

# BAT FRIENDLY FORESTRY

The Aitkin County and Carlton County Land Departments in Northern Minnesota completed a multi-step collaborative process over several years to understand bat populations and ensure habitat protections would be in place to meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.



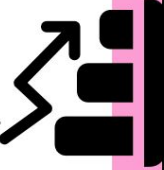
**2014**

Due to the growing threat of White Nose Syndrome, Aitkin and Carlton County start bat surveys in County managed forests with biologists from WEST, Inc.\*



Forest tours and workshops held for policy-makers, land managers, partners, and stakeholders.

Surveys show bat populations declining as the syndrome spreads.



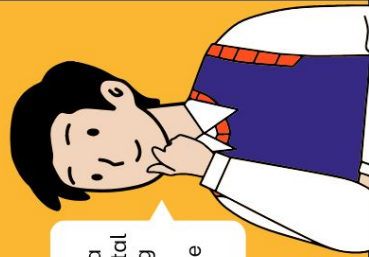
**2016**

County Boards agree to proceed with a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for 3 bat species.



**2017 - 2020**

HCP developed by a team of environmental scientists. Including development of protections and take determination.



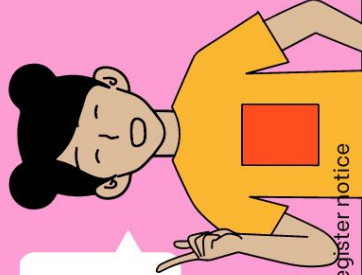
**2021**

Public Comment Period and then issuance of an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) so that the plan is approved and implemented.



**2022**

Northern Long-eared Bat listed as an Endangered Species.



11/30/2022, Federal Register notice

\*Aitkin and Carlton Counties also collaborated with Dovetail Partners and with support from Enbridge, Sappi North America, and UPM-Blandin.