



2024 Updates to the Imminent Tricolored Bat Listing

North Texas Association of Environmental Professionals

10.16.2024



**What matters to you
matters to us.**

Power & Energy
Infrastructure
Land Development
Government
Natural Resources
Industrial

Expertise

Transactional Due Diligence

Ecological Services

Cultural Resources Management

Sustainable Planning & Design

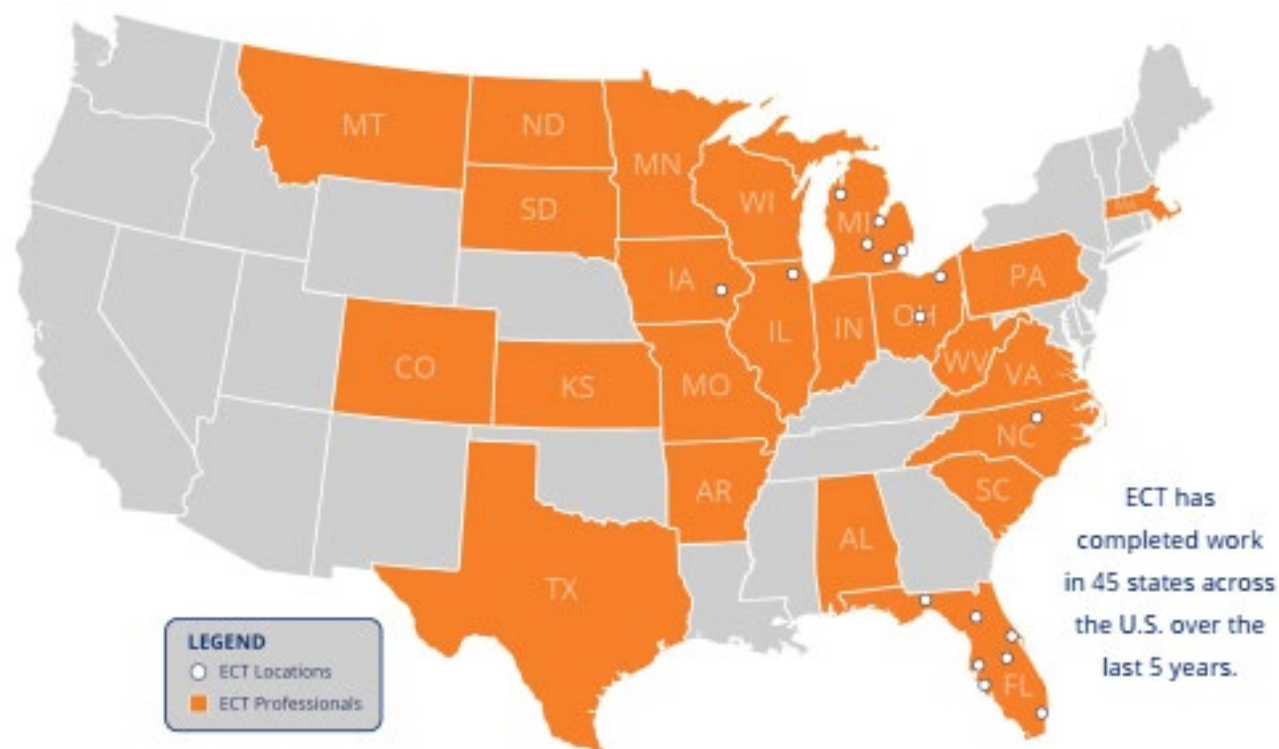
Water Resources

Ecosystem Restoration

Remediation & Redevelopment

Compliance & Sustainability

Engineering & Project Delivery



> Speaker Introduction

Ryan Blankenship

- Certified Wildlife Biologist
- 15 years of experience with T&E Species and regulatory permitting in the Southern U.S.
- Account Director with ECT
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Bats of the Southern U.S.

