

NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

FINAL LISTING AS ENDANGERED



J. Scott Altenbach



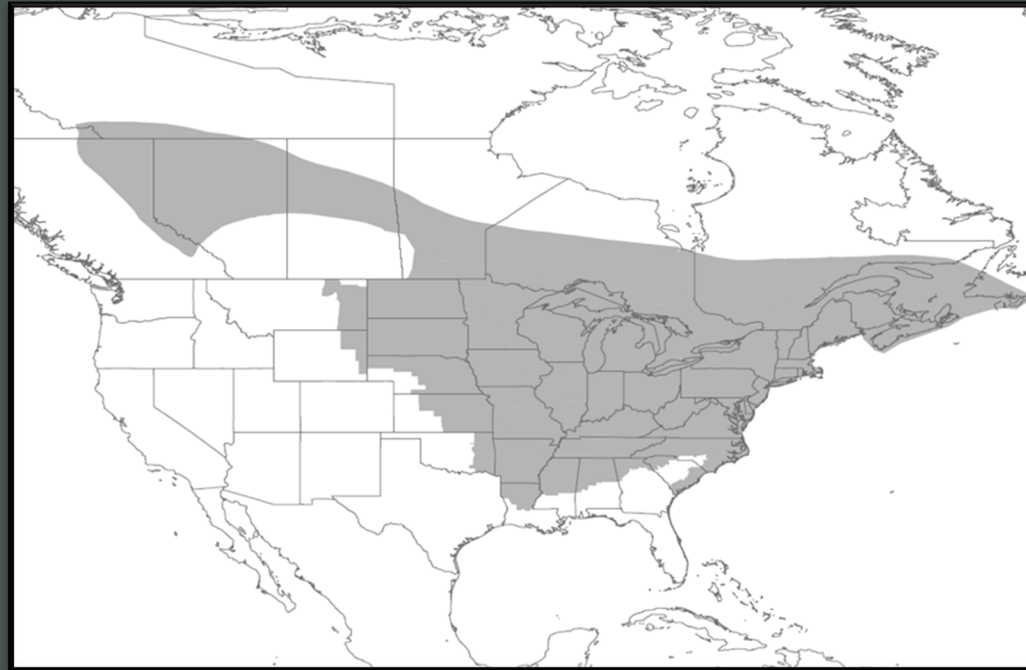
PURPOSE



- Review changes from proposed rule to final rule
- Identify potential effects of status change to stakeholders
- Provide overview of tools available now and those soon available



NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT



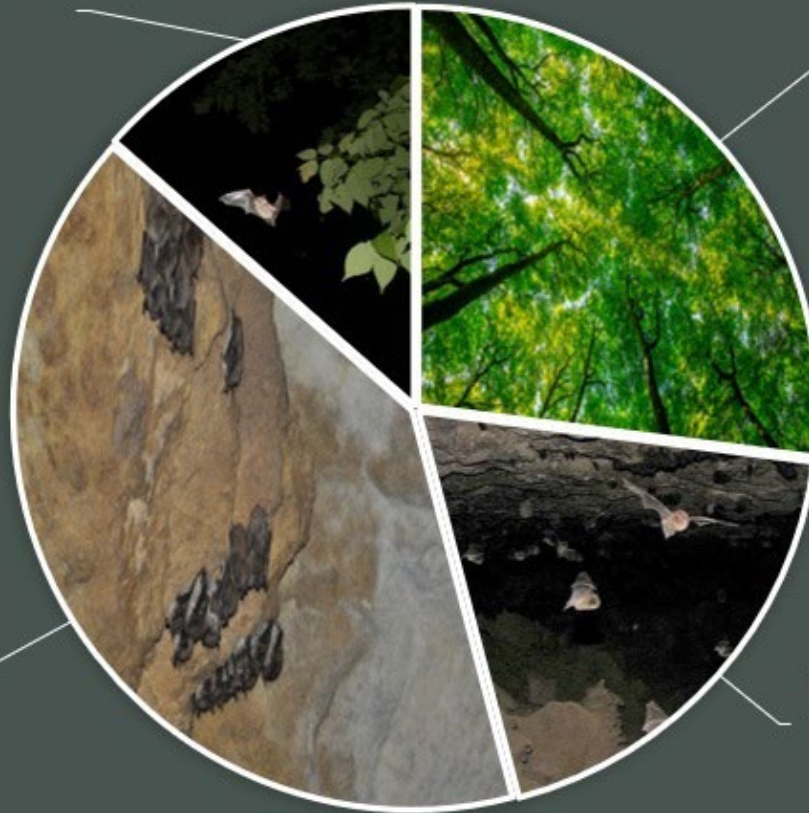
LIFE HISTORY

Spring Staging and Migration

Maternity Season

Hibernation

Fall Migration and Swarming



THREATS AND STATUS



- Species Status Assessment (SSA) informed decision
- White-nose syndrome continues to be primary threat
- Evaluated other threats that have compounding effect
- Ability to recover is limited due to low reproduction rate

Learn more on our [northern long-eared bat species webpage](#)



LISTING TIMELINE



PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Received 48,689 comments
- Considered all comments and made pertinent changes to the rule and SSA report
- Changes:
 - Added list of actions not likely to result in ESA Section 9 violation
- Updated WNS threat spread



FEDERAL ACTIONS

- Species-specific 4(d) rule no longer available when rule effective
- How will proposed federal agency actions previously reviewed under 4(d) rule be affected?
 - Short-term projects still able to use 4(d) rule
 - Streamlined consultation with USFS, FHWA
 - Tools completed by effective date
 - 1) Rangewide NLEB Determination Key
 - 2) Interim (Formal) Consultation Framework



NON-FEDERAL ACTIONS



- How will proposed non-federal actions be affected?
- Wind energy projects no longer exempt from incidental take
 - 22 HCPs in place
- How will forestry landowners be affected?



FOREST LANDOWNERS

- Private forest landowners play important role in bat conservation
- Habitat Conservation Plans
- Not all small acreage tree clearing actions reasonably certain to harm bats
- Risk kept low by implementing conservation measures
- Developing additional guidance to assist landowners in assessing risk to bats



TOOLS

- Rangewide Determination Key
- Interim (Formal) Consultation Framework
- Wind Guidance
- Survey Guidance
- Species Range Map
- Forestry Guidance



RANGEWIDE DETERMINATION KEY

- What is a determination key?
- Online concurrence for some actions
- Will replace current determination key
- Excluded activities:
 - Surveys and monitoring
 - Wind development
 - Projects with significant risk to northern long-eared bats



INTERIM CONSULTATION FRAMEWORK



- Allows for no delay for projects in compliance with 4(d) rule biological opinion
- Facilitates consultation transition from 4(d) rule to endangered status
- Includes conservation measures
- Will apply to:
 - Timber harvest projects
 - Prescribed fire
 - Infrastructure projects

