

# **CHARTER**

## **TENNESSEE BAT WORKING GROUP**

### **Background**

Bat conservation and management has become a major concern on state, federal, and private lands throughout the United States. Bats represent an important component to many ecosystems and contribute significantly to an area's biodiversity. Although bats often suffer from an undeserved negative public image, the majority of North American bat species are insectivorous and extremely beneficial because they consume large quantities of moths, flies, mosquitoes, beetles, and other insects. Bats typically consume more than 50 percent of their body weight in insects during each night of active foraging, and nursing females have been reported to eat enough insects to equal their body weight. However, bats are often misunderstood by the public, and the news media and other uninformed persons are frequently guilty of sensationalizing stories about rabid bats (Tuttle 1988, Harvey et al. 1999).

Numerous federal and state agencies have become actively involved in bat conservation. According to Harvey et al. (1999), these include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey, state parks, and state natural heritage commissions. Additionally, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has developed general recommendations for bat management on agricultural lands (NRCS 1999), and all service branches of the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) have recently undertaken actions to inventory and manage bats on their lands (Martin and Wolters 2000).

Private organizations concerned with bat issues include Bat Conservation International (BCI), The Nature Conservancy, National Speleological Society, Cave Research Foundation, American Cave Conservation Association (Harvey et al. 1999), and North American Bat Conservation Partnership (NABCP). The NABCP is a tri-national alliance that fosters communication among working groups, bat researchers, non-governmental agencies, and state and federal agencies from Mexico, Canada, and the United States. Regional bat working groups have also been established for several broad areas of the United States. The Southeastern Bat Diversity Network (SBDN) is affiliated with four regional working groups known collectively as the "North American Bat Working Groups." The goal of the SBDN is to conserve bats and their habitats in the southeastern United States through collaborative research, education, and management.

### **Article I. Name, Scope, and Affiliation**

Section 1. NAME – The name of this organization shall be the "Tennessee Bat Working Group," hereafter referred to as the Working Group.

Section 2. SCOPE – The Working Group shall have as its scope of organization the study and exchange of information relative to the conservation, biology, ecology, and management of bats and their habitats on all state, federal, and private lands within the state of Tennessee.

Section 3. AFFILIATION - The working group shall maintain an affiliation with the SBDN by reporting the activities of the group at annual meetings of the SBDN.

## **Article II. Goals and Objectives**

Section 1. GOALS – The Working Group’s goal is to conserve bats and their habitats in the southeastern United States through collaborative research, education, and management. The Tennessee Bat Working Group shall focus on bat research, conservation, education, and management within the state of Tennessee.

Section 2. OBJECTIVES – specific objectives to facilitate the achievement of the Working Groups goals are:

1. Promote research on bats and their habitats throughout the state of Tennessee.
2. Enhance knowledge and technical capabilities of state, federal, and private organizations and their personnel regarding the understanding of bats and their habitats in the state.
3. Promote the conservation and management of bats in all phases of land and water development and management within the state.
4. Increase awareness and appreciation of bat conservation and management within the public and private sectors.
5. Provide information and technical assistance to Working Group members and others interested in bat conservation.
6. Facilitate communication and information exchange among members of the Working Group through e-mail discussions, meetings, symposia, workshops, newsletters, etc.
7. Develop technical reviews, position statements, and other materials regarding bats and their habitats in Tennessee.
8. Provide information and technical assistance to government officials, journalists, educators, other organizations, and the general public in the area of bat conservation and management.

9. Make recommendations to government agencies and private organizations for specific actions regarding bats and their habitats.
10. Support the SBDN through attendance at annual meetings and workshops, and provide routine correspondence with SBDN officers regarding activities of the Working Group.

### **Article III. Membership**

Section 1. MEMBERS – Membership in the Working Group shall be available to any person who is interested in Tennessee bats and is willing to support the goals and objectives of the Working Group and SBDN.

