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Indiana Bat (Endangered Species) Habitat Improvement Wildlife & Threatened, Endangered & Sensitive Species Programs FY2012 Accomplishments Shawnee National Forest, Eastern Region

State: Illinois

Congressional District: 12th and 19th

Accomplishments:

- Constructed 3 bat gates at 2 caves that harbor winter populations of Indiana bats.

Forest Service Contribution: \$26,000

Partner Contribution: \$17,350

Project Costs: \$43,350

External Partners: Bat Conservation International (BCI).

Internal Partners: Shawnee National Forest and the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests .

During the summers of 2010 and 2012, BCI teamed up with the Shawnee National Forest to benefit the Indiana bat in southern Illinois by providing assistance in the construction of three bat gates at two caves –Rich’s Cave and Ellis Cave ,which serve as important hibernacula for the Indiana bat on the Shawnee National Forest. Wildlife personnel from the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, from Forest Service Region 8, provided personnel to assist in the construction of three bat gates.

BCI Contribution: \$17,350 - labor and materials
USFS Contribution: \$26,000 - labor, materials and equipment.

This project has national and regional significance in that both Rich’s Cave and Ellis Cave winter a combined winter population of over 5,000-6,000 Indiana bats, a dozen a few gray bats, and several hundred regionally-sensitive bat species. Ellis Cave winters the second highest number of Indiana bats in Illinois.



Completed bat gate - Rich’s Cave.



Completed Cupola Bat Gate at Ellis Cave.

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