

2013 USFWS Updates

INDIANA BAT

140 mist net surveys authorized

- 97 Pipelines/oil and gas
- 10 Coal mining
- 0 Wind projects (Federal tax credit expired in 2012)
- 20 Development projects
- 1 ODOT/FHWA
- 12 Other (DOD, parks, USFS, ALB, transmission lines)

Results:

- 42 captures (32 females, 10 males)
- 38 at along a proposed pipeline route (Clermont, Brown, Highland, Fayette, Ross counties)
- 2 juvenile males in Clermont Co. (Asian longhorned beetle control area)
- 2 juveniles (1 female, 1 male) at USFWS project site along Big Darby Creek, Franklin Co.

11 acoustic surveys

- 8 Pipelines/oil and gas
- 2 Development projects
- 1 ODOT/FHWA

Results:

- 6 of the 11 surveys detected Indiana bats (Franklin, Monroe, Noble counties)
- At least 5 of the 6 verified the calls with qualitative analysis.
- 4 of 6 mist netted - no Indiana bats captured

NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

- October 2, 2013 – Federal Register notice proposing to list as endangered (final rules typically within 1 year)
- Comments on proposed rule were due by December 2, 2013 – **Extended to January 2, 2014**
- Critical Habitat not determinable at this time. The Service will work to identify areas of critical habitat and develop a proposal within 12 months
- Experience a sharp decline in the NE part of its range, ~99% (from hibernacula data from 8 states) due to WNS
- Where WNS not present yet, populations have remained stable
- It is predicted that WNS will continue to spread; therefore we would expect similar rates of decline throughout the range

EASTERN SMALL-FOOTED BAT

- Northern long-eared bat proposed rule also included a “not warranted” finding for listing the eastern small-footed bat

LITTLE BROWN BAT

- USFWS is conducting a thorough review of the status of the species to determine if listing is warranted.

- Working in partnership with the USGS on a demographic model to help inform our species status review
- Currently we do not have a specific completion date

TRI-COLORED BAT

- USFWS is working on a status review
- No estimate on when it may be complete

2014 USFWS Summer Survey Protocol

- 2013 - FWS prepared white paper outlining our approach for determining an appropriate LOE for mist netting and acoustic surveys.
- Based on input received during a formal peer-review of this paper during the summer of 2013, the FWS will be making some changes to the LOE for both mist-netting and acoustics in 2014.
- FWS will be conducting an internal review of our 2014 Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidelines in December and we plan to publicly release the final summer survey guidelines in January 2014 (hopefully before or shortly after the NEBWG meeting).
- Availability of the 2014 guidelines will be announced via the eastern bat working group listservs and the guidelines and associated white paper will be posted on the FWS' Region 3 Indiana bat website.
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/mammals/inba/inbasummersurveyguideance.html>
- Testing of acoustic software ID programs is ongoing.
- Recommendations for NLEB surveys will also be included in the forthcoming 2014 guidelines.