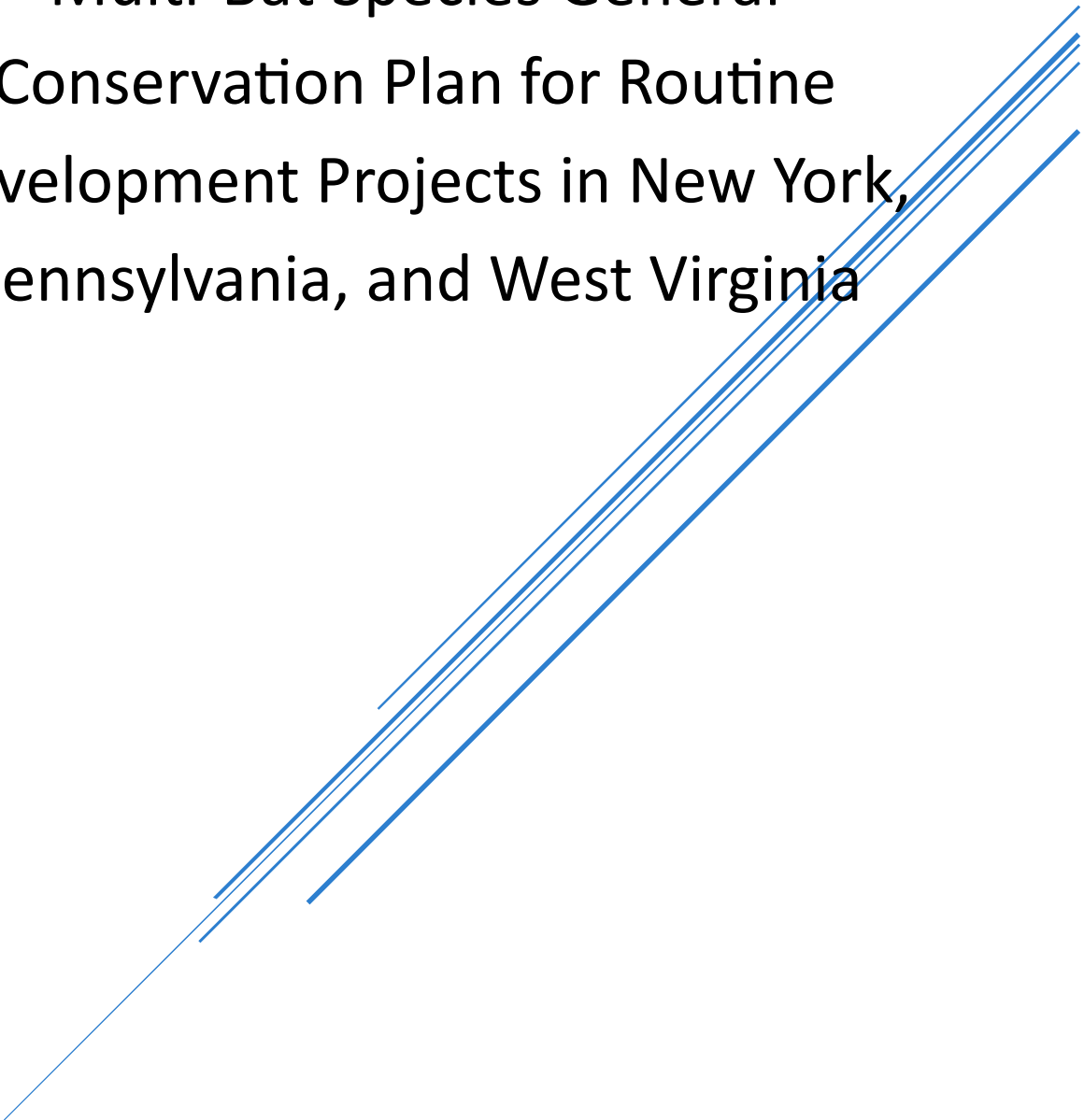


USER'S GUIDE:

Multi-Bat Species General Conservation Plan for Routine Development Projects in New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia

A series of five parallel blue lines of varying lengths, slanted diagonally from the bottom left towards the top right, positioned to the right of the main title.

PREPARED BY: THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, NORTHEAST REGION

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Overview

This User's Guide provides guidance for implementing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Multi-Bat Species General Conservation Plan for Routine Development Projects in New York (NY), Pennsylvania (PA), and West Virginia (WV) (GCP), dated December 2025. The GCP applies to non-Federal project proponents¹ who determine their eligible covered activities result in take of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*; Endangered; IBAT), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*; Endangered; NLEB), and/or tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*; Proposed Endangered; TCB) (collectively, the Covered Species). The GCP is available for use by eligible covered activities for a period of 10 years, unless amended or renewed.² This guide serves as a step-by-step navigation resource starting from determining project eligibility through permit issuance and annual reporting. It is intended to help Service staff and potential project proponents locate relevant information/resources at each stage to aid in streamlining coordination associated with this process. It supplements, but does not replace, the full GCP, associated biological opinion (BO), and Environmental Assessment (EA) documents. These and other implementation resources are available on the Service's GCP website: [Multi-Bat Species General Conservation Plan \(GCP\) for Routine Development Projects | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#). All final interpretations or clarifications of this guidance document shall be made by the Service.

The GCP offers an optional, consistent, and streamlined process to assist project proponents whose otherwise lawful activities are reasonably certain to result in take of the Covered Species in complying with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Applying for a permit under ESA Section 10(a)(1)(B) is a voluntary action at the discretion of the project proponent. If take from eligible covered project activities will occur for IBATs, NLEBs, and/or TCBs, the proponent may: proceed without a permit at their own risk; modify the project to avoid take and proceed without a permit; prepare and submit an Individual Project Plan (IPP) and permit application under the GCP; or prepare and submit a project specific habitat conservation plan (HCP) and permit application. Eligible project proponents who choose to participate in the GCP may receive a permit through its streamlined review and approval process, which is intended to reduce permitting time relative to the typical HCP process.

For a full list of abbreviations/acronyms, and a glossary of commonly used terms, please refer to the EA (pages iv-ix) and the GCP (pages vi-xii).

¹ The GCP may streamline ESA implementation for proposed projects that also involve other Federal agency actions that may affect the Covered Species in NY, PA, and WV (see GCP [Appendix F](#)).

² Individual permits issued through the streamlined GCP process may be authorized for a term of up to 5 years. Therefore, Permittees will have up to 5 years to complete their projects, even if the permit is issued in the final year (i.e., year 10) of the GCP. Permittees that require additional time to complete their projects may seek renewal of their permits in accordance with GCP section 6.4 and applicable regulations.

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Is Your Project Eligible?

This section helps you determine whether your proposed activities fall within the types of projects the GCP is designed to cover. It explains the geographic boundaries of the GCP, the species covered, highlights limitations, and points to tools (such as the Eligibility Key) that support early decision-making. Reviewing this section early will help you avoid unnecessary effort if the GCP is not an appropriate pathway for your project.

The steps below provide examples of 1) actions that are outside the scope of the GCP (ineligible projects) and may need additional or separate coordination with the appropriate field office (FO), and 2) actions that are covered under the GCP (eligible projects) that result in take of the Covered Species. In some cases, the FO may request additional upfront coordination to determine whether a project adheres to the scope of the GCP. Likewise, a project proponent can make early contact with the appropriate FO to discuss whether their project meets the sideboards of the GCP. Figure 1 below shows the general process a project proponent should initially take **before** approaching the FO.

Step 1: Check Your Location and Species

The GCP may be used for projects in NY, PA, and WV when take of the IBAT, NLEB, and/or TCB occurs (see Plan Area, GCP section 1.3). Projects impacting designated IBAT critical habitat³ (applies to West Virginia only) will **not** be allowed to use the GCP. Project proponents and Federal agencies may modify their project to avoid adverse modifications to critical habitat, or they may develop a separate HCP or obtain ESA coverage through another mechanism. The Service has not designated critical habitat for the NLEB or the TCB.

The Plan Area for the GCP is all the lands within the range of the Covered Species in NY, PA, and WV, except Federal lands, where a proposed project could be sited that may be affected directly or indirectly by a project's components described in the Description of the Proposed Action (see GCP section 3.4). The action area for individual projects that use the GCP will be referred to as the Permit Area, which falls entirely within the Plan Area, and includes both the specific geographic area where eligible projects and mitigation are located.

³ Federally designated critical habitat is defined as being specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species at the time of listing that contain physical or biological features essential to conservation of the species and that may require special management considerations or protections; and specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species if it is determined that the area itself is essential for conservation. See critical habitat information, here: [Critical Habitat Fact Sheet | FWS.gov](#).

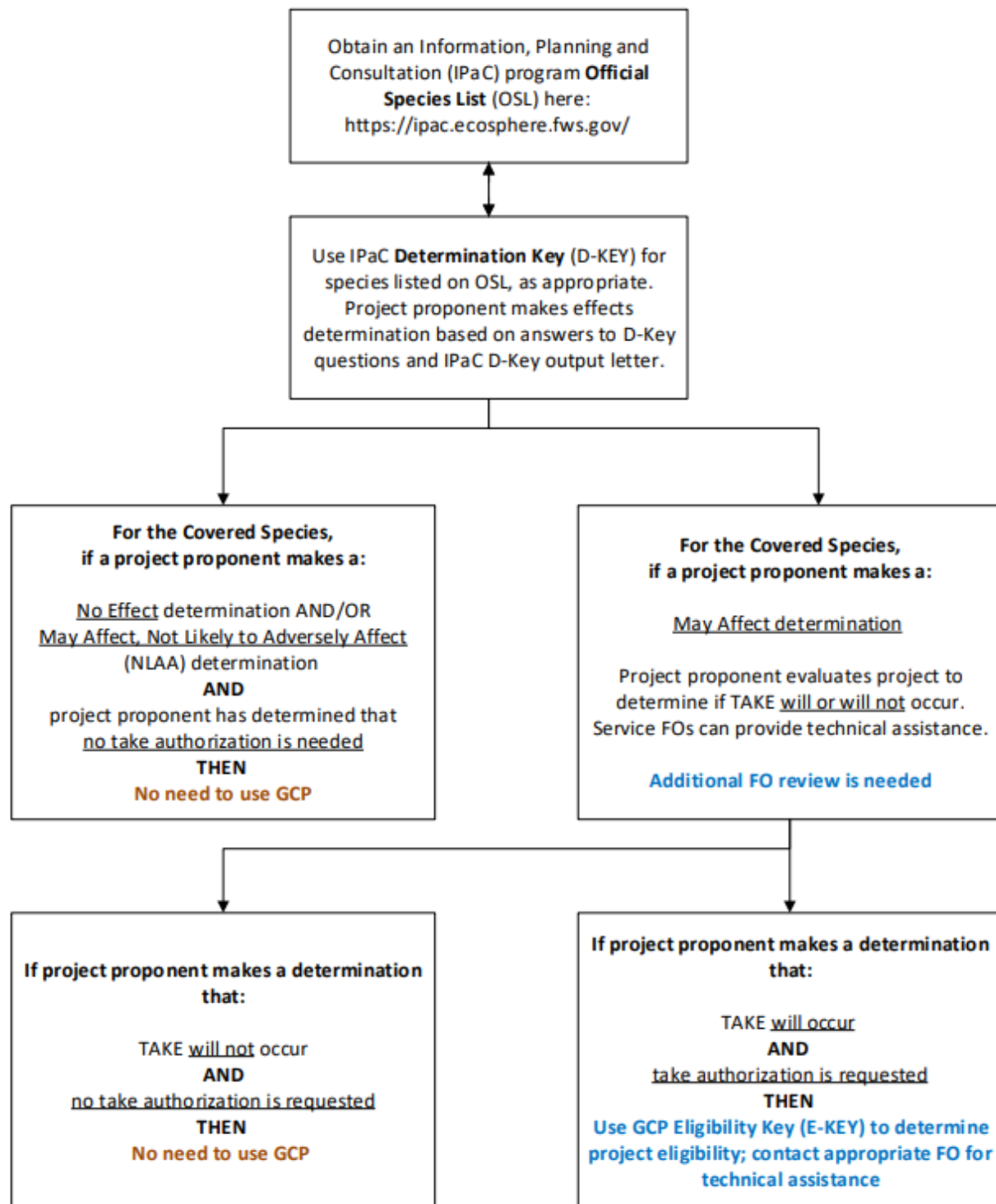


Figure 1. The initial process a project proponent should take to determine if their project is eligible to use the GCP. For FO technical assistance, see GCP [Appendix A](#) for contact information. For projects with a **federal nexus** AND where Federal agencies have determined that take of the Covered Species is reasonably certain to occur, then see Step 5 below and GCP [Appendix F](#).

Step 2: Complete the GCP Eligibility Key

Use **GCP** [Appendix B](#) to determine project eligibility. You'll need to:

- Review the [GCP and all appendices \(A–H\)](#).
- Complete the [Eligibility Key](#) and save a copy of the results.

Ineligible Projects (non-Covered Activities)

Some project types, although they may involve Covered Activities, fall outside the scope of the GCP because they were not analyzed in the GCP, BO, or EA, and therefore, are not eligible for GCP use. This is most often due to unanalyzed project effects or complexities that may require additional National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. Ultimately, it is up to the Service to determine if a project is eligible for participation in the GCP.

Ineligible project types include, but are not limited to:

- Dam-related projects
- New electric transmission line construction
- Pump storage projects
- Nuclear energy facilities
- Coal mining/abandoned mine land reclamation
- Coal or gas power plants
- Wind energy projects
- Concentrating solar power projects⁴
- Communication towers
- New mines/quarries and associated facilities
- Oil and natural gas projects (e.g., wells, well pads, pipelines, high pressure gas mains conveying renewable natural gas, associated access roads, associated waterlines)
- Injection wells
- Landfills
- New road construction (except access roads for other projects covered by the GCP or private internal roads such as those associated with residential subdivisions)
- Emergency situations⁵ such as spills and spill responses
- Forestry activities (e.g., prescribed fire, timber harvests, early successional habitat management)
- Aerial application or other broad-scale application of pesticides
- Airplane and helicopter surveys

⁴ Concentrating solar power systems generate solar power by using mirrors or lenses to concentrate a large area of sunlight onto a receiver.

⁵ Emergency situations under 50 CFR 402.05 would require emergency consultation procedures if there is a federal nexus associated with the project.

If a project type is ineligible for use of the GCP, below are some examples of how a project proponent may be able to use all or parts of this GCP to achieve ESA compliance, as applicable:

1. Project proponents can use components of this GCP to develop a separate HCP and apply for an ITP for both covered and/or non-Covered Species (as identified on an IPaC OSL), or
2. Project proponents and/or Federal agencies (see GCP [Appendix F](#)) can use an existing incidental take statement (such as a programmatic Biological Opinion) for the non-Covered Species and can use the GCP in its entirety for the Covered Species, or
3. Project proponents can use the GCP in its entirety if the project has the Covered Species and can develop a separate HCP and apply for and obtain an ITP for the non-Covered Species.

Project proponents are encouraged to coordinate with their local FO (see GCP [Appendix A](#)) to determine how to meet conservation goals and ESA compliance requirements when project proponents determine project activities will result in effects to non-Covered listed Species.

Eligible Projects (Covered Activities)

Once a project proponent completes IPaC (OSL and appropriate DKeys; Figure 1) and determines that take will occur, refer to [Appendix B](#) and discuss with the FO to determine eligibility to use the GCP. All Covered Activities must be constructed, maintained, and operated in accordance with all relevant Federal, State, and local regulations. Eligible projects are those for which impacts have been analyzed and addressed in the GCP, BO, and NEPA review. Not every project will result in take; project details such as location and timing must be provided to determine whether take will occur. Projects must meet the GCP's eligibility requirements.

