

Title

ECOLOGY OF BATS IN THE BOREAL FOREST ECOSYSTEM

Model Forest

Western Newfoundland Model Forest

From

June 1994

To

January 1995

Keywords

Bats, Habitat, Ecosystem Health, IRM

Objective

The objective of this study was to determine habitat requirements and utilization of resident bat species within the Western Newfoundland Model Forest, identify possible maternity and roosting sites, determine primary food sources, and the effects of forestry practices on these species.

Description

The Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), Northern Long Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*) are the only species of bats recorded in Newfoundland. Unfortunately, they have not been intensely studied, and therefore little is known about their populations, habitat use, and distribution throughout the province. Studies have shown that the Northern Long Eared Bat is a user of mature forests, and that clear cutting reduces bat activity. Consequently, there is a concern with bat ecology in old growth forests and the loss of habitat due to cutting. This study was designed to collect data on habitat preference by bats in western Newfoundland, paying particular attention to cut versus uncut areas. The information gathered from this study can be used to more accurately assess biodiversity and monitor ecosystem health, as bats are sensitive to environmental change and degradation and can, therefore, serve as a “miners canary” to warn of a problem. This study will also enable the habitat requirements of resident bat species to be considered when planning for sustainable development and integrated resource management.

Reports and Products

Habitat Utilization by Bats in the Boreal Forest Ecosystem. Dennis, W; Brazil, J. 1994. Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Division, St John's, Newfoundland. WNMF: 2-210-001, 15p.