



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

Cave or cave-like (e.g. abandoned mines) features in the Western Upper Peninsula are generally considered to be in fair or good condition. 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*)

MAMMALS cont.

eastern pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus subflavus*)

Associated Threats

CONSUMPTIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE USE

- Mining practices: Capping mine shafts and ducts with bat excluding closures reduces their value for wildlife. Poorly designed mines and mining practices reduce value for wildlife.

NON-CONSUMPTIVE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE USE

- Non-consumptive recreation: Spelunkers and vandals may reduce the value to wildlife of caves and mines.

Conservation Actions Needed [Threats addressed]

LAND & WATER PROTECTION

- Expand conservation easement programs [variety of threats]

LAND, WATER, & SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- Provide assistance for mine closures which prevent trespass but allow use of the mines for bats [Non-consumptive recreation]
- Develop and enforce best management practices for caves and mines which address the needs and values of wildlife. [Mining practices]
- Maintain, to the extent feasible, geologically unique areas and natural karst processes. [Non-consumptive recreation]

LAW & POLICY

- Develop and enforce regulations to curtail recreational activities that cause significant damage. [Non-consumptive recreation]
- Partner with county mine inspectors to identify abandoned mine locations with potential to provide hibernaculum areas for bats. [Mining practices]

RECREATION

- Promote responsible recreational use of caves and mines. [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.