take particularly in fragmented habitat areas (Figure 3, rows B and C). The final number of survey sites could be greater than the minimum number of sites prescribed in the protocol in order to adequately cover the areas of suitable habitat to be impacted. When available, habitat quality and quantity (e.g., size and location of suitable maternity roost trees) from on-the-ground habitat assessments can be used to fine tune and guide the placement of survey sites. In some marginal habitat areas, the quality and quantity of the existing habitat may be low enough to justify skipping some survey segments (e.g., Figure 3, Site 11). Likewise, some isolated woodlots, fencelines or individual trees may be considered too isolated and/or small to independently support bats and may be skipped if the USFWS FO concurs. Habitat suitability in fragmented areas should be assessed on a site-specific basis and consider habitat configuration and connectivity to other suitable habitat patches. In general, we recommend surveying a few more sites for a project than the absolute minimum required.

In instances where a mist netting survey has been proposed, but no suitable mist net sites can be found or accessed within a particular segment, biologists should contact the USFWS FO for further guidance or ideally agree in advance as to how such situations will be handled when encountered in the field (e.g., an acoustic survey may be substituted). Similarly, if an area of forest habitat that seemed suitable from aerial photography appears to be unsuitable or of particularly low quality upon field inspection, then you should coordinate with the USFWS FO to determine if an area may be exempted from surveys. To avoid problems, any significant departures from previously agreed to survey plans should be justified and coordinated with the USFWS FO prior to leaving the field.

APPENDIX F: LINEAR PROJECT GUIDANCE

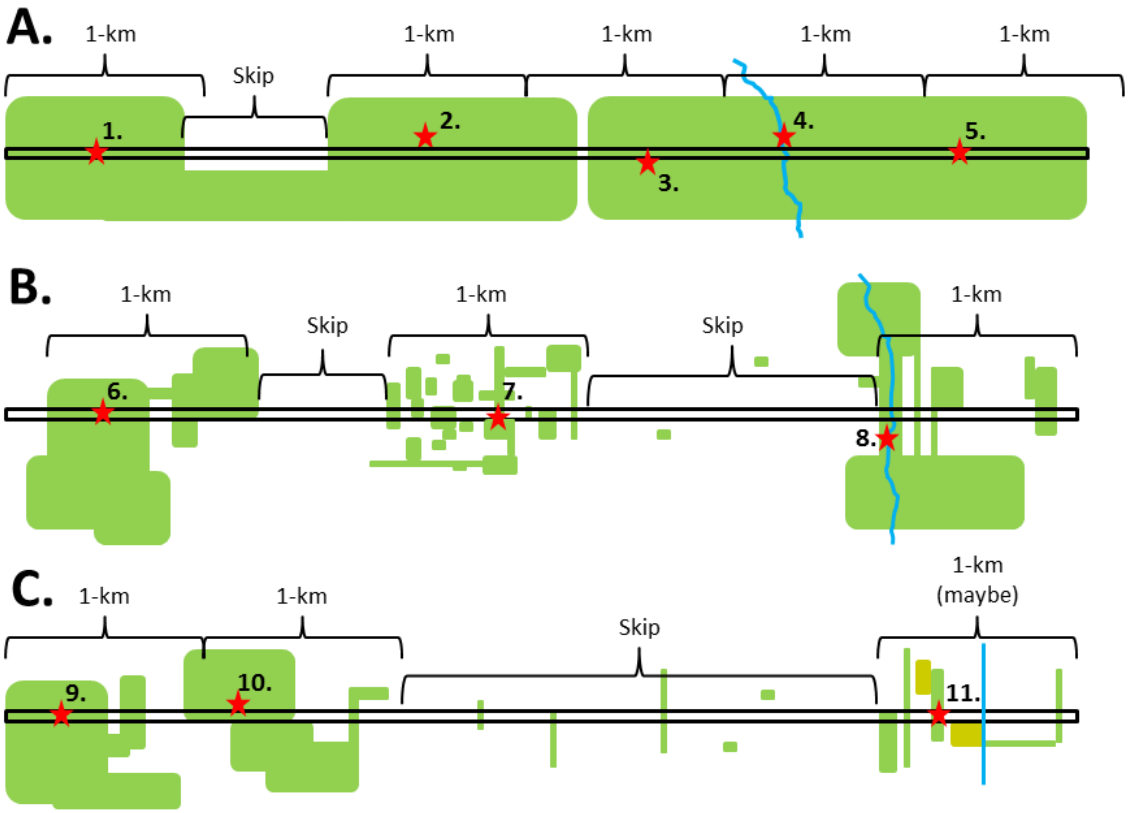


FIGURE 3. Conceptual linear project (black double lines) through relatively contiguous (A.) and fragmented (B. and C.) forested habitats (green patches) delineated into approximate 1-km survey sections. Numbered red stars represent suitable survey sites (1-11) on or near the project boundaries. Blue lines represent natural streams (A. and B.) and a ditch (C.). Yellow-green patches near Site 11 represent low-quality habitat.

