



Other Features: Cave/mine

Description

Cave/mine areas are caves or cave-like structures (e.g., mines, hollow dams) that are available for wildlife use.

General Condition of Feature

The condition of caves or cave-like features in the Eastern Upper Peninsula is currently undetermined. Caves are considered critically imperiled in the State due to extreme rarity.

Associated Natural Communities

Cave

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

MAMMALS

- silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)
- northern bat or northern myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*)

Associated Threats

NON-CONSUMPTIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE USE

- Non-consumptive recreation: A lack of enclosure devices allows human disturbance within mine systems.

EDUCATION

- Lack of scientific knowledge: Cave and mine systems within the Eastern Upper Peninsula are not well understood. Some river systems exist which are above ground for part of their span and subterranean for part of their span; these systems are not documented well.

Conservation Actions Needed [Threats addressed]

LAW & POLICY

- Develop and enforce regulations to curtail recreational activities that cause significant damage. [Non-consumptive recreation]

RECREATION

- Promote responsible spelunking. [Non-consumptive recreation]

Research and Survey Needs

- Inventory caves, sink holes, and abandoned mines within the ecoregion.
- Identify subterranean structures which may act as hibernacula for bats.

Monitoring

- Track the use of closures in mines.
- Track the use of caves and mines as bat hibernacula.