The following general project types are eligible when entirely within the GCP Plan Area:

- **Residential/Commercial/Other Development** (e.g., single- or multi-family residential construction or subdivisions; commercial facilities; community facilities; public works; recreational trails and facilities).
- **Transportation** (e.g., postconstruction operations and maintenance [O&M] or expansion of existing roadways/railways without Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Administration/Federal Railroad Administration [FHWA/FTA/FRA] nexus; replacement or removal of associated structures/bridges/culverts without FHWA/FTA/FRA oversight; construction/O&M/use of internal private roads such as those associated with residential subdivisions). An existing rangewide consultation is available for FHWA/FRA/FTA projects; applicants with other Federal agency involvement (e.g., U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers [USACE] permitting) may use the GCP to demonstrate ESA compliance; see [Appendix F](#) for Federal agency involvement process.

- **Utilities** (e.g., new construction, modifications, expansion, O&M for water lines; sewer lines; underground/overhead cable/internet; underground/overhead electrical distribution lines; electrical substations; postconstruction O&M or modification of existing electrical transmission lines within existing footprints). New transmission lines are not included (see GCP section 3.3).

GCP Sideboards for Eligible Projects

The following sideboards (Table 1) are measures that must be implemented by project proponents; take will **not** be authorized unless projects conform to them. Additional avoidance and minimization measures are listed under Step 9: Conservation Measures.

Table 1. A summary of sideboards that must be met for projects to be eligible to use the GCP.

Activities within 0.5-mile of a known or assumed hibernaculum	Projects can be <u>modified</u> to be <u>more than 0.5-mile</u> from known or assumed hibernacula openings or underground features, OR Avoid <u>all</u> take from project activities <u>within 0.5-mile</u> of a known or assumed occupied hibernacula openings or underground features (see GCP section 4.4.1.1 for a complete list of stressors to avoid).
Activities within 150 feet of documented roost trees	Projects must be sited to <u>avoid</u> all damage to or removal of documented IBAT, NLEB or TCB roosts (unless no longer suitable for roosting) and trees within 150 feet of documented roosts any time of year. Applies to roost trees present in spring staging, summer, and fall swarming habitats.
Activities in spring staging/fall swarming areas	Projects must <u>avoid</u> destruction or alteration of suitable spring staging or fall swarming areas from project activities <u>within 0.5-mile</u> of known or assumed occupied hibernacula openings or underground features. To avoid take, project activities <u>within 0.5-mile</u> shall not cause any stressors that disturb, kill or injure bats (see GCP section 4.4.1.1 for a complete list of stressors to avoid). Tree removal (i.e., suitable habitat removal) in spring staging/fall swarming areas must be done when bats are unlikely to be present (e.g., during winter).
Activities in documented travel/commuting corridors	Projects must be sited to <u>avoid</u> all removal of documented travel/commuting habitat any time of year. Currently, this sideboard does not apply to any of the Covered Species within the Plan Area; however, should a travel/commuting corridor be documented in the

	future for any of the Covered Species this sideboard would be applicable.												
Tree removal (including trimming, topping, pruning, and/or limbing)	To avoid lethal impacts associated with tree removal, <u>avoid removing any suitable habitat</u> (including suitable roosts and surrounding trees that may fall on and damage suitable roosts) within the known or assumed occupied summer habitat, <u>during the active season</u>, OR If avoidance of the entire active season is not possible, <u>avoid</u> removing any suitable habitat (including suitable roosts) within known or assumed occupied summer habitat between <u>April 1 and August 15</u>.⁶ Tree removal windows for projects that can complete this activity in winter: <table><tr><th>NY⁷</th><th>PA</th><th>WV</th></tr><tr><td>October 1-March 31 (NY, excluding Long Island) – IBAT, NLEB, TCB)</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>November 1-March 31 (NY, excluding Long Island) – IBAT, NLEB, TCB)</td><td>November 15-March 31</td><td>November 15-March 31</td></tr><tr><td>December 1-February 28 (Long Island – NLEB, TCB)</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> Projects must <u>avoid</u> the burning of debris piles (brush piles) for vegetation removal within known or assumed occupied summer habitat during the active season. Methods such as chipping and mulching are preferred. Projects involving <u>more than 200 acres</u> of nonlinear known occupied habitat removal <u>are not eligible</u> to use this GCP.	NY ⁷	PA	WV	October 1-March 31 (NY, excluding Long Island) – IBAT, NLEB, TCB)			November 1-March 31 (NY, excluding Long Island) – IBAT, NLEB, TCB)	November 15-March 31	November 15-March 31	December 1-February 28 (Long Island – NLEB, TCB)		
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November 1-March 31 (NY, excluding Long Island) – IBAT, NLEB, TCB)	November 15-March 31	November 15-March 31											
December 1-February 28 (Long Island – NLEB, TCB)													
Presence/probable absence (P/A) surveys	P/A surveys <u>must</u> be completed for projects with <u>more than 25 total acres of nonlinear suitable</u> (but not documented) summer habitat removal.												

⁶ Unless fewer than 10 trees will be removed, and a visual emergence survey that did not record any presence has been completed.

⁷ The inactive season includes the range of time when the Covered Species are hibernating. For Long Island, NY, the inactive season is shorter for NLEBs and TCBs as they are active during a longer portion of the year. Also, for Upstate NY, two different inactive seasons are given depending on the distance a proposed project is from a hibernaculum – IBAT: October 1 to March 31 if a proposed project is > 10 miles from a Priority (P) 3 or P4 hibernaculum or > 20 miles from a P1 or P2 hibernaculum OR November 1 to March 31 if a proposed project is ≤ 10 miles from a P1 or P2 hibernaculum or ≤ 20 miles from a P1 or P2 hibernaculum; NLEB and TCB: October 1 to March 31 if a proposed project is > 5 miles for NLEB or > 3 miles for TCB from a hibernaculum OR November 1 to March 31 if a proposed project is ≤ 5 miles for NLEB or ≤ 3 miles for TCB of a hibernaculum.

Road/rail projects	Projects must <u>avoid</u> all raising of any road/rail profile above the tree canopy within 1,000 feet of known or assumed occupied summer habitat.
Noise and vibration	Projects must <u>avoid</u> increasing noise levels above existing traffic/background levels and/or vibrations (e.g., blasting) within 0.25 mile of roosts, captures, or detections, unless measures are implemented to dampen noise and vibration levels.
Lighting	Projects <u>must</u> use lighting (temporary or permanent) that is directed away from known or assumed occupied summer habitat during the active season, and is downward-facing, with full cut-off lens (see GCP section 4.4.1.1 for details).
Artificial (manmade) structures	Projects must <u>avoid</u> structure replacement and/or maintenance work <u>when bats or signs of roosting bats are present</u> . Work may be completed during the winter hibernation period, if bats are not present or if all disturbance to bats present is avoided (see GCP section 4.4.1.1 for details).
Activities with ongoing or recurring take	Projects that result in <u>ongoing or recurring take are not covered by this GCP</u> (e.g., noise, lighting, vibration effects even after tree removal is complete).
Critical habitat	Only projects taking place in WV need to consider critical habitat. Projects that result in impacts to critical habitat are not covered by this GCP.

Gather Required Information

Before drafting your IPP, you'll need to assemble several pieces of information related to species presence, project location, agency involvement, and site conditions. This section outlines the key documents, data, and correspondence you should compile to streamline your IPP development and Service review.

Step 3: Get Your IPaC Project Code

Visit [IPaC](#) and generate your project code. Download your **Official Species List**.

Step 4: Include Required Documentation

Depending on your state and species, include:

- Appropriate bat **IPaC autogenerated DKey letters**.
- **PNDI receipts** (for PA).
- **Service FO correspondence** (if applicable) (e.g., technical assistance letters, concurrence letters, emails, etc.).

For **all** projects:

- Include a copy of your **Eligibility Key** results.

Step 5: Federal Agency Involvement

If your project is federally funded or authorized, list the agency (e.g., **USACE**, **HUD**) in your IPP and coordinate as indicated in GCP [Appendix F](#).

Step 6: Project Details

Include in your IPP (see GCP [Appendix C](#)):

- Description of all activities (including construction, staging, access roads, etc.).
- Acreage amount or linear miles within the project area.
- Total acreage of ground disturbance that will result from the project.
- Maps (topographic/aerial or shapefiles).
- Site photos (cardinal directions with coordinates; representative photos of vegetation and Covered Species habitat).

Because individual projects may include activities within several categories, potential Applicants should describe and discuss all aspects of their proposed projects with the local FO to ensure appropriate coverage.

Step 7: Timeline

Provide:

- Construction schedule (anticipated start and end dates for all project phases, if known)
- Tree removal schedule (anticipated start and end dates for all project phases), including for trimming/limbing/pruning/topping.

Assess Habitat and Species Impact

This section outlines when surveys are required, how to report survey results, and what conservation measures you must implement to avoid and minimize impacts. It prepares you to complete your effects analysis for the Covered Species and inform your take estimate.

Step 8: Survey Results

Include:

- Bat survey results or confirmation that Covered Species presence was assumed.

- For nonlinear projects with more than 25 total acres of suitable (but not documented) summer habitat removal, P/A surveys must be completed and results provided.
- Confirmation that all survey efforts followed the most recent Service [White-nose Syndrome \(WNS\) decontamination protocols](#).

Step 9: Conservation Measures

The GCP conservation program is based on the biological and ecological needs of the Covered Species and defines the conservation goals the plan is intended to accomplish. The conservation strategy, goals, and objectives of the GCP can be found in GCP sections 4.1 and 4.2 and are intended to avoid and/or minimize impacts to bats, and to restore and/or protect IBAT, NLEB, and TCB populations affected by WNS. Measures to conserve and manage winter roosts (hibernacula) and maternity colonies are expected to aid in managing the effects of WNS. Protection of populations that appear to be more resilient to the effects of the disease (i.e., “survivors”) is emphasized. Because life histories, habitat needs, and threats faced by the IBAT, NLEB and TCB are mostly similar (see GCP Chapter 2), the GCP provides a single conservation program with consistent measures intended to benefit all three species.

ESA section 10 requires that conservation plans “minimize and mitigate to the maximum extent practicable” the impacts of take authorized by a permit, and that issuance of the Permit will not “appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild.” The GCP adopts best practices for conservation of the Covered Species; therefore, certain avoidance measures are required in order to obtain a permit under the GCP. Including avoidance measures for participation in the GCP results in fewer impacts from project activities; thus, reducing the Applicant’s need to implement other minimization and mitigation measures. In general, conservation plans should include mitigation programs that are based on sound biological rationale and are practicable and commensurate with the project impacts on species for which take authorization is requested. If the proposed project is expected to result in permanent habitat loss, then the mitigation strategy must include compensatory mitigation consisting of the permanent preservation of suitable habitat or similar measures. Applicants under this plan must provide mitigation for impacts to the IBAT, NLEB and/or TCB associated with removal of occupied or assumed occupied habitat (including from noise and vibrations).

The conservation measures (CMs) described below are designed to achieve GCP objectives by further defining measurable elements, specifying end results, and indicating when they will be achieved. The CMs describe specific actions a permittee will implement to achieve objectives that support conservation plan goals. Permittees must commit to implement all CMs that pertain to their project. The GCP also includes optional measures that may help further reduce impacts or contribute to our understanding of the biology or ecology of the Covered Species. Each CM and optional CM may support multiple biological objectives, see GCP section 4.3 for the full list of the biological goals and objectives.

An Applicant's IPP submitted as part of the GCP application process will identify which of the following CMs apply to the proposed project. Implementation of applicable avoidance and minimization CMs will be required in the terms and conditions of issued Permits. The Applicant is responsible for ensuring that operators, employees, and contractors are made aware of and follow the required CMs associated with the GCP.

List all relevant conservation measures for the project in your IPP (refer to GCP section 4.4.1.1).

Table 2.1. Conservation measures that apply to all GCP biological objectives stated in GCP Section 4.3.

The following measures apply to <u>all</u> proposed projects and support all biological objectives of the GCP. In these CMs, <i>tree removal includes whole tree removal, trimming, topping, pruning, and/or limbing</i> .	
GENERAL CM 1	All survey efforts must follow the most recent Service WNS decontamination protocols .
GENERAL MEASURE (OPTIONAL) CM 2	Develop and implement a restoration plan to plant and restore native trees on disturbed sites and temporary construction areas.
GENERAL CM 3	Implement best management practices to ensure water quality by minimizing the introduction of sediment into waterways that provide foraging habitat for the Covered Species within the Permit Area.

Table 2.2. Conservation measures that conserve and manage winter colonies, hibernacula, and fall swarming/spring staging areas.

For projects <u>within 0.5 mile of known or assumed occupied hibernacula</u>, implement HIB CM 1(A or B) and FALL/SPRING CM 1⁸	
HIB CM 1A	Modify project activity locations to ensure they are <u>more than 0.5 mile away</u> from known or assumed occupied hibernacula openings or underground features. Note: in some cases, mapping of underground passages may be required to achieve this measure.
<i>OR</i>	
HIB CM 1B	Avoid all take from project activities <u>within 0.5-mile of known or assumed occupied hibernacula openings or underground features</u>. In order to avoid take, projects <u>within 0.5 mile</u> shall not cause any stressors that: • disturb bats (during inactive season: noise, vibration, smoke, increased entry by humans; leading to shorter torpor bouts and more frequent arousals and starvation); • kill bats (during inactive season: filling hibernacula openings, entrapment, crushing, flooding hibernacula, collapse of hibernacula from vibration, increased entry by humans); • negatively impact water quality for bats that wake up and drink any water in a hibernaculum (during inactive season); and • negatively alter, damage or destroy hibernacula (any time of year), directly or unintentionally fill or otherwise alter hibernacula openings, thus altering air flow (via soil erosion, slumps, debris disposal, etc.) ○ create new hibernacula openings that alter air flow, ○ alter water levels, ○ alter humidity, ○ collapse hibernacula from vibration, digging, or other activities.
Activities associated with potential projects that would not cause take of the Covered Species at known or assumed hibernacula may occur within identified 0.5-mile buffers after coordination with the local FO (e.g., bridge/structure bat assessments, surveys, planning and technical studies, property inspections, property sales, painting, non-suitable habitat vegetation removal). Project proponents shall provide project descriptions to the local FO (e.g., location, timing, duration, methods). The local FO project review will consider <u>activities within 0.5-mile of openings or underground features associated with known or assumed hibernacula</u> and assess impacts to determine if project activities are anticipated to cause any of the stressors listed above.	

⁸ Areas within a 0.5-mile buffer around known or assumed occupied hibernacula are excluded from the GCP Plan Area and no take of the Covered Species will be authorized within those areas.