APPENDIX G: THE OUTER–TIER GUIDANCE

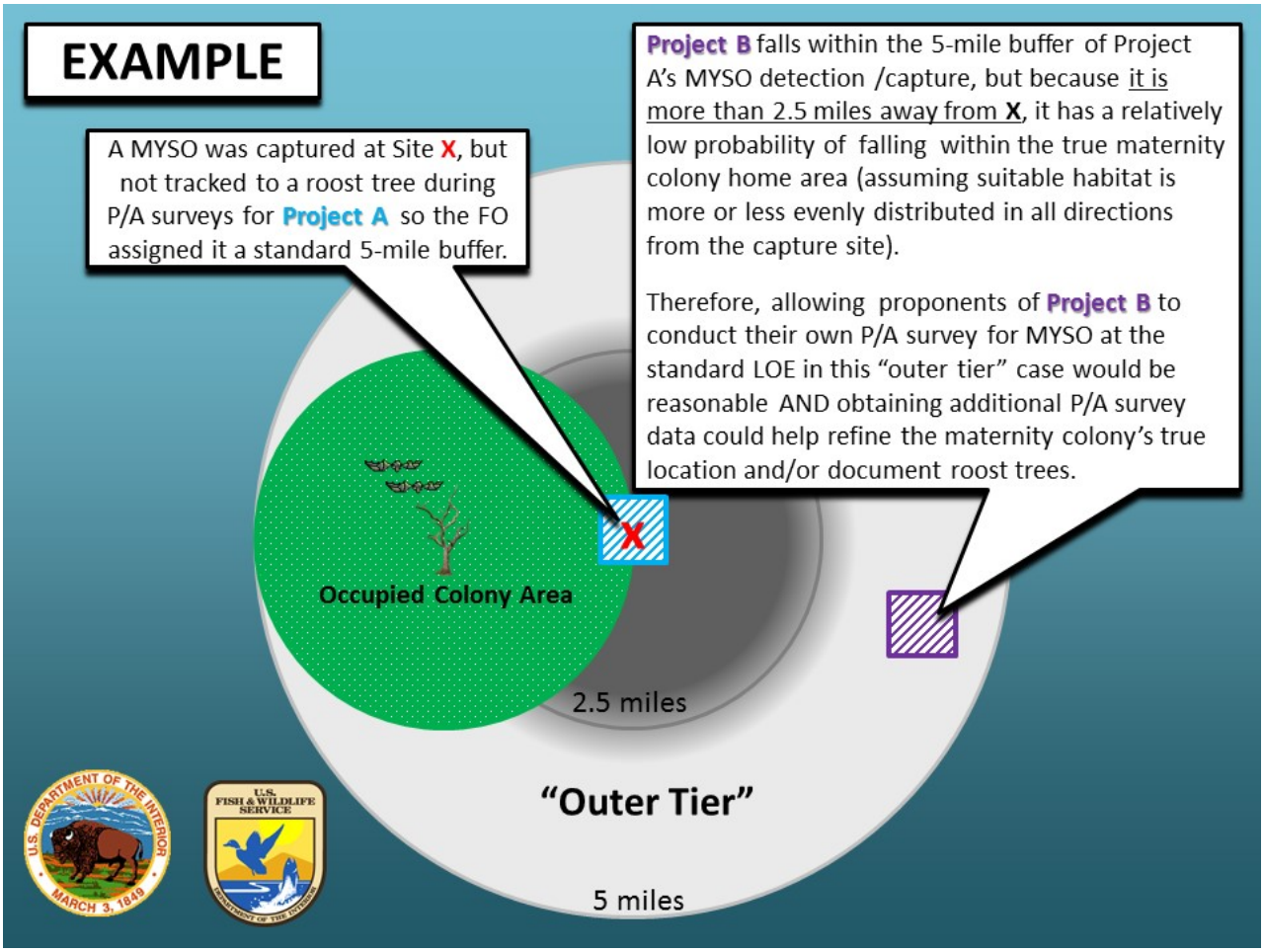
Since early radio-tracking studies in Illinois, it has become standard practice for USFWS FOs to assume that an Indiana bat maternity colony will utilize suitable habitat within approximately 2.5 miles of its primary roost tree(s)/focal roosting area. However, if a reproductive adult female or juvenile Indiana bat is captured (or Indiana bats are acoustically detected), but not radio-tracked to a roost site, then FOs typically assign its capture site a 5-mile conservation buffer and assume that its roost tree is located somewhere within 2.5 miles of the capture site. This approach is further detailed in the Service's Indiana Bat Section 7 and Section 10 Guidance for Wind Energy Projects[68]. **NOTE**: The same principles used for Indiana bat can be used for NLEB pertaining to NLEB capture/ detections having been assigned a 3-mile conservation buffer.

