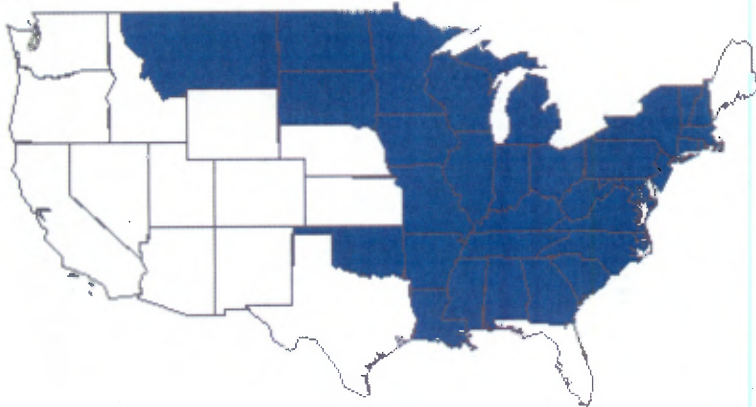


## Northern Long-Eared Bat – Range-wide Survey Results June 20, 2014

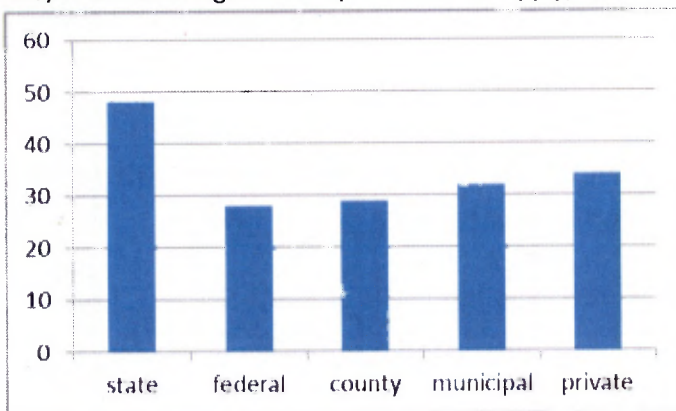
### 1. Participation

Surveys were completed by at least one representative from 32 states in the bat's range.



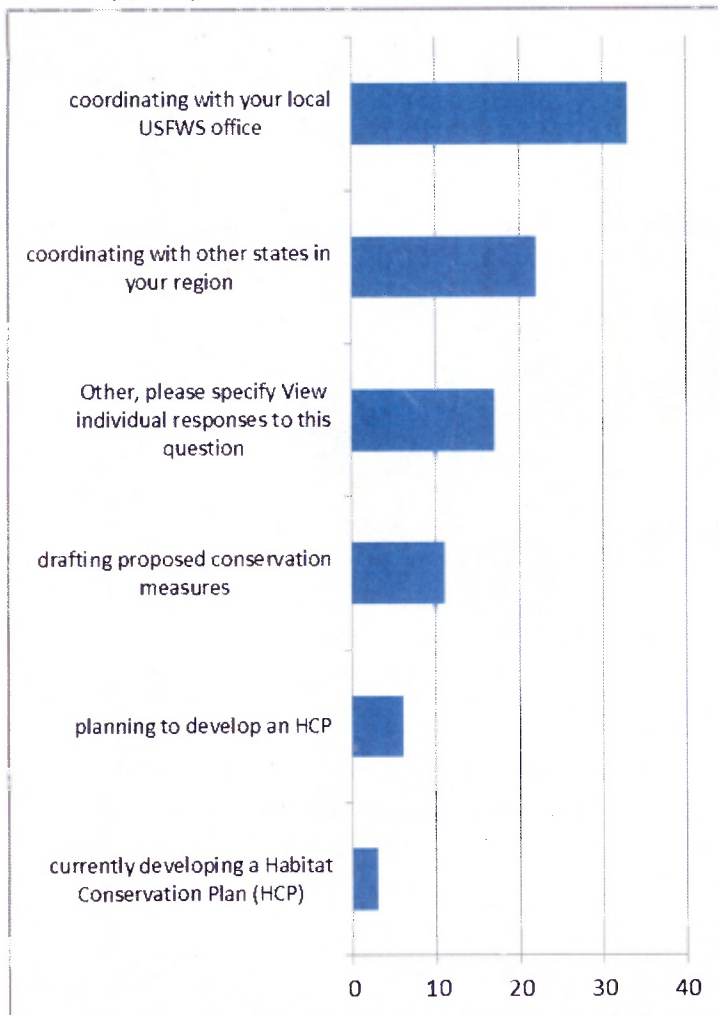
Input is still needed from the following: Delaware, District of Columbia, Kansas, Maine, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Florida (note: FL was included by USFWS, but the current bat range map used by USFWS does not extend into Florida, so they were not sent the survey).