Section 2. LISTING – A listing of members, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses will be maintained by the Working Group.

### **Article IV. Officers and Elections**

Section 1. OFFICERS – Working Group officers shall consist of a Chair, an immediate Past Chair (except for the first term after charter approval), a Recording Secretary, and five Board Members. Officers shall be nominated and elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Bat Working Group or other appropriate meeting approved by the membership and governing body or via e-mail voting.

Section 2. TERM OF OFFICE – Term of office for all officers shall be two years. The Chairperson will serve for four (4) years; two (2) as Chair; and two (2) as Immediate Past Chair. Elections will be staggered such that approximately half of the officers will be elected each year. Beginning with elections in November 2014, the following election cycle will commence:

Even-year elections will be held for the positions of Chairperson, Board Member 1, and Board Member 2. The outgoing Chairperson will begin duties as Immediate Past Chair.

Odd-year elections will be held for the positions of Recording Secretary and Board Member 3, Board Member 4, and Board Member 5.

To facilitate this transition, in 2014 the Recording Secretary and Board Members 3, 4, and 5 will be retained for a third year. After this transition year all officer positions will return back to two year terms.

### Section 3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. CHAIRPERSON. – The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the membership and shall be an *ex officio* member of all committees. The Chair shall represent the Working Group, or designate a member to represent the Working Group, at meetings of the SBDN and other professional meetings and workshops. The Chair shall be responsible for submitting an annual report to the SBDN.
- B. IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR - The immediate Past Chair shall perform any duties assigned by the Chair, and shall conduct the nominations and elections of officers of the Working Group.
- C. RECORDING SECRETARY - The Recording Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the files and records of the Working Group, including a master list of all members. Duties shall also include recording the minutes of all membership meetings and issuing copies of the minutes to the officers and members upon request.
- D. BOARD MEMBERS – The five Board Members shall be responsible for arranging annual meetings of the Tennessee Bat Working Group and shall appoint chairs of all committees by majority vote of the board.

## **Article V. Committees**

Section 1. COMMITTEES – Any committee that the Working Group establishes to accomplish the Working Group’s goals and objectives shall be considered *ad hoc*.

Section 2. APPOINTMENTS – The Working Group’s Board shall appoint chairs for any committee. Committee chairs shall select committee members with the assistance of the Working Group Board.

Section 3. REPORTS – All committee chairs shall submit a written summary of committee activities to the Working Group Board and Recording Secretary fifteen days before the Annual Meeting or upon request by the Working Group Chair.

Section 4. ACCOUNTABILITY – All committees shall be accountable to and operate under the general supervision of the Working Group Board.

Section 5. TENURE – All committees shall serve until the duties assigned to the committee are discharged.

## **Article VI. Meetings**

Section 1. ANNUAL MEETING – A membership meeting shall be held annually at a time and

location agreed upon by the Working Group membership. Other meetings of the officers or membership at large may be called based on specific needs and with the discretion of the Working Group Board.

Section 2. DUE NOTICE – Members must be notified at least 30 days prior to meetings.

Section 3. QUORUM – Quorum for meetings shall be 15 percent of the membership or five members in good standing, whichever is greater.

Section 4. MEETING RULES – Order of business and parliamentary procedures shall follow *Roberts Rules of Order*, latest version.

Section 5 – CHARTER – The Working Group charter shall be available for inspection during every meeting.

## **Article VII. Management and Financing**

Section 1. FILES AND REPORTS – The Working Group shall maintain files containing the Charter of the Working Group, minutes of all meetings of the membership, correspondence pertinent to the Working Group’s affairs, list of membership, and all other material designated as pertinent by the Chair.

Section 2. FINANCES – There is currently no plan to charge membership dues for the Working Group. Funding requirements for various activities will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

## **Article VIII. Amendments to Charter**

Section 1. PROCEDURE – This charter may be altered or amended by a majority of the Working Group’s members voting by mail or e-mail ballot, or at any membership meeting provided that due notice of the proposed changes has been provided.

