



Montana's Bats: Distribution, Conservation Status, and Roost Site Overview

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Bats of the World

- Evolved from shrew-like ancestors 50 million years ago
- · 1,293 species described through 2013
- · 20+% of all mammal species
- · Chiroptera Mega and Micro
- · Range in weight from 2 grams with 6.5 inch wingspan (bumblebee bat) to 3 pounds and 6 ft wingspan (fruit bats)



Bat Adaptations

- ·Insectivore
- ·Flight
- · Echolocation
- ·Hibernation/migration
- · Delayed fertilization/implantation
- ·Small litter size/long life span
- ·Specialists & generalists
- · Temperature regulation-torpor





Why Should We Care About Bats?

- · A single little brown bat can eat 1,200 mosquitosized insects in one hour.
- ·A colony of 150 big brown bats can eat 33 million cucumber beetles each summer.
- The 20 million Mexican free-tailed bats from Bracken Cave, Texas eat 200 tons of insects nightly.
- Tropical bats pollinate plants and help reseed forests.
- ·Bats have inspired new medical treatments
- ·Kids like bats!

Rabies in Montana

(Source MT DPHHS)

Bats: 5-10% +

From 1996-1999: 901 tested with 67+ (7.5%)

Skunks: Frequent +

From 1996-1999: 304 tested with 122+ (40%)

Raccoons: Rare +

From 1996-1999: 134 tested with 0+

Major Conservation Issues

- Loss of natural roost habitats trees, rock outcrops
- Drowning hazards at artificial watering sites
- Loss of prey species (pesticides)
- White-Nose Syndrome
- Collisions hazards, including wind turbines

White-Nose Syndrome

For Latest Info: http://whitenosesyndrome.org/

·7 species affected, including 3 Montana species

·Has killed 5.7 to 6.7 million bats in N.A. since 2006 (USFWS January 17, 2012 news release)

· Caused by cold-adapted fungus: Geomyces destructans

(Lorch et al. 2011, Nature 480: 376-378)

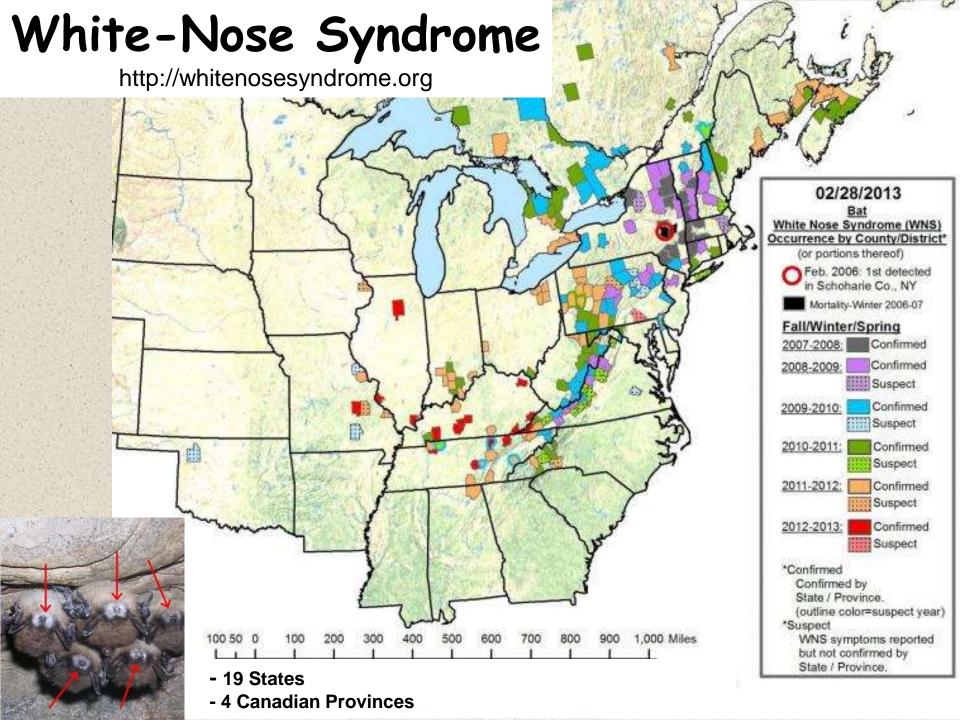
 Predicted regional extinction of Little Brown Myotis by 2026

(Frick et al. 2010, Science 329: 679-682)

•G. destructans on bats across Europe, but no mass mortality there

(Puechmaille et al. 2011, PLoS One 6(4)e19167)





Wind Energy Development and Bats

- Of North America's 45 bat species, mortalities of 11 have been detected at wind energy facilities (Kunz et al. 2007)
- 75% of documented mortalities have been of migratory foliage roosting species: Hoary Bat, Eastern Red Bat, and Silverhaired Bat (Kunz et al. 2007, Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment 5(6): 315-324)







