

# **Recent Conservation Successes at U.S. Bat Caves**

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## **Abstract**

Bat Conservation International has been involved with cave conservation and management since our founding. Site restoration and protection of important bat caves has been recently increased through development of our North American Bat Conservation Partnership, which facilitates research and conservation at the field level. Cooperative projects with the National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, various state agencies, and other organizations have helped protect some of the most important bat caves across the United States. Direct assistance comes from scientific assessment of sites; training of field biologists and managers, such as through our Bat Conservation and Management and Cave Gating workshops; and direct financial support, such as from our Conservation Fund grants. A variety of recent case studies will be discussed, showing how these cooperative projects have benefited vulnerable bat colonies. Recent findings from important current and former Indiana bat hibernacula will also be covered.

The examples mentioned in this presentation illustrate the grass-roots application of the North American Strategic Plan for Bats, modeled after the highly successful Partners in Flight and currently in development. Materials on the Indiana Bat Hibernacula Monitoring Project, the Conservation Fund grants, and the continent-wide Strategic Plan will be available.