### 2. Question: For which of the following ownership categories does your state provide review and/or avoidance guidance? (check all that apply)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Note: results for this and other data summaries include two states that are outside of NLEB range. They have been omitted for the individual open-ended summaries

3. What steps has your agency taken to address your concerns? (check all that apply)

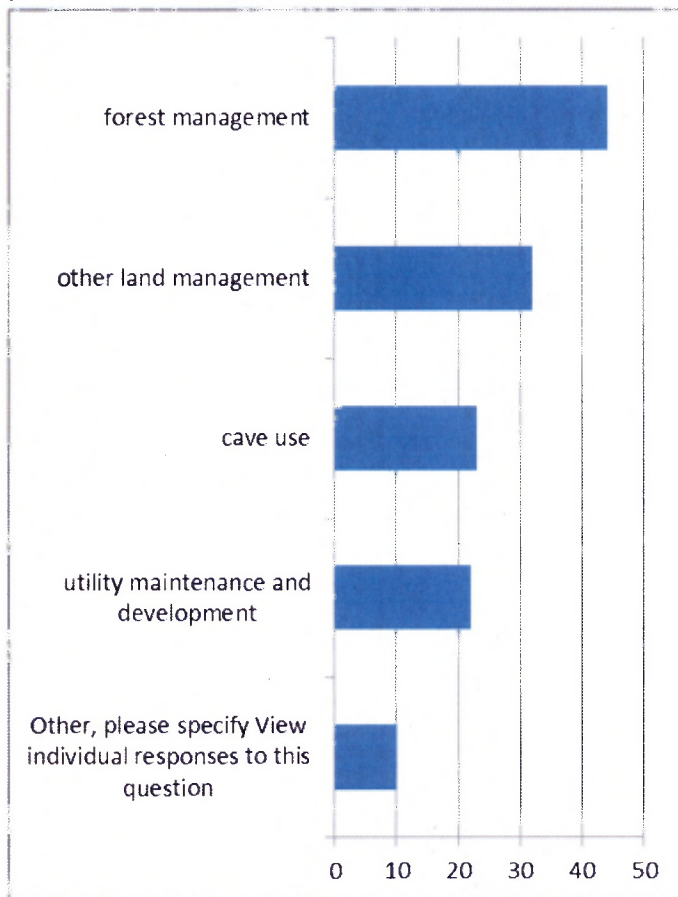


“Other” responses:

- NH - Acoustical surveys
- IL - considering an HCP
- NJ - considering HCP and/or Incidental take statement in programmatic Section 7 BA
- MA - Coordination with State Natural Heritage
- SC - developed a Forest Action Plan
- MT - Information gathering regarding distribution of the species, risk factors and applicable mitigations.
- RI - None at this time
- MS - None. NLE bats are seldom found in MS
- SD - Reviewing the federal documents.
- GA - Sent comments to USFWS regarding potential listing
- MD - University of MD to address research needs

- MO - We are updating our existing internal guidelines for Indiana bats and forest management along with guidance in our Bat Management Plan to include northern long-eared bats, if/when it is listed. See additional comments.
- ND - We do not have anything specific to Long-eared bat but are developing a bat conservation plan
- OK - We only recently became aware of the possible listing and likely impacts on forest management practices.
- NC - Wildlife Action Plan

4. Question: For which of the following activities does your state wish to provide input for the purposes of drafting potential conservation measures?