FALL/SPRING CM 1	Avoid destruction or alteration of suitable spring staging or fall swarming areas from project activities <u>within 0.5-mile</u> of known or assumed occupied hibernacula openings or underground features. In order to avoid take, project activities <u>within 0.5-mile</u> shall not cause any stressors that: • disturb bats (during spring staging or fall swarming season such as noise, smoke, vibration); and • kill or harm bats (e.g., cutting trees while bats are in torpor during spring staging or fall swarming season).
Many activities associated with potential projects will not be reasonably certain to cause take of the Covered Species and may; therefore, occur within 0.5-mile buffers after coordination with the local FO (e.g., bridge/structure bat assessments, surveys, planning and technical studies, property inspections, property sales, painting, removal of unsuitable vegetation). Project Proponents shall provide the project description (e.g., location, timing, duration, methods) to the local FO. This information shall highlight all <u>activities within 0.5 mile of known or assumed occupied spring staging or fall swarming areas</u> and include an assessment of impacts that demonstrates the relevant project activities will not cause any of the stressors listed above.	
For projects <u>more than 0.5 mile</u> from hibernacula, but <u>within known or assumed occupied spring staging/fall swarming areas</u> (up to 20 miles depending on species and hibernacula population numbers⁹), follow FALL/SPRING CMs 2-8.	
FALL/SPRING CM 2	Site project activities to avoid damaging or removing documented roost trees for the Covered Species (unless no longer suitable for roosting) and trees within 150 feet of documented roosts any time of year.
FALL/SPRING CM 3	Reduce project footprints and arrange projects to minimize tree removal or impacts to streams and wetlands within fall swarming/spring staging areas.
FALL/SPRING CM 4	Conduct any tree removal (suitable habitat) within fall swarming/spring staging areas when bats are unlikely to be present. • If summer presence is known or assumed, conduct tree removal while bats are in hibernation (contact local field office for tree cutting dates). • If summer presence is unknown and Project Proponent is not assuming summer presence, conduct summer P/A surveys. • If bats are unlikely to occur in summer per any prior information or summer P/A survey results, avoid tree removal during fall swarming and spring staging time periods.
FALL/SPRING CM 5	Use only pesticides that are approved for use in karst areas (e.g., sinkholes) or within/near aquatic features (e.g., streams, ponds, lakes, wetlands).

⁹ See the Service's Indiana Bat Section 7 and Section 10 Guidance for Wind Energy Projects, [here](#). Applicants should coordinate with their local FO to determine if their proposed project is located within known occupied spring staging/fall swarming areas.

FALL/SPRING CM 6	Locate staging areas for equipment, fuel, materials, and personnel at least 100 feet (or greater if local or State rules require more) from wetlands, streams and waterbodies (including drainage ditches), and water supply wells, to reduce the potential for sediment and hazardous spills entering these areas. If sufficient space is not available, coordinate with the local field office to determine if alternate measures (i.e., spill plan) can avoid contamination of foraging habitat and drinking water.
FALL/SPRING CM 7	Direct temporary lighting away from suitable habitat during the active season.
FALL/SPRING CM 8	When installing new or replacing existing permanent lights, use downward-facing, full cut-off lens lights (with same intensity or less for replacement lighting); or for those transportation agencies using the BUG system developed by the Illuminating Engineering Society, the goal is to be as close to 0 for all three ratings with a priority of "uplight" of 0 and "backlight" as low as practicable.

Table 2.3. Conservation measures that conserve and manage maternity colonies and their habitat.

All projects within known or assumed occupied suitable summer habitat follow SUMMER CMs 1-15.	
SUMMER CM 1	Site project activities to avoid all damage to or removal of documented IBAT, NLEB or TCB roosts (unless no longer suitable for roosting) and trees within 150 feet of documented roosts any time of year.
SUMMER CM 2	Site project activities to minimize damaging, degrading or removing suitable roosts or foraging habitat in known or assumed occupied summer habitat any time of year.
SUMMER CM 3	Site project activities to avoid all removal of documented travel/commuting habitat any time of year.
SUMMER CM 4	Site project activities to minimize removing potential travel/commuting habitat in known or assumed occupied summer habitat.
SUMMER CM 5	Conduct P/A surveys for projects with more than 25 total acres of nonlinear suitable (but not documented) summer habitat removal.
SUMMER CM 6A	To avoid lethal impacts associated with tree removal, avoid removing any suitable habitat (including suitable roosts and surrounding trees that may fall on and damage suitable roosts) within known or assumed occupied summer habitat, during the active season.
<i>OR</i>	
SUMMER CM 6B	If avoidance of the entire active season is not possible (Summer CM 6A), avoid removing any suitable habitat (including suitable roosts) within known or assumed occupied summer habitat between April 1 and August 15. ¹⁰

¹⁰ Unless fewer than 10 trees will be removed, and a visual emergence survey that did not record any presence has been completed.

SUMMER CM 7	Avoid all raising of any road/rail profile above the tree canopy within 1,000 feet of known or assumed occupied summer habitat.
SUMMER CM 8	During the active season, avoid all burning of debris piles (brush piles) for vegetation removal within known or assumed occupied summer habitat. Methods such as chipping and mulching are preferred.
SUMMER CM 9	Coordinate with the local field office for projects that increase noise above existing traffic/background levels and/or vibrations (e.g., blasting) within 0.25 mile of roosts, captures, or detections. Avoid conducting those activities during the active season or implement measures to dampen sound/vibration levels.
SUMMER CM 10	Direct temporary lighting away from known or assumed occupied summer habitat during the active season.
SUMMER CM 11	When installing new or replacing existing permanent lights, use downward-facing, full cut-off lens lights (with same intensity or less for replacement lighting); or for those transportation agencies using the BUG system developed by the Illuminating Engineering Society, the goal is to be as close to 0 for all three ratings with a priority of "uplight" of 0 and "backlight" as low as practicable.
SUMMER CM 12	Use only pesticides that are approved for use in and around waterbodies or wetlands.
SUMMER CM 13	Locate staging areas for equipment, fuel, materials, and personnel at least 100 feet (or greater if local or State rules require more) from wetlands, streams and waterbodies (including drainage ditches), and water supply wells, to reduce the potential for sediment and hazardous spills entering these areas. If sufficient space is not available, coordinate with the local field office to determine if alternate measures (i.e., spill plan) can avoid contamination of foraging habitat and drinking water.
SUMMER MEASURE (OPTIONAL) 14A	Minimize to the maximum extent practicable or consider alternatives to the number of stream crossings and acres of wetland fill within known or assumed occupied summer habitat.
SUMMER MEASURE (OPTIONAL) 14B	If stream or wetland mitigation is required as part of State, local or Federal permitting processes for the project, where practicable, site those efforts close to known Covered Species roosting or foraging habitat.
SUMMER CM 15A	To avoid lethal impacts, conduct any tree removal, topping, limb trimming, or pruning for postconstruction operations and maintenance activities within documented summer habitat during the inactive season.
<i>OR</i>	
SUMMER CM 15B	If avoidance of the entire active season is not possible (Summer CM 15A), avoid conducting any tree removal, topping, limb trimming, or pruning for

	post-construction operations and maintenance activities within documented summer habitat between April 1 and August 15. ¹¹
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Table 2.4. Conservation measures that conserve and manage artificial (manmade) roosting habitat.

All projects within known or assumed occupied structures follow STRUCTURE CM 1-2.	
STRUCTURE CM 1A	Perform any structure replacement and/or maintenance work during the <u>winter hibernation period unless a hibernating colony of bats is present</u> . ¹² Note: Structure CM 1A is an avoidance measure for directly affecting roosting bats; the full implementation of which may not always be practicable. If structure replacement, and/or maintenance work must be performed when bats are present, then follow Structure CM 1B.
OR	
STRUCTURE CM 1B	If work is conducted when bats are present, <u>avoid all disturbance of bats</u> . For example, the following types of bridge work can generally be conducted when bats are present: • Above deck work where construction equipment or materials do not extend to the underside of deck where bats may be located (e.g., materials that may drip down to underside of deck) or does not include percussives (vibration) or noise levels above general traffic (e.g., road line painting, wing-wall work) • Below deck work that is not conducted immediately below roosting bats and does not involve percussives or noise level above general traffic (e.g., wing-wall work, some abutment, beam end, scour, or pier repair)
STRUCTURE CM 2	Avoid removing or altering roosting potential of structures or bridges with <u>signs of roosting bats</u> (e.g., signs of stains, guano, or vocalizations).

Step 10: Estimate Take

Your IPP must describe effects likely to result from the taking. In general, incidental take of the Covered Species from Covered Activities is anticipated to be associated with:

- Tree removal (including trimming, topping, pruning, and/or limbing) during the inactive season/winter and/or active season/late summer.
- Noise/vibration associated with active season habitat modification (noise/vibration associated with activities other than habitat modification is **not** covered by the GCP).

¹¹ Unless fewer than 10 trees will be removed, and a visual emergence survey that did not record any presence has been completed.

¹² Coordinate with local FO to determine if overwintering bats are present.

- Mitigation projects (e.g., gating hibernacula, protecting summer habitat) are **not** anticipated to result in incidental take; any intentional take from capture/handling associated with mitigation/monitoring is addressed separately under recovery permits (10(a)(1)(A)).

Refer to GCP sections 4.5.1.1 and 4.5.1.2 for a complete description of the effects likely to result from the taking of the species.

Note: Estimated take on your IPP should be recorded as acres of suitable habitat for each of the Covered Species (IBAT, NLEB, and/or TCB).

Over the 10-year life of this GCP, the maximum amount of take permitted will be up to 180,000 acres (with habitat as a surrogate), depending on species overlap, up to 2,000 acres per state per year per species (NY, PA, WV), totaling 6,000 acres annually (Table 3).

Table 3. Maximum allowed acreage impacts for Covered Species in the Permit Area.

State	IBAT acres/year	NLEB acres/year	TCB acres/year	IBAT acres/duration of GCP (10 years)	NLEB acres/duration of GCP (10 years)	TCB acres/duration of GCP (10 years)
NY	2,000	2,000	2,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
PA	2,000	2,000	2,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
WV	2,000	2,000	2,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Total	6,000	6,000	6,000	60,000	60,000	60,000

Mitigation

This section introduces available mitigation pathways and explains how to select an option that aligns with project needs, regulatory requirements, and the GCP's conservation framework.

ESA section 10(a)(2)(A)(ii) requires Applicants seeking incidental take authorization to identify steps to minimize and mitigate to the maximum extent practicable and to identify funding to implement those measures. GCP mitigation offsets impacts that remain after avoidance and minimization. Projects resulting in permanent loss of occupied habitat will be offset with similarly permanent protection of occupied habitat. Implementation of mitigation measures selected by an Applicant, and identified in their IPP, is required by permit terms/conditions. Additional information is in GCP section 4.6.

Step 11: Choose a Mitigation Option

In your IPP, indicate the type of mitigation funding assurances that will be implemented by selecting one or more of the mitigation options below (see GCP sections 4.8.1.1 and 5.0) (select one or more, as appropriate):

- Service-approved bat conservation bank (must include one or more Covered Species; currently available in PA for IBAT). **Note:** Documentation of credit purchase must be provided to the Service prior to the onset of any activities that have the potential to result in take of the Covered Species.
- Service-approved In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Program (must include one or more Covered Species; the FHWA/FRA/FTA Section 7 Rangewide Consultation ILF is available for the IBAT and NLEB; an associated ILF program is not currently available for TCB). **Note:** The Applicant must provide documentation of the contribution of fees into the ILF prior to the onset of any activities that have the potential to result in take of the Covered Species.
- Service-approved permittee responsible mitigation (PRM) (proponent identifies, protects, and retains responsibility for mitigation actions, or funds a Service-approved conservation entity to conduct mitigation on their behalf). **Note:** Lands must be acquired, permanent conservation easement established, endowments established, and management plan completed and be approved by the Service prior to the onset of any activities that have the potential to result in take of the Covered Species.
- PRM Surveys. **Note:** All surveys shall be conducted prior to the onset of any activities that have the potential to result in take of the Covered Species. If surveys are negative for the presence of new Covered Species maternity colonies and/or hibernacula, another mitigation method must be chosen, and funding assurances secured.

Refer to GCP section 4.6 and Table 3 for more detail on what the requirements are for each option and what information is required for each.

Cultural and Environmental Compliance

In addition to ESA requirements, GCP eligible projects must meet cultural resource and environmental compliance obligations. This section summarizes the types of documentation and coordination that may be required, such as National Historic Preservation Act review, and directs you to supporting resources in the GCP.

Step 12: National Historic Preservation Act

Provide:

- Justification for the Service to conclude if the project has the potential to affect Historic Properties or not; and if the Applicant is required to consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or Service Regional Historic Preservation Officer (RHPO).
- All relevant documentation to the Service, including No Effect justification, database search results, field survey reports, SHPO consultation submissions and responses, etc.

Refer to GCP [Appendix E](#).

Step 13: Environmental Review

Include:

- Documentation of ESA compliance for non-Covered species (i.e., IPaC generated letter with NE/NLAA determination, Biological Opinion, existing ITP).
- State agency correspondence (if applicable).

Submitting Your IPP

Once your IPP is complete, this section guides you through the submission process. It clarifies where and how to submit your materials and provides formatting expectations, so your request reaches the appropriate Service FO without delays.

Step 14: How to Submit

Email your IPP to the appropriate Service FO ([Appendix A](#)). Use this subject line format:
GCP IPP Application Review Requested: [Project Title] [IPaC Code] [State – NY, PA, or WV]

Do **not** submit to individual staff or submit the same project through both email and mail.

What Happens Next?

After submission, the Service will review your IPP for completeness and alignment with the GCP. This section outlines what you can expect during review, how the Service communicates requests for clarification or revisions, and how to access the Service's ePermits system once your IPP is approved.

Step 15: Review and Approval

The Service will:

- Review your IPP for completeness. This may include coordination with Service FO species experts and supervisors; Regional Office section 10 coordinator, RHPO, and/or tribal liaison; management; solicitors; etc.
- Notify you via email that your IPP is complete or request revisions.

Applicant:

- Once your IPP is determined to be complete, go to the Service's [ePermits](#) site, create a login account, and begin filling out the permit application.
- Inform your local FO contact that you have created an ePermits account.

The Service will:

- Review the Applicant's ePermits account and enable the Applicant to submit an application for an ITP.

Applicant:

- Submit a complete application in ePermits which will include the IPP, fee, and Application form 3-200-56 ITP with an HCP.

The Service will:

- Draft a Notice of Availability (NOA) for publication in the *Federal Register* of the receipt of an HCP permit application.
- Coordinate with Management for approval to publish NOA.
- Publish the NOA in the *Federal Register* (30-day public comment period).
- Address public comments, if any.
- Issue permit (with applicable terms and conditions) and notify the permittee via ePermits and by their FO contact.

Reporting Requirements

After receiving a permit, you must submit annual reports documenting project activities and confirming compliance with all required CMs. This section explains what must be reported, where to submit, and where to check for other important GCP information.

Step 16: Annual Reporting

Permittees:

- Submit annual report(s) of activities via your ePermits account.
- Submit a final monitoring report to your ePermits account once all mitigation and monitoring requirements are met.

Service FO project leads:

- Review annual report for compliance with ITP and respond to Permittee (e.g., letter of noncompliance, letter or email noting compliance with ITP).
- Contact Permittee with any questions.

Refer to GCP [Appendix H](#) for a complete list of annual reporting requirements. For example, your annual report should describe the amount of permitted take that has occurred since the Permit was issued, such as the acres of suitable habitat or number of trees removed, as well as the amount of permitted take that remains for your project, if applicable.

GCP and Appendices

[GCP](#) – Full document

[Appendix A](#) – Contact Information for Local Field Office

[Appendix B](#) – GCP Eligibility Key (E-Key)

[Appendix C](#) – Individual Project Plan (IPP)

[Appendix D](#) – Threatened and Endangered Species within the GCP Plan Area

[Appendix E](#) – National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Compliance

[Appendix F](#) – Federal Action Agency Involvement

[Appendix G](#) – Standard Process for Obtaining and Implementing a Permit for an HCP

[Appendix H](#) – Annual Reporting Requirements

Attachments and Visual Aids

[Attachment 1](#): Eligibility Key Example Projects

[Attachment 2](#): Interpretation of Eligibility Key Questions

[Attachment 3](#): Mitigation Flowchart

Attachment 1: Eligibility Key Example Projects

This section provides example projects that have been run through the eligibility key to help users understand how different types of development activities may or may not qualify for coverage under the finalized GCP for the Indiana bat (IBAT), northern long-eared bat (NLEB), and tricolored bat (TCB). These examples are designed to demonstrate how the eligibility key works in practice and to guide project proponents through the self-screening process.

