



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

4P
ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
#72
SE-9
Because of my
implement
Indiana bats

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/OES 4-82-30

AUG 27 1982

MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Director, Region 4 (ARD/FA)
From: Chief, Office of Endangered Species
Subject: Intra-Service Section 7 Consultation, Gating New Mammoth Cave, Tennessee, To Prevent Disturbance to Indiana Bats

This responds to your August 20, 1982, request for a Section 7 consultation on the gating of New Mammoth Cave, Tennessee, to prevent bat disturbances relative to the listed Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis).

On August 25, 1982, we completed an examination of the above permit application and evaluated the biological information provided by you along with information available in our files. During the course of this consultation, Bob Currie, Endangered Species staff, Asheville Field Office, was contacted.

A review of the project information and information obtained from the experts and other knowledgeable sources on the biology of the listed species indicates that the proposed action may have some inhibitory affect on air movement and the movement of bats in and out of the cave. Since no systematic studies have been conducted yet to analyze gate designs for bat caves, gate design has been largely empirical to date, but the design suggested for this cave has been used with apparent success at other caves. Any negative affects should certainly be offset by the reduction or elimination of human disturbance to hibernating bats.

Therefore, it is my biological opinion that your actions, as proposed, will promote the conservation of the above listed species.

Should this action, as now planned, be modified or altered, or should new species be listed that may be affected, you must reinitiate consultation.

David Madley

