

# Kentucky's Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund Project Review Team Process, Guidance, and Checklist



# Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund

## Project Review Team Process, Guidance, and Checklist

### Introduction

This document contains information that describes how land acquisition and management projects and project funding decisions for those projects will be made for project applicants that seek and receive funding from the Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund (IBCF) Mitigation Account. These projects are intended to support the recovery and conservation of two federally listed bats that occur in Kentucky, the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). This is accomplished through the acquisition, conservation, and management of forested and other habitat that is currently important to these species or may become important to these species in the future. These actions are also likely to benefit other forest-dwelling bats that are at-risk and may become federally listed in the future.

Funding received by the Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund (IBCF) Mitigation Account is derived primarily from voluntary mitigation contributions made by project proponents that must permanently or semi-permanently remove forested habitat in Kentucky. Such impacts are generally associated with land development projects, not typical forest management activities, and are authorized under the 2015 biological opinion titled, “Kentucky Field Office’s Participation in Conservation Memoranda of Agreement for the Indiana Bat and/or Northern Long-eared Bat”. The number and extent of these projects varies based on a variety of factors (i.e., general economic conditions at the time of the project, other opportunities for compliance, etc.), as does the amount of funding the IBCF receives each year. The IBCF is held in trust by the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust (KNLT), a non-profit land trust, and is administered by KNLT in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Kentucky Field Office (KFO).

A variety of conservation partners work in Kentucky to identify potential land acquisition and management projects that would provide conservation and recovery benefits to Indiana and northern long-eared bats. These projects generally support the KFO’s “Conservation Strategy for Forest-Dwelling Bats in the Commonwealth of Kentucky” (Conservation Strategy). Project proposals that seek IBCF funding are sent to the IBCF Project Review Team (Review Team) for consideration. The Review Team is comprised of a diverse group of seven individuals that work in Kentucky and have expertise in bat research and management, forest trends and management, conservation land acquisition, or related expertise. These individuals volunteer their time and expertise to ensure that land acquisition and management projects meet the objectives of the Conservation Strategy. See Attachment D for a list of the current Review Team members and their contact information. The Review Team operates on an ad hoc basis and provides proposal review, oversight of the IBCF project proposal process, and technical and other assistance to the KFO and KNLT related to projects funded by the IBCF Mitigation Account.

The guidance contained in this document is likely to be updated periodically. Users of this guidance should ensure that they are using the most-recent version of the guidance that is available at <http://knlt.org/ibcf/>.

### Identification of Potential Projects

The amount of annual mitigation funding that the IBCF receives cannot be accurately predicted as the projects that remove forest habitat and the voluntary contributions by the proponents of these projects is unknown. As a result, it is not efficient, nor effective, to regularly schedule requests for proposals (RFP) for identifying and funding land acquisition and management projects through the IBCF. Instead, two approaches will be used to help identify projects that would offset the bat habitat losses that occur and could be suitable for funding through the IBCF Mitigation Account.

1. Project proposals will be solicited directly from potential project partners in order to meet the specific bat conservation objectives identified in the Conservation Strategy and the specific bat habitat losses that occur from projects authorized under the 2015 biological opinion. These solicitations will include projects that would occur in specific Recovery and Mitigation Focus Areas and will offset the type(s) of bat habitat (i.e., Summer 1 habitat, potential habitat, etc.) that are needed to mitigate forest losses that have occurred. To qualify for IBCF project funding, project partners must be “qualified conservation organizations” as defined under the regulations of the Internal Revenue Service and Department of the Treasury (26 USC § 170(h)(3) and 26 CFR § 1.170A-14, respectively). This typically includes federal and state land management agencies, local and state government agencies that have conservation as their primary purpose(s), academic institutions, and conservation land trusts.
2. Unsolicited project proposals will also be accepted. However, project proponents are encouraged to review the Conservation Strategy in advance and discuss how potential projects might contribute to the Conservation Strategy and address the specific bat habitat losses that have occurred with the KFO and KNLTL prior to developing detailed project proposals.

Once potential projects are identified that meet the objectives of the Conservation Strategy and address the bat habitat losses, the project partner will better define the project and prepare a detailed project proposal using the template provided in Attachment A.

