

Apply additional voluntary conservation measures, where appropriate, to reduce the impacts of activities on northern long-eared bats. Conservation measures include:

- a. Conduct tree removal activities outside of the northern long-eared bat pup season (June 1 to July 31) and/or the active season (April 15 to September 15 in Virginia). This will minimize impacts to pups at roosts not yet identified.
- b. Avoid clearing suitable spring staging and fall swarming habitat within a 5-mile radius of known or assumed northern long-eared bat hibernacula during the staging and swarming seasons (April 1 to May 15 and August 15 to November 14, respectively).
- c. Manage forests to ensure a continual supply of snags and other suitable maternity roost trees.
- d. Conduct prescribed burns outside of the pup season (June 1 to July 31) and/or the active season (April 15 to September 15 in Virginia). Avoid high-intensity burns (causing tree scorch higher than northern long-eared bat roosting heights) during the summer maternity season to minimize direct impacts to northern long-eared bat.
- e. Perform any bridge repair, retrofit, maintenance, and/or rehabilitation work outside of the northern long-eared bat active season (April 15 to September 15 in Virginia) in areas where northern long-eared bats are known to roost on bridges or where such use is likely.
- f. Do not use military smoke and obscurants within forested suitable northern long-eared bat habitat during the pup season (June 1 to July 31) and/or the active season (April 15 to September 15 in Virginia).
- g. Minimize use of herbicides and pesticides. If necessary, spot treatment is preferred over aerial application.
- h. Evaluate the use of outdoor lighting during the active season and seek to minimize light pollution by angling lights downward or via other light minimization measures.
- i. Participate in actions to manage and reduce the impacts of white-nose syndrome on northern long-eared bat. Actions needed to investigate and manage white-nose syndrome are described in a national plan the Service developed in coordination with other state and federal.