- 33 species
- Five listed as endangered under the ESA
- One proposed for listing
 - Tricolored Bat (TCB)

> Regulatory History

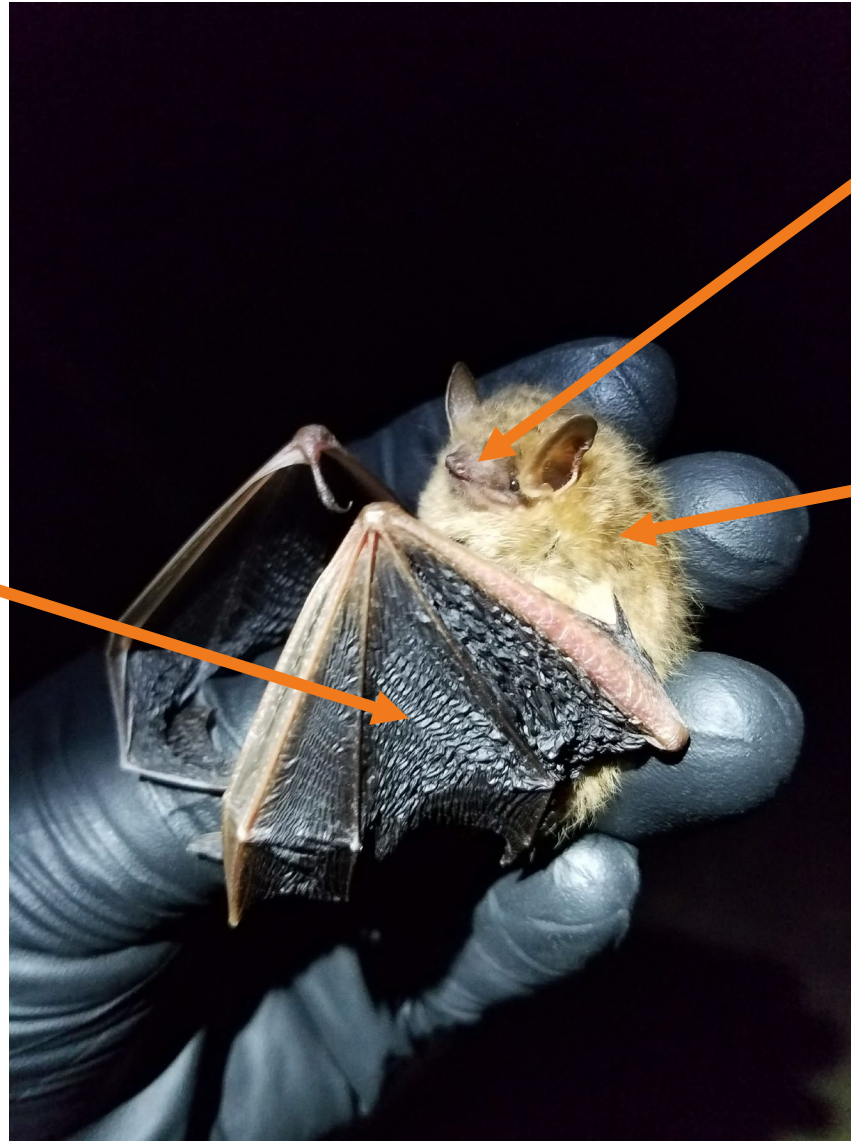


- Current listing status?
 - Proposed endangered
 - No proposed critical habitat designation
 - March 28, 2024 – Range-wide Indiana bat & Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines 2024 Released
 - April 1, 2024 – NLEB and TCB Draft New Tools and Guidance Documents
 - Option for Conference Opinion with USFWS