### Proposal Review Process

Once a potential project is identified and initial project coordination is completed, the following processes will be used to categorize the proposal in order to facilitate review of the proposal by the Review Team:

#### *Projects where the IBCF’s cost of the project is equal to or less than the current mitigation rate*

1. The project partner will provide the detailed project proposal to the KFO for initial review. The KFO’s initial review is to ensure that the project proposal meets the Mandatory Proposal Requirements (see section below). Proposals that do meet all the Mandatory Proposal Requirements will not be forwarded to the Review Team.
2. If the proposal meets all the Mandatory Proposal Requirements, the KFO will forward the proposal and a project checklist (Attachment B) to two members of the Review Team

according to the proposal review schedule (Attachment C). The KFO will also forward a copy to KNLТ for KNLТ's awareness of the potential project.

3. Review Team members will review and evaluate the project proposal and may coordinate with KNLТ, the KFO, the project partner(s), subject matter experts, and/or other Review Team members, as necessary, during the evaluation. Review Team members will then provide a recommendation on the project checklist, provide a rationale if the project is "Not Recommended" for funding, and return the signed checklist to the KFO.
4. If both Review Team members recommend the project, the KFO will add its concurrence to the project checklist and forward the project checklist and proposal to KNLТ. This documentation allows KNLТ to know that the project can receive funding from the IBCF Mitigation Account, and KNLТ will provide the project partner with the funding as specified in the project proposal.
5. If one or both Review Team members do not recommend the project, the project is declined, and the KFO will notify the project partner of the Review Team's recommendation not to fund the project.

*Projects where the IBCF's cost of the project is greater than the current mitigation rate*

1. The project partner will provide the detailed project proposal to the KFO for initial review. The KFO's initial review is to ensure that the project proposal meets the Mandatory Proposal Requirements. Proposals that do meet all the Mandatory Proposal Requirements will not be forwarded to the Review Team.
2. If the proposal meets all the Mandatory Proposal Requirements, the KFO will forward the proposal and a project checklist to the full, 7-member Review Team. The KFO will also forward a copy to KNLТ for KNLТ's awareness of the potential project.
3. Review Team members will review and evaluate the project proposal and may coordinate with KNLТ, the KFO, the project partner(s), subject matter experts, and/or other Review Team members, as necessary, during the evaluation. Review Team members will then provide a recommendation on the project checklist, provide a rationale if the project is "Not Recommended" for funding, and return the signed checklist to the KFO.
4. If four Review Team members recommend the project, the KFO will add its concurrence to the project checklist and forward the project checklist and proposal to KNLТ. This documentation allows KNLТ to know that the project can receive funding from the IBCF Mitigation Account, and KNLТ will provide the project partner with the funding as specified in the project proposal.
5. If four or more Review Team members do not recommend the project, the project is declined, and the KFO will notify the project partner of the full Review Team's recommendation not to fund the project.



### Re-submitted Proposals

1. Project partners may modify and re-submit projects that have been previously declined by the Review Team but are encouraged to work closely with the KFO prior to re-submittal of the project so that any deficiencies identified by the initial proposal review can be addressed.
2. If the re-submitted proposal meets all the Mandatory Proposal Requirements, the KFO will forward the proposal and a project checklist to the full, 7-member Review Team. The KFO will also forward a copy to KNLT for KNLT's awareness of the potential project.
3. Review Team members will review and evaluate the project proposal and may coordinate with KNLT, the KFO, the project partner(s), subject matter experts, and/or other Review Team members, as necessary, during the evaluation. Review Team members will then provide a recommendation on the project checklist, provide a rationale if the project is "Not Recommended" for funding, and return the signed checklist to the KFO.
4. If four Review Team members recommend the project, the KFO will add its concurrence to the project checklist and forward the project checklist and proposal to KNLT. This documentation allows KNLT to know that the project can receive funding from the IBCF Mitigation Account, and KNLT will provide the project partner with the funding as specified in the project proposal.
5. If four or more Review Team members do not recommend the project, the project is declined, and the KFO will notify the project partner of the Review Team's recommendation not to fund the project.

