



Jug Hole Cave © David L. Black



Indiana bats © Andrew King/U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Conservation banking is a market-based approach for conserving federally endangered or threatened species. Conservation banks restore and protect habitat, generating credits which can be used to offset adverse impacts to similar habitats elsewhere. The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) **Bat Conservation Bank of Indiana** permanently protects both overwintering habitat and summer maternal habitat for endangered Indiana bats and threatened northern long-eared bats. Developers of renewable energy, transportation and similar projects can use credits from the bank to offset unavoidable adverse impacts to bats and their habitat.

Always at the forefront of innovation, TNC adds two unique benefits to conservation banking.

First, all three sites included in the bank are located within state-significant conservation areas and are additions to existing high-value nature preserves and state forests.

Second, proceeds from credit sales are re-invested into TNC's conservation efforts across Indiana. Parties with mitigation obligations that are seeking solutions for impacts from their projects can use credits from the bank, knowing that they are also enhancing ecological sustainability and recreational opportunities across Indiana.

Bat Conservation Bank of Indiana

- Bank Approved in 2022
- Credits for Indiana bats and northern long-eared bats
- Maternal habitat and hibernaculum-based credits
- Our protected hibernacula is used by almost 80,000 Indiana bats every winter

The Bat Conservation Bank of Indiana is specifically intended to create synergy between society's transition to a low-carbon economy and the protection of critical natural habitats and the ecological services these habitats provide.

Bat Conservation Bank of Indiana

The Bat Conservation Bank of Indiana (BCBI) has credits available for summer maternal habitat and hibernaculum-based swarming habitat to offset direct impacts to bats statewide and impacts to summer habitat that occur in southern Indiana. The US Fish and Wildlife Service determines whether a permit applicant can use the BCBI as their mitigation option and the amount and type of credits needed to meet their mitigation obligation.

Economic Advantages of Purchasing Credits from the BCBI:

- Reduces permitting time and costs, compared to permittee-responsible mitigation.
- Transfers all mitigation obligations to TNC, including monitoring, reporting and long-term management.
- Provides a one-stop mitigation option for summer maternal habitat and hibernaculum-based swarming habitat credits, for a blend of credit types to cost-effectively meet client needs.

TNC's Strong History of Mitigation Success

TNC is fully committed to mitigation success, and more than 250 TNC staff in over a dozen countries and 40 U.S. states work on advancing the science, policy and practice of mitigation. Since 2003, TNC has engaged in more than 300 mitigation projects in the U.S. alone, helping direct over \$750 million of mitigation funding towards conservation priorities, directly contributing to conservation outcomes on over 1.7 million acres. In Indiana, TNC owns and manages a 100-credit wetland mitigation bank at Kankakee Sands, an 8,000-acre prairie and wetland restoration. Since 2010, TNC has implemented multiple permittee-responsible mitigation projects in Indiana valued at more than \$4,000,000, helping clients meet compensatory mitigation obligations requiring offsets for endangered species, specialized habitats and wetlands.

Bat Conservation Bank Sites in Indiana

The BCBI is comprised of three sites in southern Indiana, protecting 603 acres of critical bat habitat and two hibernacula. To ensure long-term protection, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources holds conservation easements on each site. Every site included in the BCBI is part of a regionally significant conservation area and provides multiple conservation benefits beyond bats.



The **Wallier Woods** site protects a portion of the larger Harrison County Glades Conservation Area. More than 5,300 acres have been conserved to date, protecting forests, glades, caves and streams as well as an extensive cliff system along the Ohio River. This site includes both the fifth-largest hibernaculum in Indiana for Indiana bats as well as summer habitat for Indiana and northern long-eared bats. Several trails are available to the public in the conservation area.



The **Jug Hole Cave** site in Harrison County protects the entrance and adjacent swarming habitat of the largest Indiana bat hibernaculum in Indiana. More than 70,000 Indiana bats use this cave every winter. This site is largely surrounded by state-owned forest, but because of the sensitivity of the cave, it is not open to the public.



The **Chelsea Flatwoods** site in Jefferson County is part of the largest Illinoian-till flatwoods conservation area remaining in the United States and lies adjacent to an additional 458 acres of protected habitat. This site provides maternal habitat for northern long-eared bats. The preserve is open to the public, but there are no designated trails.

Want to Learn More?

Interested in exploring opportunities with the Bat Conservation Bank of Indiana? Visit [nature.org/INBatBank](https://www.nature.org/INBatBank) or email John Shuey at jshuey@tnc.org or Angela Sturdevant at asturdevant@tnc.org or call (317) 829-3852.