

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Indiana Bat Summer Habitat
Procedure Guide
REVISED 9/25/06

1. The Indiana bat is a federal and state listed endangered species that occurs in southern Iowa from May through August.
2. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considers all counties south of Interstate 80, including those portions of Dallas, Polk, Jasper, Poweshiek, Iowa, Johnson, Muscatine, and Scott counties south of Interstate 80, as being within the potential range of the species in Iowa.
3. Projects south of Interstate 80 requiring **tree removal** are subject to these guidelines. No action is necessary for projects south of I-80 that do NOT involve tree removal.
4. Does suitable habitat exist within the project area? For projects involving tree removal, potential effects upon the Indiana bat and its summer habitat must be documented. Use Iowa DOT's "Indiana Bat Summer Habitat Documentation Form" to document the presence or absence of suitable Indiana bat summer habitat in the project area. Suitable habitat is defined as forest cover of 15% or greater and permanent water within a ½ mile radius, as well as certain living or dead tree species with 10% or more loose or peeling bark. Place the habitat documentation form in the project file.
5. If suitable Indiana bat summer habitat is present, **the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Iowa DNR must be contacted by the Office of Location and Environment.** Habitat documentation forms and other pertinent information should be forwarded to OLE. If the project is reviewed for suitable habitat but no habitat is present, it is not necessary to contact FWS or DNR, but the habitat documentation form should be placed in the project file.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Rock Island Field Office
4469 48th Avenue Court
Rock Island, IL 61201
309/793-5800

Iowa DNR
Wallace State Office Building
502 E. Ninth
Des Moines, IA 50319
515/281-8524

6. The Endangered Species Act requires that projects avoid **and minimize** impacts to protected species. Potential harmful effects to the Indiana bat and its summer habitat may be minimized by planning to conduct tree removal activities *after September 15 and before April 15*. However, this does not eliminate that requirement that the project area be surveyed for Indiana bats and suitable habitat documented. In addition, the FWS must be contacted if suitable habitat exists within the project area, regardless of when the tree removal activities are planned.
7. If suitable Indiana bat summer habitat is present and tree removal activities are planned to occur between April 15 and September 15, the FWS may require mist net surveys of the project area for Indiana bats.
8. Iowa DOT **Standard Note 232-9** should be included in plans for projects located south of I-80 involving tree removal activities. Generally, Iowa DOT District staff will notify the project designers that clearing and grubbing is needed, which should trigger inclusion of this standard note in the plans.
9. For small projects, staff from the Office of Location & Environment (OLE) will review projects for Indiana bat habitat as part of the 'W0-Preliminary Wetlands Review' process. For larger projects, Indiana bat habitat will be reviewed by OLE as part of NEPA and discussed with FWS as needed.
10. Iowa DOT will include discussion of Indiana bat suitable habitat and avoidance/minimization efforts in Department of Army Section 404 permit applications when applicable. FWS will be copied on all applicable 404 permit applications involving Indiana bat.
11. Iowa DNR and FWS may be contacted for the most current guidelines for the Indiana bat.