

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Indiana Bat Summer Habitat
Procedure Guide
REVISED 1/27/2014

1. The Indiana bat is a federal and state listed endangered species that occurs in southern Iowa from April through September.
2. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) considers Adair, Appanoose, Boone, Cedar, Clarke, Dallas, Davis, Decatur, Des Moines, Guthrie, Henry, Iowa, Jasper, Jefferson, Johnson, Keokuk, Lee, Louisa, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, Muscatine, Polk, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Scott, Story, Tama, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Washington, and Wayne counties as being within the potential range of the species in Iowa (map attached).
3. Projects in the aforementioned counties requiring **tree removal** are subject to these guidelines. No action is necessary for projects in these counties that do NOT involve tree removal.
4. For projects involving tree removal, potential effects upon the Indiana bat and its summer habitat must be documented. Iowa DOT's "Indiana Bat Summer Habitat Documentation Form" is used by the Office of Location and Environment 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.
5. If suitable Indiana bat summer habitat is present and tree clearing is required for the project, **the FWS and Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must be contacted by the Office of Location and Environment (OLE).**
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 30 and before April 1*. However, this does not eliminate the requirement that the project area be surveyed for Indiana bats and suitable habitat documented. In addition, OLE must contact FWS 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 1 and September 30, 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 in the aforementioned counties 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 OLE will review projects for Indiana bat habitat as part of the 'W0-Preliminary Wetlands Review' and/or the 'TE0 – Threatened/Endangered Species 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. Contact OLE for questions on the most current guidelines for the Indiana bat.