



MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

AGENDA

AMENDED

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 10:30am

Meeting Location: 212 River Dr. Wausau WI 54403, Room 5

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the telephone conference beginning ten minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number: 1-408-418-9388 Access code: 2486 581 0409. When you enter the telephone conference, PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!

Park Commission Members -

Commissioners: Dawn Herbst, Jean Maszk, Allen Opall, Rick Seefeldt, Kelly Zagrzebski, Lou Larson, Vacant

Marathon County Mission Statement: *Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)*

Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Mission Statement: *Adaptively manage our park and forest lands for natural resource sustainability while providing healthy recreational opportunities and unique experiences making Marathon County the preferred place to live, work, and play.*

Agenda Items

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comment Period – Not to Exceed 15 Minutes – Any Person Who Wishes to Address the Commission Must Provide, Name, Address and the Topic to the President of the Commission No Later than Five Minutes Before the Start of the Meeting. Topics must be relevant to the Committee’s area of jurisdiction.**
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the February 28, 2023 Park Commission Meeting**
4. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination**
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
 1. None
5. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
 1. Review Lake States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan Information and Summary
 - B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration
 1. None
6. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee**
 - A. **None**
7. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
 - A. Project Update (Trails Closed, DC Everest Restroom, Boat and Camper Storage, Firewood Processing, Parking Lot Repair)
 - B. **Marathon Park Water Project**
8. **Announcements**
 - A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 10:30am, 212 River Dr. Room 5 Wausau, WI 54403
 - B. Future Agenda Items – Big Eau Pleine Special Deer Hunt

9. Adjourn

Signed /s/ Jamie Polley
Presiding Officer or Her
Designee

Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 715-261-1500 or e-mail countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting.

FAXED TO DAILY HERALD

(Email/Fax City Pages, Marshfield News, Midwest Radio Group)

Date March 31, 2023 Time 10:15 a.m. and (12:50 p.m. amended agenda)

By Jodi Luebbe

THIS NOTICE POSTED AT THE COURTHOUSE

Date _____ Time _____

By _____

DRAFT
MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Date and Time of Meeting: February 28, 2023 at 10:30am Location: Room 5 at 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

Park Commissioners present: Dawn Herbst, Lou Larson, Jean Maszk, Allen Opall, Rick Seefeldt-(via webex), Kelly Zagrzebski

Staff present: Jamie Polley-Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director, Andy Sims-Assistant Director-Operations, Joseph Tucker – County Forester

1. Call to Order – Vice-President Herbst called the Park Commission meeting to order at 10:30am. Official notice and the agenda for the meeting was posted publicly in accordance with the State statutes.

2. Public Comment – none brought forward

3. Approval of the Minutes of the January 31, 2023 Park Commission Meeting – **Motion** by Maszk, second by Larson to approve the January 31, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Closeout the Big Eau Pleine Timber Sale Tract #10-22 BEP #2 Sale – Polley explained that the second timber sale in Big Eau Pleine Park has been completed. Tucker described the sale that was done in the west campground area. He recommended closing the sale and returning Twin Forest’s cash bond. **Motion** by Maszk, second by Opall to close out the Big Eau Pleine Timber Sale Tract #10-22 BEP #2 and return Twin Forest’s cash bond. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

2. Closing the Non-Metallic Mining permit for Rib Falls Park – Polley explained that in 2004 the County entered into an agreement with County Materials to mine for gravel on land that will, in the future, become part of Rib Falls Park. The initial agreement was for the mining to be completed in 2008. In 2008 County Materials asked for a change order to mine additional gravel until 2015. County Materials mined the area until 2013 and at that time deemed the remaining material inadequate for their needs. Staff has made contact with County Materials to evaluate the status of the area and the permit. County Materials does not intend to mine the area any further. Per the agreement County Materials is obligated to reclaim the site, grade the beach area and potential future parking area and remediate the slopes. County Materials has agreed to survey the site and complete the required remediation. The Department and County Materials would like to develop a plan to close out the mining permit and reclaim the site so that the park land can be opened to the public and eventually developed further into a park. Polley described the current 26-acre lake area and the work that had been done. County Materials has paid the County for materials they removed and a fund was specifically set up for development of the park. Staff recommends closing the mining permit and moving forward with the planning process of the park. The other option if Commission wants more materials taken out, would be to put the project back out for bid and end the contract with County Materials. If no one wants the material the County would have to pay to take the material out. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Larson, second by Opall move ahead with the first option and reclaim the property as it exists. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