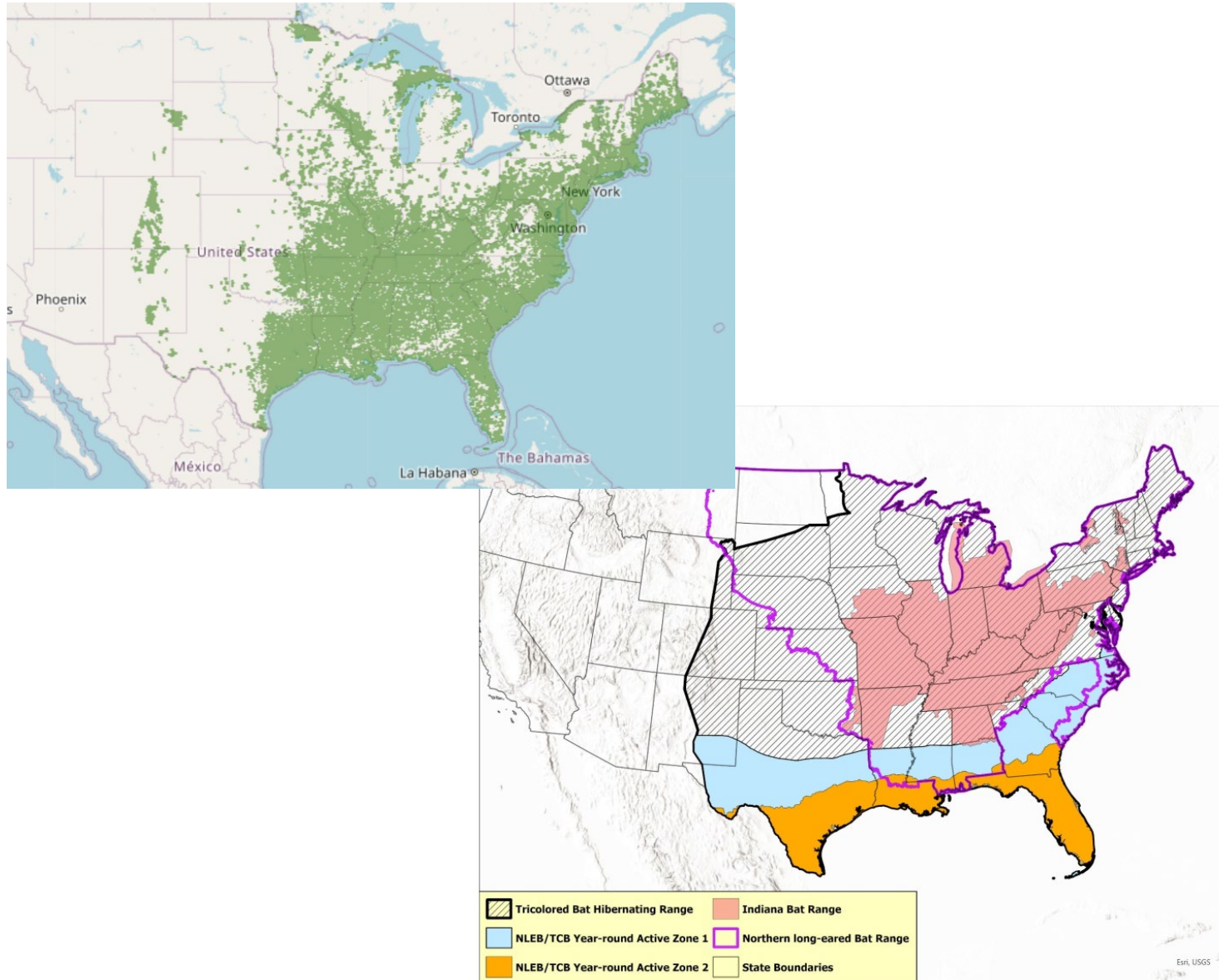
> Species Profile

- Insectivorous
- 4-8 grams
- Wingspan of 21-26cm
- Dark nearly black wing membranes



- Pink/reddish skin
- Pelage is yellowish-brown of three distinct colors
 - Base=dark, central=light, tips=dark

