

Northern Long-eared Bat and Interim 4(d) Rule



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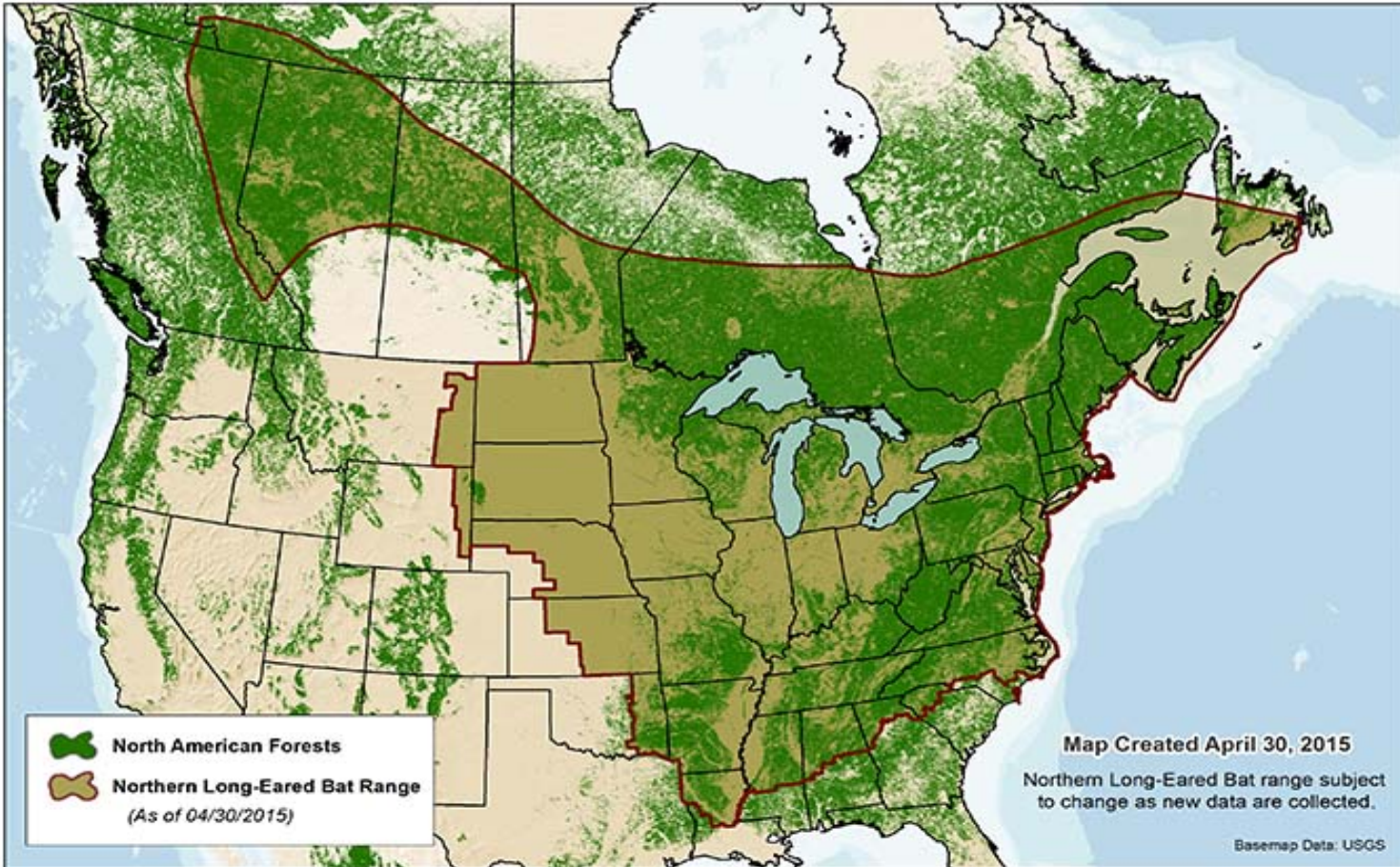


Northern Long-eared Bat (NLEB) Range



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Northern Long-Eared Bat Range