Please note that the examples included here are not exhaustive. They are intended to illustrate a range of scenarios, from residential and commercial development to infrastructure projects, that could potentially be eligible for coverage. Users should refer to the final GCP/eligibility key and supporting documents to evaluate their specific project details.

Example Project #1: Utility Line Installation in Long Island, New York (small scale project within 1-mile of documented roost example)

Example Project #2: Commercial Development in West Virginia (Assumption of Presence/Less Than 25-Acre Nonlinear Project Example)

Example Project #3: Solar Project in Pennsylvania (Maximum Take Example)

Example Project #4: Electrical Distribution Line in Pennsylvania and West Virginia (Multi-State/Non-Covered Species/Large Linear Project Example)

Example Project #5: Residential Development in Upstate New York (Tree Removal During Active Season Near Documented Hibernaculum Example)

Example Project #6: Development of a Data Processing Center in Pennsylvania (Habitat Removal *Outside* of Documented Travel Corridor Example)

Attachment 2: Interpretation of Eligibility Key Questions

The purpose of this document is to help project proponents understand whether their proposed activities may be eligible to use the Multi-Bat Species General Conservation Plan (GCP) for Routine Development Projects in New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*; IBAT), northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*; NLEB), and tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*; TCB). This tool supports and clarifies documents that have been provided for public comment and incentivizes early project planning by providing interpretation of eligibility key questions and directing users to the appropriate resources, including their local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Field Office (FO), for further coordination. This document is not intended to conflict with the final GCP documents. By providing clear guidance, the Service aims to assist applicants in meeting Endangered Species Act (ESA) requirements while supporting the conservation strategy for the Covered Species included in the GCP. Please refer to the [GCP Glossary](#) for definitions on terminology used throughout this document.

GCP Eligibility Key Questions	Interpretation of Questions
1.0 Does the proposed project occur entirely within NY, PA, and/or WV (i.e., within the Plan Area)?	Use the Service's Information, Planning, and Consultation (IPaC) program to determine whether your project is within the GCP Plan Area.
1.1 Is the proposed project one of the following: a residential/commercial/recreational development project, a transportation project, or a utility project described as an eligible project type in GCP section 3.4? (GCP section 3.4 provides a list of eligible project types and section 3.3 provides a list of ineligible project types)	If a project type does not appear in either list in GCP section 3.4, it may still be eligible to use the GCP. Such projects could qualify if their impacts on the Covered Species are consistent with the effects analyzed in the GCP, the Service's intra-Service Biological Opinion, and the Environmental Assessment. Coordinate with your local FO to confirm eligibility.
1.2 Are the Covered Species the only federally listed species for which take is reasonably certain to occur as a result of the proposed project?	Use IPaC to obtain an official species list (OSL) to identify any federally listed species and determine if federally listed species other than the Covered Species may need review. Then use the appropriate determination key(s) (dkey) for any non-Covered Species and obtain an IPaC output letter. If project proponents receive an IPaC output letter indicating that no further consultation or coordination with the Service is necessary and the project proponent agrees with the determination(s) for the non-Covered Species, then no take authorization is needed for that species. If take is expected for any non-Covered Species, additional ESA authorization may be necessary. Please coordinate with your local FO. The GCP authorizes incidental take only for the Covered Species. For more information on dkey letters, see the IPaC Determination Key Letters and Consultation Process Frequently Asked Questions..

1.3a Has the proposed project used the NLEB and TCB rangewide determination key (dkey) in IPaC?	Projects should be run through IPaC’s NLEB and TCB Rangewide dkey to obtain an IPaC output letter before continuing through the eligibility key. Note, if the IBAT is on your OLS, you should also screen your project through the most current/relevant dkey.																				
1.3b Did you receive a NLAA determination for the NLEB and/or TCB using the rangewide dkey?	If a project proponent receives a May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect (NLAA) or No Take determination for a Covered Species and agrees with it, they do not need to continue using the GCP eligibility key for the NLEB and/or TCB. However, they can continue through the eligibility key if a May Affect determination was made or if the IBAT appears on the IPaC OSL.																				
1.4a Is the proposed project located <u>within</u> 0.5-mile of a hibernaculum <u>known</u> to be used by IBATs, NLEBs and/or TCBs?	The IPaC dkeys for the IBAT, NLEB, and TCB may indicate whether a proposed project falls within a 0.5-mile hibernaculum buffer. If they do not, contact the local FO to assist in answering this question.																				
1.4b Are impacts to <u>known occupied</u> hibernacula or take of Covered Species <u>within</u> 0.5-mile of known occupied hibernacula reasonably certain to occur? (GCP section 4.4.1.2 provides a list of potential stressors)	This question does not apply to proposed projects located outside, or modified to be outside, a 0.5-mile hibernaculum buffer such that take of the Covered Species is avoided. The GCP does not cover impacts to hibernacula or hibernating bats. Project proponents should evaluate the scope, scale, location, and timing of activities relative to the Covered Species’ biology and activity periods to determine whether take will occur.																				
1.5a Does the project area contain any caves or mine portals <u>not</u> currently documented as hibernacula for the Covered Species?	This question asks whether cave or mine portals are present that are not documented as supporting the Covered Species because no surveys have been completed to confirm presence/probable absence (P/A). If any such features are present, project proponent may assume presence of the Covered Species or conduct a habitat assessment to determine whether conditions could support them, using the Service’s most recent Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared bat Survey Guidelines .																				
1.5b Is the project within <u>known occupied</u> Covered Species habitat (spring staging, fall swarming, and/or summer maternity)?	The IPaC dkeys for the IBAT, NLEB, and TCB may indicate whether a proposed project falls within spring staging/fall swarming and/or summer maternity buffers (see distance table in miles below). If the dkey does not provide this information, contact your local FO to assist in answering whether the proposed project is within a known buffer supporting spring staging/fall swarming habitat or buffers around documented roosts, captures, or acoustic detections. Note that Covered Species may use the same buffer for multiple seasons (e.g., NLEB may use the same habitat for spring staging/fall swarming and summer roosting). <table><tr><th>Buffer Type</th><th>IBAT</th><th>NLEB</th><th>TCB</th></tr><tr><td>Spring staging/fall swarming</td><td>5, 10, or 20*</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Roost tree</td><td>2.5</td><td>1.5</td><td>1.5</td></tr><tr><td>Capture</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Acoustic detection</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr></table>	Buffer Type	IBAT	NLEB	TCB	Spring staging/fall swarming	5, 10, or 20*	5	3	Roost tree	2.5	1.5	1.5	Capture	5	3	3	Acoustic detection	5	3	3
Buffer Type	IBAT	NLEB	TCB																		
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Capture	5	3	3																		
Acoustic detection	5	3	3																		

	*Distance depends on the priority number given to an IBAT hibernaculum depending on the size of the overwintering population. See the Service's Indiana Bat Draft Recovery Plan for more information.
1.5c Were summer presence/probable absence surveys conducted using current Survey Guidelines? (using the most recent version of the Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines)	Refer to the Service's most recent Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared bat Survey Guidelines to determine whether a survey is needed for your project. Project proponents may choose to assume presence of one or more of the Covered Species.
1.5d Is the project linear?	The Service defines a linear project as one with a footprint greater in length than width (e.g., pipeline, roadway, or right-of-way) with ≥ 1.0 km (0.6 mi) of suitable habitat. It may contain contiguous and fragmented patches of suitable habitat, but only segments at least ≥ 1.0 km in length can be considered for P/A survey sites. Projects < 1.0 km are considered non-linear. Refer to the Service's most recent Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for more information.
1.6a Does the project require removal of more than 25 total acres of non-linear (e.g., residential development project, wastewater treatment plant, commercial development project) suitable summer bat habitat that has not been surveyed for bat presence?	To be eligible for the GCP, non-linear projects removing > 25 acres of unsurveyed suitable bat habitat must conduct a P/A survey to determine presence of one or more of the Covered Species. Project proponents may assume presence, but tree removal then is limited to ≤ 25 acres. For non-linear projects with a positive P/A survey (i.e., known occupied Covered Species habitat), the limit is 200 acres. Linear projects have no acreage limits.
1.6b Does the project require removal of more than 200 acres of non-linear occupied habitat? (spring staging/fall swarming <u>and/or</u> summer maternity)	The GCP does not permit non-linear projects requiring > 200 acres of occupied habitat; therefore, it is recommended project proponents seek an alternative ESA compliance mechanism.
1.7 Will the project <u>avoid</u> raising road/rail profile above tree canopy <u>within</u> 1,000 ft of suitable habitat within known/assumed occupied habitat?	This question highlights that raising a road profile above canopy height in suitable habitat may increase bat collision risk with passing vehicles. Such projects, typically new or enhanced road projects under Federal jurisdiction, and are not eligible to use the GCP. See the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Railroad Administration, and Federal Transit Administration's Programmatic Biological Opinion/Conference Opinion for the IBAT, NLEB and TCB, or contact your local FO for assistance.

1.8 Will any <u>known/documented</u> foraging habitats (e.g., based on radio telemetry or acoustic surveys beyond presence/absence) or commuting/travel corridors (e.g., hedgerows, riparian buffers within summer foraging and roosting habitat) be removed or altered?	Known foraging or commuting habitat is identified through extensive surveys (e.g., radio-tracking, aerial surveys) and should not be mistaken for general assumptions of suitable habitat based solely on features like treed hedgerows, riparian forests, and/or wooded fencerows. The Service currently has no records of known foraging or commuting habitat for the Covered Species in NY, PA, or WV. If such habitat is documented in the future, projects removing or altering it would not be eligible to use the GCP and may require an alternative ESA compliance mechanism.
1.9 Will the project <u>avoid</u> burning debris piles (brush piles) during the <u>active season within</u> known/assumed occupied habitat? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY) and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct. 31 (rest of NY)]	Smoke and heat from burning debris piles near known maternity roost trees or assumed occupied summer habitat may irritate or displace bats, especially during the pup season. Projects involving active-season debris burning in occupied habitat are not eligible to use the GCP and may need an alternative ESA compliance mechanism.
2.0 Does the hibernaculum meet suitability criteria under the Service's Potential Hibernaculum Survey Guidance?	Refer to the Service's most recent Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared bat Survey Guidelines for habitat assessment guidance if caves, mines or other portal/structures with potential overwintering Covered Species are present.
2.1a Were hibernacula or fall trapping surveys completed?	Refer to the Service's most recent Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared bat Survey Guidelines to determine whether a survey is needed for your project.
2.1b Are project activities located within 0.5-mile of any hibernacula that were not surveyed resulting in an assumed occupied hibernaculum?	Refer to the Service's most recent Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared bat Survey Guidelines for habitat assessment guidance if caves, mines or other portal/structures could support overwintering Covered Species. Project proponents may choose to assume presence of the Covered Species.
2.1c Are impacts to <u>assumed occupied</u> hibernacula or take of the Covered Species reasonably certain to occur within 0.5-mile of an assumed occupied hibernaculum?	This question does not apply to projects located outside a 0.5-mile assumed occupied hibernaculum buffer, or to projects modified to avoid this area, if they avoid take of the Covered Species. The GCP does not cover impacts to hibernacula or hibernating bats. Project proponents should evaluate the scope, scale, location, and timing of activities relative to Covered Species' biology and activity periods to determine whether take will occur.
2.2a Were Covered Species captured/detected?	Report positive or negative results from mist-net or acoustic detection surveys conducted per the Service's most recent Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared bat Survey Guidelines to the local FO.

2.2b Are project activities located <u>within</u> 0.5-mile of the caves or portals where Covered Species were captured/detected indicating the presence of an occupied hibernaculum?	This question does not apply to projects located outside a 0.5-mile occupied hibernaculum buffer, or to projects modified to avoid this area, if they avoid take of the Covered Species. If your project is partially located with 0.5 miles of an occupied hibernaculum, answer ‘yes’ to this question. Report positive or negative results from hibernacula surveys conducted per the Service’s most recent Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared bat Survey Guidelines to the local FO.											
2.2c Are impacts to the <u>occupied</u> hibernaculum or take of the Covered Species reasonably certain to occur?	The GCP does not cover impacts to hibernacula or hibernating bats. Project proponents should evaluate the scope, scale, location, and timing of activities relative to the Covered Species’ biology and activity periods to determine whether take will occur.											
3.0 Were any Covered Species detected/captured during surveys?	Report positive or negative results from mist-net or acoustic detection surveys conducted per the Service’s most recent Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared bat Survey Guidelines to the local FO.											
4.0 Does the project involve <u>active-season</u> tree clearing, trimming, topping, pruning, and/or limbing of <u>occupied</u> or <u>assumed occupied</u> spring staging/fall swarming habitat? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY), and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct 31 (rest of NY)]	The IPaC dkeys for the IBAT, NLEB, and TCB may indicate whether a proposed project falls within spring staging/fall swarming buffers (see distance table in miles below). If the dkey does not provide this information, contact your local FO to assist in answering this question. Although the GCP allows late-summer and fall tree removal in summer maternity habitat beginning on August 16, no active season tree cutting is authorized within spring staging or fall swarming buffers . These areas are critically important because bats use them for mating and for building essential fat reserves prior to hibernation. Therefore, any active season tree removal within these buffers is ineligible to use the GCP. To become eligible, project proponents may choose to conduct tree removal during the inactive season instead.*											
	<table><tr><th>Buffer Type</th><th>IBAT</th><th>NLEB</th><th>TCB</th></tr><tr><td>Spring staging/fall swarming</td><td>5, 10, or 20**</td><td>5</td><td>3</td></tr></table>				Buffer Type	IBAT	NLEB	TCB	Spring staging/fall swarming	5, 10, or 20**	5	3
	Buffer Type	IBAT	NLEB	TCB								
Spring staging/fall swarming	5, 10, or 20**	5	3									
*See Table 1 in User’s Guide, the Tree Removal sidebar for details on active/inactive season dates for NY. **Distance depends on the priority number given to an IBAT hibernaculum depending on the size of the overwintering population. See the Service’s Indiana Bat Draft Recovery Plan for more information.												
4.1 Does the project involve any <u>active-season</u> tree removal, trimming, topping, pruning, and/or limbing of <u>occupied</u> or <u>assumed occupied</u> summer habitat? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY) and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct. 31 (rest of NY)]	The IPaC dkeys for the IBAT, NLEB, and TCB may indicate whether a proposed project falls within a roost tree, capture, or acoustic detection buffer (see distance table in miles below). If the dkey does not provide this information, contact your local FO to assist in answering this question. The GCP allows late-summer and fall season tree cutting beginning August 16, when maternity colonies are dispersing and pups are volant. Spring emergence and pup season periods are the most vulnerable time periods. Projects proposing tree removal prior to August 16 are ineligible to use the GCP. To become eligible, project proponents can choose to remove trees during the inactive season.*											