Figure 2. The three species of migratory tree bats most frequently killed at wind turbine facilities in North America. (a) Hoary bat (Lasiurus cinereus), (b) eastern red bat (L borealis), and (c) silver-haired bat (Lasionycteris noctivagans)

- 7 Montana bat species have had documented mortalities at wind energy facilities in North America and at least 3 species have documented mortalities at Montana wind energy facilities (Kunz et al. 2007, Poulton and Erickson 2010, Judith Gap Final Report)
- Most bats are killed on nights with low wind speed (< 6 m/s where wind turbine cutin speeds are typically 3.5 - 4.0 m/s) (Arnett et al. 2008, JWM 72(1): 61-78)
- Fatalities increase before or after storm fronts (Arnett et al. 2008, JWM 72(1): 61-78)
- Highest fatalities during late summer and early fall (Arnett et al. 2008, JWM 72(1): 61-78)
- Mortalities are often skewed toward males (Arnett et al. 2008, JWM 72(1): 61-78)

Direct Collision versus Barotrauma

- Direct contact with turbine blade in 50% of fatalities
- 90% of bat fatalities involve internal hemmoraging
- Pressure drops of 5-10 kPa with tip speeds of 55-80 m/s

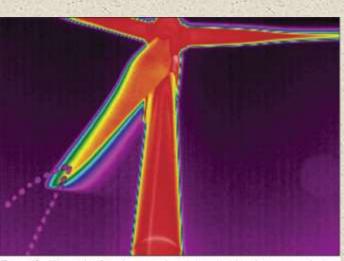
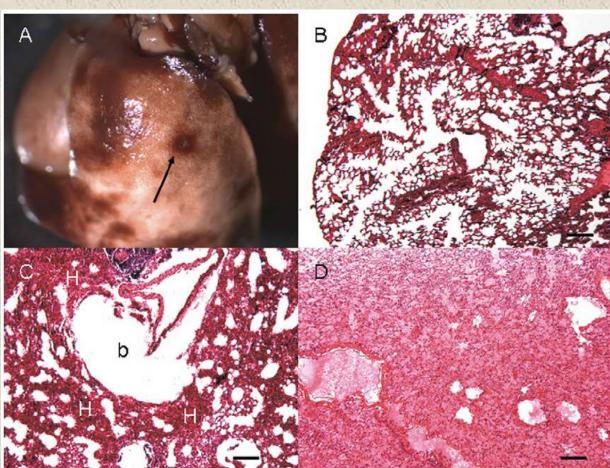


Figure 3. Thermal infrared image of a modern wind turbine rotor, showing the trajectory of a bat that was struck by a moving blade (lower left).

(Kunz et al. 2007, Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment 5(6): 315-324)



(Baerwald et al. 2008, Current Biology 18(16): R695-R696) Figure 1. Pulmonary barotrauma in bats killed at wind turbines.

(A) Formalin-fixed *L. noctivagans* lung with multifocal hemorrhages and a ruptured bulla with hemorrhagic border (arrow). Histological sections of bat lungs stained with hematoxylin and eosin (100X). (B) Normal lung of an *L. noctivagans*. (C) Lung of *Eptesicus fuscus* found dead at a wind turbine with no traumatic injury. There is extensive pulmonary hemorrhage (H), congestion, and bullae (b). (D) Lung of *L. cinereus* found dead at a wind turbine with a fracture of the distal ulna and radius. 90% of the alveoli and airways are filled with edema. Bar = $100 \mu m$.

Major Bat Conservation Issues

Wind Turbine Impacts Documented

Fringed Myotis

Yuma Myotis

Long-legged Myotis

White-Nose Syndrome and Wind Turbine Impacts Documented

MYTH

MYVO

MYYU

113

316

23

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Common Name	Scientific Name 4-0		MT Range/No. Recs	
Pallid Bat	Antrozous pallidus	ozous pallidus ANPA		
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	Corynorhinus townsendii	261		
Big Brown Bat	Eptesicus fuscus	EPFU	773	
Spotted Bat	Euderma maculatum	EUMA	50	
Silver-haired Bat	Lasionycteris noctivagans	asionycteris noctivagans LANO		
Eastern Red Bat	Lasiurus borealis	asiurus borealis LABO		
Hoary Bat	Lasiurus cinereus	ereus LACI		
California Myotis	Myotis californicus	MYCA	159	
Western Small-footed Myotis	Myotis ciliolabrum	MYCI	636	
Long-eared Myotis	Myotis evotis	MYEV	820	
Little Brown Myotis	Myotis lucifugus	MYLU	1,165	
Northern Myotis	Myotis septentrionalis	MYSE	? 1	

