

NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

Myotis septentrionalis

ID TIPS Distinguished by its long ears, particularly in comparison to other species in the *Myotis* genus (*Myotis* means mouse-eared). Positive identification requires acoustic surveys or captures.

HABITAT Generalists of contiguous blocks of mature forested wetlands and nearby old upland forests of any type, including old longleaf, loblolly and shortleaf pine uplands. Forests range from relatively open to dense/thick.

TERRITORY These bats have territory sizes ranging from 170 acres (NC mountains) to 3,400 acres (MO Ozarks). Home range size is unknown in the NC Coastal Plain.

ROOSTS Large trees with cavities, crevices, etc. for roosts.

Winter roosts are observed in hollow trees over or near water in mature forested wetlands. The proximity to water likely keeps roost temperatures higher, preventing freezing.

Breeding behavior is not known in NC coastal population, but occurs in late summer/early fall in other populations.

FOOD Insects; this bat has slow and maneuverable flight patterns to catch its meal even in dense forests.

PRESENCE OF ROOSTING Contact the US Fish & Wildlife Service if the land-owner welcomes a survey and the bats are known or found to roost on the property. The 4(d) rule of Endangered Species Act protects 150 feet of forest around roost trees from June 1 to July 31.

If bats are observed, but not in a roost, no specific habitat protection measures are required.

ACTIVITIES & STRATEGIES Maintain mature forests. Thinning in upland forests not likely to improve habitat conditions for the bat, but may not be detrimental. Apply herbicides at the lowest effective rate and avoid roost trees.

TIMING Population response to prescribed fire is unknown, but burning in winter during very cold days (<35°F) could harm bats roosting in torpor in hollow trees.



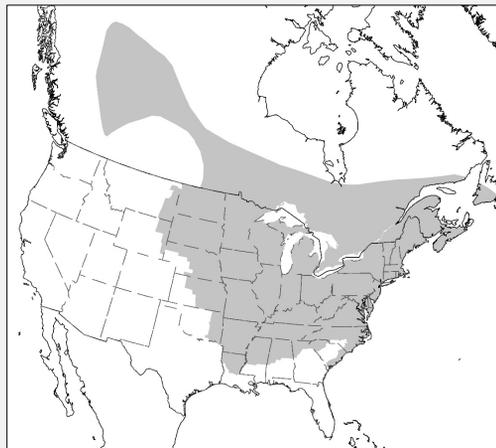
CONSERVATION STATUS

Federally threatened

FOREST USE AT A GLANCE

Landscapes of contiguous mature forests

SPECIES RANGE



DID YOU KNOW?

While little is known about the Coastal Plain populations, there are records of winter tree roosts in this area, potentially reducing the bats' exposure to White Nose Syndrome, a fungal disease common in caves in other parts of its range.