

TENNESSEE IMPERILED BAT CONSERVATION FUND

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR INDIANA BAT CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH

The Steering Committee for the Tennessee Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund (Steering Committee) is soliciting proposals for Indiana bat projects to implement on-the-ground conservation actions and to collect information that will lead to improved conservation and management. This opportunity is available to all state and federal personnel, non-governmental organizations, universities, and private or independent researchers.

Award Information

Proposals will be accepted by the Steering Committee through October 12, 2018. Guidelines for proposals are attached; and those submitting proposals should review the *Conservation Strategy for Forest-dwelling Bats in Tennessee*, which is also attached. Funding recipients will be notified by November 19, 2018.

We intend to provide annual requests for proposals to the bat conservation community, with updates to the description of conservation needs and information needs. However, members of the Steering Committee will accept proposals at any time to accommodate urgent, high priority opportunities.

During the 2018-19 time frame, top priorities for conservation actions relative to Indiana bats are generally focused on maternity areas and hibernacula swarming areas. Although a significant number of hibernacula sites have been protected, there is some potential for conservation benefits at those sites and in associated swarming areas.

2018-2019 IBCF Funding Priorities

- Indiana bat habitat protection and conservation including, but not limited to:
 - Long-term protection of tracts occupied by maternity roosts or hibernacula
 - Enhancement of maternity roosting areas or hibernacula
- Indiana bat research leading to improved conservation of the species in Tennessee

We are seeking proposals for research projects below the level of \$25,000, although a firm ceiling on this limit is not in place. Conservation-related projects do not have a monetary cap at this time. Funding of one conservation-related project and one research project is anticipated for the 2018-19 funding cycle, but the quality of proposals will dictate final decisions.

Applicant Requirements

This announcement is open to domestic and international researchers (university and non-university), state and federal agencies, and non-profit entities. Failure to comply with the following requirements will preclude proposals from consideration and eligibility.

- Projects must be completed within 2 years of notification of funding.
- Prior to the submission of a proposal, all applicants must contact all cooperating partners, including state natural resource agency personnel, federal biologists and resource managers, and relevant local landowners, to discuss the proposed project and ensure that the work can be conducted if funded (e.g., necessary samples can be collected, required permits can be obtained, properties can be accessed, etc.). Affirmation of support for critical functions should be included with proposals.

All participants of funded projects must procure all necessary state, federal, and local permits, as well as landowner permissions, prior to project initiation.