### Mandatory Proposal Requirements

Land acquisition and/or management projects that receive funding from the IBCF Mitigation Account must meet certain criteria and habitat objectives in order to receive funding. The following Mandatory Requirements will apply to all projects that receive funding from the IBCF Mitigation Account:

- ✓ The project occurs within Kentucky and/or in an adjacent state but within 20 miles of the Kentucky state line. This is the action area for the biological opinion that covers the forest losses that adversely affect federally listed forest-dwelling bats in Kentucky. Since all impacts occur in this area, all mitigation activities must also occur in this area.
- ✓ The project contains one or more of the following habitat types that will be permanently protected: (a) forest land that is known habitat for one or more listed forest-dwelling bat species bat, and/or (b) forest land that is suitable habitat for one or more listed forest-dwelling bat species, and/or (c) non-forest land that will be restored to forest as part of the proposed project and would provide future potential habitat for one or more listed forest-dwelling bat species.
- ✓ The project area is or will be owned by a qualified conservation organization or a qualified conservation organization will hold a permanent conservation easement on the

project area that is sufficient to ensure its protection and future management as forested bat habitat.

- ✓ The project will meet one or more of the conservation goals outlined in the Conservation Strategy.

#### Additional Project Attributes

In addition to the Mandatory Requirements above, proposed projects should contain some combination of the following project attributes. Project proposals should clearly identify which attributes the project would provide, including any important attributes that may not be listed below. Projects that provide Tier 1 goals (see page 14 of the Conservation Strategy) are preferred; however, projects that provide Tier 2 goals are also appropriate for IBCF funding and are encouraged.

#### Listed Bat Habitat Attributes

1. The project contains suitable habitat and is located in known habitat for the Indiana bat.
2. The project contains suitable habitat and is located in known habitat for the northern long-eared bat.
3. The project contains suitable habitat and is located within one of the forest-dwelling bat Recovery and Mitigation Focus Areas identified in the Conservation Strategy.
4. The project contains a known hibernaculum for either the Indiana bat and/or northern long-eared bat.
5. The project contains a potential bat hibernaculum.
6. The project contains suitable habitat and contributes to a bat, forest, or other habitat conservation effort of state, regional, or local significance.
7. The project contains non-forest land that will be reforested or afforested and would contribute to a bat, forest, or other habitat conservation effort of state, regional, or local significance.
8. The project mitigates bat habitat losses with a habitat of more importance to listed bat species (e.g., mitigates loss of potential summer habitat with known summer and/or swarming habitat).
9. The project contains water sources that provide access to drinking water and increase prey diversity for listed bat species.
10. The project contains unique geological formations (etc. caves, rock shelters, cliffline, talus fields, sink holes) that are likely to provide roosts or hibernation habitat for listed bat species.

#### Partnership Attributes

1. The project has unique or high level support from a variety of partners and would contribute to a bat, forest or other habitat conservation effort of state, regional, or local significance.
2. The project partner has demonstrated expertise and the necessary resources to conduct the management required to adequately achieve one or more of the conservation goals in the Conservation Strategy and the provisions outlined in the proposal.
3. The project has a high likelihood of success due to any number of reasons that may be applicable to the proposed project including, but not limited to:

- a) The project partner already owns or has control of the project area and can ensure implementation of the proposed project;
  - b) The project area does not have any complications that would compromise the project partner's ability to acquire or manage the land.
4. The project partner has successfully completed other projects using funding from the IBCF involving acquisition, management activities, long-term habitat protection, and/or enforcement of property restrictions.

#### Cost Attributes

1. The per-acre cost of the project to the IBCF is substantially less than the current mitigation rate (i.e., high cost effectiveness).
2. A portion of the cost of the project is borne by the project partner or other funding source(s).
3. The project offers protection of other suitable habitat for one or more listed bats as match.

#### Other Project Attributes

1. The project will provide benefits to other bat species, especially bat species that are considered at-risk, are state-listed, or are listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the state wildlife action plan.
2. The project will provide conservation benefits to other fauna or flora that are listed or considered at-risk.
3. The project will protect rare or declining habitats, communities, or species assemblages.
4. The project will support forest conservation in a priority area for forest conservation identified in a recognized plan or initiative.
5. The project would protect forest habitat in an area that is at high risk of being lost due to forest conversion.
6. The project will reasonably be expected to result in water quality benefits in a downstream or adjacent watershed, especially one listed on the state 303(d) list.
7. The project will result in water quality benefits in a downstream or adjacent watershed that is known to contain federally- or state-listed aquatic species, aquatic Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the state wildlife action plan, or at-risk aquatic species.
8. The project will provide other conservation benefits that support a recognized plan or initiative.