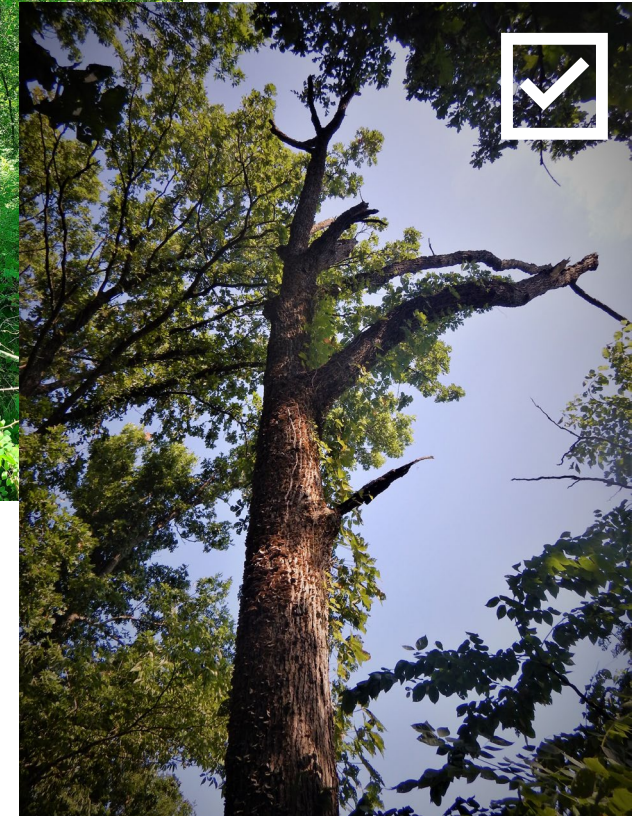
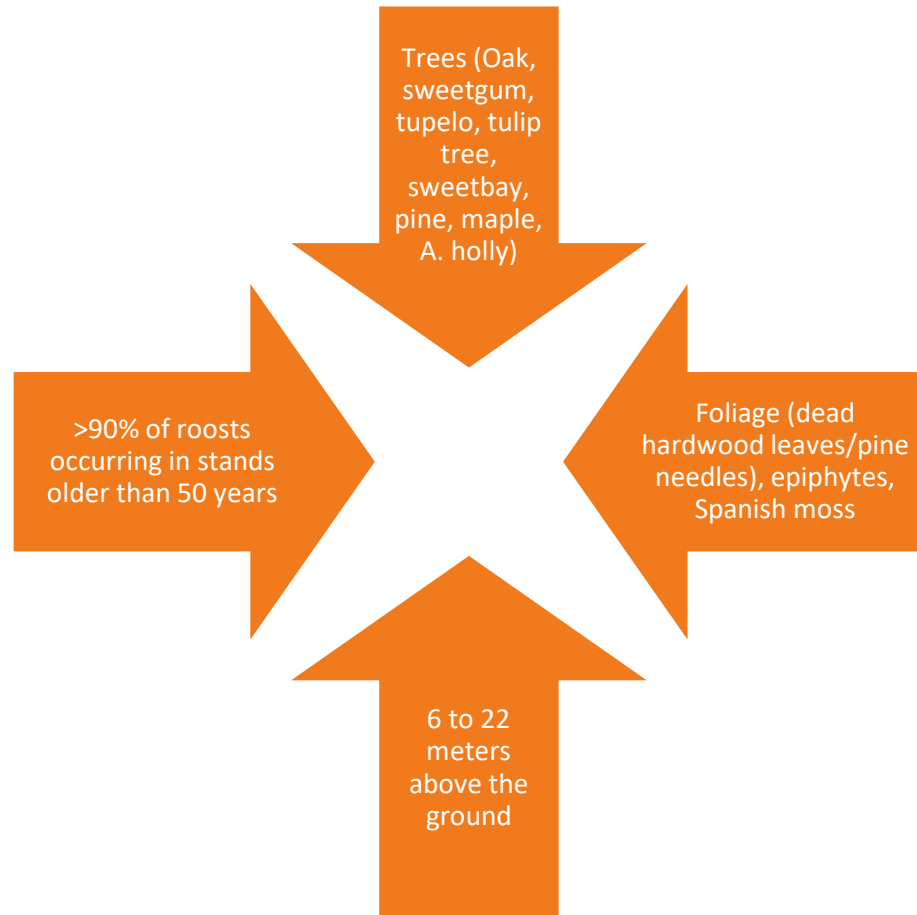
> Range



- Once common throughout eastern half of U.S.
- Eastern Canada west to Colorado and south to Central America
- 2006-current decline attributed to:
 - White-nosed syndrome
 - Habitat loss
- No estimates of the range-wide population