Myotis thysanodes

Myotis yumanensis

Myotis volans



Yuma Myotis

Bats of Montana

- 5 Species of Concern

- 4 Potential Species of Concern

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Common Name	Scientific Name	4-Code	MT Range/No. Recs	
Pallid Bat	Antrozous pallidus	ANPA	44	
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	Corynorhinus townsendii	СОТО	261	
Big Brown Bat	Eptesicus fuscus	EPFU	773	
Spotted Bat	Euderma maculatum	EUMA	50	
Silver-haired Bat	Lasionycteris noctivagans	LANO	1,037	
Eastern Red Bat	Lasiurus borealis	LABO	21	
Hoary Bat	Lasiurus cinereus	LACI	828	
California Myotis	Myotis californicus	MYCA	159	
Western Small-footed Myotis	Myotis ciliolabrum	MYCI	636	
Long-eared Myotis	Myotis evotis	MYEV	820	
Little Brown Myotis	Myotis lucifugus	MYLU	1,165	
Northern Myotis	Myotis septentrionalis	MYSE	? 2	
Fringed Myotis	Myotis thysanodes	MYTH	113	
Long-legged Myotis	Myotis volans	MYVO	316	
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Myotis yumanensis

Montana's Resident Bats 1

Little Brown Myotis



Western Small-footed Myotis







Big Brown Bat

Long-eared Myotis







Montana's Resident Bats 2

Townsend's Big-eared Bat (SOC)





Silver-haired Bat (PSOC)





* No winter captures, but acoustic evidence of winter presence.

California Myotis





Yuma Myotis (PSOC)





Montana's "Migratory" Bats

Possibly present in winter, but no or limited evidence of winter presence to-date.

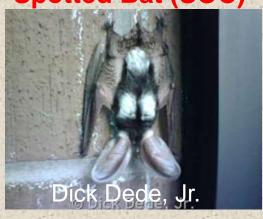
Possible that these species are partial migrants within their overall range.

Pallid Bat (SOC)





Spotted Bat (SOC)





Fringed Myotis (SOC)





Northern Myotis (PSOC)





Montana's True Migratory Bats

Eastern Red Bat (PSOC)





Hoary Bat (SOC)