## ATTACHMENT A

### **IBCF PROJECT PROPOSAL TEMPLATE**

1. **PROPOSAL NAME:**

*[This section would specify a distinct or unique name for the project using simple terminology that would provide general information about the proposed acquisition. For example: “Land Trust or Agency XXX 150-Acre ZZZ Tract, ABC County, KY 2016 IBCF Funding Proposal”]*

2. **PARTNER(S):**

*[This section would identify the entity that is making the proposal and any other involved partners in the project. This section would also include a primary point of contact for the proposal and contact information (name, mailing address, phone/fax/cell numbers, and email address(es) for both the entity(ies) involved and point of contact, if they are different or as may be appropriate.]*

3. **BACKGROUND & PURPOSE:**

*[This section would identify the location of the project, outline the general purpose and objectives of the proposed land acquisition and/or management effort, and list or highlight the benefits of the project in terms of conservation, protection, and recovery of federally-listed bats, especially those listed in the Review Team Guidance document. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Kentucky Field Office should be contacted to determine if the acquisition would involve known habitat for federally-listed bats, other federally-listed species, or the acquisition of habitat with bat Recovery and Mitigation Focus Areas or other important conservation areas. In addition, this section should also briefly explain any other conservation benefits that would be attained through the project, giving special attention to benefits to other bat species of concern, landscape-level forest conservation efforts, other federally or state-listed species, watershed and water quality protection, or other priority benefits. A project location map, representative photographs of the forests and other habitat present on the property or project location, and a recent aerial photograph of the property or project location, showing the actual or approximate property boundary, should also be included in this section, along with any other pertinent information or data.]*

4. **OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

*[This section should clearly identify the entity that owns or will own the property or easement where the project will occur or the entity that will hold title to the property or easement that is acquired.*

*Any entity that will hold title to a property or easement acquired with IBCF funding must be a “qualified conservation organization” as defined under the regulations of the U.S. Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service and must agree to hold and manage the property or easement in perpetuity for the benefit of forest-dwelling bats. If the property or easement will be transferred to another entity in the future, that entity (if known), the timeline for the transfer, and other pertinent information about the transfer*



*should be included in the section. The entity that will receive the transferred property or easement must also be a “qualified conservation organization” as defined under the regulations of the U.S. Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service and must agree to hold and manage the property or easement in perpetuity for the benefit of forest-dwelling bats. The KFO and/or KNLT can assist partners with deed and/or easement language that would be suitable for ensuring that any land acquired is suitably protected. Each entity that holds property or an easement to property acquired with IBCF funding should be prepared to provide proof to the Review Team that it is a “qualified conservation organization” and that the entity is in good standing in the state where the entity is registered to conduct business.*

*Proposed management of the property or easement should be described in general terms. Active management of forests is encouraged, including selective harvest of timber resources and timber stand improvement activities to improve habitat quality and availability for listed bats. Active management that could result in potential take of federally-listed bats must be authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in advance and in writing. The partner must coordinate all management activities with the KFO in advance in order to help determine if the management activities will result in take of listed bats or if the action is exempted from the Endangered Species Act’s take prohibition by regulation.*

*Acquisition projects should not be proposed where there is a likely risk of complications in the acquisition process that would result from severed mineral, oil, natural gas, or other rights, the location or additional costs of dwellings or other improvements, or complex ownership of the property (e.g., a high number of owners/heirs). The project partner must state whether or not any complications are likely, the type(s) of complications that are likely (if known), and how those complications will be resolved. The proposal is unlikely to receive IBCF funding if the acquisition is unlikely to be accomplished in a reasonable amount of time or if the complications are significant and would affect the project partner’s ability to acquire and/or manage the land in perpetuity for the benefit of listed forest-dwelling bats.]*

## 5. FUNDING REQUEST

*[This section should provide a budget and overall project funding request in sufficient detail and clarity to show the amounts requested from the IBCF for land or easement acquisition, closing costs, survey, and any other acquisition-related expenses and any matching funding, including identification of the source(s) of matching funds, that will be provided. Management and long-term stewardship costs can be requested but should be 20 percent of the total land or easement cost or less. Contributed management costs by the project partner(s) are preferred and can be shown as a matching cost for the project over the duration of the project, but not to exceed 10 years (i.e., \$X/year annual management cost X 10 years = \$Y matching cost).*

