

Magazine Mine in Southern Illinois Transferred to The Underground Conservancy



A deal that took decades in the making continues to be protected long term by transfer of the ownership of the Magazine Mine in southern Illinois to The Underground Conservancy. The transfer protects the hard work of Unimin Corporation, a mineral mining company, the now former Organization for Bat Conservation, the Illinois DNR and many others, to consummate the protection of the mine, a wintering roost site for the endangered Indiana bat and several other bat species. The Magazine Mine is home to roughly 69,000 endangered Indiana bats, making the 2nd largest hibernaculum for this bat in the United States. Conservation of the mine and the bats is an ongoing partnership with The Underground Conservancy, Unimin, the Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and local universities in the state.

The continued role of the Magazine Mine as a conservation site for bats was best summed up in an earlier press release in 2017, in which Doug Losee, vice president of environmental affairs of Unimin Corporation, who said that “this donation of the Magazine Mine is the culmination of that kind of stewardship and responsibility to able to turn it over to somebody who can care for it on into the future better than we can.”

Jason Corbett, Executive Director for The Underground Conservancy, said that “The Conservancy is excited about taking ownership of the Magazine Mine and being able to care for such a valuable resource. We look forward to forging new partnerships around the conservation of the site, making sure the mine continues to function as a key winter roost for the endangered Indiana bat and other bat species and advancing scientific study, conservation and education efforts with all of our partners.”

The Underground Conservancy is a national 501(c)(3) non-profit conservation organization that is dedicated to protecting the often-overlooked caves and mines and other spaces that lie below the surface of the earth. The Underground Conservancy is focused on permanently protecting and studying underground resources, including bats, and their unique ecosystems. The Conservancy has purchased and/or worked in partnership with cave and mine owners to protect such properties in the United States.

For More Information, Contact:

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