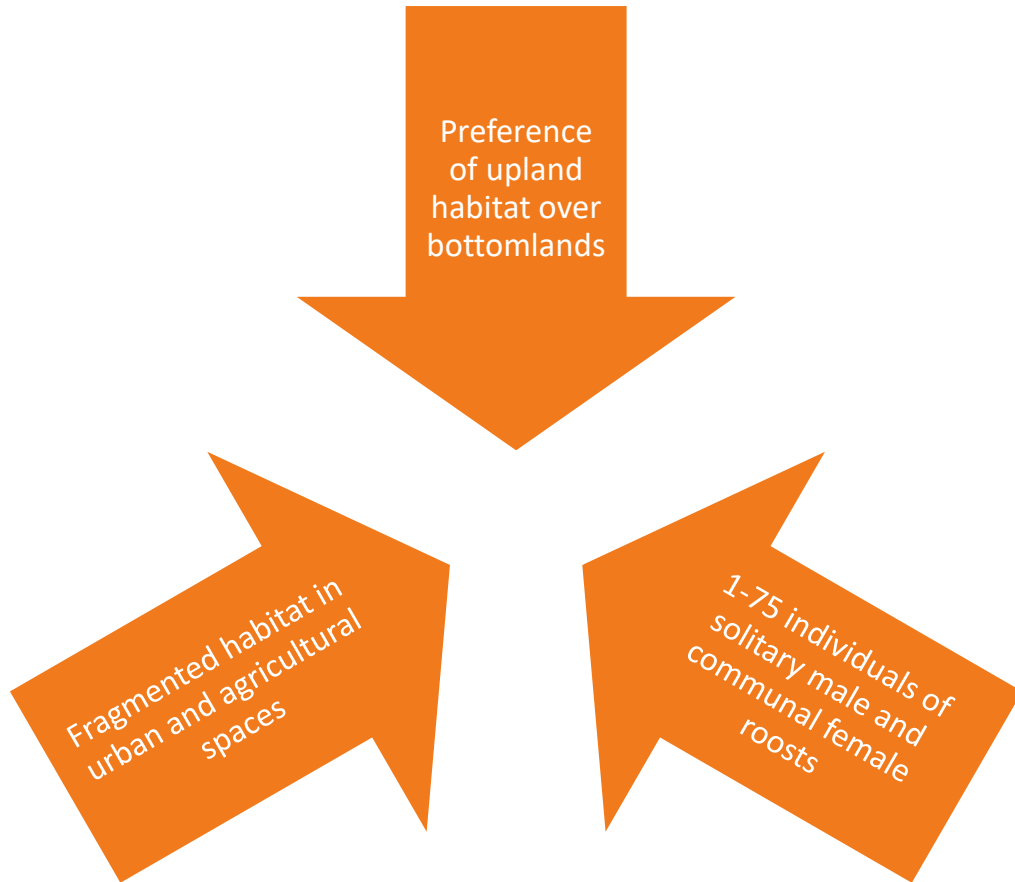
> Habitat Preferences

Summer Roosts



> Habitat Preferences

Summer Roosts



> Habitat Preferences

Winter Roosts and Hibernacula

Caves,
culverts,
bridges,
structures,
and trees

Cave-like
environments

Cracks and crevices
0.5-2 inches wide



> Habitat Preferences

Foraging Habitat



Flight corridors/edges within mixed-stands

> Habitat Preferences

Foraging Habitat



Urban and Park-like Settings



Young Forests

> Habitat Preferences

Foraging Habitat



Southern/Western Shrublands

> Range-wide Indiana bat & Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines

2024 Released

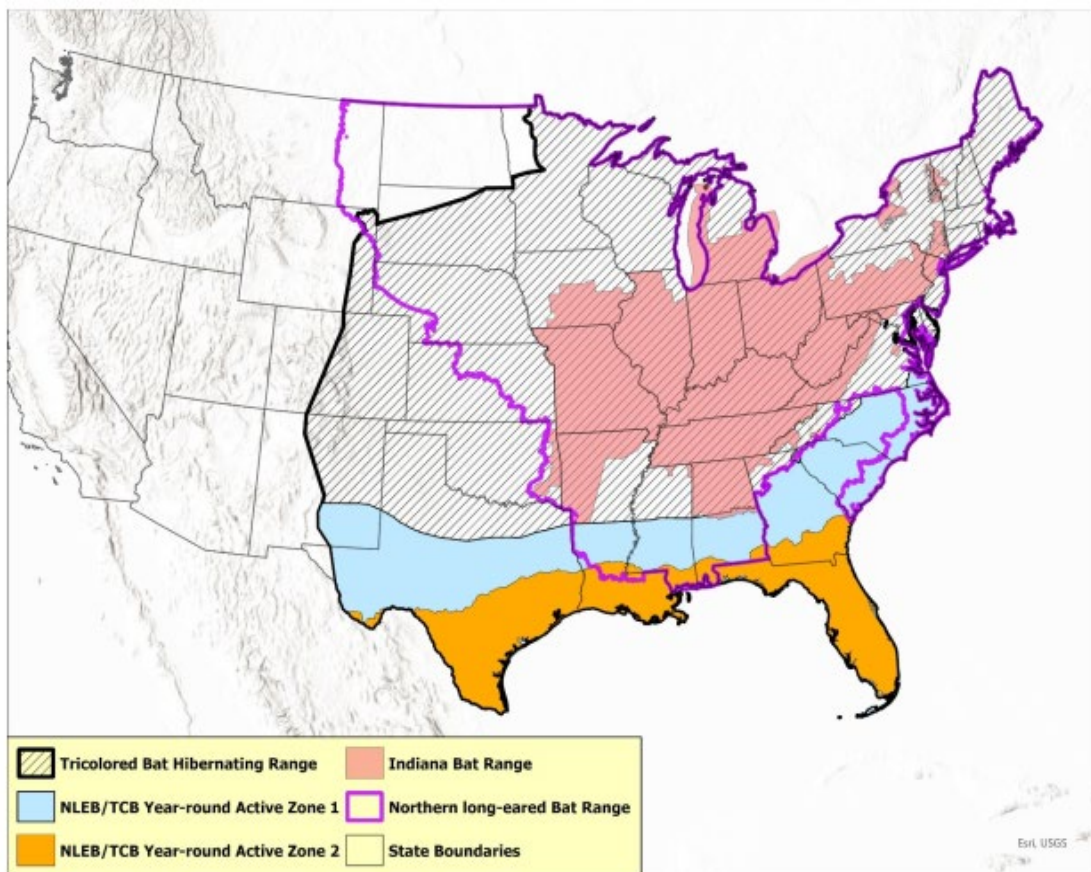


FIGURE 16. Hibernating and/or year-round active ranges of IBAT, NLEB, and TCB.

- Culvert and bridge inspections are valid for a period of 2 years. The new Appendix K guidelines should be used under the PBO in conjunction with FHWA, FRA, and FTA for transportation projects.
- ALL bridges considered safe to survey shall be considered potential habitat for roosting bats
- Culvert length of 23+ feet and diameter of 3+feet required survey
- Appendix L – state-by-state table of bat activity periods provide suggested clearing and restriction windows. Figure 16 corresponds with new Appendix L.

> Species Profile

- Seasonal OR year-round active
- High hibernacula site fidelity
- Males and females hibernate together



State	Hibernation	Winter Torpor ⁹⁰	Spring Staging ⁹¹	Summer Occupancy	Pup Season	Fall Swarming ⁹²
	Timeframe when most bats are hibernating (i.e., inactive ⁹³ season)	Timeframe when mean winter temperatures fall below 40° F and bats roosting in trees are in torpor ⁹⁴	Timeframe when most bats are emerging from hibernation, roosting near hibernacula, and preparing for migration to summer home range	Timeframe when bats are present on their summer home range and/or roosting in colonies ⁹⁵	Timeframe during late pregnancy and when most young are born until they can fly and forage independently	Period of increased activity near hibernacula (including foraging, roosting in trees, and mating) prior to hibernation
Texas: Hibernating Range	Nov 16 – Mar 14	N/A	Mar 15 – Apr 30	Mar 15 – Sept 30	May 15 – July 31	Sept 1 – Nov 15
Texas: Year-round Active Range (Zone 1)	N/A	Dec 15 – Feb 15	N/A	Mar 15 – July 15	May 1 – July 15	N/A
Texas: Year-round Active Range (Zone 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Mar 15 – July 15	May 1 – July 15	N/A