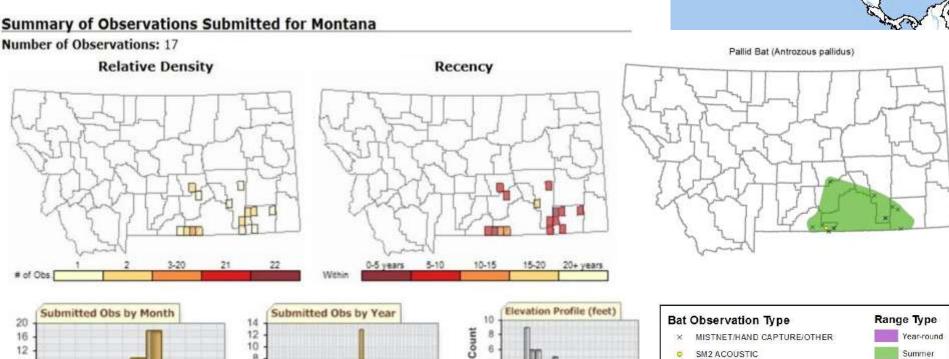


Pallid Bat SOC, **G5**, **S3**



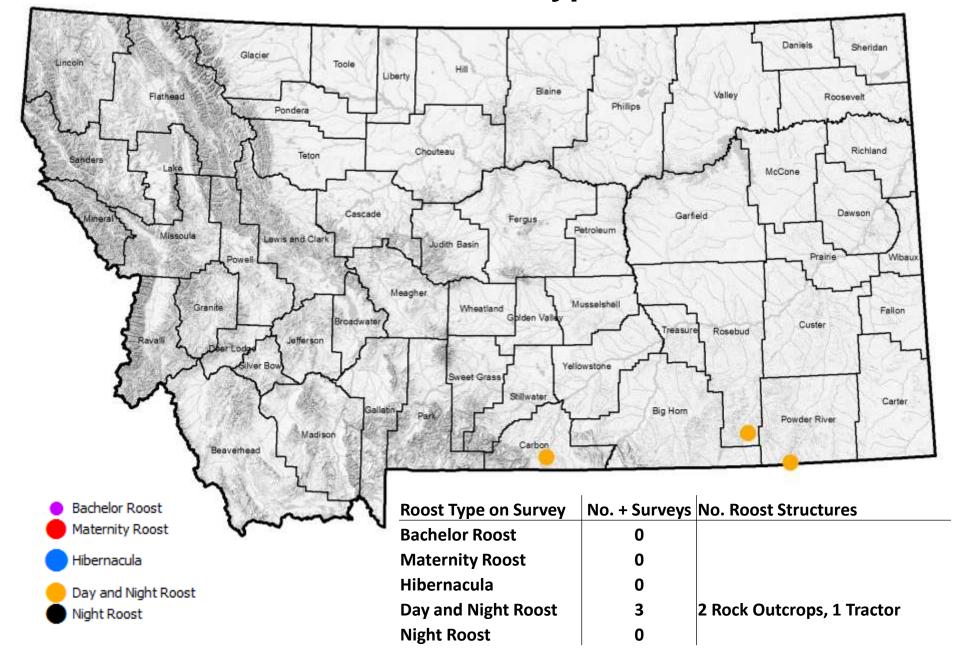


PETTERSSON ACOUSTIC ANABAT ACOUSTIC

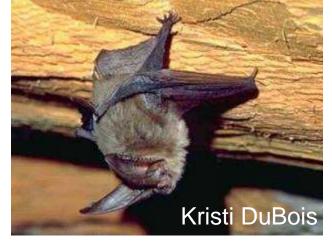


pre 1970 1980 1988 1996 2004 2012

Pallid Bat Roost Use Type Overview



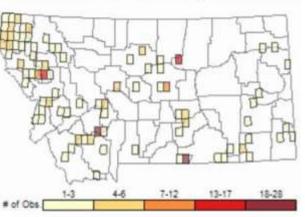
Townsend's Big-eared Bat SOC, G3G4, S3



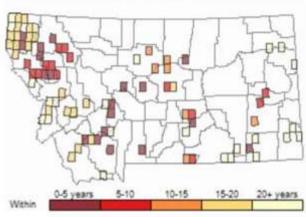


Summary of Observations Submitted for Montana

Number of Observations: 271 Relative Density

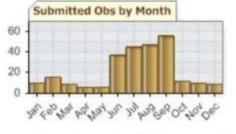


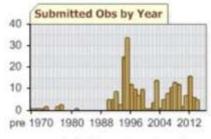
Recency

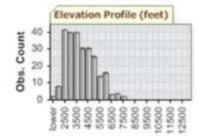


Townsend's Big-eared Bat (Corynorhinus townsendii)







