

**Northern Long-eared Bat Interim Special Rule and
Private Landowners in Michigan
May 15, 2015**

Northern long-eared bats are documented from many Michigan counties and are believed to range throughout the entire state. The species hibernates in mines and caves in the winter (hibernacula) and spends summers in wooded areas.

The northern long-eared bat uses a wide variety of forested habitats, but is not found in all wooded areas in Michigan. The species' local distribution and abundance is influenced by the distance to hibernacula and quality of available habitat. Although it can be difficult to predict where the species may occur, once northern long-eared bats colonize a forest habitat for raising their young (pups), they will often return to the same areas annually.

As a result of this fidelity to specific locations, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's approach to implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is based in part on "known" locations where the species has been documented to occur, specifically known tree roosting sites and hibernacula.

Please contact the East Lansing Field Office (contacts listed below) for Federal or wind energy projects in Michigan for project-specific recommendations. Under the ESA, the requirements for "Federal" projects (i.e., projects funded, authorized, permitted, or implemented by a Federal agency) are different than requirements for wholly private or otherwise non-Federal projects. This fact sheet is applicable to non-Federal projects. In addition, utility-scale wind turbines may attract and cause mortality of bats and warrant additional considerations to ensure compliance with the ESA.

Please also note that the Indiana bat, listed as endangered under the ESA in 1973, also occurs in forests in portions of Michigan. The protections afforded this species under the ESA are different than those used for the northern long-eared bat. Summer habitat for the Indiana bat typically includes small to medium-sized river and stream corridors with well-developed riparian woods, woodlots within 3 miles of small to medium rivers and streams, and upland forests. Female Indiana bats typically roost in trees that are dead or nearly so and ≥ 5 inches diameter (dbh) with exfoliating bark. The roost trees are in forests or woodlots or in trees that are located within 1,000 feet of other forested/wooded habitats.

Information on the distribution of the Indiana bat in Michigan is available at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/michigan-spp.html> and recommended survey methods are at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/inba/index.html>. If your project is likely to impact Indiana bats or their habitat, please contact the East Lansing Field Office to determine if a permit pursuant to the ESA is warranted.

In Michigan, what is required if there are no known northern long-eared bat hibernacula or roost trees near a proposed project?

We do not require private landowners to conduct surveys for ESA-listed bats on their lands, nor do we require our guidelines to be followed on lands where no roosts or hibernacula are known. However, our records of these locations in Michigan are limited, and we expect northern long-eared bat roosts to be present in many locations in addition to those listed in this factsheet.

When there are no known roost trees or hibernacula in the project area, we encourage you to conduct tree-cutting activities and prescribed burns in forested areas during October 1 through March 31 when possible, but you are not required by the ESA to do so. When that is not possible, we encourage you to remove trees prior to June 1 or after July 31, as that will help to protect young bats that may be in forested areas, but are not yet able to fly.

Northern long-eared Bat Special Rule Exemptions to Take Prohibition

The definition of “take” pursuant to the ESA includes to harass, harm (e.g., habitat impacts), pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect (see 50 CFR 17.3 for details).

The interim special rule for northern long-eared bat (50 CFR 17.40(o)) exempts certain activities from the take prohibition (for full details on the exemptions, see the Federal Register rule (80 FR 17974) available at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/>).

Under the interim rule, the take prohibition does not apply to (1) removal of northern long-eared bats from human structures, (2) the removal of hazardous trees for the protection of human life and property, and (3) four general types of activities, when done using northern long-eared bat conservation measures (listed below), as follows:

- Forest management (including prescribed fire), but not forest conversion (i.e., does not exempt conversion of mature hardwood or mixed forest into intensively managed monoculture pine plantation stands, or non-forested landscapes);
- Maintenance or expansion of existing rights-of-way and transmission corridors (with work limited to 100 feet on either or both sides of existing right-of-way);
- Native prairie management; and
- Minimal tree removal projects (i.e., <1 acre, and does not significantly change the overall nature and function of the local forested habitat).

