



Fwd: Fw: UPDATE: Draft Revised Rangewide Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidelines

King, Andrew <andrew_king@fws.gov>
To: FW3 Indiana Bat <indiana_bat@fws.gov>

Mon, Feb 25, 2013 at 1:49 PM

"Stacy, Mark A"

<mstacy@dnr.IN.gov>To: <Andrew_King@fws.gov>, <Indiana_bat@fws.gov>

02/14/2013 11:58 AM

cc: "Briggeman, Ramona" <RBriggeman@dnr.IN.gov>

Subject: RE: UPDATE: Draft Revised Rangewide Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidelines

Dear Andy,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Summer Survey Guidelines. My only comment pertains to assuming presence. At the bottom of page three, it implies that that may be a possibility, but I think it would be helpful if it directly mentioned the option of assuming presence and the ramifications of doing so.

Thanks again – Mark

Mark Stacy, CEP
Environmental Specialist
AML Technical Management Supervisor
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Reclamation
Abandoned Mine Lands Program
14619 West State Road 48
Jasonville, IN 47438-7056
812-665-2207 (Office)
812-699-7892 (Mobile)

Dear Interested Parties,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) recently received several similar letters requesting a 60-day extension to our current 30-day public comment period to allow more time to review and prepare comments on the Draft Revised Rangewide Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidelines and related documents. While we recognize the hardship an extension at this time will cause many of you that are preparing bids and planning schedules for the 2013 summer survey season, the Service also must ensure that all stakeholders have time to prepare and submit their comments. Therefore, we have decided to extend the public comment period for these documents for an additional 30 days. This extension was formally announced in the Federal Register today, February 8th, and will extend the comment period through **March 11, 2013**. The FR notice can be accessed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-02-08/pdf/2013-02889.pdf>.

The Service and U.S. Geological Survey are continuing to develop the test call library designed to evaluate automated acoustic ID software programs submitted for use with the



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"Briggeman, Ramona"

<RBriggeman@dnr.IN.gov>To: <Andrew_King@fws.gov>, <Indiana_bat@fws.gov>

02/19/2013 10:51 AM

cc: "Stacy, Mark A" <mstacy@dnr.IN.gov>

Subject: UPDATE: Draft Revised Rangewide Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidelines

Andy,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Rangewide Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidelines.

Although the option to assume presence is implied, it would be much clearer if this was included in the flowchart. In addition could you outline what steps must be followed if assuming presence either by inclusion in this document or by reference to another.

Thank you

Ramona Briggeman

Reclamation Biologist

Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife

14619 West SR 48

Jasonville, IN 47438-7056

Office: 812-665-2207

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The Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife is funded by fishing and hunting license revenue, as well as, through the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration programs. These programs collect excise taxes on shooting, archery, and fishing equipment and motor boat fuel. This user-pay, everyone-benefits system has resulted in millions of acres of habitat saved and near-miraculous population increases in many species of fish and wildlife over the last 75 years. For more information on Fish and Wildlife Management in Indiana visit: wildlife.IN.gov.

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The Service and U.S. Geological Survey are continuing to develop the test call library designed to evaluate automated acoustic ID software programs submitted for use with the revised guidelines. We acknowledge that a significant amount of additional time will likely be needed to 1) test/approve automated acoustic ID software programs and 2) review and consider forthcoming public comments given the 30-day extension. Therefore, we have decided that we will implement a contingency plan for the 2013 field season. A draft of the 2013 Contingency Plan is currently available for public comment. However, we are interested in modifying the plan to allow for options to incorporate mist-netting at a level that would result in similar probabilities of detection as acoustics and establish presence/probable absence of Indiana bats in summer habitat. Currently available information suggests a netting level much higher than the 2007 mist-netting protocols will be needed to adequately detect Indiana bats in many locations (e.g., areas of the range impacted by white-nose syndrome [WNS] and heavily forested landscapes). We request any pertinent data that you may have that would assist with finalizing this level of effort, particularly from areas affected by WNS.

Given the decision to move forward under a contingency plan, we encourage you to use some of the additional review time to prepare constructive comments and ideas for improving this draft document. We recognize the need to have final guidance in place for the 2013 field season as early as possible to allow survey planning to take place. With this in mind, our goal is to have the 2013 Contingency Plan finalized no later than April 1, 2013. In order to meet this goal, while fully incorporating your input, we respectfully request that reviewers not wait until the very end of the extended comment period to submit their comments. We will attempt to post new comments to our website as they are received. Throughout 2013, we will continue to work towards finalizing the Draft Revised Rangewide Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidelines and plan to have a final version of them for use during the 2014 field season.

The draft documents are still available for review and comment on the Service's Indiana Bat Summer Survey Guidelines web page.

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Endangered/mammals/inba/inbasummersurveyguidance.html>

Please feel free to share this announcement with others that may be interested.

Lastly, to help improve the efficiency of our review, we would greatly appreciate receiving your comments in a spreadsheet format with each unique comment entered on a separate row. Please feel free to use the attached Excel file as a template and to send them to us via email (Indiana_bat@fws.gov). This is an optional format/request.

Thank you,

Andy King, Mike Armstrong and Robyn Niver

R. Andrew King
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bloomington Field Office
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Bloomington, IN 47403
Phone: 812-334-4261 x1216
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