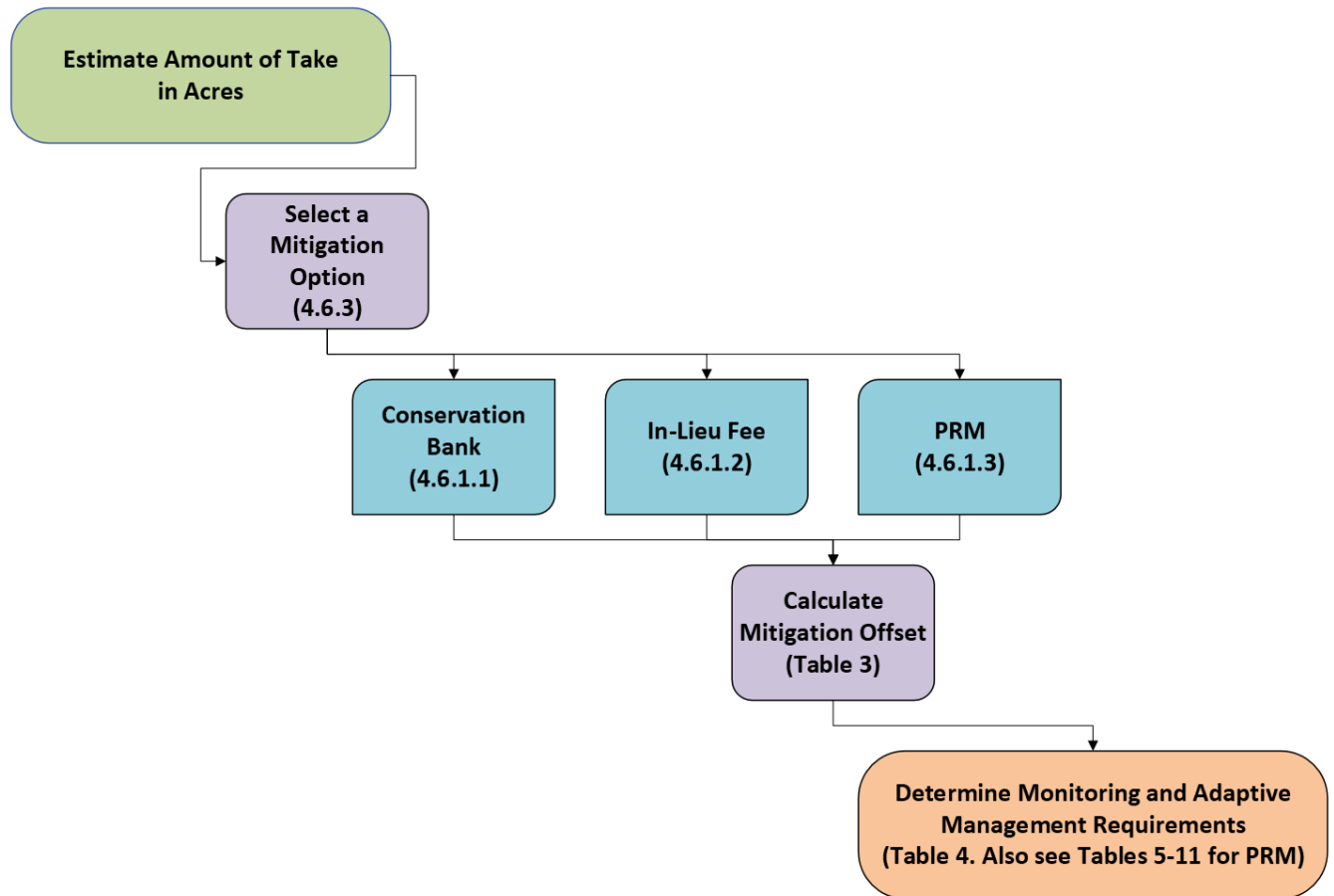
	<table><tr><th>Buffer Type</th><th>IBAT</th><th>NLEB</th><th>TCB</th></tr><tr><td>Roost tree</td><td>2.5</td><td>1.5</td><td>1.5</td></tr><tr><td>Capture</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Acoustic detection</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr></table> *See Table 1 in User’s Guide, the Tree Removal sideboard for details on active/inactive season dates for NY.	Buffer Type	IBAT	NLEB	TCB	Roost tree	2.5	1.5	1.5	Capture	5	3	3	Acoustic detection	5	3	3
Buffer Type	IBAT	NLEB	TCB														
Roost tree	2.5	1.5	1.5														
Capture	5	3	3														
Acoustic detection	5	3	3														
4.2 Does the project propose to remove suitable <u>documented</u> roosts or trees <u>within</u> 150 ft of documented roosts?	The IPaC dkeys for the IBAT, NLEB, and TCB may indicate whether a proposed project falls within 150 ft of known roost trees, or survey data may provide this information. If no data is available, coordinate with your local FO to assist in answering this question. The GCP conservation strategy prioritizes protection of documented roost trees and surrounding trees as removing them can lead to significant adverse impacts to maternity colonies. Because of this, such projects are ineligible to use the GCP and may need an alternative ESA compliance mechanism.																
4.3 Will <u>active-season</u> tree removal of <u>occupied</u> or <u>assumed occupied</u> summer habitat occur before August 16?	The GCP allows late-summer and fall season tree removal in summer maternity habitat beginning on August 16, when maternity colonies are starting to disperse and pups are fully volant. Bats may still use roost trees during this period, but typically in lower numbers, reducing the likelihood and severity of adverse impacts compared to earlier in the active season. Spring emergence and pup season periods are the most vulnerable time periods during the active season. Projects with tree removal prior to August 16 are ineligible to use the GCP. Project proponents can modify their projects to complete tree removal outside of this time frame or seek an alternative ESA compliance mechanism.																
4.4 Will the project remove 10 or fewer trees?	This question screens out projects removing only a small number of trees that lack bat presence or suitable roost characteristics, and therefore, may not need to use the GCP.																
4.5 Were emergence surveys conducted?	For proposed projects removing 10 or fewer trees where occupancy is uncertain, project proponents may conduct emergence surveys using the Service’s most recent Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared bat Survey Guidelines .																
4.6 Were any bats observed using the tree(s) proposed for removal?	Report positive or negative survey results conducted using the Service’s most recent Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared bat Survey Guidelines to the local FO. Project proponents may choose to assume presence of the Covered Species. If bats are observed using the trees proposed for removal, the project is not eligible to use the GCP. Please coordinate with your local FO to determine whether seeking an alternative ESA compliance mechanism is recommended. For projects with negative survey results, there is no need to use the GCP.																
5.0 Is <u>inactive-season</u> tree removal proposed <u>within</u> 1.0-mile of a known roost? [Inactive season: Nov. 15 to Mar. 31 (PA/WV), Dec. 1 to Feb. 28 (Long Island, NY) and Oct. 1	Cutting suitable roost habitat during winter minimizes risk to the Covered Species because bats are in hibernation and not using trees in the Plan Area at that time. However, removing suitable habitat within 1.0-mile of a known roost tree can significantly disrupt bats when they return the following spring, as it can modify, or in some cases may																

to Mar. 31 or Nov. 1 to Mar. 31 (rest of NY)] ¹³	eliminate, important roosting and foraging areas that they rely on during the active season. Project proponents should evaluate the scope, scale, location, and timing of activities within 1.0-mile of a known roost to determine if take will occur.
5.1 Does the project propose to clear suitable <u>documented</u> roosts or trees <u>within</u> 150 ft of documented roosts?	The IPaC dkeys for the IBAT, NLEB, and TCB or survey results may indicate whether a proposed project is within a 150 ft distance of known roost trees. If no data is available, coordinate with your local FO to assist in answering this question. The GCP conservation strategy prioritizes protection of documented roost trees and surrounding trees as removing them can lead to significant adverse impacts to maternity colonies. Projects with cutting of known roost trees or other trees within 150 ft of known roost trees are ineligible to use the GCP and may seek an alternative ESA compliance mechanism.

¹³ Time frames as stated in the Service's New York Field Office's Indiana Bat Project Review Fact Sheet (March 2018): 1) when > 10 miles from a Priority 3 (P3) or Priority 4 (P4) hibernaculum or > 20 miles from a Priority 1 (P1) or Priority 2 (P2) hibernaculum, but within the summer range of the IBAT, the removal of potential roost trees, generally ≥ 4 inches DBH should occur from October 1 through March 31; and 2) when < 10 miles from a P3 or P4 hibernaculum or < 20 miles from a P1 or P2 hibernaculum, removal should be conducted from November 1 to March 31. Tree removal on Long Island should be conducted from December 1 to February 28.

Attachment 3: Mitigation Flowchart

Parentheticals indicate sections or tables in the GCP for reference.



Example Project #1: Utility Line Installation in Long Island New York (small scale project within 1-mile of documented roost example)

An applicant proposes to install a utility line and two associated access roads within a 10-acre site in Long Island, New York. The project will result in the removal of approximately 6.1 acres of forested habitat within an area that contains 10-19 percent forest cover. A desktop analysis using recent NLCD data identified a variety of habitat types within 0.25 mile of the project centerline, including deciduous forest, shrub/scrub, grassland/herbaceous, and various developed land types.

Field surveys identified suitable roosting and foraging habitat (i.e., streams/wetlands) within the project area. Winter tree clearing is planned between December 1 and February 28 to minimize take of bats.

The project lies within a 1.5-mile radius of documented northern long-eared bat (NLEB) maternity colony habitat. Within this area, two known NLEB roost trees have been identified: the closest is approximately 0.8 mile from the project boundary, and the other is about 1.0 mile away. The site is also within 3 miles of two NLEB capture locations; however, no follow-up telemetry studies were conducted for these captures. There are no records of Indiana bat (IBAT) or tricolored bat (TCB) occurrences from the IPaC database, nor are there suitable caves, mine portals, or non-Covered federally listed species within the project area.

GCP Eligibility Key: Example Project # 1

- 1.0 Does the proposed project occur entirely within NY, PA, and/or WV (i.e., within the Plan Area)?

☒ Y = Go to 1.1.

N = This GCP provides incidental take coverage for projects entirely within the Plan Area consisting of NY, PA, and WV (except for Federal lands). Project is not eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance for projects that extend beyond the Plan Area.

- 1.1 Is the proposed project one of the following: a residential/commercial/recreational development project, a transportation project, or a utility project described as an eligible project type in GCP section 3.4? (GCP section 3.4 provides a list of eligible project types and section 3.3 provides a list of ineligible project types)

☒ Y = Go to 1.2.

N = This GCP provides incidental take coverage for specific project types. Other project types are **not** eligible to participate through this GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

- 1.2 Are the Covered Species the only federally listed species for which take is reasonably certain to occur as a result of the proposed project?

☒ Y = Go to 1.3a.

N = This GCP only provides incidental take coverage for the Covered Species. Proposed projects that will result in take of other species federally listed as threatened or endangered will require additional authorization under the ESA.²⁶⁴ Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

- 1.3a Has the proposed project used the NLEB and TCB rangewide determination key (dkey) in IPaC?

☒ Y = Go to 1.3b

N = Input your project into the NLEB and TCB rangewide dkey before returning to this eligibility key.

- 1.3b Did you receive a NLAA determination for the NLEB and/or TCB using the NLEB and/or TCB rangewide dkey?

Y = Take is not reasonably certain to occur for the NLEB and/or TCB. Go to 1.4a (resume eligibility key for applicable covered species).

☒ N = Contact your local field office for additional technical assistance. If you determine take of the NLEB and/or TCB is reasonably certain to occur, go to 1.4a and resume eligibility key for applicable covered species.

- 1.4a Is the proposed project located within 0.5-mile of a hibernaculum known to be used by IBATs, NLEBs and/or TCBs?²⁶⁵

Y = Go to 1.4b.

☒ N = Go to 1.5a.

- 1.4b Are impacts to known occupied hibernacula or take of Covered Species within 0.5-mile of known occupied hibernacula reasonably certain to occur? (GCP section 4.4.1.2 provides a list of potential stressors)

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula, hibernating bats, or to suitable spring staging/fall swarming habitat within 0.5-mile of hibernacula used by the Covered Species. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.5a.

- 1.5a Does your project area contain any caves or mine portals that are not currently documented as hibernacula for the Covered Species?

Y = Go to 2.

☒ N = Go to 1.5b.

- 1.5b Is your project within known occupied Covered Species habitat? (spring staging/fall swarming **and/or** summer maternity)

☒ Y = Go to 1.6b.

N = Go to 1.5c.

- 1.5c Were summer presence/probable absence (P/A) surveys (using the most recent version of the Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines²⁶⁶) conducted within the project area?

Y = Go to 3.0.

N = Go to 1.5d.

- 1.5d Is your project linear?²⁶⁷

Y = Go to 1.7.

N = Go to 1.6a.

- 1.6a Does your project require the removal of more than 25 total acres of nonlinear²⁶⁸ (e.g., residential development project, photovoltaic solar power project, wastewater treatment plant) suitable summer bat habitat that has not been surveyed for bat presence?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover projects that will remove more than 25 total acres of suitable summer habitat if the habitat has not been surveyed using current Service protocols.²⁶⁹ Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.7.

- 1.6b Does your project require the removal of more than 200 acres of nonlinear occupied Covered Species habitat? (spring staging/fall swarming AND/OR summer maternity)

Y = This GCP does **not** cover projects that will remove more than 200 acres of occupied habitat for the Covered Species for nonlinear projects. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 1.7.

- 1.7 Will your project **avoid** raising any road/rail profile above the tree canopy within 1,000 feet of suitable habitat within known or assumed occupied habitat?²⁷⁰

☒ Y = Go to 1.8.

N = This GCP does **not** cover projects that raise road or rail profiles above tree canopy height within 1,000 feet of suitable habitat. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please use the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Programmatic Consultation for Transportation Projects determination key in IPaC²⁷¹ or contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

- 1.8 Will any known/documented foraging habitats (e.g., based on radio telemetry or acoustic surveys beyond presence/absence) or known/documented commuting/travel corridors (e.g., hedgerows, riparian buffers within summer foraging and roosting habitat) be removed or altered?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 1.9

- 1.9 Will your project **avoid** all burning of debris piles (brush piles) for vegetation removal during the active season within known or assumed occupied habitat? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY) and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct. 31 (rest of NY)]

☒ Y = Go to 4.0.

N = This GCP does **not** cover projects that include burning of debris or brush for vegetation removal within habitat known or assumed to be occupied during the bats' active seasons. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

Hibernacula Survey Questions

- 2.0 Does the hibernaculum meet the criteria designating a hibernaculum as suitable for use by the Covered Species in the Service's Potential Hibernaculum Survey Guidance?²⁷²

Y = Go to 2.1a.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.1a Were hibernacula or fall trapping²⁷³ surveys completed?

Y = Go to 2.2a.

N = Go to 2.1b.

2.1b Are project activities located within 0.5-mile of any hibernacula that were not surveyed resulting in an assumed occupied hibernaculum?

Y = Go to 2.1c.

N = Go to 1.5b.

2.1c Are impacts to assumed occupied hibernaculum or take of the Covered Species reasonably certain to occur within 0.5-mile of an assumed occupied hibernaculum?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula, hibernating bats, or to suitable spring staging/fall swarming habitat within 0.5-mile of an assumed occupied hibernaculum. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.5b.

2.2a Were the Covered Species captured/detected?

Y = Go to 2.2b.

N = Go to 1.5b.

2.2b Are project activities located within 0.5-mile of the caves or portals where Covered Species were captured/detected indicating the presence of an occupied hibernaculum?

Y = Go to 2.2c.

N = Go to 1.5b.

2.2c Are impacts to the occupied hibernaculum or take of the Covered Species reasonably certain to occur?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula or to the Covered Species within 0.5-mile of a hibernaculum. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.5b.

Presence/Probable Absence Survey Questions

3.0 Were any of the Covered Species detected/captured during surveys?

Y = Go to 1.6b.

