

## Project Highlight – SD State Wildlife Grant

**Project Type** Habitat restoration, monitoring

**Title** Bat habitat protection and evaluation: implementing and assessing management techniques

**In a nutshell** SDGFP, the Forest Service and others have identified and monitored important bat habitat in the Black Hills. Bat gates have been installed at sites that are especially important. This project included evaluating sites that have been gated, identifying new potential sites for gating and conducting hibernation surveys to continue monitoring the status of bat populations in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

### Relevant Species of Greatest Conservation Need

- fringe-tailed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes pahasapensis*)
- northern myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
- Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)

**Relevant Habitats** natural caves and abandoned mines, Black Hills, SD

**Cooperators** Batworks, LLC (Joel Tigner, bat biologist)

### Purpose

- evaluate the management activities undertaken within the Black Hills region to date
- determine the role of Black Hills habitat in supporting regional bat populations
- identify ten additional sites providing significant habitat to regional bat species and develop management plans for their protection
- establish a database of bat survey data based upon active and hibernation seasons
- compile a call library of bat echolocation calls for all species identified within South Dakota

**Timeframe** November 2004 through January 2007

**Location** Black Hills, South Dakota

### Summary or Important Findings

- Several dozen sites were surveyed for bat hibernation use; specific locations and survey results are confidential to protect these vulnerable resources
- Results show very good acceptance of gated sites by bat species
- Reference calls have been collected for nearly all South Dakota's bat species
- A database of bat survey data was established to help track efforts in South Dakota

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