

EXHIBIT "A"

***Proposal for
Indiana Bat (Myotis sodalis)
Northern long-eared Bat (Myotis septentrionalis)***

Proposed Blossom Hill Park
Brecksville, Ohio

April, 2019

Prepared for

Mayor Jerry N. Hruby
*Brecksville City Hall
9069 Brecksville Road
Brecksville, Ohio 44141*

Prepared by
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Introduction

A new elementary school is planned in Brecksville, Ohio. The site is 102-acres and predominantly forested with wetlands and stream habitats. Approximately 23-acres of forested habitat will be impacted as part of this project. Prior coordination with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has confirmed the presence of Indiana bat in this area from previous studies. The agency has indicated that a mist net survey is required to determine level of usage for this species from the project site. This document is a proposal and study plan for a level of use survey for Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat.

Permit numbers for Tragus are below:
USFWS Permit TE105320-6
Ohio DOW Permit 17-06

Mist Netting Survey

Federal agencies allow for either acoustic studies or mist-netting surveys for compliance purposes related to Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat. At the present time, software for acoustic studies is inconclusive and the State of Ohio does not recognize the results of such studies. A mist netting survey is proposed for this site as outlined below.

Mist net locations will be limited to the 23-acre area of tree clearing and disturbance as indicated on the attached map. Approximately 40-acres of the property (including the highest quality wetlands) will be permanently protected via donation to Cleveland Metroparks. At likely sites, a tier of low visibility, nylon, mist nets will be erected across streams, dirt roads, utility easements, and other potential flight corridors. The nets will extend to the top of the tree canopy. These stacked nets will be of sufficient length and height to entirely block off each flight corridor and will be secured to a rope-and-pulley system from telescoping poles. A total of nine (9) net-nights are proposed for this site. A crew of qualified biologists will conduct the fieldwork over multiple nights. Sampling efforts will meet the minimum requirements recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Biological data will be collected from each captured specimen and will include species identification, forearm length, gender, age, weight, and reproductive status.

Reporting

A final report will be prepared for each site that includes a summary of all species noted during this survey as well as a thorough habitat description and photo documentation. The report will be completed within 3 days of field work and will be forwarded immediately to state and federal agencies for review and comment. Provided no endangered species are captured during the course of this investigation, Tragus will request that the agencies respond in writing with a letter of concurrence indicating that the proposed project will have no adverse impacts to state or federally listed species.

Phase 3 – Radio Telemetry

In the event that Indiana bats or northern long-eared bats are identified at the site, a radio tag will be placed on any lactating or post-lactating females and/or juveniles to track them to their specific maternity roost (up to a total of 2 bats from each species). If no reproductive females are captured then non reproductive females and/or males will be selected for radio telemetry. This will determine if the specimens captured on the subject property are utilizing the area for roosting habitat or foraging and transportation areas. Radio tags can only be placed on healthy individuals. Radio tags will not be placed on individuals that appear sick, underweight, or weakened. Each radio-tagged bat will be tracked for 3-5 days and at least 2 emergence surveys will be conducted at each identified roost tree. Standard USFWS data sheets will be prepared for each roost tree identified. We are prepared to implement this additional study and associated coordination with regulatory agencies. This task will incur additional costs on a T&M basis at a rate of \$125/hour/bat.

Special Conditions

This proposal has been prepared based upon site information provided by the client and a review of guidelines issued by the Indiana Bat Recovery Team and endorsed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We believe that this scope of work is sufficient for these proposed projects. Final approval is determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife. If any state or federal agencies request changes to this scope of work, we will coordinate with the client to revise this technical and cost proposal. Also, in the event that an Indiana bat is actually captured during the course of these investigations, she will be fixed with a radio transmitter and tracked back to her roost tree. This task will also incur additional costs.

Scheduling

At the present time, we are prepared to begin this project the first week of June 2019. Please note that the official start date for these projects (May 15) has been set back by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. In Ohio, studies must be performed between June 1 and August 15. Please note that the window for performing Indiana and northern long-eared bat studies is narrow. All projects will be scheduled in the order that proposals are authorized.

Qualifications

Michael Johnson holds permits from the State of Ohio and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to perform compliance studies for the endangered Indiana bat. Mr. Johnson has bachelors and master's degree from Kent State University in Biological Science and has more than 25 years' experience as a wildlife biologist and environmental consultant.

Special Conditions

This proposal has been prepared based upon site information provided by the client and a review of guidelines issued by the Indiana Bat Recovery Team and endorsed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We believe that this scope of work is sufficient for these proposed projects.

Final approval of this proposal is determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. If any state or federal agencies request changes to this scope of work, we will coordinate with the client to revise this technical and cost proposal.

Scheduling

We are prepared to begin this project immediately. Please note that the window of opportunity for this type of work is very narrow. Projects will be scheduled in the order that proposals are authorized.

Cost Proposal and Authorization

This proposal is based on information provided by the client and the assumption that no natural caves or abandoned underground mines/mine openings exist on the subject property. In the event that Indiana bats are captured, or hibernation habitat is discovered, additional studies are required.

Costs

Blossom Hill Site (Habitat Evaluation, Mist-net Survey, and Report).....\$8,750

In the event that Indiana bat or northern long-eared bat are captured, they will be radio tagged and tracked as described above. This will incur additional costs at the rate of \$125/hour/bat as described above. Total cost for radio telemetry will not exceed \$9,500.

Authorization

By signing this form, I do hereby acknowledge acceptance of the terms described in this proposal and authorize work to be performed on the projects described above.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Payment is due upon receipt of final report.