N = Take is not reasonably certain to occur; GCP is not applicable.

Occupied/Assumed Occupied Habitat Removal Questions (Active Season)

- 4.0 Does the project involve any active season tree clearing, trimming, topping, pruning, and/or limbing of occupied or assumed occupied **spring staging/fall swarming habitat**? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY), and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct 31 (rest of NY)]

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 4.1.

- 4.1 Does the project involve any active season tree removal, trimming, topping, pruning, and/or limbing of occupied or assumed occupied **summer habitat**? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY) and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct. 31 (rest of NY)]

Y = Go to 4.2.

☒ N = Go to 5.0.

- 4.2 Does the project propose to remove suitable documented roosts or trees within 150-feet of documented roosts?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 4.3.

- 4.3 Will active season tree removal of occupied or assumed occupied summer habitat occur before August 16?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 4.4.

- 4.4 Will the project remove 10 or fewer trees?

Y = Go to 4.5.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur, If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

4.5 Were emergence surveys²⁷⁴ conducted?

Y = Go to 4.6.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur, If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

4.6 Were any bats observed using the trees proposed for removal?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP.²⁷⁵ Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Take is not reasonably certain to occur; GCP is not applicable.

Occupied or Assumed Occupied Habitat Removal Questions (Inactive Season)

5.0 Is inactive season tree removal proposed within 1.0-mile of a known roost(s)? [Inactive season: Nov. 15 to Mar. 31 (PA/WV), Dec. 1 to Feb. 28 (Long Island, NY) and Oct. 1 to Mar. 31 or Nov. 1 to Mar. 31 (rest of NY)²⁷⁶]

☒ Y = Go to 5.1.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

5.1 Does the project propose to clear suitable documented roosts or trees within 150-feet of documented roosts?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

Example Project #2: Commercial Development in West Virginia (Assumption of Presence/Less Than 25-Acre Nonlinear Project Example)

An applicant proposes to expand an existing commercial park in West Virginia by constructing two new concrete pads for future commercial use. The project includes improvements to an existing access road, utility connections, and site grading to create a level surface suitable for development. The project area is approximately 80% forested and the project will impact approximately 19.26 acres of forested habitat.

Suitable habitat for the covered bat species is present within the project area. However, the project is located outside of any documented habitat for IBAT, NLEB, or TCB. The applicant has elected not to conduct presence/probable absence surveys and will instead assume presence of the covered species for the purposes of compliance.

Tree removal is proposed to occur between August 16 and November 14. The pup-rearing season will be avoided. No winter tree clearing is planned, no suitable caves and/or mine portals are present within/near the project area, and no streams and/or wetlands are present on site.

The IPaC official species list identified multiple non-Covered federally listed species within the action area; however, the project proponent received a NLAA determination for those species.

GCP Eligibility Key: Example Project #2

- 1.0 Does the proposed project occur entirely within NY, PA, and/or WV (i.e., within the Plan Area)?

☒ Y = Go to 1.1.

N = This GCP provides incidental take coverage for projects entirely within the Plan Area consisting of NY, PA, and WV (except for Federal lands). Project is not eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance for projects that extend beyond the Plan Area.

- 1.1 Is the proposed project one of the following: a residential/commercial/recreational development project, a transportation project, or a utility project described as an eligible project type in GCP section 3.4? (GCP section 3.4 provides a list of eligible project types and section 3.3 provides a list of ineligible project types)

☒ Y = Go to 1.2.

N = This GCP provides incidental take coverage for specific project types. Other project types are **not** eligible to participate through this GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

- 1.2 Are the Covered Species the only federally listed species for which take is reasonably certain to occur as a result of the proposed project?

☒ Y = Go to 1.3a.

N = This GCP only provides incidental take coverage for the Covered Species. Proposed projects that will result in take of other species federally listed as threatened or endangered will require additional authorization under the ESA.²⁶⁴ Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

- 1.3a Has the proposed project used the NLEB and TCB rangewide determination key (dkey) in IPaC?

☒ Y = Go to 1.3b

N = Input your project into the NLEB and TCB rangewide dkey before returning to this eligibility key.

1.3b Did you receive a NLAA determination for the NLEB and/or TCB using the NLEB and/or TCB rangewide dkey?

☒ Y = Take is not reasonably certain to occur for the NLEB and/or TCB. Go to 1.4a (resume eligibility key for applicable covered species).

N = Contact your local field office for additional technical assistance. If take of the NLEB and/or TCB is reasonably certain to occur, go to 1.4a and resume eligibility key for applicable covered species.

1.4a Is the proposed project located within 0.5-mile of a hibernaculum known to be used by IBATs, NLEBs and/or TCBs?²⁶⁵

Y = Go to 1.4b.

☒ N = Go to 1.5a.

1.4b Are impacts to known occupied hibernacula or take of Covered Species within 0.5-mile of known occupied hibernacula reasonably certain to occur? (GCP section 4.4.1.2 provides a list of potential stressors)

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula, hibernating bats, or to suitable spring staging/fall swarming habitat within 0.5-mile of hibernacula used by the Covered Species. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 1.5a.

1.5a Does your project area contain any caves or mine portals that are not currently documented as hibernacula for the Covered Species?

Y = Go to 2.

☒ N = Go to 1.5b.

1.5b Is your project within known occupied Covered Species habitat? (spring staging/fall swarming **and/or** summer maternity)

Y = Go to 1.6b.

☒ N = Go to 1.5c.

- 1.5c Were summer presence/probable absence (P/A) surveys (using the most recent version of the Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines²⁶⁶) conducted within the project area?

Y = Go to 3.0.

☒ N = Go to 1.5d.

- 1.5d Is your project linear?²⁶⁷

Y = Go to 1.7.

☒ N = Go to 1.6a.

- 1.6a Does your project require the removal of more than 25 total acres of nonlinear²⁶⁸ (e.g., residential development project, photovoltaic solar power project, wastewater treatment plant) suitable summer bat habitat that has not been surveyed for bat presence?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover projects that will remove more than 25 total acres of suitable summer habitat if the habitat has not been surveyed using current Service protocols.²⁶⁹ Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 1.7.

- 1.6b Does your project require the removal of more than 200 acres of nonlinear occupied Covered Species habitat? (spring staging/fall swarming **and/or** summer maternity)

Y = This GCP does **not** cover projects that will remove more than 200 acres of occupied habitat for the Covered Species for nonlinear projects. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.7.

- 1.7 Will your project **avoid** raising any road/rail profile above the tree canopy within 1,000 feet of suitable habitat within known or assumed occupied habitat?²⁷⁰

☒ Y = Go to 1.8.

N = This GCP does **not** cover projects that raise road or rail profiles above tree canopy height within 1,000 feet of suitable habitat. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please use the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Programmatic Consultation for Transportation Projects determination key in IPaC²⁷¹ or contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

- 1.8 Will any known/documented foraging habitats (e.g., based on radio telemetry or acoustic surveys beyond presence/absence) or known/documented commuting/travel corridors (e.g., hedgerows, riparian buffers within summer foraging and roosting habitat) be removed or altered?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 1.9

- 1.9 Will your project **avoid** all burning of debris piles (brush piles) for vegetation removal during the active season within known or assumed occupied habitat? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY) and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct. 31 (rest of NY)]

☒ Y = Go to 4.0.

N = This GCP does **not** cover projects that include burning of debris or brush for vegetation removal within habitat known or assumed to be occupied during the bats' active seasons. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

Hibernacula Survey Questions

- 2.0 Does the hibernaculum meet the criteria designating a hibernaculum as suitable for use by the Covered Species in the Service's Potential Hibernaculum Survey Guidance?²⁷²

Y = Go to 2.1a.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.1a Were hibernacula or fall trapping²⁷³ surveys completed?

Y = Go to 2.2a.

N = Go to 2.1b.

- 2.1b Are project activities located within 0.5-mile of any hibernacula that were not surveyed resulting in an assumed occupied hibernaculum?

Y = Go to 2.1c.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.1c Are impacts to assumed occupied hibernaculum or take of the Covered Species reasonably certain to occur within 0.5-mile of an assumed occupied hibernaculum?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula, hibernating bats, or to suitable spring staging/fall swarming habitat within 0.5-mile of an assumed occupied hibernaculum. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.2a Were the Covered Species captured/detected?

Y = Go to 2.2b.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.2b Are project activities located within 0.5-mile of the caves or portals where Covered Species were captured/detected indicating the presence of an occupied hibernaculum?

Y = Go to 2.2c.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.2c Are impacts to the occupied hibernaculum or take of the Covered Species reasonably certain to occur?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula or to the Covered Species within 0.5-mile of a hibernaculum. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.5b.

Presence/Probable Absence Survey Questions

- 3.0 Were any of the Covered Species detected/captured during surveys?

Y = Go to 1.6b.

N = Take is not reasonably certain to occur; GCP is not applicable.

Occupied/Assumed Occupied Habitat Removal Questions (Active Season)

- 4.0 Does the project involve any active season tree clearing, trimming, topping, pruning, and/or limbing of occupied or assumed occupied spring staging/fall swarming habitat? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY), and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct 31 (rest of NY)]

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 4.1.

- 4.1 Does the project involve any active season tree removal, trimming, topping, pruning, and/or limbing of occupied or assumed occupied summer habitat? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY) and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct. 31 (rest of NY)]

☒ Y = Go to 4.2.

N = Go to 5.0.

- 4.2 Does the project propose to remove suitable documented roosts or trees within 150-feet of documented roosts?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 4.3.

- 4.3 Will active season tree removal of occupied or assumed occupied summer habitat occur before August 16?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 4.4.

4.4 Will the project remove 10 or fewer trees?

Y = Go to 4.5.

☒ N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

4.5 Were emergence surveys²⁷⁴ conducted?

Y = Go to 4.6.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

4.6 Were any bats observed using the trees proposed for removal?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP.²⁷⁵ Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Take is not reasonably certain to occur; GCP is not applicable.

Occupied or Assumed Occupied Habitat Removal Questions (Inactive Season)

5.0 Is inactive season tree removal proposed within 1.0-mile of a known roost(s)? [Inactive season: Nov. 15 to Mar. 31 (PA/WV), Dec. 1 to Feb. 28 (Long Island, NY) and Oct. 1 to Mar. 31 or Nov. 1 to Mar. 31 (rest of NY)²⁷⁶]

Y = Go to 5.1.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

5.1 Does the project propose to clear suitable documented roosts or trees within 150-feet of documented roosts?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

Example Project #3: Solar Project in Pennsylvania (Maximum Take Example)

An Applicant proposes to install a photovoltaic solar project (nonlinear project) and associated access roads within a 220-acre site in Pennsylvania. The project will result in the removal of approximately 199 acres of forested habitat within an area that contains 30-50 percent forest cover. A desktop analysis using recent NLCD data identified a variety of habitat types within the project action area, including deciduous forest, pasture/hay, woody wetlands, and various developed land types.

The project is located within documented IBAT, NLEB, and TCB maternity colony habitat. There are multiple documented covered species roost trees and capture locations within 1-mile of the proposed project. However, no documented roosts are proposed for removal. Field surveys identified suitable roosting (i.e., potential roost trees) and foraging habitat (i.e., streams/wetlands) within the project area. Tree clearing is planned to occur between August 16th and March 31.

No non-Covered federally listed species are known to occur on site, but there are several suitable caves and/or mine portals on site. However, surveys were conducted on these portals in accordance with the Service's most recent survey guidance and no bats were documented using these potential hibernacula and no impacts to the features are proposed.

GCP Eligibility Key: Example Project #3

- 1.0 Does the proposed project occur entirely within NY, PA, and/or WV (i.e., within the Plan Area)?

☒ Y = Go to 1.1.

N = This GCP provides incidental take coverage for projects entirely within the Plan Area consisting of NY, PA, and WV (except for Federal lands). Project is not eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance for projects that extend beyond the Plan Area.

- 1.1 Is the proposed project one of the following: a residential/commercial/recreational development project, a transportation project, or a utility project described as an eligible project type in GCP section 3.4? (GCP section 3.4 provides a list of eligible project types and section 3.3 provides a list of ineligible project types)

☒ Y = Go to 1.2.

N = This GCP provides incidental take coverage for specific project types. Other project types are **not** eligible to participate through this GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

- 1.2 Are the Covered Species the only federally listed species for which take is reasonably certain to occur as a result of the proposed project?

☒ Y = Go to 1.3a.

N = This GCP only provides incidental take coverage for the Covered Species. Proposed projects that will result in take of other species federally listed as threatened or endangered will require additional authorization under the ESA.²⁶⁴ Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

- 1.3a Has the proposed project used the NLEB and TCB rangewide determination key (dkey) in IPaC?

☒ Y = Go to 1.3b

N = Input your project into the NLEB and TCB rangewide dkey before returning to this eligibility key.

- 1.3b Did you receive a NLAA determination for the NLEB and/or TCB using the NLEB and/or TCB rangewide dkey?

Y = Take is not reasonably certain to occur for the NLEB and/or TCB. Go to 1.4a (resume eligibility key for applicable covered species).

☒ N = Contact your local field office for additional technical assistance. If take of the NLEB and/or TCB is reasonably certain to occur, go to 1.4a and resume eligibility key for applicable covered species.

- 1.4a Is the proposed project located within 0.5-mile of a hibernaculum known to be used by IBATs, NLEBs and/or TCBs?²⁶⁵

Y = Go to 1.4b.

☒ N = Go to 1.5a.

- 1.4b Are impacts to known occupied hibernacula or take of Covered Species within 0.5-mile of known occupied hibernacula reasonably certain to occur? (GCP section 4.4.1.2 provides a list of potential stressors)

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula, hibernating bats, or to suitable spring staging/fall swarming habitat within 0.5-mile of hibernacula used by the Covered Species. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.5a.

- 1.5a Does your project area contain any caves or mine portals that are not currently documented as hibernacula for the Covered Species?

☒ Y = Go to 2.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 1.5b Is your project within known occupied Covered Species habitat? (spring staging/fall swarming **and/or** summer maternity)

☒ Y = Go to 1.6b.

N = Go to 1.5c.

- 1.5c Were summer presence/probable absence (P/A) surveys (using the most recent version of the Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines²⁶⁶) conducted within the project area?

Y = Go to 3.0.

N = Go to 1.5d.

- 1.5d Is your project linear?²⁶⁷

Y = Go to 1.7.

N = Go to 1.6a.

- 1.6a Does your project require the removal of more than 25 total acres of nonlinear²⁶⁸ (e.g., residential development project, photovoltaic solar power project, wastewater treatment plant) suitable summer bat habitat that has not been surveyed for bat presence?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover projects that will remove more than 25 total acres of suitable summer habitat if the habitat has not been surveyed using current Service protocols.²⁶⁹ Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.7.

- 1.6b Does your project require the removal of more than 200 acres of nonlinear occupied Covered Species habitat? (spring staging/fall swarming **and/or** summer maternity)

Y = This GCP does **not** cover projects that will remove more than 200 acres of occupied habitat for the Covered Species for nonlinear projects. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 1.7.

- 1.7 Will your project **avoid** raising any road/rail profile above the tree canopy within 1,000 feet of suitable habitat within known or assumed occupied habitat?²⁷⁰

☒ Y = Go to 1.8.

N = This GCP does **not** cover projects that raise road or rail profiles above tree canopy height within 1,000 feet of suitable habitat. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please use the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Programmatic Consultation for Transportation Projects determination key in IPaC²⁷¹ or contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

- 1.8 Will any known/documented foraging habitats (e.g., based on radio telemetry or acoustic surveys beyond presence/absence) or known/documented commuting/travel corridors (e.g., hedgerows, riparian buffers within summer foraging and roosting habitat) be removed or altered?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 1.9

- 1.9 Will your project **avoid** all burning of debris piles (brush piles) for vegetation removal during the active season within known or assumed occupied habitat? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY) and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct. 31 (rest of NY)]

☒ Y = Go to 4.0.