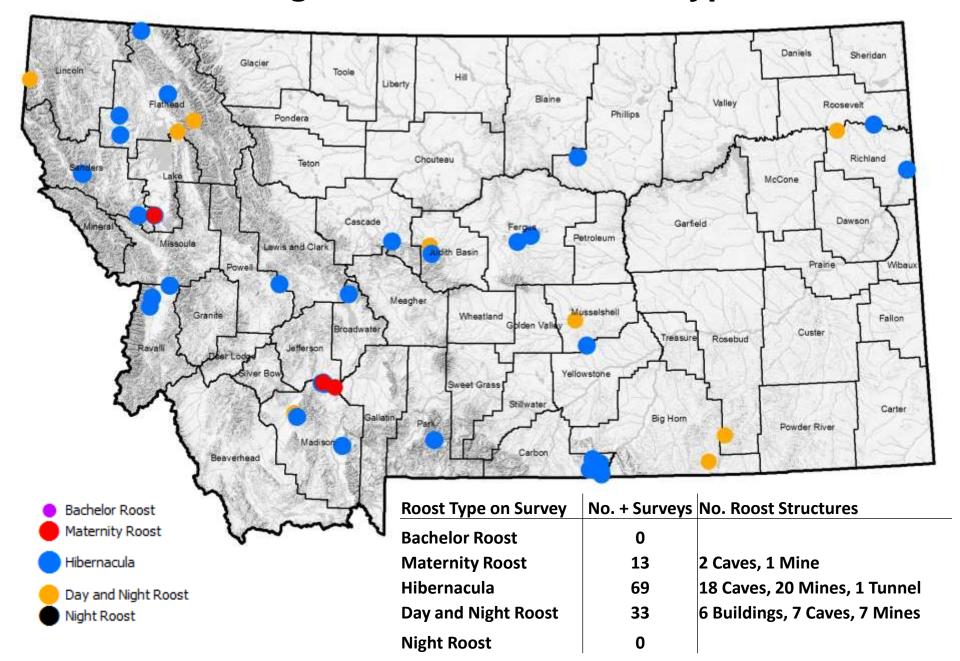


Bat Observation Type

- MISTNET/HAND CAPTURE/OTHER
- SM2 ACOUSTIC
- PETTERSSON ACOUSTIC
- ANABAT ACOUSTIC

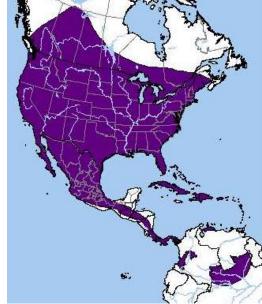


Townsend's Big-eared Bat Roost Use Type Overview



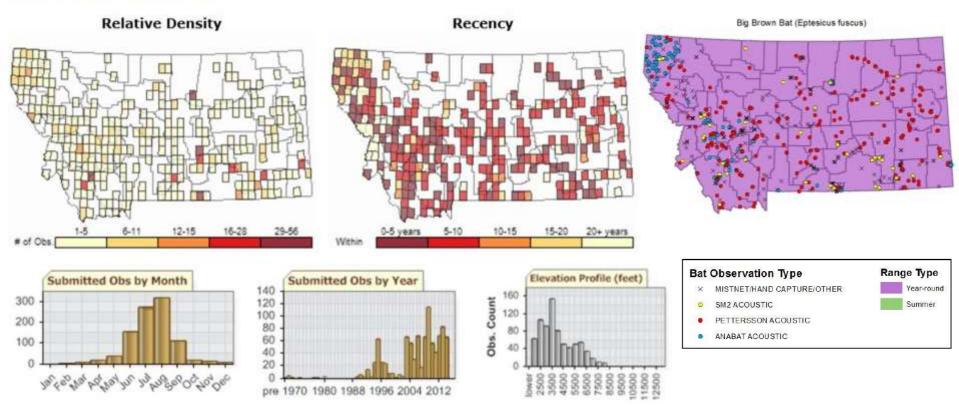
Big Brown Bat G5, S4



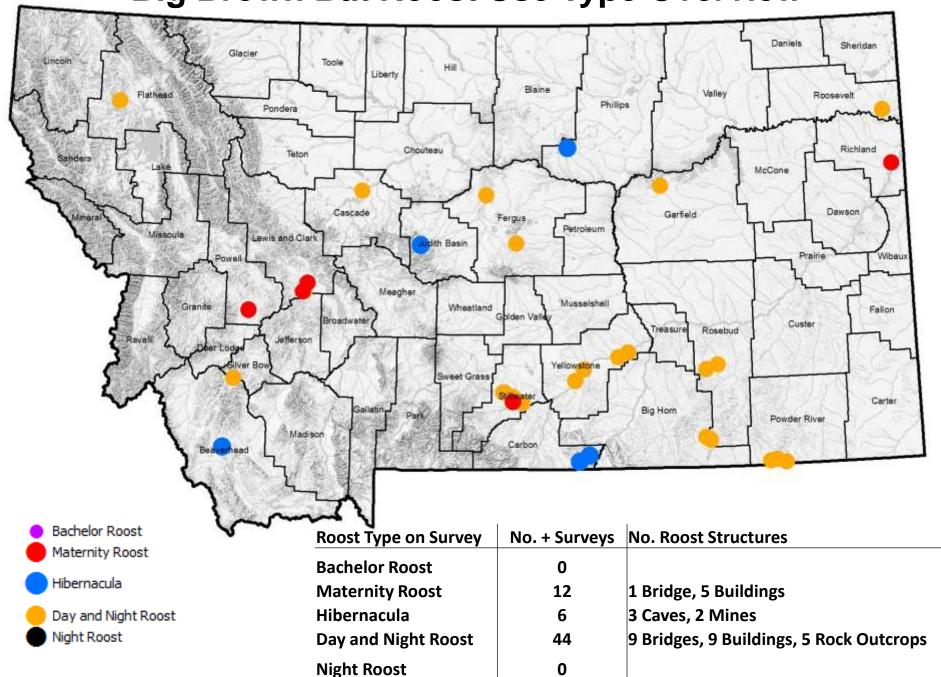


Summary of Observations Submitted for Montana

Number of Observations: 1014