3. Prioritization of Improvement Identified in Westside Master Plan – Polley reported the masterplan was approved at the last County Board meeting. Park Commission was asked to review the items identified within the plan, review the proposed timeline for projects and develop a prioritization of the projects. Each project within the plan will need further research and design prior to identifying costs. Prioritizing the projects identified within each year will assist staff in developing capital improvement requests, meeting with stakeholders and seeking alternative funding options. The items included in the 2023 to 2025 timeline are East Gate Hall improvements, utility upgrades, splashpad and playground replacement, campus residential redevelopment, and multipurpose feasibility planning. East Gate Hall improvements are a high priority because this building is a revenue source and updates to it aren’t contingent on anything else. The utility upgrade is scheduled to be done. The splashpad and playground replacement will require some planning of their placement. The Campus residential redevelopment will be worked on by other committees. Polley said the idea of the multipurpose feasibility planning is because the ice arena is failing and has been fixed constantly for many years. There are some major high-priced items that will have to be done to the building

if they want to keep it going. Before they consider building anything, discussions will have to take place with all the user groups about what is needed and return on investment calculations will be done. After all the information is gathered, funding for a consultant to help design a building would give a cost estimate which can then be used to seek private/public partnerships. Discussion followed about the ice rink. Members thought that updating East Gate Hall was the highest priority and then starting to work on planning for some of the other items. Polley explained that a decision will have to be made whether a water lateral should still run to the current splashpad because laterals will be put in to feed the new splashpad and restroom facility. More planning for the splashpad/playground restroom/Junction building is needed. Polley said the hope in making Marathon Park more attractive and family oriented is so everyone in the entire County will come and spend more time there. Staff will start work on putting cost estimates together for the Capital Improvement projects and work on the planning items as well. The masterplan will be brought back periodically as items are being worked on.

5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee - None

B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration – None

6. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee

A. None

7. Educational Presentation/Outcome Monitoring Reports for Discussion

A. Project Update – Marathon Park Water Project – Specifications and bidding documents have been completed and advertisement for bids will be published in the first week of March. Bids will be returned and opened on March 28. The bidding will consist of two options and a deduct alternate for each option if the timeline of the project is adjusted. Nine Mile operations – heated garage upgrade is complete until spring/summer when we will do the door and drains, skiing has been rejuvenated by the snow. Cyclones – last game was 2/25. Rink 2 ice will be taken out soon. Bluegill Bay docks – dock rebuilds are underway. Snow removal – snow removal and other routine operations are underway.

8. Announcements

A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location–Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 10:30am, 212 River Drive, Room 5, Wausau, WI 54403 or webex.

B. Future Agenda Items – Future discussion on Big Eau Pleine Special Deer Hunt

9. Adjourn - Motion by Maszk, second by Larson to adjourn the meeting at 11:45pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

AGENDA SUMMARY

5A1. Discussion and Possible Action to Review Lake States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan Information and Summary

The Northern Long Eared bat (because of white nose syndrome) will be listed as federally endangered on March 31 and WCFA has been working with DNR on how to continue to manage (harvest) our forests. Attached is the summary provided by DNR that includes the Counties covered activities under the permit and responsibilities. Signing on to the Lake States Bat Conservation Plan, (HCP) is not a requirement, but it is an easy way to receive incidental take coverage and be sure Marathon County Forest is in compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act with respect to federally listed bat species. Staff has been working with Sarah Herrick (DNR) and she advised that the County Park lands could also be enrolled so they are covered since we do management on them as well. Staff plans to enroll the Parks and Forests on the same application. As the application and or resolution becomes available staff will bring this item back to the Parks Commission and Forestry/Recreation Committee for approval.