N = This GCP does **not** cover projects that include burning of debris or brush for vegetation removal within habitat known or assumed to be occupied during the bats' active seasons. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

Hibernacula Survey Questions

- 2.0 Does the hibernaculum meet the criteria designating a hibernaculum as suitable for use by the Covered Species in the Service's Potential Hibernaculum Survey Guidance?²⁷²

☒ Y = Go to 2.1a.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.1a Were hibernacula or fall trapping²⁷³ surveys completed?

☒ Y = Go to 2.2a.

N = Go to 2.1b.

- 2.1b Are project activities located within 0.5-mile of any hibernacula that were not surveyed resulting in an assumed occupied hibernaculum?

Y = Go to 2.1c.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.1c Are impacts to assumed occupied hibernaculum or take of the Covered Species reasonably certain to occur within 0.5-mile of an assumed occupied hibernaculum?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula, hibernating bats, or to suitable spring staging/fall swarming habitat within 0.5-mile of an assumed occupied hibernaculum. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.2a Were the Covered Species captured/detected?

Y = Go to 2.2b.

☒ N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.2b Are project activities located within 0.5-mile of the caves or portals where Covered Species were captured/detected indicating the presence of an occupied hibernaculum?

Y = Go to 2.2c.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.2c Are impacts to the occupied hibernaculum or take of the Covered Species reasonably certain to occur?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula or to the Covered Species within 0.5-mile of a hibernaculum. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.5b.

Presence/Probable Absence Survey Questions

3.0 Were any of the Covered Species detected/captured during surveys?

Y = Go to 1.6b.

N = Take is not reasonably certain to occur; GCP is not applicable.

Occupied/Assumed Occupied Habitat Removal Questions (Active Season)

4.0 Does the project involve any active season tree clearing, trimming, topping, pruning, and/or limbing of occupied or assumed occupied **spring staging/fall swarming habitat**? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY), and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct 31 (rest of NY)]

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 4.1.

4.1 Does the project involve any active season tree removal, trimming, topping, pruning, and/or limbing of occupied or assumed occupied **summer habitat**? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY) and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct. 31 (rest of NY)]

☒ Y = Go to 4.2.

N = Go to 5.0.

4.2 Does the project propose to remove suitable documented roosts or trees within 150-feet of documented roosts?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 4.3.

4.3 Will active season tree removal of occupied or assumed occupied summer habitat occur before August 16?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 4.4.

4.4 Will the project remove 10 or fewer trees?

Y = Go to 4.5.

☒ N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

4.5 Were emergence surveys²⁷⁴ conducted?

Y = Go to 4.6.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

4.6 Were any bats observed using the trees proposed for removal?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP.²⁷⁵ Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Take is not reasonably certain to occur; GCP is not applicable.

Occupied or Assumed Occupied Habitat Removal Questions (Inactive Season)

5.0 Is inactive season tree removal proposed within 1.0-mile of a known roost(s)? [Inactive season: Nov. 15 to Mar. 31 (PA/WV), Dec. 1 to Feb. 28 (Long Island, NY) and Oct. 1 to Mar. 31 or Nov. 1 to Mar. 31 (rest of NY)²⁷⁶]

Y = Go to 5.1.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

5.1 Does the project propose to clear suitable documented roosts or trees within 150-feet of documented roosts?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur, if yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

Example Project #4: Electrical Distribution Line in Pennsylvania and West Virginia (Multi-State/Non-Covered Species/Large Linear Project Example)

An Applicant proposes to install a new 32-mile electrical distribution line and associated access roads. The project starts in Pennsylvania and ends in West Virginia and will result in the removal of approximately 265 acres of forested habitat that contains 50-80 percent forest cover.

The project area is located within documented IBAT, NLEB, and TCB spring staging/fall swarming habitat, and suitable habitat for all three covered species is present, including suitable roosting (i.e., potential roost trees) and foraging habitat (i.e., streams/wetlands). Tree clearing is planned to occur in the winter months when bats are not present on the landscape (between November 15th and March 31st).

IPaC identified non-covered federally listed species on the official species list and initially produced a “may affect” determination. The applicant coordinated with the appropriate local field office regarding those non-covered species. The field office confirmed that the applicant’s existing programmatic agreement with a federal agency covers the take associated with those non-covered listed species and instructed the applicant to resume the key (i.e., answer **yes** to 1.2 and proceed to question 1.3a) using only the covered bat species. No suitable undocumented hibernacula are present on site, and all project activities occur more than 0.5 mile from the documented hibernaculum.

GCP Eligibility Criteria: Example Project #4

- 1.0 Does the proposed project occur entirely within NY, PA, and/or WV (i.e., within the Plan Area)?

☒ Y = Go to 1.1.

N = This GCP provides incidental take coverage for projects entirely within the Plan Area consisting of NY, PA, and WV (except for Federal lands). Project is not eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance for projects that extend beyond the Plan Area.

- 1.1 Is the proposed project one of the following: a residential/commercial/recreational development project, a transportation project, or a utility project described as an eligible project type in GCP section 3.4? (GCP section 3.4 provides a list of eligible project types and section 3.3 provides a list of ineligible project types)

☒ Y = Go to 1.2.

N = This GCP provides incidental take coverage for specific project types. Other project types are **not** eligible to participate through this GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

- 1.2 Are the Covered Species the only federally listed species for which take is reasonably certain to occur as a result of the proposed project? other

☒ Y = Go to 1.3a.

☒ N = This GCP only provides incidental take coverage for the Covered Species. Proposed projects that will result in take of other species federally listed as threatened or endangered will require additional authorization under the ESA. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance. *(Discussed with FO and was directed to return to the key for bats since the take associated with the non-covered listed species is covered under a separate programmatic).*

- 1.3a Has the proposed project used the NLEB and TCB rangewide determination key (dkey) in IPaC?

☒ Y = Go to 1.3b

N = Input your project into the NLEB and TCB rangewide dkey before returning to this eligibility key.

- 1.3b Did you receive a NLAA determination for the NLEB and/or TCB using the NLEB and/or TCB rangewide dkey?

Y = Take is not reasonably certain to occur for the NLEB and/or TCB. Go to 1.4a (resume eligibility key for applicable covered species).

☒ N = Contact your local field office for additional technical assistance. If take of the NLEB and/or TCB is reasonably certain to occur, go to 1.4a and resume eligibility key for applicable covered species.

- 1.4a Is the proposed project located within 0.5-mile of a hibernaculum known to be used by IBATs, NLEBs and/or TCBs?²⁶⁵

Y = Go to 1.4b.

☒ N = Go to 1.5a.

- 1.4b Are impacts to known occupied hibernacula or take of Covered Species within 0.5-mile of known occupied hibernacula reasonably certain to occur? (GCP section 4.4.1.2 provides a list of potential stressors)

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula, hibernating bats, or to suitable spring staging/fall swarming habitat within 0.5-mile of hibernacula used by the Covered Species. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.5a.

- 1.5a Does your project area contain any caves or mine portals that are not currently documented as hibernacula for the Covered Species?

Y = Go to 2.

☒ N = Go to 1.5b.

- 1.5b Is your project within known occupied Covered Species habitat? (spring staging/fall swarming **and/or** summer maternity)

☒ Y = Go to 1.6b.

N = Go to 1.5c.

- 1.5c Were summer presence/probable absence (P/A) surveys (using the most recent version of the Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines²⁶⁶) conducted within the project area?

Y = Go to 3.0.

N = Go to 1.5d.

- 1.5d Is your project linear?²⁶⁷

Y = Go to 1.7.

N = Go to 1.6a.

- 1.6a Does your project require the removal of more than 25 total acres of nonlinear²⁶⁸ (e.g., residential development project, photovoltaic solar power project, wastewater treatment plant) suitable summer bat habitat that has not been surveyed for bat presence?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover projects that will remove more than 25 total acres of suitable summer habitat if the habitat has not been surveyed using current Service protocols.²⁶⁹ Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.7.

- 1.6b Does your project require the removal of more than 200 acres of nonlinear occupied Covered Species habitat? (spring staging/fall swarming **and/or** summer maternity)

Y = This GCP does **not** cover projects that will remove more than 200 acres of occupied habitat for the Covered Species for nonlinear projects. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 1.7.

- 1.7 Will your project **avoid** raising any road/rail profile above the tree canopy within 1,000 feet of suitable habitat within known or assumed occupied habitat?²⁷⁰

☒ Y = Go to 1.8.

N = This GCP does **not** cover projects that raise road or rail profiles above tree canopy height within 1,000 feet of suitable habitat. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please use the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Programmatic Consultation for Transportation Projects determination key in IPaC²⁷¹ or contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

- 1.8 Will any known/documented foraging habitats (e.g., based on radio telemetry or acoustic surveys beyond presence/absence) or known/documented commuting/travel corridors (e.g., hedgerows, riparian buffers within summer foraging and roosting habitat) be removed or altered?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 1.9

- 1.9 Will your project **avoid** all burning of debris piles (brush piles) for vegetation removal during the active season within known or assumed occupied habitat? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY) and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct. 31 (rest of NY)]

☒ Y = Go to 4.0.

N = This GCP does **not** cover projects that include burning of debris or brush for vegetation removal within habitat known or assumed to be occupied during the bats' active seasons. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

Hibernacula Survey Questions

- 2.0 Does the hibernaculum meet the criteria designating a hibernaculum as suitable for use by the Covered Species in the Service's Potential Hibernaculum Survey Guidance?²⁷²

Y = Go to 2.1a.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.1a Were hibernacula or fall trapping²⁷³ surveys completed?

Y = Go to 2.2a.

N = Go to 2.1b.

- 2.1b Are project activities located within 0.5-mile of any hibernacula that were not surveyed resulting in an assumed occupied hibernaculum?

Y = Go to 2.1c.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.1c Are impacts to assumed occupied hibernaculum or take of the Covered Species reasonably certain to occur within 0.5-mile of an assumed occupied hibernaculum?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula, hibernating bats, or to suitable spring staging/fall swarming habitat within 0.5-mile of an assumed occupied hibernaculum. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.2a Were the Covered Species captured/detected?

Y = Go to 2.2b.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.2b Are project activities located within 0.5-mile of the caves or portals where Covered Species were captured/detected indicating the presence of an occupied hibernaculum?

Y = Go to 2.2c.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.2c Are impacts to the occupied hibernaculum or take of the Covered Species reasonably certain to occur?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula or to the Covered Species within 0.5-mile of a hibernaculum. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.5b.

Presence/Probable Absence Survey Questions

- 3.0 Were any of the Covered Species detected/captured during surveys?

Y = Go to 1.6b.

N = Take is not reasonably certain to occur; GCP is not applicable.

Occupied/Assumed Occupied Habitat Removal Questions (Active Season)

- 4.0 Does the project involve any active season tree clearing, trimming, topping, pruning, and/or limbing of occupied or assumed occupied spring staging/fall swarming habitat? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY), and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct 31 (rest of NY)]

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 4.1.

- 4.1 Does the project involve any active season tree removal, trimming, topping, pruning, and/or limbing of occupied or assumed occupied summer habitat? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY) and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct. 31 (rest of NY)]

Y = Go to 4.2.

☒ N = Go to 5.0.

- 4.2 Does the project propose to remove suitable documented roosts or trees within 150-feet of documented roosts?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 4.3.

- 4.3 Will active season tree removal of occupied or assumed occupied summer habitat occur before August 16?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 4.4.

- 4.4 Will the project remove 10 or fewer trees?

Y = Go to 4.5.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

4.5 Were emergence surveys²⁷⁴ conducted?

Y = Go to 4.6.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

4.6 Were any bats observed using the trees proposed for removal?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP.²⁷⁵ Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Take is not reasonably certain to occur; GCP is not applicable.

Occupied or Assumed Occupied Habitat Removal Questions (Inactive Season)

5.0 Is inactive season tree removal proposed within 1.0-mile of a known roost(s)? [Inactive season: Nov. 15 to Mar. 31 (PA/WV), Dec. 1 to Feb. 28 (Long Island, NY) and Oct. 1 to Mar. 31 or Nov. 1 to Mar. 31 (rest of NY)²⁷⁶]

Y = Go to 5.1.

☒ N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

5.1 Does the project propose to clear suitable documented roosts or trees within 150-feet of documented roosts?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

Example Project #5: Residential Development in Upstate New York (Tree Removal During Active Season Near Documented Hibernaculum Example)

An Applicant proposes a residential development project in upstate New York, which will involve the removal of approximately 32 acres of forested habitat that is within 60 percent forest cover.

The project site is located within documented spring staging and fall swarming habitat for the IBAT and NLEB. Additionally, the area contains suitable summer maternity habitat for the TCB, including potential roost trees and foraging features such as streams and wetlands. Tree clearing is scheduled for August and September, during the bats' active season.

The official species list generated through IPaC did not identify any non-Covered federally listed species, and the project received a "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" (NLAA) determination for the TCB. Although certain project activities are situated within 0.5 miles of a documented hibernaculum, these activities will not involve tree removal or result in take of hibernating bats or disturbance to the hibernaculum. No suitable caves or portals are present within the project area.

GCP Eligibility Criteria: Example Project #5

- 1.0 Does the proposed project occur entirely within NY, PA, and/or WV (i.e., within the Plan Area)?

☒ Y = Go to 1.1.

N = This GCP provides incidental take coverage for projects entirely within the Plan Area consisting of NY, PA, and WV (except for Federal lands). Project is not eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance for projects that extend beyond the Plan Area.

- 1.1 Is the proposed project one of the following: a residential/commercial/recreational development project, a transportation project, or a utility project described as an eligible project type in GCP section 3.4? (GCP section 3.4 provides a list of eligible project types and section 3.3 provides a list of ineligible project types)

☒ Y = Go to 1.2.

N = This GCP provides incidental take coverage for specific project types. Other project types are **not** eligible to participate through this GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

- 1.2 Are the Covered Species the only federally listed species for which take is reasonably certain to occur as a result of the proposed project?

☒ Y = Go to 1.3a.

N = This GCP only provides incidental take coverage for the Covered Species. Proposed projects that will result in take of other species federally listed as threatened or endangered will require additional authorization under the ESA.²⁶⁴ Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

- 1.3a Has the proposed project used the NLEB and TCB rangewide determination key (dkey) in IPaC?

☒ Y = Go to 1.3b

N = Input your project into the NLEB and TCB rangewide dkey before returning to this eligibility key.

1.3b Did you receive a NLAA determination for the NLEB and/or TCB using the NLEB and/or TCB rangewide dkey?

☒ Y = Take is not reasonably certain to occur for the NLEB and/or TCB. Go to 1.4a (resume eligibility key for applicable covered species).

N = Contact your local field office for additional technical assistance. If take of the NLEB and/or TCB is reasonably certain to occur, go to 1.4a and resume eligibility key for applicable covered species.

1.4a Is the proposed project located within 0.5-mile of a hibernaculum known to be used by IBATs, NLEBs and/or TCBs?²⁶⁵

☒ Y = Go to 1.4b.

N = Go to 1.5a.

1.4b Are impacts to known occupied hibernacula or take of Covered Species within 0.5-mile of known occupied hibernacula reasonably certain to occur? (GCP section 4.4.1.2 provides a list of potential stressors)

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula, hibernating bats, or to suitable spring staging/fall swarming habitat within 0.5-mile of hibernacula used by the Covered Species. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 1.5a.

