



United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

Nashville, TN Office:

711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37214
Phone: (615) 872-7900
Fax: (615) 872-7417

Washington, DC Office:

400 North Capitol Street, Suite 585
Washington, D.C., 20001
Phone: (202) 624-3550
Fax: (202) 393-5218

USET Resolution No. 2015:038

NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF LISTING THE NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT AS THREATENED UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has listed the northern long-eared bat as a threatened species using their authority under the Endangered Species Act (ESA); and
- WHEREAS,** this listing affects land-disturbing activities including the harvesting and sale of timber (including pre-commercial thinning and other forest development activities) and the restoration of migratory fish habitats that are key to the lifeways of Native People; and
- WHEREAS,** USET member Tribes depend upon their natural resources to provide sustenance and income, as well as culturally significant materials, to their people; and
- WHEREAS,** the USFWS desires to carry out its responsibilities under the ESA in a manner that harmonizes the federal trust responsibility to Tribes, Tribal sovereignty, and its own statutory missions, and it strives to ensure Indian Tribes do not bear a disproportionate burden for the conservation of listed species, so as to avoid or minimize the potential for conflict and confrontation (Secretarial Order 3206); and
- WHEREAS,** the lack of a determination of the presence of the northern long-eared bat within the USET region, and the failure of the USFWS to issue guidance on the management, survey protocol and preservation of the species has placed a disproportionate burden upon USET member Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** USET member Tribes have the right to exercise their sovereignty in the management of their Tribal resources; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** that the USET Board of Directors directs the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to issue a waiver to USET member Tribes who are affected by the listing of the

northern long-eared bat, thereby allowing those Tribes to continue with existing projects in the potential habitat area; and be it further

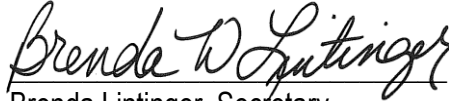
RESOLVED the USET Board of Directors requests that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service immediately issue a Tribal survey protocol for the northern long-eared bat.

CERTIFICATION

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Semi-Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Mashantucket, CT, May 20, 2015.



Brian Patterson, President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

“Because there is strength in Unity”