6A. Marathon Park Water Project

Bids were returned and opened on March 28. The bidding consisted of the base bid to complete the watermain and laterals in the spring/summer of 2023. In addition, there were five alternates including the pavement work, cost of doing the work in the fall, looping the watermain to Stewart Ave, site restoration, and installing the lateral to the splashpad. The County received five bids. The budget approved for the work is \$950,000. Staff and our consultant are still finalizing the bid tab and will have the final information available at the committee meeting. Action will only be needed if additional funding is requested. At this time additional funding is not anticipated.

7A. Project Update

- All trails are closed until after May 15 and conditions allow.
- Replacement restroom purchased for D.C. Everest Park. This will be a plumbed restroom replacing the existing vault restroom.
- Boat and camper pickup begins soon.
- Firewood processing, hauling, stacking is complete for the season.
- Grading and cleanup of parking lots



Image Details (/media/49/116)

Effective date to reclassify northern long-eared bat as endangered extended

PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service extends effective date to reclassify northern long-eared bat as endangered

Jan 25, 2023

Media Contacts

Georgia Parham (/staff-profile/georgia-parham)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is delaying the effective date of the final rule to reclassify the northern long-eared bat from threatened to endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The agency is extending the effective date by 60 days, from Jan. 30, 2023, to March 31, 2023.

The extension will allow the Service to finalize conservation tools and guidance to avoid confusion and disruption for landowners, federal partners and industry with projects occurring in suitable habitats within the northern long-eared bat's 37-state range.

The Service remains committed to working proactively with stakeholders to conserve and recover northern long-eared bats while reducing impacts to landowners, where possible and practicable. We recognize reclassification of the northern long-eared bat has resulted in questions and concerns regarding compliance under the Endangered Species Act for timber harvest, habitat management, development and other projects. A delay in the effective date provides stakeholders time to preview newly developed guidance and management tools before the rule goes into effect.

The rule reclassifying the northern long-eared bat from threatened to endangered was published in the *Federal Register* Nov. 30, 2022; the bat remains protected as a threatened species with a 4(d) rule until the reclassification becomes effective on March 31. The northern long-eared bat was listed as threatened in 2015. It now faces extinction due to the range-wide impacts of white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease affecting hibernating bats across North America.

To assist forestry, wind energy, infrastructure and other project managers in the range of the northern long-eared bat, the Service is developing a suite of tools to provide guidance and to streamline processes for projects under the Endangered Species Act. We intend to provide these tools in early March. Once available, users can preview the tools through the agency's northern long-eared bat website.

The Service is not accepting public comment on the extension. A Federal Register notice extending the effective date of the final reclassification for the northern long-eared bat will publish on Jan. 26, 2023 under Docket No. FWS-R3-ES-2021-0140.

The northern long-eared bat is found in 37 states in the eastern and north-central United States, the District of Columbia, and all Canadian provinces from the Atlantic coast west to the southern Northwest Territories and eastern British Columbia. These bats mostly spend the winter hibernating in caves and abandoned mines. During summer, northern long-eared bats roost alone or in small colonies underneath bark or in cavities or crevices of both live and dead trees. They emerge at dusk to fly primarily through the understory of forested areas, feeding on insects. Data indicate that white-nose syndrome has caused estimated declines of 97 to 100% in affected northern long-eared bat populations.