1.5a Does your project area contain any caves or mine portals that are not currently documented as hibernacula for the Covered Species?

Y = Go to 2.

☒ N = Go to 1.5b.

1.5b Is your project within known occupied Covered Species habitat? (spring staging/fall swarming **and/or** summer maternity)

☒ Y = Go to 1.6b.

N = Go to 1.5c.

- 1.5c Were summer presence/probable absence (P/A) surveys (using the most recent version of the Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines²⁶⁶) conducted within the project area?

Y = Go to 3.0.

N = Go to 1.5d.

- 1.5d Is your project linear?²⁶⁷

Y = Go to 1.7.

N = Go to 1.6a.

- 1.6a Does your project require the removal of more than 25 total acres of nonlinear²⁶⁸ (e.g., residential development project, photovoltaic solar power project, wastewater treatment plant) suitable summer bat habitat that has not been surveyed for bat presence?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover projects that will remove more than 25 total acres of suitable summer habitat if the habitat has not been surveyed using current Service protocols.²⁶⁹ Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.7.

- 1.6b Does your project require the removal of more than 200 acres of nonlinear occupied Covered Species habitat? (spring staging/fall swarming **and/or** summer maternity)

Y = This GCP does **not** cover projects that will remove more than 200 acres of occupied habitat for the Covered Species for nonlinear projects. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 1.7.

- 1.7 Will your project **avoid** raising any road/rail profile above the tree canopy within 1,000 feet of suitable habitat within known or assumed occupied habitat?²⁷⁰

☒ Y = Go to 1.8.

N = This GCP does **not** cover projects that raise road or rail profiles above tree canopy height within 1,000 feet of suitable habitat. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please use the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal

Railroad Administration (FRA), and Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Programmatic Consultation for Transportation Projects determination key in IPaC²⁷¹ or contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

- 1.8 Will any known/documented foraging habitats (e.g., based on radio telemetry or acoustic surveys beyond presence/absence) or known/documented commuting/travel corridors (e.g., hedgerows, riparian buffers within summer foraging and roosting habitat) be removed or altered?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 1.9

- 1.9 Will your project **avoid** all burning of debris piles (brush piles) for vegetation removal during the active season within known or assumed occupied habitat? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY) and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct. 31 (rest of NY)]

☒ Y = Go to 4.0.

N = This GCP does **not** cover projects that include burning of debris or brush for vegetation removal within habitat known or assumed to be occupied during the bats' active seasons. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

Hibernacula Survey Questions

- 2.0 Does the hibernaculum meet the criteria designating a hibernaculum as suitable for use by the Covered Species in the Service's Potential Hibernaculum Survey Guidance?²⁷²

Y = Go to 2.1a.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.1a Were hibernacula or fall trapping²⁷³ surveys completed?

Y = Go to 2.2a.

N = Go to 2.1b.

- 2.1b Are project activities located within 0.5-mile of any hibernacula that were not surveyed resulting in an assumed occupied hibernaculum?

Y = Go to 2.1c.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.1c Are impacts to assumed occupied hibernaculum or take of the Covered Species reasonably certain to occur within 0.5-mile of an assumed occupied hibernaculum?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula, hibernating bats, or to suitable spring staging/fall swarming habitat within 0.5-mile of an assumed occupied hibernaculum. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.2a Were the Covered Species captured/detected?

Y = Go to 2.2b.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.2b Are project activities located within 0.5-mile of the caves or portals where Covered Species were captured/detected indicating the presence of an occupied hibernaculum?

Y = Go to 2.2c.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.2c Are impacts to the occupied hibernaculum or take of the Covered Species reasonably certain to occur?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula or to the Covered Species within 0.5-mile of a hibernaculum. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.5b.

Presence/Probable Absence Survey Questions

- 3.0 Were any of the Covered Species detected/captured during surveys?

Y = Go to 1.6b.

N = Take is not reasonably certain to occur; GCP is not applicable.

Occupied/Assumed Occupied Habitat Removal Questions (Active Season)

- 4.0 Does the project involve any active season tree clearing, trimming, topping, pruning, and/or limbing of occupied or assumed occupied **spring staging/fall swarming habitat**? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY), and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct 31 (rest of NY)]

☒ Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 4.1.

- 4.1 Does the project involve any active season tree removal, trimming, topping, pruning, and/or limbing of occupied or assumed occupied **summer habitat**? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY) and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct. 31 (rest of NY)]

Y = Go to 4.2.

N = Go to 5.0.

- 4.2 Does the project propose to remove suitable documented roosts or trees within 150-feet of documented roosts?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 4.3.

- 4.3 Will active season tree removal of occupied or assumed occupied summer habitat occur before August 16?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 4.4.

- 4.4 Will the project remove 10 or fewer trees?

Y = Go to 4.5.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

4.5 Were emergence surveys²⁷⁴ conducted?

Y = Go to 4.6.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

4.6 Were any bats observed using the trees proposed for removal?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP.²⁷⁵ Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Take is not reasonably certain to occur; GCP is not applicable.

Occupied or Assumed Occupied Habitat Removal Questions (Inactive Season)

5.0 Is inactive season tree removal proposed within 1-mile of a known roost(s)? [Inactive season: Nov. 15 to Mar. 31 (PA/WV), Dec. 1 to Feb. 28 (Long Island, NY) and Oct. 1 to Mar. 31 or Nov. 1 to Mar. 31 (rest of NY)²⁷⁶]

Y = Go to 5.1.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

5.1 Does the project propose to clear suitable documented roosts or trees within 150-feet of documented roosts?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur, if yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

Example Project #6: Development of a Data Processing Center in Pennsylvania (Habitat Removal *Outside* a Documented Travel Corridor Example)

An applicant proposes to construct a data processing center in Pennsylvania, resulting in the removal of approximately 174 acres of forested habitat within an area that contains 20-40 percent forest cover.

The project area overlaps documented spring staging and fall swarming habitat for the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) and tricolored bat (TCB). Tree clearing is scheduled for the winter months (November 15–March 31), when bats are not active on the landscape.

The official species list generated through IPaC did not identify any listed non-Covered Species. The project received a May Affect (MA) determination for the NLEB and TCB via the rangewide determination key. The project is not located within 0.5 mile of any known hibernacula, and no suitable caves or portals are present within the project area.

During early project development, the project proponent received informal information from a third party suggesting that the area “might be part of a bat travel corridor.” This led to confusion regarding what the Service meant by the term *documented* travel corridor, particularly because the project area contained suitable forested habitat and had been included in previous P/A surveys.

To clarify the issue, the applicant contacted the appropriate Service field office. The field office explained that to be considered a *documented travel corridor*, the project would need to be located in habitat, that the Service had confirmed through extensive surveys beyond standard P/A protocol, was being used as a travel corridor. These types of surveys typically include multi-season or multiyear efforts such as coordinated tracking or telemetry studies, sometimes involving helicopter based telemetry or other intensive methods, designed specifically in collaboration with the field office to identify how bats are using particular habitat features. The surveys referenced by the third party were not of this nature and did not meet the level of effort needed for the Service to consider the area as a documented travel corridor.

Based on this clarification, the field office confirmed that the proposed project is not located within a documented travel corridor. As a result, while the project will remove suitable habitat (approximately 174 acres within the project footprint), it does not intersect any Service recognized travel corridor for the IBAT, NLEB, or TCB.

GCP Eligibility Criteria: Example Project #6

- 1.0 Does the proposed project occur entirely within NY, PA, and/or WV (i.e., within the Plan Area)?

☒ Y = Go to 1.1.

N = This GCP provides incidental take coverage for projects entirely within the Plan Area consisting of NY, PA, and WV (except for Federal lands). Project is not eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance for projects that extend beyond the Plan Area.

- 1.1 Is the proposed project one of the following: a residential/commercial/recreational development project, a transportation project, or a utility project described as an eligible project type in GCP section 3.4? (GCP section 3.4 provides a list of eligible project types and section 3.3 provides a list of ineligible project types)

☒ Y = Go to 1.2.

N = This GCP provides incidental take coverage for specific project types. Other project types are **not** eligible to participate through this GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

- 1.2 Are the Covered Species the only federally listed species for which take is reasonably certain to occur as a result of the proposed project?

☒ Y = Go to 1.3a.

N = This GCP only provides incidental take coverage for the Covered Species. Proposed projects that will result in take of other species federally listed as threatened or endangered will require additional authorization under the ESA.²⁶⁴ Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

- 1.3a Has the proposed project used the NLEB and TCB rangewide determination key (dkey) in IPaC?

☒ Y = Go to 1.3b

N = Input your project into the NLEB and TCB rangewide dkey before returning to this eligibility key.

- 1.3b Did you receive a NLAA determination for the NLEB and/or TCB using the NLEB and/or TCB rangewide dkey?

Y = Take is not reasonably certain to occur for the NLEB and/or TCB. Go to 1.4a (resume eligibility key for applicable covered species).

☒ N = Contact your local field office for additional technical assistance. If take of the NLEB and/or TCB is reasonably certain to occur, go to 1.4a and resume eligibility key for applicable covered species.

- 1.4a Is the proposed project located within 0.5-mile of a hibernaculum known to be used by IBATs, NLEBs and/or TCBs?²⁶⁵

Y = Go to 1.4b.

☒ N = Go to 1.5a.

- 1.4b Are impacts to known occupied hibernacula or take of Covered Species within 0.5-mile of known occupied hibernacula reasonably certain to occur? (GCP section 4.4.1.2 provides a list of potential stressors)

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula, hibernating bats, or to suitable spring staging/fall swarming habitat within 0.5-mile of hibernacula used by the Covered Species. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.5a.

- 1.5a Does your project area contain any caves or mine portals that are not currently documented as hibernacula for the Covered Species?

Y = Go to 2.

☒ N = Go to 1.5b.

- 1.5b Is your project within known occupied Covered Species habitat? (spring staging/fall swarming **and/or** summer maternity)

☒ Y = Go to 1.6b.

N = Go to 1.5c.

- 1.5c Were summer presence/probable absence (P/A) surveys (using the most recent version of the Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines²⁶⁶) conducted within the project area?

Y = Go to 3.0.

N = Go to 1.5d.

- 1.5d Is your project linear?²⁶⁷

Y = Go to 1.7.

N = Go to 1.6a.

- 1.6a Does your project require the removal of more than 25 total acres of nonlinear²⁶⁸ (e.g., residential development project, photovoltaic solar power project, wastewater treatment plant) suitable summer bat habitat that has not been surveyed for bat presence?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover projects that will remove more than 25 total acres of suitable summer habitat if the habitat has not been surveyed using current Service protocols.²⁶⁹ Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.7.

- 1.6b Does your project require the removal of more than 200 acres of nonlinear occupied Covered Species habitat? (spring staging/fall swarming **and/or** summer maternity)

Y = This GCP does **not** cover projects that will remove more than 200 acres of occupied habitat for the Covered Species for nonlinear projects. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 1.7.

- 1.7 Will your project **avoid** raising any road/rail profile above the tree canopy within 1,000 feet of suitable habitat within known or assumed occupied habitat?²⁷⁰

☒ Y = Go to 1.8.

N = This GCP does **not** cover projects that raise road or rail profiles above tree canopy height within 1,000 feet of suitable habitat. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please use the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), and Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Programmatic Consultation for Transportation Projects determination key in IPaC²⁷¹ or contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

- 1.8 Will any known/documented foraging habitats (e.g., based on radio telemetry or acoustic surveys beyond presence/absence) or known/documented commuting/travel corridors (e.g., hedgerows, riparian buffers within summer foraging and roosting habitat) be removed or altered?

☐ Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 1.9

- 1.9 Will your project **avoid** all burning of debris piles (brush piles) for vegetation removal during the active season within known or assumed occupied habitat? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY) and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct. 31 (rest of NY)]

☒ Y = Go to 4.0.

N = This GCP does **not** cover projects that include burning of debris or brush for vegetation removal within habitat known or assumed to be occupied during the bats' active seasons. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

Hibernacula Survey Questions

- 2.0 Does the hibernaculum meet the criteria designating a hibernaculum as suitable for use by the Covered Species in the Service's Potential Hibernaculum Survey Guidance?²⁷²

Y = Go to 2.1a.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.1a Were hibernacula or fall trapping²⁷³ surveys completed?

Y = Go to 2.2a.

N = Go to 2.1b.

- 2.1b Are project activities located within 0.5-mile of any hibernacula that were not surveyed resulting in an assumed occupied hibernaculum?

Y = Go to 2.1c.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.1c Are impacts to assumed occupied hibernaculum or take of the Covered Species reasonably certain to occur within 0.5-mile of an assumed occupied hibernaculum?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula, hibernating bats, or to suitable spring staging/fall swarming habitat within 0.5-mile of an assumed occupied hibernaculum. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.2a Were the Covered Species captured/detected?

Y = Go to 2.2b.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.2b Are project activities located within 0.5-mile of the caves or portals where Covered Species were captured/detected indicating the presence of an occupied hibernaculum?

Y = Go to 2.2c.

N = Go to 1.5b.

- 2.2c Are impacts to the occupied hibernaculum or take of the Covered Species reasonably certain to occur?

Y = This GCP does **not** cover impacts to hibernacula or to the Covered Species within 0.5-mile of a hibernaculum. Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 1.5b.

Presence/Probable Absence Survey Questions

- 3.0 Were any of the Covered Species detected/captured during surveys?

Y = Go to 1.6b.

N = Take is not reasonably certain to occur; GCP is not applicable.

Occupied/Assumed Occupied Habitat Removal Questions (Active Season)

- 4.0 Does the project involve any active season tree clearing, trimming, topping, pruning, and/or limbing of occupied or assumed occupied spring staging/fall swarming habitat? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY), and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct 31 (rest of NY)]

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

☒ N = Go to 4.1.

- 4.1 Does the project involve any active season tree removal, trimming, topping, pruning, and/or limbing of occupied or assumed occupied summer habitat? [Active season: Apr. 1 to Nov. 14 (PA/WV), Mar. 1 to Nov. 31 (Long Island, NY) and Apr. 1 to Sept. 30 or Apr. 1 to Oct. 31 (rest of NY)]

Y = Go to 4.2.

☒ N = Go to 5.0.

- 4.2 Does the project propose to remove suitable documented roosts or trees within 150-feet of documented roosts?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 4.3.

- 4.3 Will active season tree removal of occupied or assumed occupied summer habitat occur before August 16?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Go to 4.4.

- 4.4 Will the project remove 10 or fewer trees?

Y = Go to 4.5.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

4.5 Were emergence surveys²⁷⁴ conducted?

Y = Go to 4.6.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

4.6 Were any bats observed using the trees proposed for removal?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP.²⁷⁵ Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Take is not reasonably certain to occur; GCP is not applicable.

Occupied or Assumed Occupied Habitat Removal Questions (Inactive Season)

5.0 Is inactive season tree removal proposed within 1.0-mile of a known roost(s)? [Inactive season: Nov. 15 to Mar. 31 (PA/WV), Dec. 1 to Feb. 28 (Long Island, NY) and Oct. 1 to Mar. 31 or Nov. 1 to Mar. 31 (rest of NY)²⁷⁶]

Y = Go to 5.1.

☒ N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.

5.1 Does the project propose to clear suitable documented roosts or trees within 150-feet of documented roosts?

Y = Project is **not** eligible to participate through the GCP. Please contact the local field office to request additional technical assistance.

N = Coordinate with local field office, determine if take is reasonably certain to occur. If yes, project is eligible for use of the GCP.