Because a 5-mile buffer encompasses four times more area than a 2.5-mile buffer (50,265 acres vs. 12,566 acres), it is reasonable to assume that only 25% of a 5-mile buffered area is actually occupied by the documented Indiana bat maternity colony at any given time and that 75% remains unoccupied or could be used by members of another as yet undocumented colony(s). Therefore, if a subsequently proposed project is either ≤123 acres in size or affects ≤1% of existing suitable summer habitat within a 5-mile buffer (whichever is greater), but is situated ≥2.5 miles from the original capture/detection site, then it will have a relatively low probability of being within the true maternity colony home range (assuming suitable habitat is more or less evenly distributed in all directions from the capture site). Allowing project proponents of such "outer tier" projects to conduct a P/A survey for Indiana bats using the standard survey level of effort (LOE) (as outlined in Appendix B and C) in such cases is reasonable and the additional survey data would 1) help refine the home range boundaries of the original colony, 2) confirm presence of additional colonies if present, 3) provide additional radio-tracking opportunities /roost tree locations, and 4) provide an option for project proponents to survey instead of always assuming presence. **NOTE**: A FO may decide not to approve an outer-tier survey under the following circumstances: (1) If available forest habitat with a 5-mile buffer is not more-or-less evenly distributed, but rather is highly clumped or restricted to a relatively narrow strip(s) (e.g., a riparian corridor); (2) <10% of a 5-mile buffer contains suitable summer habitat; or (3) other site-specific reasons.