> Draft New Tools and Guidance Documents

Tricolored bat



- Draft Tools and Guidance released on April 1, 2024
 - New D-Key
 - Consultation Guidance for Development Projects
 - TCB Wind Guidance
 - Sustainable Forest Management Guidance
- Final Tools and Guidance to go into effect “later this summer in 2024”
- <https://www.fws.gov/species/tricolored-bat-perimyotis-subflavus>

> Beta Version- Determination Key

Tricolored Bat



DETERMINATION KEY

Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key

Release date: April 15, 2024

This key is intended to streamline review of projects for potential effects to the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*; NLEB) and tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*; TCB). This key is designed as a tool to help Federal agencies and other project proponents decide if their proposed action has the potential to adversely affect the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat and covers certain routine and predictable projects for which predetermined consultation outcomes are feasible.

This key will replace the NLEB Rangewide Key in order to provide for the addition of TCB to the key. Letters provided through use of the NLEB Rangewide Key will still be valid, but the key will no longer be available to users. If a project needs to be reassessed, please use the updated NLEB and TCB Rangewide Key.

- No effect
- May affect, not likely to adversely affect
- May affect, likely to adversely affect

> Potential Implications of Listing

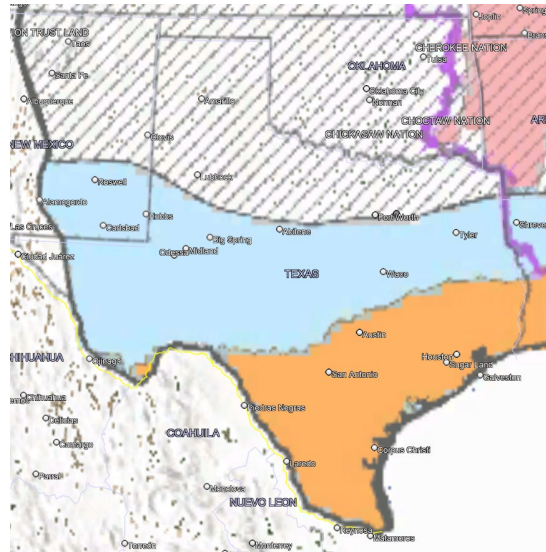
- Evaluate your project schedule
- Is your project federalized?
- Do you need assurances under Section 9/10 of the ESA?
 - Development of Habitat Conservation Plans
- Implementation of Voluntary Conservation Measures



> Voluntary Conservation Measures for Land Development Projects in Texas

- Applicable to All Texas Zones:

- Avoid removing known roost trees and suitable roost trees within 0.25-mile of a known tricolored bat maternity roost during the pup season.
- When feasible, avoid removing known roost trees (regardless of the season).
- Avoid removing suitable roost trees during the pup season (unless a presence/absence survey has been completed indicating probable absence).
- Offset any remaining impacts of incidental take that were not avoided. For example, offsetting measures could include (but are not limited to) restoring or protecting known habitat for the affected species, locating and protecting new colonies, and treating tricolored bats for white-nose syndrome (WNS) if treatments are available.



- Unique to the Hibernating Zone (North Texas)

- Avoid activities resulting in the disturbance of tricolored bats in their hibernacula during hibernation (not applicable in Zone 1 or 2).
- Avoid activities resulting in the physical or other alteration of tricolored bat hibernacula entrance(s) or internal environments (e.g., adverse alterations to airflow, microclimate, and hydrology) at any time of year (not applicable in Zone 1 or Zone 2).
- Avoid removing suitable roost trees within 0.25-mile of a known tricolored bat hibernaculum entrance(s) (regardless of the season), unless a presence/absence survey has been completed indicating tricolored bats are not present in the summer.