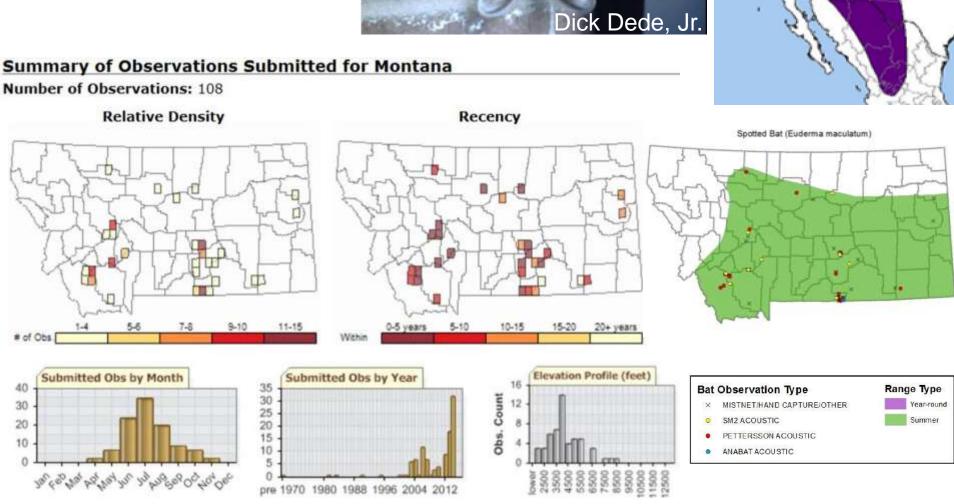
Big Brown Bat Roost Use Type Overview



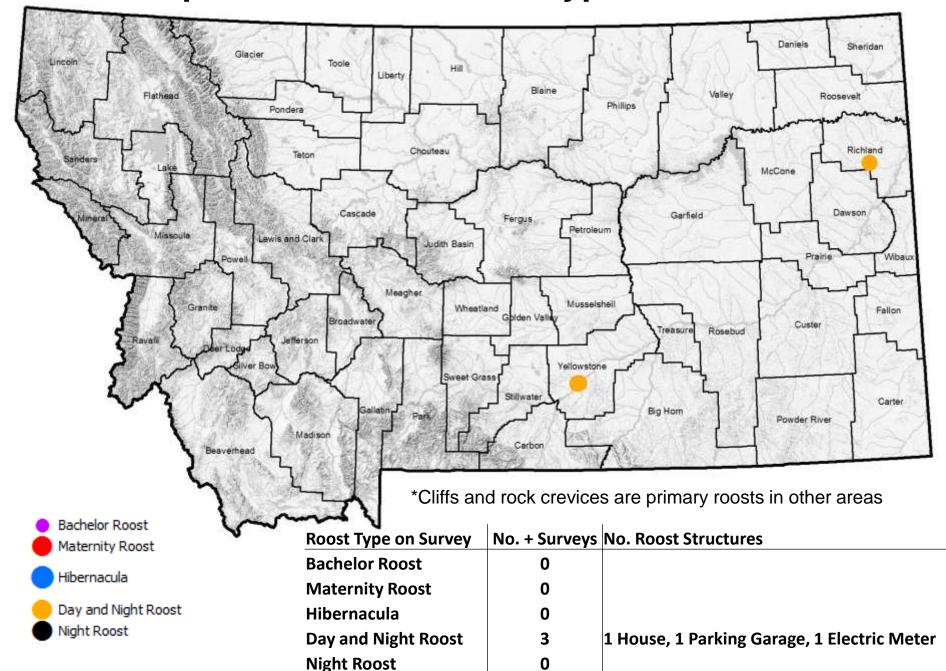
Spotted Bat SOC, **G4**, **S3**





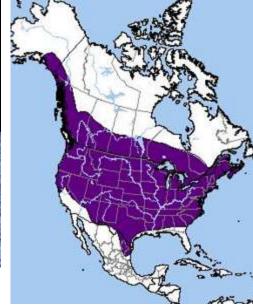


Spotted Bat Roost Use Type Overview

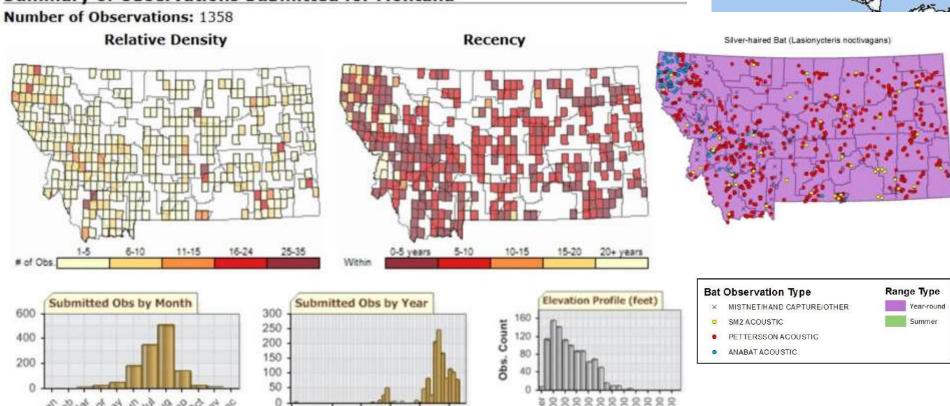


Silver-haired Bat **PSOC**, **G5**, **S4**



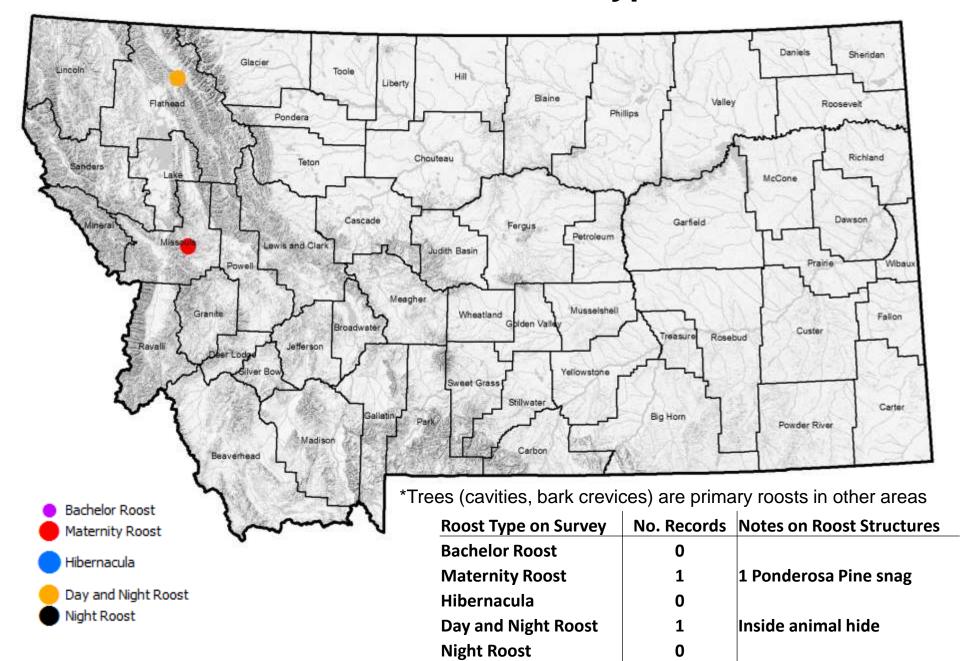


Summary of Observations Submitted for Montana