These four general types of activities are exempted from the prohibition on incidental take when they follow these conservation measures:

- Occur more than ¼ mile from a known hibernacula;
- Avoid cutting or destroying known roost trees during the pup season (June 1–July 31); and

- Avoid clearcuts and similar harvest methods (cutting most or essentially all trees from an area, e.g., seed tree, shelterwood, and coppice) within ¼ mile of known roost trees during the pup-rearing season (June 1–July 31).

For non-exempted activities, we will work with you to determine whether a permit pursuant to the ESA may be applicable.

Michigan Known Hibernacula and Roost Tree Locations for Northern Long-eared Bat

We have compiled location information for northern long-eared bat hibernacula and known roosts trees in Michigan. This information can be used to help project planners in determining the applicability of provisions of the northern long-eared bat’s special rule under the ESA. Please use the tables below to see if we have information that may be applicable to your project.

If you are planning a project that may remove trees from forested habitat in the Michigan townships below, please contact our office with more specific information on the location of your project and we will confirm for you whether there are any known hibernacula or roost trees within ¼ mile of your project.

If your project is within ¼ mile of a known hibernacula or roost, we will work with you to determine whether a permit pursuant to the ESA may be applicable.

Where are the known northern long-eared bat hibernacula in Michigan?

Known Northern Long-eared Bat Hibernacula in Michigan			
County	Townships Containing Hibernacula and/or Buffer Areas	Number of Hibernacula	Landownership Within Buffer(s)
Alpena	Alpena (T32NR9E)	1	Public
Baraga	L’Anse (T49NR33W)	1	Private
Berrien	Buchanan (T7SR18W)	1	Private
Dickinson	Breitung (T40NR30W, T39NR30W), Norway (T39NR29W)	8	Private (8)
Gogebic	Ironwood (T49NR46W); Bessemer/Wakefield (T47NR45W)	2	Private (1), public (1)
Houghton	Adams/Quincy/Franklin/Stanton (T55NR34W); Calumet (T56NR33W); Laird (T49NR35W, T49NR36W); Schoolcraft (T56NR32W)	3	Private (1), public (2)
Keweenaw	Allouez (T57NR32W, T58NR32W); Eagle Harbor/Grant (T58NR30W); Houghton (T58NR31W)	10	Private (9), private + public (1)
Mackinac	Hendricks (T44NR7W)	4	Public (4)
Manistee	Dickson (T22NR14W, T22NR13W)	1	Private + public

Known Northern Long-eared Bat Hibernacula in Michigan (continued)			
Marquette	Ely (T47NR28W); Tilden (T47NR27W); Richmond (T47NR26W)	3	Private (3)
Ontonagon	Bohemia (T52NR37W); Carp Lake (T51NR44W, T51NR43W); Greenland (T51NR37W, T51NR38W, T50NR38W); Matchwood (T49NR41W, T49NR42W); Rockland (T50NR39W, T49NR40W)	44	Private (20), public (8), private + public (16)

