



Reporting Our Progress in Caring for the Land and Serving People



BatsLIVE! A Distance Learning Adventure
NatureWatch Program FY2012 Accomplishments
National Forest System, Washington Office & Southern Region



State: Nationwide

Accomplishments:

- More than 200,000 participants viewed two live webcasts and three webinars to learn about bats, White-Nose Syndrome, and to interact with expert bat biologists;
- BatsLIVE public presentation at USDA in Washington, DC, featuring live bats;
- Webinar titled, "Caves and Karst: The World Beneath our Feet";
- Live webcast from Bracken Cave in Texas – the largest concentration of mammals (Mexican free-tailed bats) in the world!;
- [Website](http://batslive.pwnet.org) - <http://batslive.pwnet.org>;
- Winner of the 2012 *Wings Across The Americas* Conservation Award.

Forest Service Contribution: \$97,000 (over 3 yrs)

Partner Contribution: \$200,000+

Project Costs: \$297,000+

External Partners: Prince William Network, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bat Conservation International, Organization for Bat Conservation, Lubee Bat Conservancy, National Environmental Education Foundation, United Nations Environment Programme, National Wildlife Federation, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, and many others.



Celebrating 2012 as the International Year of the Bat, the U.S. Forest Service partnered with more than 18 other federal and state agencies, nonprofit organizations and Prince William County Public Schools to develop **BatsLIVE! A Distance Learning Adventure**, a free education program aimed to bring the best of bat information and research to the classroom.



Bat Expert Rob Mies of the Organization for Bat Conservation shows a fruit bat to an enthusiastic audience at USDA in Washington, DC, in May 2012.



Viewers across the nation experienced the emergence of millions of Mexican free-tailed bats from BCI's Bracken Cave during a live BatsLIVE! webcast in September 2012.

Using webcasts and webinars delivered through a dynamic website, BatsLIVE! reached more than 200,000 people in 2012. A thorough evaluation documents that BatsLIVE is the most-effective Forest Service-sponsored distance learning project to date! All materials are available through the program [website](http://batslive.pwnet.org). In April 2013, the Forest Service will launch FSNatureLIVE website that will serve as a portal for all past and future distance learning projects.

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