Northern Long-eared Bat (NLEB) Throughout the Year

- ◉ Winter
 - Hibernation in caves/mines (hibernacula)
- ◉ Spring
 - Emergence
 - Forage/migrate summer roosting habitat
 - Fertilization/gestation
- ◉ Summer
 - Associated with trees
 - Roosting/foraging (females form colonies)
 - Birth of pups (max 1/female/yr)
 - Pups fly ~1 month later
 - Home range ~1.5 - 2.5+ mile radius
- ◉ Fall
 - Mating
 - Forage and store fat for hibernation
 - Up to 5-20 miles from hibernacula



NLEB Roost Trees and Habitat

- Live and dead trees
- Cracks and crevices
- Canopy closure 62-98% (from MN study)
- Exposure to sunlight during day

NLEB Roost Trees



NLEB Roost Trees



NLEB Roost Trees



NLEB Roost Trees



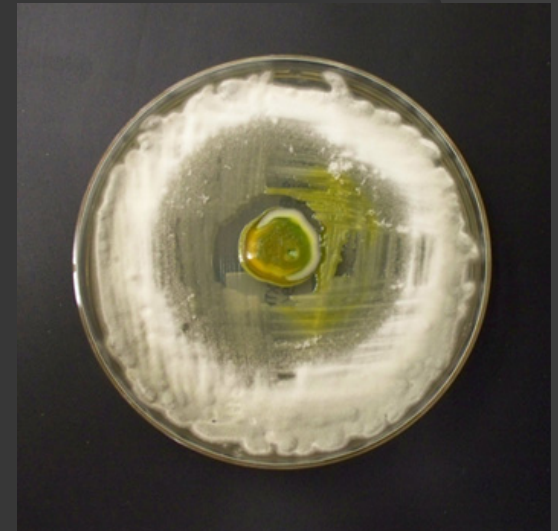
Northern Long-eared Bat

- Final rule listing NLEB as Threatened species
- Interim 4(d) rule
- Both effective - May 4, 2015
- Public comment period open on 4(d) rule until July 1, 2015



Threats to Northern Long-eared Bat

- WNS is primary threat
Pseudogymnoascus destructans (Pd)
- Compounding threats may include:
 - Impacts to hibernacula
 - Disturbance to hibernating bats
 - Mortality from wind projects
 - Forest conversion/loss





What is a 4(d) Rule?

- ESA tool for implementation flexibility
- Tailors “take” prohibitions under ESA
- Option for Threatened species only
- USFWS can issue regulations deemed “necessary and advisable to provide for the conservation of threatened species.”



What is in Interim NLEB 4(d) Rule?

- WNS areas (most of the range)
 - No purposeful take (without normal permitting/S7 processes) except:
 - removal from human dwellings (in compliance with any State regulations)
 - take associated with research/monitoring if you already have USFWS or state permit for another listed bat (1 year)
 - All “incidental take” prohibitions apply except those specifically addressed in the rule...



What is in Interim NLEB 4(d) Rule?

- WNS areas (cont.)
 - Incidental take associated with:
 - Forest management
 - Prairie management
 - Minimal tree removal (≤ 1 acre)
 - ROW maintenance and expansion within 100 feet of existing ROW
 - Hazardous tree removal

What is in Interim NLEB 4(d) Rule?

- WNS areas (cont.)

- Conservation Measures:

(i) Occur more than 0.25 mile (0.4 km) from a known, occupied hibernaculum (any time of year);

(ii) Avoid cutting or destroying known, occupied maternity roost trees during the pup season (June 1–July 31); and

(iii) Avoid clearcuts (or similar treatments) within 0.25 (0.4 km) mile of known, occupied maternity roost trees during the pup season (June 1 – July 31)

Some Additional Thoughts

- ⦿ 4(d) conservation measures ≠ no “take” or not likely to adversely affect
- ⦿ Does not remove the need for Federal agencies to consult on activities that “may affect” NLEB

What You Should Be Aware of While Working in NLEB Habitat:

- Do work areas have known/occupied maternity roost trees?
- Are work areas within ¼-mile of known hibernacula?
- Season of harvest?



More information can be found at:

<http://midwest.fws.gov/nleb>

Please provide comments on 4(d) rule
at:

<http://www.regulations.gov>

Docket: FWS-R5-ES-2011-0024

Due by July 1, 2015

Hang in there!
Questions?



photo by: John Lamb
ATA Conservation