[Learn more about the northern long-eared bat, the threat of white-nose syndrome and how the Service is helping \(https://www.fws.gov/species/northern-long-eared-bat-myotis-septentrionalis\).](https://www.fws.gov/species/northern-long-eared-bat-myotis-septentrionalis)

Lake States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan Summary

January 2023

Background

- Populations of cave hibernating bats in precipitous decline due to a white-nose syndrome.
 - WNS discovered in WI in 2014 and is now widespread in all known hibernacula.
- When USFWS listed the NLEB as Threatened in 2015 they specifically identified forest management as a potential source of take for the species.
 - During the summer these species utilize trees for maternity colonies and day roosts and they forage in forested areas.
- NLEB, Tri-colored bat and possibly LBB will be listed as endangered due the impacts of WNS, and any take of an endangered species is prohibited, WI will need an incidental take permit to continue forest management activities.
- WI, MI, MN are jointly developing the Lake States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan to obtain a federal Incidental Take Permit under ESA section 10 requesting authorization for the incidental take of bats during forest management activities.
- Permit expected to be issued January 2023.

Covered Species:

- Northern Long-eared Bat
 - Federally endangered as of 3/31/2023
- Tri-colored Bat
 - Federal listing expected in 2023
- Little Brown Bat
 - Under review for federal listing by USFWS

Covered Activities and Required Conservation Actions:

- Timber harvest and related forest practices:
 - Implement state retention guidelines.
 - 150 ft year-round buffer around known maternity roost trees.
 - 0.25 mile buffer around known hibernacula entrances.
 - No harvest except where objective is improving habitat for bats.
- Prescribed fire:
 - Ensure wind will carry smoke away from the entrance(s) of hibernacula.
 - Prohibit prescribed burns within 150 feet of known occupied maternity roost trees during pup season (June 1–July 31).
 - Reduce fire intensity within 0.25 miles of hibernacula entrances during spring and fall.
- Maintenance of existing permanent forestry roads and recreational trails on public lands:
 - Refers to maintenance that requires tree cutting on permanent roads maintained by WI DNR or County Forests (not DOT roads).
 - Remove trees from October 1 to March 1 within 150 feet of a known maternity roost.

- Remove trees from October 15 to March 31 or from May 15 to August 15 within 2.5 miles of a known hibernaculum.
- Removal of hazard trees always allowed.
- Construction of new permanent forestry roads and recreational trails on public lands:
 - Refers to permanent roads maintained by WI DNR or County Forests for the purpose of supporting land management and public recreation (not DOT roads).
 - Temporary roads built to support a specific management project and then closed are covered as a forestry practice.
 - No removal of large-diameter trees (i.e., 9 inches dbh) during pup season (June 1 – July 31).
 - No new roads and trails within 150 feet of a known occupied maternity roost tree.
 - No new roads or trails within 0.25 miles of a known hibernaculum entrance year round.
 - Remove trees from October 15 to March 31 or from May 15 to August 15 within 2.5 miles of a known hibernaculum.
- Other conservation strategies:
 - Bat management zones on state lands:
 - Protected areas, no management June 1 to July 31
 - Already designated as protected wilderness areas, wild river areas, old growth areas, wild areas in WISFIRS
 - Maintain hibernacula entrances on DNR lands:
 - Gates, remove obstructions
 - Provide a way for other landowners to receive take authorization through the HCP.

Landowner Enrollment Program:

