

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

Programmatic Biological Opinion/Conference Opinion for
Transportation Projects in the Range of the Indiana Bat, Northern Long-
Eared Bat, and Tricolored Bat

**Appendix E: Post Assessment Form for Discovery of Bats at
Bridge, Culvert, or Structure**

Updated December 2024

This form is used to report incidental take of bats that may occur from bridge, culvert, or structure activities. In the Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) [Transportation Agencies] for Transportation Projects in the Range of the Indiana Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat (NLEB), and Tricolored Bat (TCB), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) anticipated that these activities could result in incidental take of the covered bat species in the form of harm or kill at up to 30 bridges, 47 culverts, and 13 structures range-wide in a 12-month period. Construction activities may continue without delay provided the limits of ≤ 5 bats per species per project at 30 bridges, 47 culverts, and 13 structures per 12-month period, range-wide has not been exceeded.¹

If an initial bridge, culvert, or structure bat assessment failed to detect Indiana bat, NLEB, or TCB use or occupancy, yet bats are later detected prior to or during construction, Transportation Agencies and State/local DOTs are required to cease activity that could result in take of covered bats and promptly notify the local Service Field Office within 2 working days of the discovery.

Through coordination with the local Service Field Office, if it is determined that roosting bats have not or will not be disturbed, or ≤ 5 covered bats have been or may be adversely affected, the activity may be included in this programmatic consultation. In such instances, if incidental take occurred, please document the type (i.e. harm or kill) and amount (i.e. number of individuals) and submit documentation to the local Service Field Office within 5 working days from completion of the bridge/culvert or structure construction.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Project Consultation Code: | |
| Project Name: | |
| Project Location: | |
| Name of Observer: | |
| Observer Affiliation: | |

| | |
|--|--|
| Date of Observation: | |
| # Identified as listed species: | |
| # Not identified: | |
| # Harmed: | |
| # Killed: | |

As stated in the PBO, the Transportation Agencies and State/local DOTs will make all reasonable efforts to educate personnel to promptly report any sick, wounded, and/or dead bats (regardless of species) located in the project action area² during construction, operations, maintenance, or monitoring activities to the local Service Field Office. Due to the number of staff/contractors, it is not expected or required to educate all personnel working in the Action Area, but only those who are most likely to observe bats during the course of normal working conditions.

¹ The Service will be reporting the amount of incidental take of Indiana bats, NLEBs, and TCBs at bridges, culverts and structures biannually to monitor the amount exempted Range-wide.

² 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." Further clarification is provided by the national consultation FAQs at: <https://www.fws.gov/glossary/action-area>.

Reinitiation of consultation is required where discretionary federal agency involvement or control over the action has been retained (or is authorized by law) and the amount or extent of incidental take of Indiana bats, NLEBs, or TCBs is exceeded.