



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 only cave-like feature identified in the Northern Lower Peninsula is Tippy Dam, which is used by several bat species for hibernation.

Associated Natural Communities

Cave

Associated Species of Greatest Conservation Need

MAMMALS

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

MAMMALS cont.

Indiana bat or Indiana myotis (*Myotis sodalis*)
eastern pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus subflavus*)

Associated Threats

MODIFICATION OF NATURAL PROCESSES

- Altered hydrologic regimes: Water manipulation through the dam may make it unsuitable for bat roosting.

HABITAT CONVERSION

- Dams: Removal of the dam eliminates the potential for hibernation by bats.

NON-CONSUMPTIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE USE

- Non-consumptive recreation: Tourism or general human disturbance in winter may make the dam unsuitable for use as a hibernaculum.

OTHER

- Historic status/current abundance: The only example of this feature known within the Northern Lower Peninsula is at Tippy Dam and is a nontypical example.

Conservation Actions Needed [Threats addressed]

LAND, WATER & SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- Manage Tippy dam to increase its value as a hibernaculum. [Altered hydrologic regime, Dams]

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.