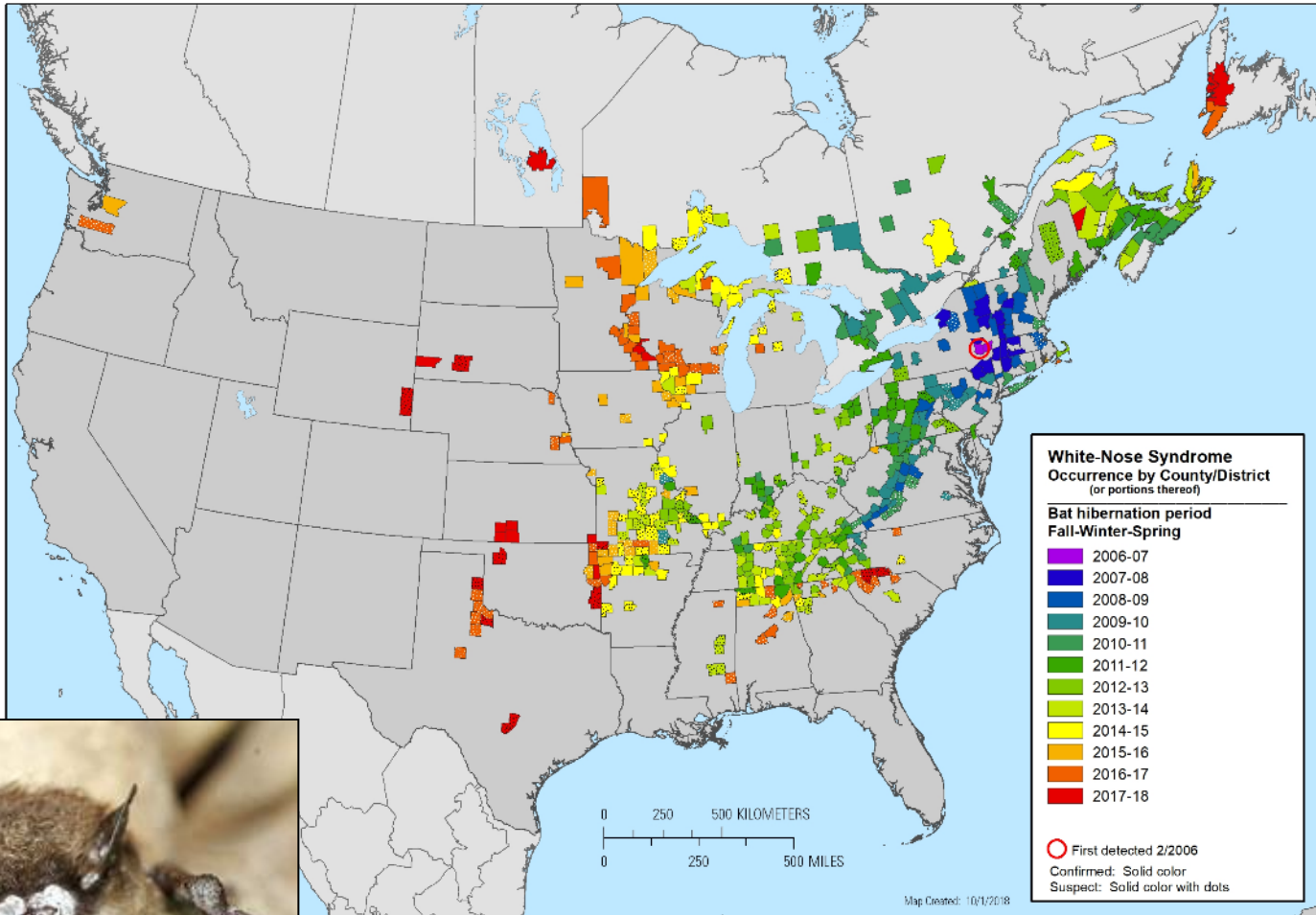
- Landowners who meet certain criteria can receive incidental take coverage by joining WDNR's permit.
- All County Forests are eligible.
- Acreage threshold for private landowners:
 - 10,000 acres for NLEB and TCB.
 - 500 acres for LBB (if LBB is ever listed as endangered).
 - Below these thresholds risk of taking bats during management is extremely low/insignificant.
- Applicant owns lands (of any size) containing a known roost or known hibernaculum entrance.
- LEP application and agreement are in development.
- Goal to have eligible landowners enrolled by end of March 2023.
- WI DNR has hired a Bat HCP Coordinator to help guide staff and partners through the process and handle annual reporting requirements.

Lakes States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan Update

A close-up photograph of a bat peering out from a hole in a rock. The bat's face, including its large ears and small mouth, is visible as it looks towards the camera. The rock is a light brown color with a rough, textured surface.