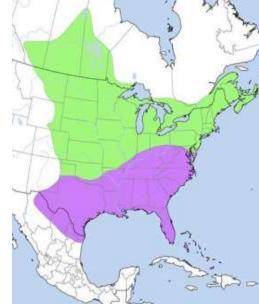
pre 1970 1980 1988 1996 2004 2012

Silver-haired Bat Roost Use Type Overview

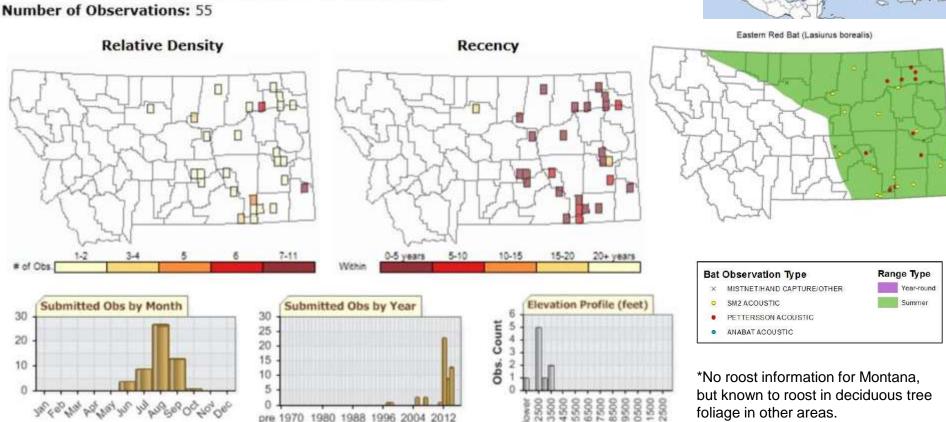


Eastern **Red Bat** PSOC, G5, SU



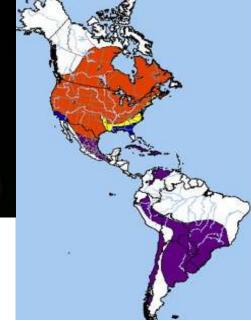


Summary of Observations Submitted for Montana



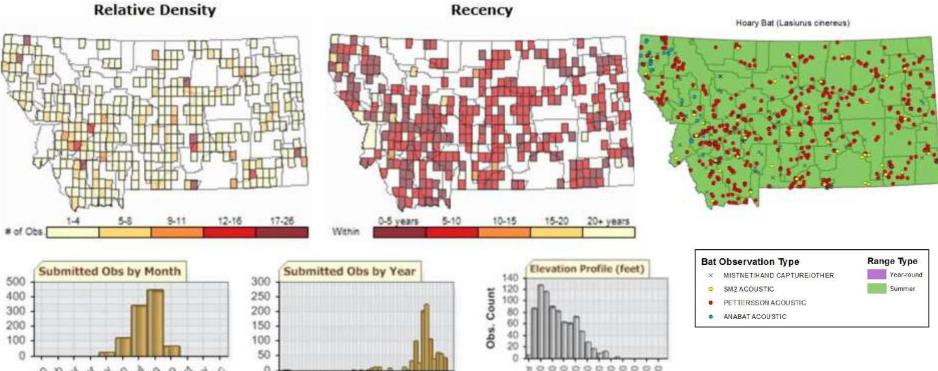
Hoary Bat SOC, G5, S3





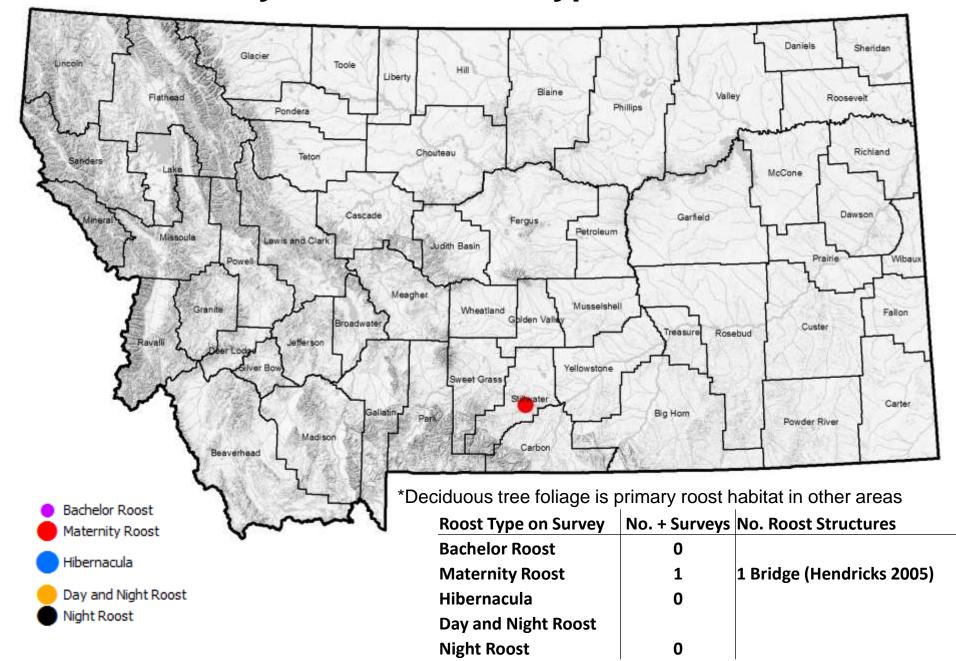
Summary of Observations Submitted for Montana