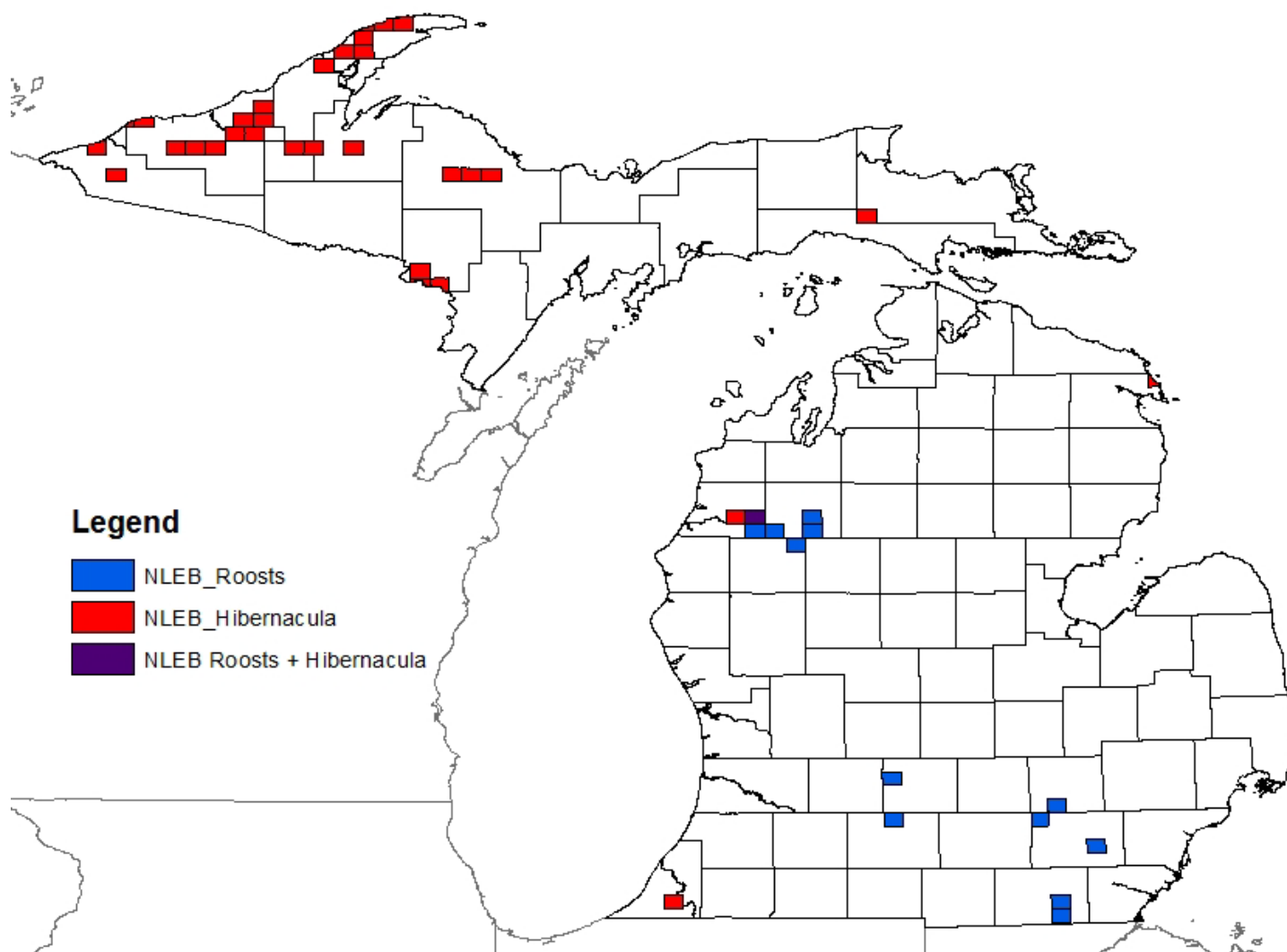
Where are the known northern long-eared bat roost trees in Michigan?

Known Northern Long-eared Bat Roost Tree Locations in Michigan			
County	Townships Containing Roosts and/or Buffer Areas	Number of known roosts	Landownership Within Buffer(s)
Calhoun	Convis (T1SR6W)	1	Not specified
Eaton	Vermontville (T3NR6W)	1	Not specified
Lake	Dover (T20NR11W)	4 (all female)	Public (4)
Lenawee	Ogden (T8SR4E), Palmyra (T7SR4E)	78	Public, private (at least 65)
Livingston	Putnam (T1NR4E)	2	Not specified
Manistee	Dickson (T22NR14W, T22NR13W), Norman (T21NR13W)	3 (all female)	Private + public (4)
Washtenaw	Lyndon (T1SR3E), Pittsfield (T3SR6E)	3	Not specified
Wexford	Cherry Grove (T21NR10W), Selma (T22NR10W), South Branch (T21NR12W)	20 (17 female)	Private + public (4), public (15)

For additional information contact:

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Map of Known NLEB Occurrence, Roosts, and Hibernacula in MI*



***Map last updated 5/15/2015.**

Map will be updated as additional information becomes available.