

Greetings! This is a request for your help! Despite increasing concern for many species of bats known or believed to be declining, there is a significant lack of data necessary to determine population status and trends. As you are aware, to address this lack of monitoring data for some bat species, multiple agencies in several of states have been collecting acoustic data via driving transects for several years. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has provided funding to coordinate the compilation, analysis, and summary of currently available acoustic transect data. Results from this broad scale analysis of acoustic transects will provide initial estimates of population trends for multiple species throughout the eastern United States, thereby assessing impacts to bats from multiple threats including white-nose syndrome and renewable energy projects. The project will be focused on data previously collected in Regions 3, 4, and 5 of the USFWS) to provide a regional assessment of trends and serve as a pilot for similar analyses at a continental scale.

To incorporate as much data as possible into these initial analyses, we are requesting that anyone that has acoustic transect data, please submit it to Eric Britzke (contact info below) for inclusion. Data will then be organized and analyzed using currently available automated acoustic software. Reports from the software as well as GPS locations of the files (if available) will then be analyzed to summarize patterns in bat abundances. Copies of the results will be provided to the researcher providing the data as well. The acoustic data will also be incorporated into the U.S. Geological Survey's Bat Population Data (BPD) Project, an effort that began in 1995 to compile existing population information for bats in the United States. The BPD has since evolved and is now intended to be the data framework for the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat) currently being developed. Acoustic data from these transects will provide an important baseline of information for NABat.

Timeframe of the project:

Submit files by 31 March 2014

Reports available by 31 December 2014

To submit data, please contact

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Thank you,

Robyn