Other" responses:

- OH - all development projects, mitigation
- IN - cave use
- MS - I'm happy to help any way I can but
- NJ - land use permitting
- VA - Prescribed Fire

- VT - trail/recreation impacts
- RI - Unsure at this time
- PA - Unsure at this time due to current HCP development
- SD - wind energy development
- NC - Woodland Owners Notes - Northern long-eared Bat

5. Question: Is your state willing to participate in an effort to assist USFWS in developing a Species Status Assessment from which consultation guidance and other materials could be based?  
(note: names were provided by states that indicate that they wanted to participate).

answer	Reponses
yes	40
no	0
unsure	14

6. Question: How would your state prefer to participate?

Method	Responses
technical review (review materials crafted by others)	30
technical input (provide expertise or background)	24
guidance development (develop conservation measures for the long-eared bat)	22
Other, please specify View individual responses to this question	2

Other" responses:

- OH - development of conservation and mitigation strategies
- MS – However I'm needed

7. Question: At what level would your state prefer to participate?

Participation	reponses
be present at the table for the multi-state effort	15
participate in a regional effort with other states in your USFWS region	30
lead / coordinate an effort with other states in your region	4
Other, please specify View individual responses to this question	3

Other" responses:

- GA – As part of the WNS CRWG BMP Subgroup

- WV – Our agency has assisted NRCS with limited management activities for bats, but needs to be involved so that we can inform our landowner and industry customers.
- MO - We may be able to assist in coordination of this effort with other states, depending on timing, level of effort expected and other scheduled tasks.

8. Question: Given the wide range of the bat and the reality of many state budgets, at least some of our work will need to be done remotely. which method(s) are you likely to be able to use to participate?

**Results:** 39% said remotely, 61% indicated that remote or in-person could work

9. Question: What areas of interest and expertise does your agency have regarding the proposed listing of northern long-eared bats as it relates to forest management or other work in your state?

Expertise	Responses
Species Viability/Biology/Ecology (gathering available information and data to determine what the species needs on an individual, population, and species level for survival. Also identification of what the species is lacking in its environment.	23
Conservation Measures (conservation measures and best management practices designed to reduce or avoid impacts to bats, especially in summer habitat)	35
Threats Assessment (identifying potential current and future threats given the projected status of NLEB. This will also include an assessment of the impact of such threats at the individual, population, and species levels)	25

Other" responses:

- Between our DCNR staff and PA Game Commission staff--we have interest and expertise in this area
- Do not believe we have the expertise in this species but we do have interest in this effort
- Forest management expertise
- information on seasonal movements of this species
- NAASF State Lands Management Committee has been coordinating info and input.



- Our interest primarily concerns the recommended forest management practices (or changes in existing practices) that property owners may need to consider in order to continue to manage their forests.
- Outreach to public and private land managers on best practices
- see below
- species viability/biology/ecology as they may relate to the ability to monitor populations.
- The Department also has extensive experience in managing for healthy forests and other habitats.
- We have very little information on the NLEB in MS.

10. Question: Please include additional information, if desired, regarding the development of consultation guidance or other materials related to northern long-eared bats.

- Roost mitigation guidance development
- Michigan DNR is interested in working with Wisconsin and other MAFWA states to convene a 2-day workshop to discuss the most up-to-date science on northern long-eared bats, how to use that new information to develop appropriate and reasonable conservation measures, and to discuss making a recommendation to the FWS to list the NLEB as threatened and for the FWS to promulgate 4(d) rules that exempt normal forest management.
- I am currently working on a committee for the WNS Conservation and Recovery Working Group to develop BMP's for bats (led by Andy King (USFWS) and Cathy Johnson (USFS)). I think that this committee can participate in this process and help to develop conservation measures for bats that would benefit many species, not just MYSE. Both public and private partners are asking for guidance and we are providing what we can at a state level. I fully support this effort range-wide and will do what I can to assist.
- The USFWS has an office in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and we are willing to coordinate closely with their biologist who is familiar with bat species. Because of the wide range of the species itself (and other bats), management guidelines will need to be somewhat localized and this will require coordination at the local and state levels to the extent possible.
- Logging in the Black Hills, wind energy development and disturbance to hibernacula would be the major predicted threats to this species in South Dakota. Question #7-our agency provides environmental review of a host of projects conducted at all levels of government. Many times, however, there is no legal requirement for the developing entity to consult with us (especially wind energy) or follow our recommendations. Question #8-I was uncertain as to what concerns: Concerns over impacts to the species, concerns regarding the process of review, concerns over what conservation measures will be developed if states don't participate, etc. Question 15#, I doubt that there are

many, if any, that have expertise (as I interpret the word) on this species in South Dakota (or elsewhere for that matter). There are those, however, that have interest in the species. My responses to this question reflect an interest and some knowledge of the species.

