

# Forestry Best Management Practices (BMP's) For Bat Health and Habitat

1. Retain known bat habitat trees including shagbark and shellbark hickory, snags, and hollow trees that have been deaden.
2. Avoid harvesting April 1 through October 15 to avoid injury to individual bats
3. Maintain uncut forested travel corridors between cutting units in open areas such as stream side management zones.
4. Maintain foraging corridors with road rut water sources on haul roads and skid trails but insuring that BMP's are followed for erosion control.
5. Create water –holding depressions (roads ruts, ponds) every 50 acres.
6. Conduct woodland prescribe fires between October 15 through March 31
7. Avoid prescribe fires between sunset and sunrise while bats are swarming
8. Retain 100 foot buffer around cave entrances

Why bats? Bats are the best control for insects. A single bat has been reported to eat up to 1000 mosquitoes in one hour. In 2006 a fungus called white –nose syndrome (WNS) was discovered in New York and spread very rapidly throughout the Eastern United States and Canada. This fungus will develop on the nose of bats causing disruption in hibernation resulting in the bat starving to death.

The above BMP's not only improve habitat for bats but for other wildlife such turkey and dear.

To find out more about bats visit these websites:

<https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/about-white-nose-syndrome>

<https://www.fws.gov/cookeville/bats.html>