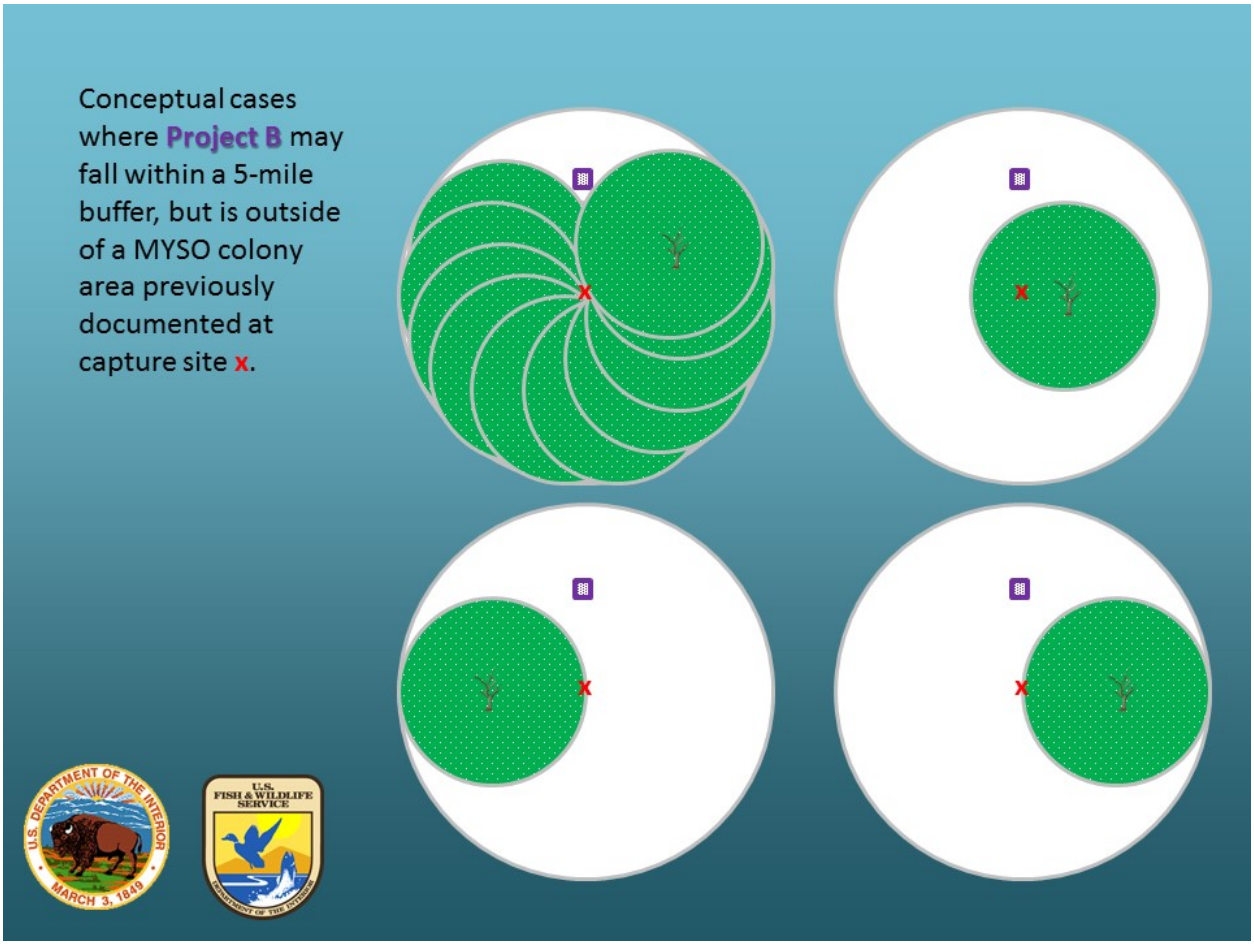
If a project proponent of an "outer-tier" project coordinates with a USFWS FO upfront and conducts a valid summer mist-netting (Appendix B) or acoustic (Appendix C) survey using the appropriate LOE and does not capture/detect an Indiana bat(s), then no Indiana bat-related restrictions will be required for that specific project area. However, all restrictions/assumptions of Indiana bat presence outside of a completed outer-tier project survey area shall remain intact indefinitely within the 5-mile buffer zone or until additional negative survey data or discovery of roost trees indicate adjustments to a buffer are warranted by USFWS. Negative survey results from "outer-tier" projects are valid for 5 years for that particular project area. If an Indiana bat(s) is captured/detected/radio-tracked during the survey, then the project area will be presumed to be occupied, restrictions will remain in place, and the FO will reassess/adjust the original buffer(s) if warranted using the newly acquired bat location data.

[68] https://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/mammals/inba/pdf/inbaS7and10WindGuidanceFinal26Oct2011.pdf

APPENDIX G: THE OUTER–TIER GUIDANCE



APPENDIX G: THE OUTER–TIER GUIDANCE



APPENDIX H: POTENTIAL HIBERNACULUM SURVEY GUIDANCE

Indiana bats have been documented using caves (and their associated sinkholes, fissures, and other karst features), as well as anthropogenic features such as mines and tunnels as winter hibernation habitat (i.e., hibernacula). Project proponents need to evaluate whether any potentially suitable Indiana bat hibernacula exist within a proposed project area. This knowledge will be derived from a variety of sources. The following phased process should be followed to determine presence or probable absence of Indiana bats in potential hibernaculum:

PHASE 1 – INITIAL PROJECT SCREENING

Step 1. Coordinate with the USFWS FO(s) and appropriate state natural resource agencies regarding existing federally listed bat hibernaculum or other occurrence information.

Prior to initiating P/A surveys (Phase 2) of potential Indiana bat hibernacula (as determined by the Phase 1 Habitat Assessment), the USFWS FO(s) and appropriate state natural resource agencies must be contacted to determine if any caves or other underground features have been previously documented as hibernacula or other habitat for federally listed bat species. Any proposed surveys of previously documented hibernacula must be coordinated directly with these agencies to ensure that adverse effects to listed species do not occur because of the survey.

Step 2. Desktop Analysis and Initial Field Reconnaissance.

After coordinating with the FO and appropriate state natural resource agency (when applicable), a desktop analysis and initial field reconnaissance should be completed by individuals with a natural resource degree or equivalent work experience and a solid understanding of karst topography and/or surface features associated with underground mines. These initial assessments can be completed at any time of year.