- We have a small timber program in eastern Montana, as well as, some limited energy and wind development, and we are very interested in how guidance for NLEB may affect those uses. This is of particular importance to us given the very small eastern zone of our state that has ever had NLEB occurrence records documented.
- Our agency does not think listing is warranted at this time. We encourage USFWS to carefully examine existing data to determine if there may be differences in mortality rates from WNS in different portions of the species' range.
- We have interest in all of the above, , but lack expertise and specific knowledge to assist in all of the above areas concerning northern long-eared bats.
- Northern long-eared bats are not known to occur in Colorado, though we are interested in the conservation measures and threats assessments that will be developed.
- As stated above, Maryland is an active member of the NAASF State Lands Management Committee, which as a sub-committee for this issue. The committee has been active in disseminating NLEB info to members and input opportunities. Most likely much of our input will be as part of the NAASF committee.
- In PA, there are three agencies that manage the state's natural resources--DCNR, the PA Game Commission and the PA Fish and Boat Commission. DCNR is developing the HCP in cooperation with the PA Game Commission. DCNR has state park and state forest lands (2.3 million acres) and PA Game commission has state game lands (1.5 million acres). They are also the jurisdictional agency for birds and mammals--therefore, they provide state expertise on bats as well.
- Due to currently being involved in HCP development, we are unsure at this time what level of involvement we can be part of--however, we'd like to be kept abreast of details of this effort. Thanks! Ellen
- We work closely with our sister dept., Fish and Wildlife on habitat issues.
- As mentioned multiple times above, we have very little information on the status of the NLEB in MS but I am happy to help in any way I can.
- We are not as far along as some other Midwestern states on this issue and we look forward to learning more about how they are planning for and addressing this issue.

- Arkansas has developed recommended management practices for forestry operations in Karst geology. These practices were developed for water quality issues, however they should crosswalk to NLEB conservation measures seamlessly.
- Answers based on perspectives and responsibilities of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, IDNR.
- While the NLEB is currently driving this effort, lets not forget the other cave bats (forest bats in summer) that are being impacted by WNS. A larger "Forest Bats Conservation Plan", initially focusing on the NLEB will be a smarter approach in the long run.
- (Five part answer)

1) We are primarily concerned that land management activities, such as tree cutting, that allow for us to manage for resilient and sustainable natural communities, including forest, woodland and savanna, to benefit fish and wildlife will be unduly restricted or conditioned by northern long-eared bat consultation guidance. We do not believe trees, Missouri's land cover types, or the existing forest structure is a limiting factor in Missouri for the northern long-eared bat's survival. Indeed, we have more trees in Missouri now than in previous times, and more land is protected from development because of the Department's ownership.

Guidance that reduces the capability of conservation agencies to manage for resilient and sustainable forest/woodland/savanna conditions that could benefit the northern long-eared bat and other bat species will only hurt the bat and many other plants, wildlife and natural communities. More importantly, restrictive forest and woodland management could lead to degraded habitat conditions that provide poorer quality conditions for roosting bats than what currently exists.

The northern long-eared bat is proposed for listing endangered due to white-nose syndrome (WNS), not loss of habitat. The Department is doing all it can to protect bat populations, including those of the northern long-eared bat, from WNS through the protection of high priority caves, and disease and population monitoring. Much of the current draft guidance does not address this primary threat.

2) The Department manages its lands for the benefit of Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife resources. Division programs within the Department include Wildlife, Forestry, Fisheries, Private Lands Services and Resource Science and they are responsible for producing healthy and sustainable forest, fish and



wildlife resources. Projects within the Divisions include land/habitat management, research, monitoring, population management and regulations.

3) The Department conducts a Natural Heritage review prior to conducting forest inventories. These reviews identify sensitive resources within the project area, and staff work to protect sensitive areas in accordance with our Bat Management Plan guidelines and by following other wildlife beneficial measures such as recognizing and leaving snags, avoidance of certain areas, etc. Forest inventories that are used to help guide forest management provide valuable data, including tree species composition, tree age classes, stocking levels, trees per acres and snags per acre by size. This information allows us to make professional recommendations for the management of forested lands to protect and enhance habitat for the northern long-eared bat and the Indiana bat.

4) We expect it will be necessary to establish several different work teams to discuss and develop conservation measures. Therefore, we may have several people participating in this effort.

5) The discussions must cross geographic boundaries and take into consideration the available habitat within each state. Because of the ecological differences among the habitat within each state and their inherent value to the NLEB population, a single set of criteria for assessing effects of management, habitat quality, monitoring methods, etc., may be inappropriate.