*If the project is a land acquisition project, all allowable project costs will be reimbursed as part of the closing of the acquisition. Allowable costs can include the partner’s actual due diligence and acquisition-related costs, including the costs of environmental or*

*contaminants reviews, surveys, title reviews, appraisal, earnest money, closing expenses, real estate taxes, legal fees, stewardship endowment, and sales price of the land or easement; however, allowable costs will not include the partner's direct costs associated with developing and overseeing the project (i.e., staff time).*

*If the project is a management project or if the project is a land acquisition and management costs are requested, the requested management funding will be paid by KNLT on a reimbursable basis as specified in the project proposal upon KNLT's receipt of the partner's invoice and certification that the management activities have been completed according to the management schedule. Partners are also encouraged to provide a short summary report of the management or other activities undertaken by the partner related to the project along with the invoice.*

*Pre-agreement costs are not allowed unless they are allowable costs as identified in this section, are specifically identified in the proposal, and approved by the Review Team and KFO.]*

## 6. SCHEDULE

*[This section should provide a schedule for completion of the project or acquisition. If the project is a land acquisition project, the acquisition should be completed within 120 days of the receipt of IBCF funding. Acquisitions that are likely to have significant title issues, outstanding mineral rights, numerous owners or heirs to the property, large boundary survey timeframes, or that will take more than 120 days to close title should not request acquisition funding from the IBCF Mitigation Account unless the KFO and Review Team have been consulted, in advance, on these issues that could potentially affect the success of the project.]*

## 7. COMMITMENTS

*[This section should include the following commitments:*

- {The partner or entity that will hold the land or easement} acknowledges that KNLT shall not be responsible for reimbursing unallowable expenses.*
- {The partner} will notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Kentucky Field Office and KNLT at least 15 days in advance of the closing date and provide wiring information for the closing attorney's escrow account so that KNLT can provide the closing attorney with the necessary IBCF funding at least 5 days in advance of the closing date for the Tract..*
- {The partner or entity that will hold the land or easement} agrees to provide the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Kentucky Field Office and the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust with a copy of the final closing statement and fully-executed and recorded deed for the property or easement purchased with IBCF funding within 30 days of recording the deed.*

- *If {the partner or entity that will hold the land or easement} cannot complete the acquisition within 120 days of receiving IBCF, {the partner or entity that will hold the land or easement} will coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Kentucky Field Office to determine if the funding should be returned. {The partner or entity that will hold the land or easement} agrees to return all unused IBCF funds to the IBCF within 15 days if directed in writing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Kentucky Field Office or if the acquisition cannot be completed.*
- *{The partner or entity that will hold the land or easement} agrees to purchase and hold the tract/or hold the tract pending its future transfer to {name of other entity} and will not undertake any activity that would interfere with the bat and forest conservation purposes for which the tract was acquired without the written approval of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Kentucky Field Office. Further, {the partner or entity that will hold the land or easement} will coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Kentucky Field Office prior to undertaking any plan or action that would reasonably be expected to result in the alteration, removal, or degradation of the tract or the habitat that occurs on the tract, regardless of whether such plans or actions are or may be considered positive or negative by either party.*
- *The following language will be included in the deed for the property acquired using IBCF funding and shall run with the property in perpetuity:*

*“This property was acquired with funds provided to {the partner} by the Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund and is intended to provide and conserve habitat in perpetuity for the Indiana bat and/or northern long-eared bat. The property will be managed for this purpose, in accordance with applicable federal and State law. The property may not be encumbered or disposed of in any manner, or used for purposes inconsistent with this purpose, without the prior written approval of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Kentucky Field Office.*

*If the sale or transfer of the tract, or any portion thereof, is considered by{the partner or entity that will hold the land or easement}, such sale or transfer will only be to another “qualified conservation organization” as currently defined under the regulations of the U.S. Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service. {The partner or entity that will hold the land or easement} will notify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Kentucky Field Office of the proposed sale or transfer of the tract at least 30 calendar days in advance of such sale or transfer.”*

