

A Conservation Strategy for Rafinesque's Big-Eared Bats and Southeastern Myotis

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Abstract: Bat Conservation International and the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network have developed conservation and management guidelines for two species of southern bats: Rafinesque's big-eared bats and Southeastern myotis. Although they lack federal designation, both species are listed range-wide across the southern states as species of concern, threatened, or endangered by many state and federal agencies. Primary threats to sustainable populations for these species include loss of roosts and habitat conversion. Biologists and landowners (state, federal, and private) have frequently expressed a desire for consolidated recommendations for these species. A team of experts representing federal and state agencies, academic institutions, industry, and conservation groups collaborated to develop the document which includes: 1) updated distribution maps for both species, 2) a summary of existing knowledge, 3) recommendations for future research, 4) priorities for habitat conservation, and 5) guidelines for land managers. This presentation will summarize key components of the strategy and copies will be available for distribution.

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