



## **Bat Observations Guidance**

Prepared by USDA Forest Service  
and Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
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Because bats are susceptible to human disturbance, any bat observations should be done in a manner that does not cause disruption to bat activities, whether bats are awake, resting, or in torpor (sleep or hibernation).

- Do not touch or handle live bats
- Approach no closer than 15 feet of any roosting/resting bat whether awake or in torpor
- Avoid lingering too long in the presence of bats, especially when they are roosting low on cave walls or ceilings
- Keep voices low when in the presence of bats
- Avoid shining lights on bats for more than several seconds, and then only from a distance
- Bat species identification is very difficult and unreliable with photography. Signs of white-nose syndrome on bats would not be present in summer or fall. If taking photos to document bat presence, only photograph bats flying outside of cave entrances. Provide written documentation of bat presence.
- Do not camp in cave chambers where bats are present