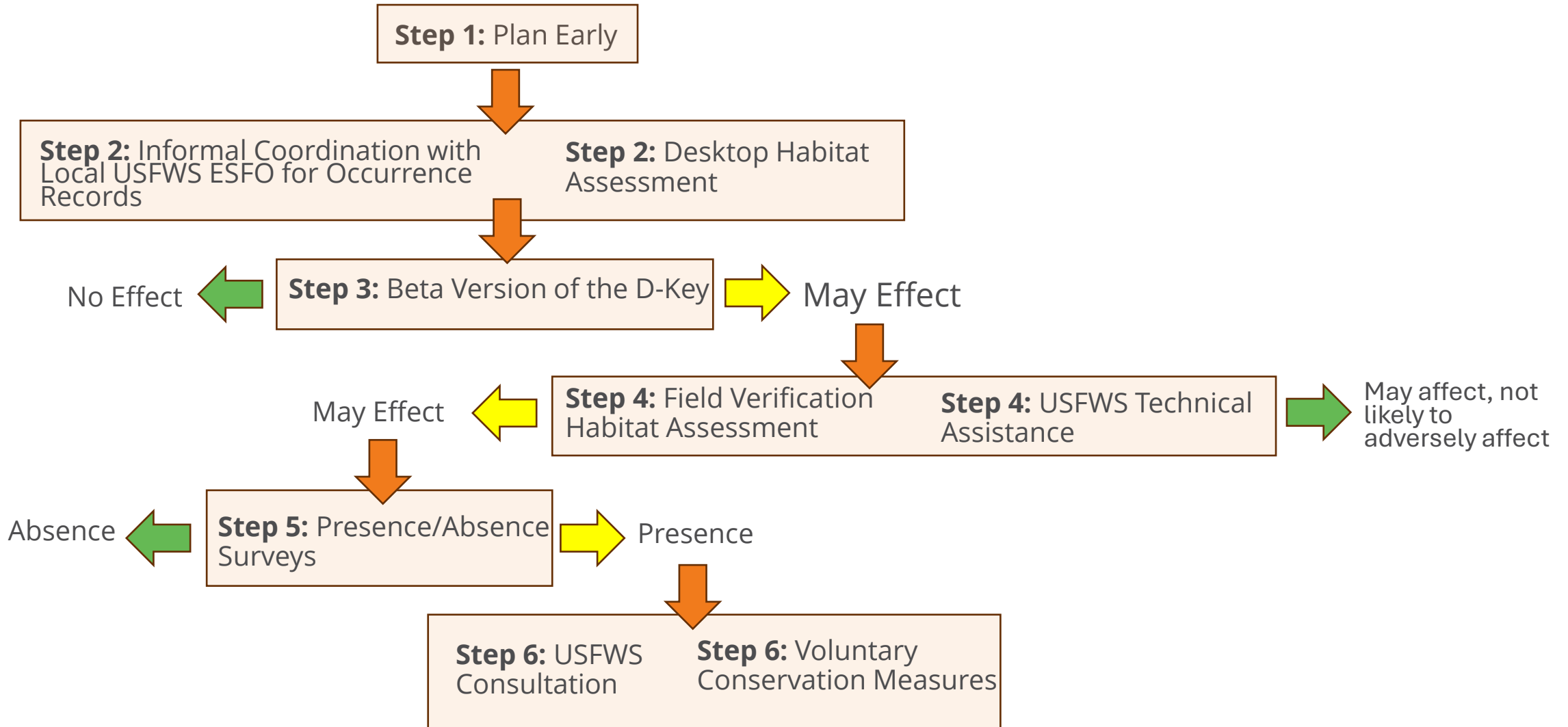


- Unique to Zone 1 (Central Texas)

- Avoid removing suitable roost trees between December 15 and February 15 (unless a presence/absence survey has been completed indicating probable absence).



> Recommended Steps



Questions and Discussion

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