



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services  
6950 Americana Parkway, Suite H  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-4127  
(614) 469-6923 / FAX (614) 469-6919  
February 19, 2008

Dear Interested Party,

The Reynoldsburg, Ohio Ecological Services Field Office recently revised the seasonal tree-clearing dates for the Federally-listed endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*). Ongoing research in the State of Indiana on the timing of Indiana bats leaving hibernacula along with the timing of bats arriving and departing summer maternity areas, dictated the need to expand the previous no tree-clearing season in order to avoid incidental take of individual bats. In short, Indiana bats have been observed arriving at their traditional summer areas earlier in the spring (before April 15) and staying longer in the fall (after September 15) than previously documented. Effective immediately, the Reynoldsburg, Ohio Field Office is recommending that trees not be cut from April 1 through September 30 (in lieu of April 15 – September 15) in Ohio. Existing incidental take statements with the former tree clearing dates will remain valid in Ohio since they include an exemption for any incidental take that may occur because of project actions. Existing Endangered Species Act section 7 a(2) concurrence letters that include the former cutting exclusion dates (April 15 – Sept. 15) will also be considered valid. However, voluntary compliance with the new dates is strongly encouraged.

If you have questions, or if we may be of further assistance in this matter, please contact me at (614) 469-6923, ext.12 or Angela Boyer (ext. 22) in this office.

Sincerely,

*Angela L. Boyer*

*for* Mary Knapp, Ph.D.  
Field Supervisor