For all projects, a FO-approved field survey of all land within 0.5 miles of the edge of the project footprint (where access can be obtained) and documentation (e.g., a literature search, maps and information provided by local cave survey groups or grottos, review of aerial photography and topographical maps, previous mining records (if applicable), forest inventories, previous species survey reports, and the work of consultants or other designees) of all known caves and abandoned mines within 3 miles of the outside edge of the project footprint should be conducted. If caves or abandoned mines are found, further detail about the known or estimated underground extent of the cave/mine should be provided to the USFWS FO(s), including minimum and maximum depth of features and where those features are located on a map(s).

In general, underground openings can be deemed unsuitable as a hibernaculum and dismissed from further assessment and surveys if:

a) There is only one horizontal opening, and it is less than 6 inches (15.2 cm) in diameter;
b) Vertical shafts are < 1 foot (0.3 m) in diameter;

c) Passage continues < 50 feet (15.2 m) and terminates with no visible fissures that bats can access;

d) Openings are prone to flooding, collapsed shut and completely sealed, or otherwise are inaccessible to bats; and

e) Openings that have occurred recently (i.e., within the past 12 months) due to human activity or subsidence. (Include written documentation verifying this determination).

The results of initial field assessments should be submitted to the USFWS and State regulatory partners (when applicable) for review and approval prior to proceeding to Step 3. FO-approved results from Step 2 will remain valid for a minimum of five years. **NOTE**: longer time frames may not be appropriate due to cave/mine dynamics.

Step 3. Conduct a Phase 1 Habitat Assessment of Potentially Suitable Hibernacula.

If underground openings are documented during field surveys in Step 2 and cannot be dismissed during initial project screening above, then a qualified biologist[69] will need to conduct a Phase 1 Habitat Assessment to determine whether bats using a potentially suitable hibernacula within a project area could be adversely affected by the proposed project as described below (see Phase 1 Habitat Assessment Sample Data Sheet).

Habitat assessments should include all entrances or openings that will be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed project. This would include those caves (and their associated sinkholes, fissures, and other karst features), as well as anthropogenic features such as mines and tunnels that are within the project site or that are otherwise connected (i.e., by physical passageway, airflow or hydrologically) to any underground feature that will be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed project.

The results of a Phase 1 Habitat Assessment should be submitted to the USFWS and State regulatory partners (when applicable) for review and approval prior to proceeding to Phase 2. FO-approved results from Step 3 will remain valid for a minimum of five years. **NOTE**: longer time frames may not be appropriate due to cave/mine dynamics.

PHASE 2 – PRESENCE/ABSENCE SURVEYS

Surveys to Confirm Use of Suitable Winter Habitat

If suitable winter habitat is discovered as a result of the Phase 1 Habitat Assessment above, do not alter, modify, or otherwise disturb entrances or internal passages of caves, mines, or other entrances to underground voids (potential hibernacula) within the action area before completing a Phase 2 survey. The survey protocols for determining occupancy are detailed below. Some

[69] A qualified biologist is an individual who holds a USFWS Recovery Permit (Federal Fish and Wildlife Permit) for Indiana and/or northern long-eared bats in the state/region in which they are surveying. Alternatively, in States within Region 5 of the USFWS, state agencies assess qualifications and provide authorization to net, handle, and conduct hibernaculum surveys of/for Indiana and/or northern long-eared bats in that State (authorization is only valid in the State that provides the authorization). Several USFWS offices maintain lists of qualified bat surveyors, and if working in one of those states with authorizations in lieu of a Recovery Permits, the individual will either need to be on that list or submit qualifications to receive USFWS approval prior to conducting any field work.

surveys may require modification (or clarification) of these guidelines; therefore, submittal of a study plan and coordination with the USFWS FO(s) and state natural resource agency is necessary prior to initiating suitable winter habitat/hibernacula surveys. Submit results of completed summer and/or winter surveys to the appropriate FO(s) prior to clearing or altering of identified bat habitat. The USFWS FO will review the results of P/A surveys conducted according to these guidelines for the purposes of determining whether Indiana bats are occupying hibernacula in the project area and whether they may be adversely affected by any proposed actions.

