



Forest  
Service

Washington  
Office

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**Date:** September 11, 2008

**Route To:**

**Subject:** Service-Wide Memorandum of Understanding with Bat Conservation International

**To:** Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, WO Staff

Dr. Merlin Tuttle, President/Founder Bat Conservation International, Inc. and Deputy Chief Joel Holtrop recently signed a new Service-Wide Memorandum of Understanding (MOU, enclosure). This MOU recognizes our longstanding partnership and mutual interest in the conservation and management of bats, their habitat and associated ecosystems, and our common desire to expand our cooperative work.

Bat Conservation International's (BCI) mission is to protect and restore bats and their habitats worldwide by helping people understand and value bats as essential components of ecosystems. BCI advocates protecting critical bat habitats, advancing scientific knowledge about bats and their conservation needs, and facilitating management approaches that help both bats and people.

The Forest Service has a proven track record of working in collaboration with BCI, focusing especially on helping employees to understand and value bats as essential allies in managing habitats, and advancing scientific knowledge about bats, conservation needs, and ecosystems through continuing education, training, and cooperative research. By managing for bats and their habitats, the Forest Service contributes to conservation of the nation's biodiversity, creating a healthier environment for both wildlife and people.

Investing in partnerships takes time, effort and energy—but it is worth it, and is in the Forest Service's and the public's interest. Partnerships such as these allow the Forest Service to effectively do more of the important conservation work that benefits the public's resources.

I encourage you to review the enclosed MOU, visit Bat Conservation International's website at <http://batcon.org>, and become more involved with BCI. Also enclosed is a Forest Service-BCI Partnership Opportunities document to help facilitate such collaboration.

*/s/ Charles J. Myers (for)*  
JOEL D. HOLTROP  
Deputy Chief for National Forest System

Enclosures (2)



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