



United States Department of Agriculture

**Forest Service**

Allegheny National Forest

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Web: [www.fs.usda.gov/allegheny/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/allegheny/)



# News Release

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## Allegheny National Forest Proposes to Install a Bat Cave Gate

**Bradford, Pa.** (Nov. 24, 2014) – In an effort to prevent the spread of white-nose syndrome and to protect potential winter habitat for several species of bats, the Allegheny National Forest is proposing to install a bat-friendly gate on a cave on the Bradford Ranger District. “This site was selected because monitoring surveys have indicated that this cave has been used by the little brown bat, the northern long-eared bat and the tri-colored bat,” said Collin Shephard, Forest Ecologist. “By installing this gate, we will protect potential hibernation habitat for these sensitive bat species and help reduce the spread of this deadly fungus.”

The Allegheny National Forest is working with Bat Conservation International, who will design, construct and install the proposed cupola gate. This project would occur outside of the period when the cave may be used by bats. Very little ground disturbing activity is anticipated with the exception of removing brush, small trees, and downed logs to access the site.

White-nose syndrome was documented in eastern New York in 2007 and has killed more than 5.7 million bats, including endangered species. The fungus is transmitted through bat-to-bat contact but research also suggests that the fungus can be transported by footwear and gear.

Information about this project can be found at: <http://go.usa.gov/H4Gk>. Comments about this project should be postmarked, or otherwise received, no later than December 22, 2014. Comments may be submitted in several different ways:

- Mail: Macario Herrera; USDA Forest Service; Bradford Ranger District; 29 Forest Service Drive, Bradford, PA 16701
- Fax: 814.362.2761
- E-mail: [comments-eastern-allegheny-bradford@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-eastern-allegheny-bradford@fs.fed.us). Please reference the McKean County Bat Cave Gate project and include your name and physical mailing address with your correspondence.

- Hand-delivered or verbal comments can be received between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Bradford Ranger District or by calling 814.362.4613.

For more information about this project, please contact Collin Shephard, Forest Ecologist, at 814.728.6142.

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