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SCCI Research Permit Report Permit #: 1061

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Bat Census Participants

Cory Holliday – TNC
Daniel Istvanko – TWRA
Mallory Tate – TWRA
Kristen Bobo – SCCI
John Hickman – SCCI
Aidan Campbell – SCCI

On January 24, 2022 the individuals identified above met at the bridge east of Wolf River Cave (WRC) to perform a periodic winter bat count in accordance with US Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species guidance and scheduling. I gave a short overview of our bat census plan and a reminder to all participants of the significance of priority bat hibernacula and WRC, including guidance on limiting impacts to hibernating bats during our site visit.

The bat surveyors divided into two teams:

- Cory Holliday and Kristen Bobo on Team A
- Daniel Istvanko and Mallory Tate on Team B
- Aidan Campbell and John Hickman observed

The combined bat totals for both survey teams are:

Little Brown Bat - 365

Indiana Bat - 884

Tricolored Bat - 121

Big Brown Bat – 1

The following data includes historic hibernating bat data from Wolf River Cave. Prior to white-nose syndrome, more common bats were not counted during winter bat surveys. The goal was to be in/out as efficiently as possible, causing the least disturbance to the bats, so only endangered bats were typically counted. In hindsight, this was clearly a mistake, but it explains the lack of data outside of Indiana bats prior to 2011.

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Table 1: Multi-Year Winter Bat Data for Wolf River Cave

| Survey Year | Gray Bats | Little Brown Bats | Northern Myotis | Indiana Bats | Tricolored Bats |
|-------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1986 | | | | 1315 | |
| 2002 | | | | 2415 | |
| 2007 | | | | 1437 | |
| 2011 | 5 | 734 | 1 | 875 | 148 |
| 2013 | 2 | 1193 | 1 | 1048 | 177 |
| 2014 | | 1024 | 14 | 1097 | 173 |
| 2015 | 7 | 795 | 2.5 | 1351 | 83 |
| 2017 | 1 | 426 | 0 | 755 | 55 |
| 2019 | 1 | 503 | 0 | 884 | 66 |
| 2022 | 0 | 365 | 0 | 884 | 121 |

Figure 1: Graph of Multi-Year Bat Data for Wolf River Cave