Sarah Herrick
NHC Forestry Liaison
Sarah.Herrick@wisconsin.gov
608-712-7305

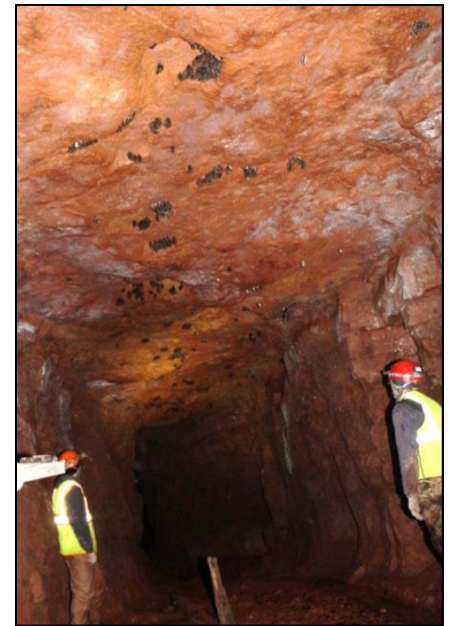
White-nose Syndrome



by year (2018). Data Last Updated: 10/1/2018. Available at: <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/resources/map>.



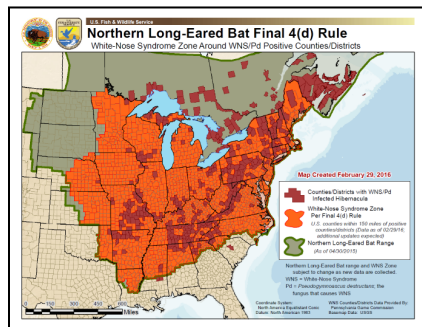
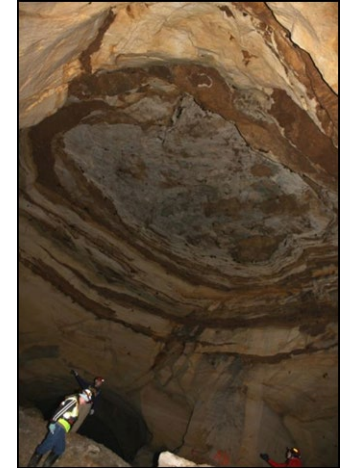
- Populations of cave hibernating bats in precipitous decline due to a white-nose syndrome.
 - WNS present in all counties with hibernacula
 - Declines of 30% to 100% in hibernacula where WNS is present.
- NLEB and Tri-colored bat proposed for Endangered listing. LBB being reviewed for listing by FWS.



Final 4d Rule

For areas of the country impacted by WNS (i.e., areas inside the WNS zone), all take is prohibited under the following circumstances:

- All take within hibernacula prohibited
- Tree removal restrictions (all take prohibited)
 - 0.25 miles from hibernaculum (any time)
 - 150 ft. from known maternity roost trees (June 1 – July 31)



Lake States Forest Management Bat HCP

- WI, MI, MN are jointly developing the Bat HCP
- Purpose: Obtain a federal ITP under ESA section 10 requesting authorization for the incidental take of bats during forest management activities.
- Public draft out for public comment until 9/28.

Bats and Forest Management

- During the summer these species:
 - Utilize trees for maternity colonies and day roosts
 - Forage in forested areas
- FWS identified forest management as a potential source of take in the Biological Opinion published with the final 4d rule.
- Any take of endangered species is prohibited.

Covered Species

- Northern Long-eared Bat
 - Federally threatened species 2015
 - Updated listing expected by the end of 2022
- Little Brown Bat
 - FWS currently reviewing status and will make a listing decision in the 2023
- Tri-colored bat (eastern pipistrelle)
 - FWS proposed listing as Endangered
- Indiana Bat (MI only)
 - Federally endangered species



Covered Activities

- Timber harvest and related forest practices.
- Prescribed fire
- Forestry road and recreational trail construction & maintenance on State and County lands.