- *{The partner entity or entity that will hold the land or easement} agrees to reimburse the Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund one hundred-percent (100%) {or eighty percent (80%) if the project did not receive management funds from the IBCF} of the proceeds from any subsequent sale of the tract, or one hundred-percent (100%) {or eighty percent (80%) if the project did not receive*

*management funds from the IBCF} of the then current fair market value of the property, as determined by an independent land appraisal, whichever is greater. {The partner or entity that will hold the land or easement} shall provide such proceeds to the Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund via the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust, or its successor or assigns, within 15 calendar days of closing. However, {The partner or entity that will hold the land or easement} acknowledges that reimbursement of the proceeds of any subsequent sale is not necessary if {the partner} and/or any entity that has held the land or easement has maintained ownership of the property or easement continuously for a period of 5 calendar years or more from the date that {the partner or entity that will hold the land or easement} first acquired the property or easement.*

- *{The partner} will keep accurate records that document the work and costs associated with the project for as long as the project is in effect.*
- *Any public reference or notification about this project shall recognize the contributions of the Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund, the Kentucky Natural Lands Trust, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Kentucky Field Office to this project.*

*If these commitments cannot be met, the project partner should provide a rationale or explanation in this section and should coordinate this with the KFO early in the proposal development process.]*

## 8. SUMMARY

*[A short summary of the proposed project should be provided in this section. Any other information that the partner believes is relevant to the proposal should also be included in this section.]*

## 9. SIGNATURE

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this proposal to the IBCF Review Team. If you have any questions on this proposal or the information it contains, please contact me at *{Insert signatory's phone number here.}*

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*{Insert name of signatory here.}*  
*{Insert title of signature here.}*

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*{Insert date signed here.}*

ATTACHMENT B

**IBCF PROJECT CHECKLIST**

**General Information**

Project Name:

Project Partner:

Project Description:

Project Location:

IBCF Funding Requested:

Amount and Type of Other/Matching Funding:

Does IBCF Cost of Project Exceed Current Mitigation Rate?

**Mandatory Proposal Requirements**

- ✓ The project occurs within Kentucky and/or in an adjacent state but within 20 miles of the Kentucky state line.
- ✓ The project contains one or more of the following habitat types that will be permanently protected: (check all that apply)
  - (a) Forest land that is known habitat for the Indiana bat and/or northern long-eared bat, and/or
  - (b) Forest land that is suitable for the Indiana bat and/or northern long-eared bat, and/or
  - (c) Non-forest land that will be restored to forest as part of the proposed project and would provide future habitat for the Indiana bat and/or northern long-eared bat.
- ✓ The project area is or will be owned by a qualified conservation organization or a qualified conservation organization will hold a permanent conservation easement on the project area that is sufficient to ensure its protection and future management as forested bat habitat.
- ✓ The project will meet one or more of the conservation goals outlined in the Conservation Strategy.

**Additional Project Attributes**

*Listed Bat Habitat Attributes* (select all that apply)

1. The project contains suitable habitat and is located in known habitat for the Indiana bat.

2. The project contains suitable habitat and is located in known habitat for the northern long-eared bat.
3. The project contains suitable habitat and is located within one of the forest-dwelling bat Recovery and Mitigation Focus Areas identified in the Conservation Strategy.
4. The project contains a known hibernaculum for either the Indiana bat and/or northern long-eared bat.
5. The project contains a potential bat hibernaculum.
6. The project contains suitable habitat and contributes to a bat, forest, or other habitat conservation effort of state, regional, or local significance.
7. The project contains non-forest land that will be reforested or afforested and would contribute to a bat, forest, or other habitat conservation effort of state, regional, or local significance.
8. The project mitigates bat habitat losses with a habitat of more importance to listed bat species (e.g., mitigates loss of potential summer habitat with known summer and/or swarming habitat).
9. The project contains water sources that provide access to drinking water and increase prey diversity for listed bat species.
10. The project contains unique geological formations (etc. caves, rock shelters, cliffline, talus fields, sink holes) that are likely to provide roosts or hibernation habitat for listed bat species.
11. List or describe others here.

