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Comments:

To USFS,

I am writing this official public comment to ask you to oppose the Draft EA for the proposed Amendment to the Forest Plan.

The proposed amendments would weaken protections for federally-endangered Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*) and federally-threatened northern long-eared bats (*Myotis septentrionalis*). The Forest Plan currently includes binding standards that restrict logging in some areas during certain times of the year to reduce risk of harming endangered bats. These restrictions are particularly important in protecting maternity colonies during the especially vulnerable period when young are nonvolant (cannot fly).

I understand an argument is being made that this Amendment will help prevent stream sedimentation during logging but that is already regulated and any failure to meet sedimentation regulations shows a need for a moratorium on logging not this attempt to weaken protections for bats.

Sincerely,

Richard A McDonough

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