

# FORUM TOPICS

THE BIOLOGY  
AND LIFE HISTORY  
OF THE INDIANA BAT

FIELD TECHNIQUES FOR  
BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

CONSULTATION PROCESS

CASE STUDIES

GUIDANCE DEVELOPMENT  
FOR PERMITTING

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**Black Beauty Coal Co.**

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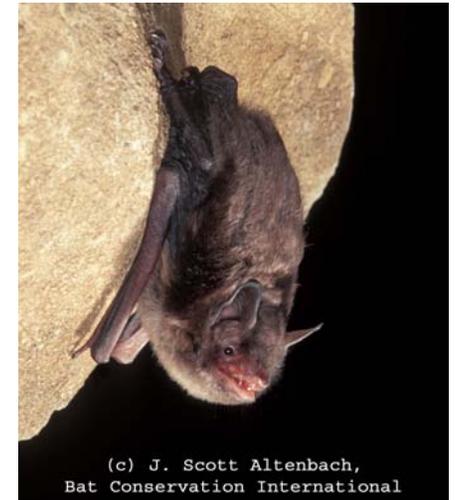
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## INDIANA BAT AND COAL MINING: A TECHNICAL INTERACTIVE FORUM



(c) J. Scott Altenbach,  
Bat Conservation International

**November 16-18, 2004**

**Holiday Inn**

1325 S. Hurstbourne Pkwy.

Louisville, Kentucky

(502) 426-2600

**Internet Registration at:**

**[www.dce.siu.edu](http://www.dce.siu.edu)**

HOST

US DOI Office of Surface Mining

SPONSORS

Bat Conservation International

Illinois Coal Association

# INDIANA BAT AND COAL MINING

On December 15, 1998, the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bat Conservation International Inc. (BCI), in order to establish a framework for cooperative efforts between the two organizations to maintain and increase the conservation of bats and their habitats. Under this agreement, OSM committed to promote the education of OSM staff, State and Federal agencies, and Indian Tribes as to (1) the beneficial aspects of conserving bats, (2) tested methods to safeguard bat habitat and public health, and (3) ways to mitigate for loss of bat roosts and habitat.

To date, OSM has cosponsored two technical interactive forums related to bat conservation and mining. On November 14-16, 2000, the OSM and BCI cosponsored a technical interactive forum on Bat Conservation and Mining.

On March 4-6, 2002, OSM co-sponsored a forum on Bat Gate Design with the U.S. DOI Fish and Wildlife Service and BCI. The objective was to develop for distribution by the Fish and Wildlife Service, BCI, and others, a manual on how to best protect important caves and underground mines used by bats through the use of gates and other bat friendly closure devices (available on OSM Bat Conservation & Mining Web site).

Since that time, OSM has become aware of increasing efforts by the U.S.

**INTERNET  
ONLINE REGISTRATION AND  
FORUM DETAILS  
AVAILABLE AT:  
[www.dce.siu.edu](http://www.dce.siu.edu)**

**OSM  
Bat Conservation & Mining  
Website  
[www.mcrcc.osmre.gov/bats](http://www.mcrcc.osmre.gov/bats)**

Includes information on and links to:

- Forum and Hotel Registration
- Forum Program
- Forum Proceedings Publications
- Bat Gate Workshops
- Related Bat Conservation Links

Fish and Wildlife Service to protect the Federally endangered Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the need to work more closely with State Mining Regulatory Authorities during the permitting, mining, and reclamation activities of surface coal mines that potentially impact Indiana Bat habitat. In July of 2003, OSM organized a steering committee to plan for and conduct a technical interactive forum to address the changing needs associated with protecting the Indiana Bat and its habitat in association with surface coal mining.

The purpose of this forum is to provide: (1) An organized format for discussion of issues concerning permitting, biological surveys, monitoring, and protection of the Indiana bat during coal mining and reclamation; (2) Easily understood, state-of-the-art summary talks by knowledgeable speakers; (3) A published proceedings both in hard copy and electronically; and (4) Access to the discussions for all interested parties at the forum.