## References

- Harvey, M. J., J. S. Altenbach, and T. L. Best. 1999. Bats of the United States. Arkansas Game & Fish Commission; available from USFWS. 64 pp.
- Martin, C. O., and M. S. Wolters. 2000. Bat conservation and management on Department of Defense installations. Page 142 in abstracts from *The Wildlife Society 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference*, 12-16 Sep 2000, Nashville, TN.
- NRCS. 1999. Bats (Order: Chiroptera). USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet No. 5. 12 pp.
- Tuttle, M. D. 1988. *America's Neighborhood Bats* (revised). University of Texas Press, Austin. 98 pp.

# APPENDIX A

## Tennessee Bat Working Group Charter Membership

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Andrea (Pandy) English	Wildlife Diversity Coordinator / State Wildlife Grants Program	TWRA
Brian Carver	Instructor, Department of Biology	Freed-Hardeman University
Brian Miller, PhD	Professor, Department of Biology	Middle Tennessee State University
Bruce Anderson	Wildlife Biologist	TWRA Region III
Carrie Hedio	Graduate Student	University of Tennessee Knoxville
Craig Walker	Ecologist, Appalachian Regional Coordinating Center	Office of Surface Mining
David Pelren	Fish & Wildlife Biologist	USFWS
David Withers	Heritage Zoologist	Division of Natural Heritage
Deborah Dorsey		
Dennis L. Krusac	Endangered Species Specialist	USDA Forest Service, Southern Region
Eric Britzke, PhD	Post Doc Fellow	Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Clemson University
Gene Zirkle	Endangered Species Program Coordinator/Wildlife Biologist	Fort Campbell, Fisheries and Wildlife Program
Geoff Call	Biologist, Listing/Candidate Conservation	USFWS
Hal Bryan	President/Senior Ecologist	Eco-Tech Consultants, Inc. and Eco-South, Inc.
Heather Garland	Cave and Karst Program Manager	The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee
Jim Hamlington	Non-game/Small game Coordinator	TWRA Region I
Jim Kennedy	Cave Resources Specialist	Bat Conservation International
Jim Widlak	Fish & Wildlife Biologist	USFWS
Joe McGuiness	North Zone Wildlife Biologist	USDA Forest Service, Cherokee National Forest
John Lamb	Wildlife Ecologist	Arnold Air Force Base
Laura M. Lewis	Forest Wildlife Biologist	USDA Forest Service, Cherokee National Forest
Lee Barclay	Field Supervisor, Tennessee Field Office	USFWS
Leslie Smith	Wildlife Biologist	National Park Service, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area
LinnAnn Welch	Biologist, Natural and Cultural Resource Management	Tennessee State Parks

Thursday, July 01, 2004

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Lisa Muller, PhD	Assistant Professor, Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries	University of Tennessee Knoxville
Lisa Powers	Biological Consultant	Froghaven Farm
Mark N. Wolinsky	Board of Directors: Southeastern Cave Conservancy, Inc	NSS #11438-F
Michael J. Harvey, PhD	Professor Emeritus/Senior Affiliate Faculty, Department of Biology	Tennessee Technological University
Michael L. Kennedy, PhD	Professor of Biology	University of Memphis
Mike Bailey	Wildlife Officer	TWRA Region III
R.L. Pete Wyatt	Regional Wildlife Diversity Coordinator	TWRA Region IV
Richard Kirk	Non-game and Endangered Species Coordinator	TWRA
Robert Currie	Fish and Wildlife Biologist	USFWS
Steve Bakaletz	Wildlife Biologist	National Park Service, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area
Terri Hogan	Ecologist	National Park Service, Stones River National Battlefield
Travis Hill Henry	Endangered Species Specialist	TVA Regional Natural Heritage Program
William H. Stiver	Wildlife Biologist	National Park Service, Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Thursday, July 01, 2004