

ADDENDUM TO THE REVISED PROGRAMMATIC BIOLOGICAL OPINION FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN THE RANGE OF THE INDIANA BAT AND NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT – FEBRUARY 2018

This document summarizes revisions made to the Service's programmatic biological opinion as requested in the email correspondence from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) dated January 17, 2018. There were no major changes to analyses or scope of consultation. The modifications aim to facilitate a more efficient implementation of the biological opinion.

Scope of the Programmatic Consultation:

We made minor edits to clarify which projects are within vs. outside of the scope of consultation. Specifically:

1. We limited percussive activities not associated with tree removal/trimming or bridge/structure work to being outside of scope *only when conducted within documented habitat during the active season*.

Effects Analysis:

We made additions and modifications to clarify the effects of certain activities.

1. We specified that activities causing no stressors (e.g., tree clearing, noise, lighting, and bridge/structure work) to the bat species would have *no effect* to either bat species.
2. We clarified that tree clearing of 10 or fewer trees per project within 100 feet of the road/rail surface and outside of documented habitat is *not likely to adversely affect* either bat species (visual emergence surveys must be conducted with no bats observed).
3. We modified Table 11 to more clearly describe the effects of tree clearing activities.
4. We modified Tables 12 and 13 to address effects to hibernating bats at bridges and structures.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures:

Modifications to AMMs were made for further clarification based on user feedback.

1. Lighting AMM1 was revised to include the use of the BUG System for light ratings.
2. Tree AMM2 was revised to include the removal of 10 or fewer trees per project when conducted within 100 feet of the road/rail surface and outside of documented habitat (visual emergence surveys must be conducted with no bats observed).
3. The Bridge and Structure AMMs were modified to be clearer to the reader and specify when work is permitted during the winter hibernation period.
4. A revision was made to clarify that Bridge and Structure AMMs are not required when 1000 feet or more from suitable habitat; or bridge/structure assessments show no signs of bats; or P/A surveys have occurred to document that the bat species are not likely to be present.

Footnotes:

The following significant footnotes were added for further clarification:

- Bridge/structure assessments are valid for two years.
- Areas containing more than 10 trees will be assessed by the USFWS local field office on a case-by-case basis with the project proponent.
- This number is far lower than the typical maternity colony size (USFWS 2007, 2014).
- Ensure coordination with local Service FO regarding the applicability of P/A surveys for this use.