

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Horicon and Fox River National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs) Dodge, Fond du Lac, and Marquette Counties, WI**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces that the Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) is available for Horicon and Fox River NWRs, Wisconsin.

The CCP was prepared pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Goals and objectives in the CCP describe how the agency intends to manage the refuge over the next 15 years.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the Final CCP are available on compact disk or hard copy. You may obtain a copy by writing to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Conservation Planning, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111 or you may access and download a copy via the planning Web site at <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/horicon>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Patti Meyers, (920) 387-2658.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 21,417-acre Horicon NWR was established in 1941 through land purchases approved by the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. The 1,004-acre Fox River NWR is administered by the Horicon staff and was established by the Director in October 1978. The southern one-third of the Horicon Marsh is managed by the Department of Natural Resources and their land managers actively participated in the development of the CCP.

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee *et seq.*), requires the Service to develop a CCP for each National Wildlife Refuge. The purpose in developing a CCP is to provide refuge managers with a 15-year strategy for achieving refuge purposes and contributing toward the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System,

consistent with sound principles of fish and wildlife management, conservation, legal mandates, and Service policies. In addition to outlining broad management direction for conserving wildlife and their habitats, the CCP identifies wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities available to the public, including opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation. We will review and update these CCPs at least every 15 years.

Management of the Refuges for the next 15 years will focus on: (1) Improving the long-term sustainability of wildlife habitats; (2) increasing opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation; and (3) strengthening and expanding partnerships with government agencies, organizations, and communities.

This document was received at the Office of the Federal Register on April 11, 2007.

Dated: December 8, 2006.

**Charles M. Wooley,**

*Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Snelling, Minnesota.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****Draft Indiana Bat Recovery Plan, First Revision; Draft Survey Protocol**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability for review and comment.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce availability of the draft revised recovery plan and draft survey protocol for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) for public review and comment. This species is federally listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act).

**DATES:** In order to consider your comments on the draft recovery plan and draft survey protocol, we must receive them on or before July 16, 2007.

**ADDRESSES:** *Recovery Plan:* You may obtain a copy of the recovery plan by any of the following means:

1. World Wide Web: <http://midwest.fws.gov/endangered>; or
2. U.S. mail or in-person pickup: Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Field Office, 620 South Walker Street, Bloomington, IN 47403-2121.

You may submit electronic comments on the recovery plan to this e-mail address: [ibat\\_recovery\\_plan@fws.gov](mailto:ibat_recovery_plan@fws.gov).

*Draft Survey Protocol:* The draft survey protocol is available at [http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/ibat\\_srvyprtcl.html](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/ibat_srvyprtcl.html); this Web page also provides instructions and addresses for submitting comments.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Lori Pruitt, by U.S. mail or e-mail (see **ADDRESSES**).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

Recovery of endangered or threatened animals or plants is a primary goal of our endangered species program. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation of the species, establish criteria for delisting species, and provide estimates of the time and cost for implementing the measures needed for recovery.

The Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires the development of recovery plans for listed species, unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that we provide public notice and opportunity for public review and comment during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies all also take these comments into consideration in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The species was originally listed as in danger of extinction under the Exchanged Species Preservation Act of 1966. The original recovery plan for the species was published in 1983; this is the first recovery plan revision. As of October 2006, the Service had records of extant winter populations at approximately 281 hibernacula in 19 states and 269 maternity colonies in 16 states. The 2005 winter census estimate of the population was 457,000.

During winter, Indiana bats are restricted to suitable underground hibernacula. The vast majority of these sites are caves located in karst areas of the east-central United State; however, Indiana bats also hibernate in other cave-like locations, including abandoned mines. Most Indiana bats hibernate in caves or mines where the ambient temperature remains below 10° C but infrequently drops below freezing, and the temperature is relatively stable. In summer, most reproductive females