WINTER (INTERNAL), FALL, AND SPRING SURVEY PROTOCOLS FOR IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL INDIANA BAT HIBERNACULA

White-nose syndrome (WNS) is a devastating fungal disease that has killed unprecedented numbers of hibernating bats in eastern North America. WNS and/or *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (Pd), the fungus causing the disease has been detected throughout the range of the Indiana bat. Users of this guidance must follow the recommendations provided in the most recent USFWS Cave Advisory[70] as they relate to reducing the potential for humans to disturb hibernating bats or inadvertently transporting Pd to uncontaminated bat habitats. All surveys conducted at caves/mines should be coordinated with the USFWS FO(s) and appropriate state natural resources agencies prior to initiation (see example USFWS Project Proposal Form).

Winter (Internal) Surveys

Working near and within abandoned mines and caves can be inherently dangerous due to a variety of potential hazards (e.g., ceiling collapse and presence of toxic gases)[71]. Therefore, surveyors must thoroughly assess their work sites for any known and potential health and safety hazards and must use appropriate personal protective equipment and take proper precautions to avoid and minimize identified risks. Only sites that are deemed safe should be entered at the surveyor's discretion.

Potential hibernacula that are deemed safe to enter should be entered and all of its accessible passages visually surveyed for the presence of Indiana bats during mid-winter (i.e., beginning January 1st and ending prior to March 1st of the same calendar year (also see Appendix 4 of the USFWS 2007 Indiana Bat Draft Recovery Plan: first revision). **NOTE:** The use of direct internal surveys is not adequate for northern long-eared bats due to the difficulty in visually detecting the species inside hibernacula (i.e., it typically roosts in deep cracks and crevices). Only properly trained and qualified individuals with the appropriate federal and/or state permits and equipment should attempt internal presence/absence surveys for the Indiana bat. If the qualified biologist, who completed the Phase 1 Habitat Assessment, does not have the necessary experience/permits to complete internal survey work, then this portion of the project should be subcontracted to another individual or group that does. If a site is unsafe or too difficult to enter or it is believed that significant portions of the underground system are inaccessible, it should be surveyed using the Fall or Spring emergence survey guidance to determine presence or probable absence of federally listed bat species, including the Indiana bat (also see Sample Data Sheet for Fall or Spring Surveys of Potential Hibernacula).

[70] https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/sites/default/files/files/final-cave_access_advisory_2016_2.pdf.
[71] The Service highly recommends that surveyors seek counsel from an occupational health and safety professional(s) prior to working underground or under other potentially hazardous field conditions.

Fall or Spring Emergence Surveys

1A. Fall surveys of mine/cave entrances must be conducted between September 15 and October 31[72] and prior to any tree clearing by the project applicant. A minimum of one night of harp trap sampling per week for 6 weeks (i.e., 6 nights of sampling) is required at each suitable entrance as determined by the Phase 1 Habitat Assessment. Each night of sampling should be separated by at least one week of the survey window if weather conditions allow it. However, multiple nights of sampling per week can be accepted in the last two weeks of October if forecasted weather conditions require it, at least 3 nights of sampling were completed during the first 3 weeks of the survey period, and the modification is approved by the appropriate USFWS FO(s). Survey effort may be suspended if no bats (of any species) are captured after the first 2 nights of acceptable survey effort in the fall. Surveys of a potential hibernaculum are in addition to any summer P/A surveys that may be required for a proposed project.

OR

1B. Spring surveys of mine/cave entrances must be conducted between April 1 and April 21[73] and prior to any tree clearing by the project applicant. Conducting surveys during the spring emergence is typically more complex than conducting fall surveys due to a greater number of uncontrollable factors (e.g., weather related factors). Thus, a minimum of three nights of harp trap sampling per week for three weeks (i.e., 9 nights of sampling) is required at each suitable entrance as determined by the Phase 1 Habitat Assessment. Due to the need to monitor weather conditions closely, each proposed spring mine/cave survey must be coordinated with the USFWS FO(s) and appropriate state natural resource agencies prior to surveying to ensure that adequate survey results are achieved. Surveys of a potential hibernaculum are in addition to any summer P/A surveys that may be required for a proposed project.

2. Unless otherwise approved by the USFWS FO[74], the capture of an Indiana and/or northern long-eared bat during a fall or spring mine/cave survey requires that the applicant complete three additional nights of sampling per week for three consecutive weeks (9 additional nights LOE) in order to determine the relative significance of the mine(s) and/or cave(s) and their associated underground workings to the Indiana and/or northern long-eared bat. If the mine/cave survey season (i.e., September 15 to October 31 for fall sampling and April 1 to April 21 for spring sampling) ends prior to the completion of the required additional sampling, then sampling must be completed the following fall or spring.