Forest Management Projects:

- Implement state retention guidelines.
- 150 ft year-round buffer around known maternity roost trees.
- 0.25 mile buffer around known hibernacula entrances.
 - No harvest except where objective is improving habitat for bats.

Maintenance of existing permanent roads and trails on public lands:

- Refers to maintenance that requires tree cutting.
- Remove trees from October 1 to March 1 within 150 feet of a known maternity roost.
- Remove trees from October 15 to March 31 or from May 15 to August 15 within 2.5 miles of a known hibernaculum.
- Removal of hazard trees always allowed.

Construction of new permanent roads and trails on public lands:

- No removal of large-diameter trees (i.e., 9 inches dbh) during pup season (June 1 – July 31).
- No new roads and trails within 150 feet of a known occupied maternity roost tree.
- No new roads or trails within 0.25 miles of a known hibernaculum entrance year round.
- Remove trees from October 15 to March 31 or from May 15 to August 15 within 2.5 miles of a known hibernaculum.

Roads and Trails on Private Lands:

- Permanent roads and recreational trails on private lands are not addressed in this HCP.
- Roads and trails associated with timber harvest are covered as a forestry activity.
 - Avoid 150 ft buffer around known roosts
 - Avoid 0.25 mile buffer around hibernacula entrances.

Prescribed Burning:

Incorporate the following minimization measures into burn plans:

- Ensure wind will carry smoke away from the entrance(s) of hibernacula.
- Prohibit prescribed burns within 150 feet of known occupied maternity roost trees during pup season (June 1–July 31).
- Reduce fire intensity within 0.25 miles of hibernacula entrances during spring and fall.

Other Conservation Strategies:

- Maintain forests as forests
- Bat management zones on state lands
 - Protected areas, no management in June and July
 - Designated wilderness areas, wild river areas, old growth areas, wild areas (WISFIRS)
- Maintain hibernacula entrances on DNR lands:
 - Gates, remove obstructions
- Provide a way for other landowners to receive take authorization through the HCP.

Landowner Enrollment Program

- Landowners who meet certain criteria can receive incidental take coverage by joining WDNR's permit.
- The risk of taking covered bats on most individual parcels is extremely low, especially those with smaller parcels with little or no risk of take.
- DNRs do not have the capacity to administer a landowner program with unlimited eligibility.

LEP Criteria:

- All County Forests are eligible
- Applicant owns forestland greater than 500 acres in one state, or
- Applicant owns lands (of any size) containing a known roost or known hibernaculum entrance

LEP Conservation Actions:

- Implement State DNR Retention Guidelines in Forest Habitat
- Protect Known Roost Trees
- Protect Known Hibernacula
- Prepare and Implement Prescribed Burn Plans in Forest Habitat

NHC Updates



US-FWS Species Listing Workplan

FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
northern long-eared bat tricolored bat	little brown bat salamander mussel regal fritillary	lake sturgeon wood turtle Blanding's turtle	frosted elfin	golden-winged warbler

- NLEB and Tri-Colored Bat will be listed as endangered
- SSAs for Wood Turtle and Blanding's Turtle are underway now
 - Early stages, opportunities for input

RAWA

- Primary objective is to manage species and avoid future listings at the state or federal level.
- Increased funding for wildlife management projects (SGCN).

Collaboration

- NHC and Jackson County Forest have co-managed the Bauer Brockway Barrens SNA for 15 plus years focusing on the KBB and other rare barrens plants and animals.
 - Management of the site to date includes invasive species control, prescribed fire, and timber harvesting all to benefit rare habitat and associated species.
- NHC and Bayfield County Forest are partnering to protect and improve Connecticut warbler habitat. Removing brush on stands of suitable jack pine. To open the understory and enhance growth of blueberry and other ground cover, both mimicking natural conditions the species prefers.

Thank You

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