



# NEWS RELEASE

*National Forests in Alabama – Public Affairs*  
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Contact: Dagmar Thurmond or Tammy Truett  
334-241-8148 or 334-241-8144

Date: August 1, 2008

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### Volunteers Go Bats in the Bankhead National Forest

**WHAT:** Media groups are invited to participate in the 2008 Bat Blitz in the Bankhead National Forest. The annual event, sponsored by the Southeastern Bat Diversity Network, attracts numerous scientists, students, professional biologists, and media to view one of the most misunderstood species – bats. Participants in the Bankhead Bat Blitz will work in teams to collect data and learn as much as possible about the bat fauna of northeastern Alabama. It is a coordinated, intensive survey designed to sample the bat community in a specific area. This will be the first time the event is held in Alabama's Bankhead National Forest. It is a wonderful opportunity to view bats at their best while providing information scientists can use to answer questions about their habitat.

**WHO:** U.S. Forest Service, Southeastern Bat Diversity Network, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources -Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, August 12 or Wednesday, August 13, 2008. Reporters should arrive by 5 p.m. on each day for interview, tours and photograph opportunities.

**WHERE:** Bat Blitz Headquarters at Camp McDowell, 105 DeLong Road, Nauvoo, Al 35578.  
Telephone: (205) 387-1806

#### **NOTE TO EDITORS AND ASSIGNMENT DIRECTORS:**

Reporters are invited to photograph volunteers netting the following potential species: Indiana, Gray, Red, Big Brown, Northern long-eared, Eastern Pipistrelle, Hoary, Rafineque's big-eared, Evening, Silver-haired, Seminole, Southeastern, and Little Brown bats. Dagmar Thurmond, U.S. Forest Service biologist for the National Forests in Alabama will be available for a brief media interview and cave tours on August 12 and August 13. Reporters interested in this story should arrive by 5 p.m. on Aug. 12 or Aug. 13. Please contact the Forest Service at 334-241-8148 or 334-241-8144 no later than noon on August 8, if attending.