Partnership Attributes (check all that apply)

1. The project has unique or high level support from a variety of partners and would contribute to a bat, forest or other habitat conservation effort of state, regional, or local significance.
2. The project partner has demonstrated expertise and the necessary resources to conduct the management required to adequately achieve one or more of the conservation goals in the Conservation Strategy and the provisions outlined in the proposal.
3. The project has a high likelihood of success due to any number of reasons that may be applicable to the proposed project including, but not limited to:
  - a) The project partner already owns or has control of the project area and can ensure implementation of the proposed project;
  - b) The project area does not have any complications that would compromise the project partner's ability to acquire or manage the land.
4. The project partner has successfully completed other projects using funding from the IBCF involving acquisition, management activities, long-term habitat protection, and/or enforcement of property restrictions.
5. List or describe others here.

Cost Attributes

1. The per-acre cost of the project to the IBCF is substantially less than the current mitigation rate (i.e., high cost effectiveness).
2. A portion of the cost of the project is borne by the project partner or other funding source(s).
3. The project offers protection of other suitable habitat for one or more listed bats as match.



4. List or describe others here.

Other Project Attributes

1. The project will provide benefits to other bat species, especially bat species that are considered at-risk, are state-listed, or are listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the state wildlife action plan.
2. The project will provide conservation benefits to other fauna or flora that are listed or considered at-risk.
3. The project will protect rare or declining habitats, communities, or species assemblages.
4. The project will support forest conservation in a priority area for forest conservation identified in a recognized plan or initiative.
5. The project would protect forest habitat in an area that is at high risk of being lost due to forest conversion.
6. The project will reasonably be expected to result in water quality benefits in a downstream or adjacent watershed, especially one listed on the state 303(d) list.
7. The project will result in water quality benefits in a downstream or adjacent watershed that is known to contain federally- or state-listed aquatic species, aquatic Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the state wildlife action plan, or at-risk aquatic species.
8. The project will provide other conservation benefits that support a recognized plan or initiative.
9. List or describe others here.

**Summary and Decision**

Based on the information in the attached Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund (IBCF) funding proposal and the characteristics of the proposal identified previously on this project checklist, we have made the following recommendations on the proposed project:

The project is RECOMMENDED / NOT RECOMMENDED for IBCF funding.

Note: \_\_\_\_\_

[Insert electronic signature here that includes date/time]

[Insert Name of IBCF Process Review Team Member]

The project is RECOMMENDED / NOT RECOMMENDED for IBCF Funding.

Note: \_\_\_\_\_

[Insert electronic signature here that includes date/time]

[Insert Name of IBCF Process Review Team Member]

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Kentucky Field Office concurs with the recommendation to provide IBCF funding for the proposed project.

[KFO Field Supervisor electronic signature here that includes date/time]  
Field Supervisor, USFWS Kentucky Field Office

**ATTACHMENT C**

**IMPERILED BAT CONSERVATION FUND  
PROJECT REVIEW SCHEDULE**

**IBCF PROJECT REVIEW SCHEDULE**

<b>Project</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Reviewers</b>	<b>3,6</b>	<b>1,2</b>	<b>4,7</b>	<b>3,5</b>	<b>1,4</b>	<b>2,6</b>	<b>5,7</b>
<b>Project</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Reviewers</b>	<b>1,3</b>	<b>2,4</b>	<b>5,6</b>	<b>1,7</b>	<b>2,3</b>	<b>4,5</b>	<b>1,6</b>
<b>Project</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Reviewers</b>	<b>2,7</b>	<b>3,4</b>	<b>6,7</b>	<b>2,5</b>	<b>4,6</b>	<b>3,7</b>	<b>1,5</b>
Note –  After Project 21, the Project Review Schedule begins again at Project 1 with Reviewers 3 and 6. Reviewer order numbers are shown in Attachment D.							

ATTACHMENT D

**IMPERILED BAT CONSERVATION FUND  
PROJECT REVIEW TEAM**

Initial Members 2016

1. Mr. Bob Bauer  
Executive Director  
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Expertise – Forester, Industry representative, Landowner issues
  
2. Dr. Luke Dodd  
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Expertise – Biologist, Bat expert (research)
  
3. Mr. Eric Gracey  
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Expertise – Forester, State Forestry Agency representative
  
4. Dr. Richard Kessler  
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270/789-5062  
Expertise – Biologist, Landscape conservation, Kentucky Academy of Science

5. Mr. James Kiser  
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6. Dr. Jeff Stringer  
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Expertise – Forester, Forest management, Landowner issues

7. Mr. Zeb Weese  
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Expertise – Biologist, Land acquisition