3. Harp traps are the preferred method for sampling entrances as they are less stressful on captured bats. Mist nets can also be deployed along corridors immediately adjacent to the entrance to increase survey effectiveness. Mist nets may also be used at the entrance but only when the mine or cave configurations are not suitable to harp trapping. The use of mist nets must be approved by the USFWS FO(s) and appropriate state natural resource agency prior to

[72] Timing of fall surveys may need adjustment based on location and weather conditions leading up to the survey. Coordination with local USFWS FO(s) and State regulatory partners (when applicable) during development of the study plan/project proposal form is required.
[73] Timing of spring surveys may need adjustment based on location and weather conditions leading up to the survey. Coordination with local USFWS FO(s) and State regulatory partners (when applicable) during development of the study plan/project proposal form is required.
[74] Additional survey effort may not be necessary in cases where a project proponent agrees to modify their project to completely avoid adverse impacts to newly documented hibernacula or the survey was conducted solely to determine if abandoned mine openings can be closed or if bat-friendly gates need to be installed.

initiation of survey. Mist nets should be made of the finest, lowest visibility mesh commercially available. Currently, this is 2-ply, 50-denier nylon (denoted 50/2). The mesh should be approximately 1.5-inch in size. No other specific mist netting hardware is required.

4. Entrances must be entirely enclosed by the survey gear when harp trapping. If mist nets are used, entrances should not be entirely enclosed by the survey gear.

5. All entrances that are potentially inter-connected should be surveyed on the same night. In cases where one team of surveyors cannot feasibly sample all entrances in one night, a modified method could also be used. This method should only be used in situations where the entrances are known to be interconnected. In this modified method, half of the interconnected entrances are surveyed on the first night, and the other half of the entrances are completely blocked using bird-exclusion netting, plastic sheets or other impervious material. On the second night, survey efforts are reversed. Any materials used to block the entrances must be removed each night immediately after conducting the survey. No entrances should be left blocked over-night. Plastics or other materials used to block the entrances should be removed each night immediately after conducting the survey. Entrances that are not connected (e.g., as determined by existing mine maps) do not have to be surveyed simultaneously.

6. The sampling period should begin at sunset and continue for at least 5 hours each night. During this time, harp traps (most preferable method) and/ or mist nets (acceptable method, but less preferable from a bat-handling perspective) should be monitored for captured bats on 30- and 10-minute intervals, respectively, to minimize the number of bats that escape.

7. If captures increase during the survey or if 6 or more bats of any species were captured during the last hour of monitoring, the survey effort must continue until activity declines or fewer than 6 bats are captured per hour. A total of 30 (fall) or 45 (spring) hours of sampling should take place for a mine/cave survey to be approved.

8. Severe weather adversely affects the activity levels of bats. If any of the following weather conditions exist during the fall or spring mine/cave survey, the time and duration of such conditions must be noted on the data sheets and in the survey report, and the survey effort for that night must be repeated: (a) winds sufficiently strong and variable enough to move equipment (i.e., traps or nets) more than 50 percent of the time; and (b) precipitation, including rain and/or fog, that does not stop within 30 minutes or continues intermittently during the survey period; and (c) temperatures that are less than 50° F (10° C) for the first 2 hours, and that drop below 40° F (1.6° C) at any point during the survey.

9. All bats captured during fall or spring surveys must be temporarily marked with a FO-approved non-toxic material that will last for the remainder of the survey period in order to identify any recaptures during subsequent survey nights.

10. If Indiana and/or northern long-eared bats (or other federally listed species) are captured during fall or spring mine/cave surveys, notification to the local USFWS FO is required within 48 hours (or in accordance with permit conditions), and the sex and reproductive condition of the bat and GPS coordinates of the capture site should be provided.

11. A bat detector/roost logger should be on site to monitor general bat activity when trapping or netting. Bat passes should be monitored and tallied hourly. Bat tallies should be reported

along with the time sampled. Report the beginning time and number of bat passes in hour blocks. Analysis of recorded bat calls to attempt species identification should not be completed as these calls are not expected to be foraging calls.

12. Noise, the use of lights, or other potential disturbances should be kept to, at a minimum, no closer than 300 feet (91.4 m) of the sampling site.