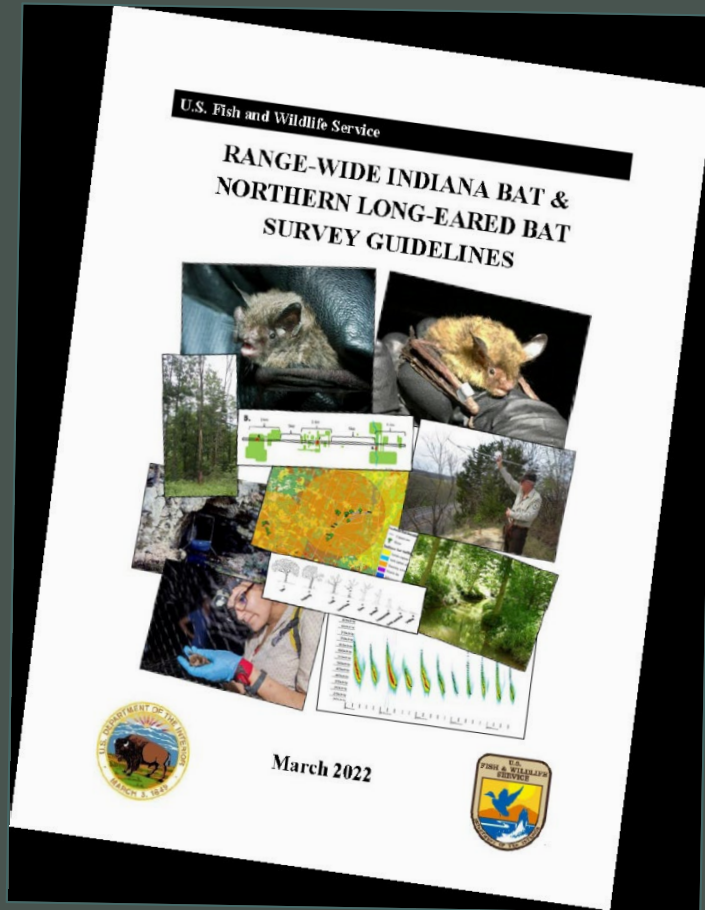


WIND GUIDANCE

- Template Technical Assistance Letter
 - Allows companies to operate and monitor in way take not reasonably certain to occur
 - Guidance and template available by final rule effective date



SURVEY GUIDELINES

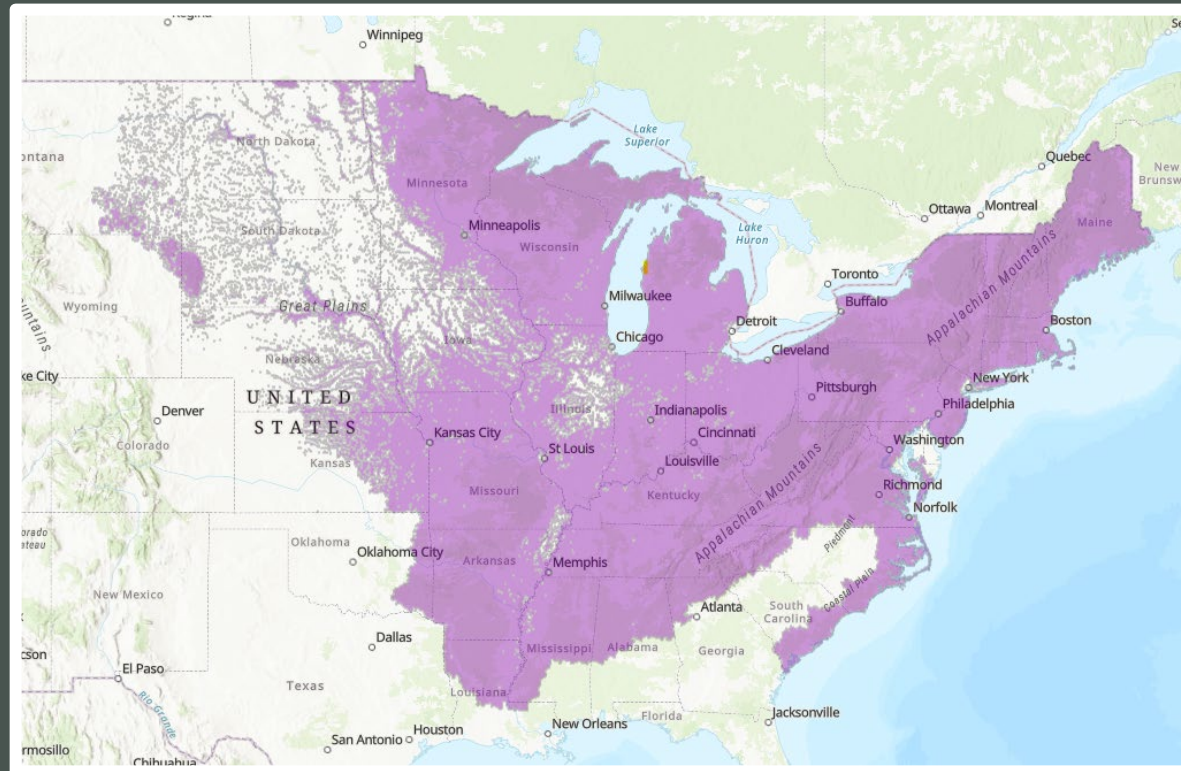


- Updated northern long-eared bat level of effort in 2022
- Survey plan required for acceptance of results

[Access the range-wide Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat survey guidelines](#)



SPECIES RANGE MAP



The new northern long-eared bat species range map can be accessed and downloaded through the Service's Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) [northern long-eared bat webpage](#).



QUESTIONS?



Photo by: Steve Thomas

[For more information go to the northern long-earned bat species webpage](#)