13. At least one member of each survey crew must hold, and have in his or her possession, a valid endangered species collection permit issued by USFWS and/or[75] the appropriate state natural resource agency that allows the qualified biologist to collect bats, including federally listed species. All activities must be carried out with strict adherence to permit conditions and authorizations specified in your federal permit, as well as any State authorizations. A qualified biologist(s) must (1) select/approve harp trap/mist-net set-ups, (2) be physically present at each site throughout the survey period, and (3) confirm all bat species identifications. This biologist may oversee other biological technicians and manage set-ups in close proximity to one another as long as the trap/net-check timing (i.e., every 30 min. for harp traps and every 10 min. for mist-nets) can be maintained while walking between sites.

14. All survey efforts must follow the most recent USFWS decontamination protocols regarding WNS.

[75] Surveyors working in States within Region 5 of the USFWS only require a permit from the State where the survey is taking place.

APPENDIX H: POTENTIAL HIBERNACULUM SURVEY GUIDANCE

Phase I Habitat Assessment Sample Data Sheet

Location _____

Observers (include permit numbers) _____

Latitude _____ **Longitude**[76] _____

Date _____ **Time** _____ **Temp (outside)** _____

	Opening #1	Opening #2	Opening #3	Opening #4
Opening Type (e.g., cave, portal, shaft)				
Opening vertical or horizontal				
Opening Size: Height x Width (or Diameter)				
Internal Dimensions: Height x Width				
Slope (up or down from entrance)				
Entrance Stable?				
Direction of Airflow (In or out?)				
Amount of Airflow (e.g., none, slight, heavy)				
Internal air warmer or cooler than outside temp.?				
Evidence of collapse?				
Ceiling Condition				
Amount of water in opening				
Evidence of past flooding?				
Observed length of internal passage				
Distance to nearest water source				
% Canopy Cover at entrance				
Foraging Signs? (e.g., moth wings)				

Are any portals suspected or known to be connected? Which ones?

Any observable side passages?

Additional comments:

Entry of abandoned mine portals, quarries, or caves can be extremely dangerous because of the potential for ceiling collapse and presence of toxic gases. Safety or health problems may occur as a result of entering abandoned mines. The FWS does not authorize or require anyone to enter any potential hibernaculum that is or could be unsafe while implementing surveys. These guidelines do not require any applicant or applicant employee, consultant, lessee, or other such designee to enter into any cave, quarry, or mine portal.

[76] Provide coordinates for each opening.

APPENDIX H: POTENTIAL HIBERNACULUM SURVEY GUIDANCE

Sample Data Sheet for Fall or Spring Surveys of a Potential Hibernaculum

DATE:	TEMPERATURE	Start:	End:
PRECIPITATION*:		WIND*:	
MOONLIGHT:	TIME	Start:	End:
PERSONNEL (include permit numbers):		LOCATION (lat/long):	

Time	Species	Age	Sex	Repro Cond.	RFA (mm)	Mass (g)	Flight Direction (in or out)	Notes and General Comments

***Precipitation and Wind should be measured hourly**
****Repro. Cond (Reproductive Condition): (P) pregnant; (L) lactating; (PL) post-lactating; (NR) non-reproductive, (TD) testes descended**

APPENDIX H: POTENTIAL HIBERNACULUM SURVEY GUIDANCE

USFWS Potential Hibernaculum Project Proposal Form

CONTACT INFORMATION

Permittee Name(s): _____

State Permit # _____ Section 10 USFWS Permit # _____

Institution/Company Name (as on Permit): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Phone #: _____

PROPOSED PROJECT OR ACTIVITY INFORMATION

County: _____ Quad: _____

Project location: latitude: longitude:

(You must include an 8.5" x 11" topo or aerial map with project/activity location and proposed sites identified)

USFWS Project Number (if known): _____

Mining Project ☐ SMCRA Permit Number: _____

Transportation Project ☐ DOT Item Number: _____

Utility Project: _____

AML Project: _____

Other: _____

Acres of suitable Indiana bat habitat within project/activity area: _____

Is the project/activity linear? Yes: ☐ No: ☐

If yes, indicate length of suitable Indiana bat habitat in km (mi): _____

Are caves or portals present? Yes: ☐ No: ☐

METHODOLOGY & SURVEY EFFORT

Coordinates of cave/portal (if multiple, please provide locations on project map): latitude: _____ longitude: _____

Name of cave (if known): _____

Estimated Start Date of Fieldwork: _____

# of Acoustic Activity Nights: _____ Number of Mist Net/Harp Trap Nights: _____

Other _____

_____

_____

_____

_____ _____

Signature **Date**