Number of Observations: 1026



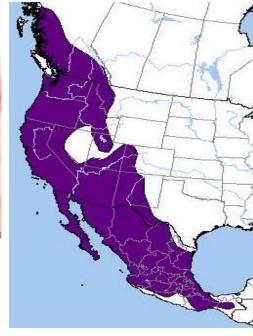
pre 1970 1980 1988 1996 2004 2012

Hoary Bat Roost Use Type Overview



California Myotis G5, S4

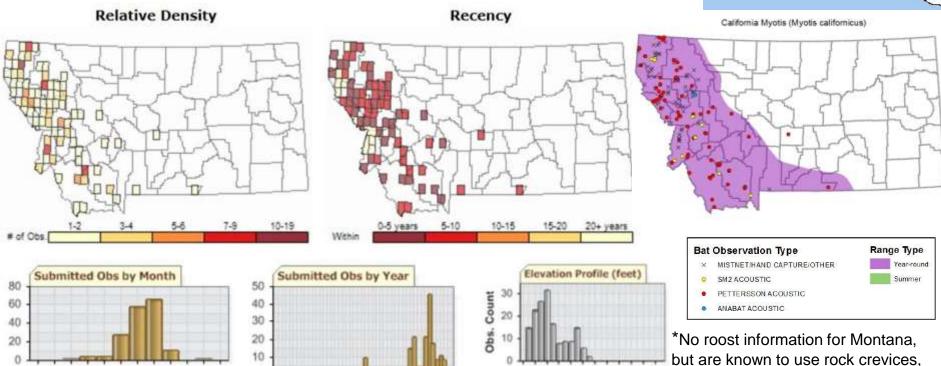




trees, caves, and mines in other areas.

Summary of Observations Submitted for Montana

Number of Observations: 191

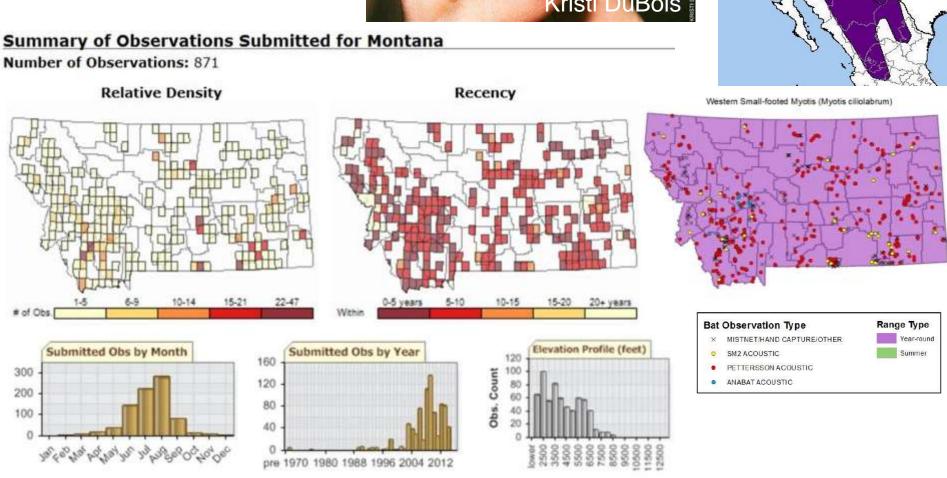


pre 1970 1980 1988 1996 2004 2012

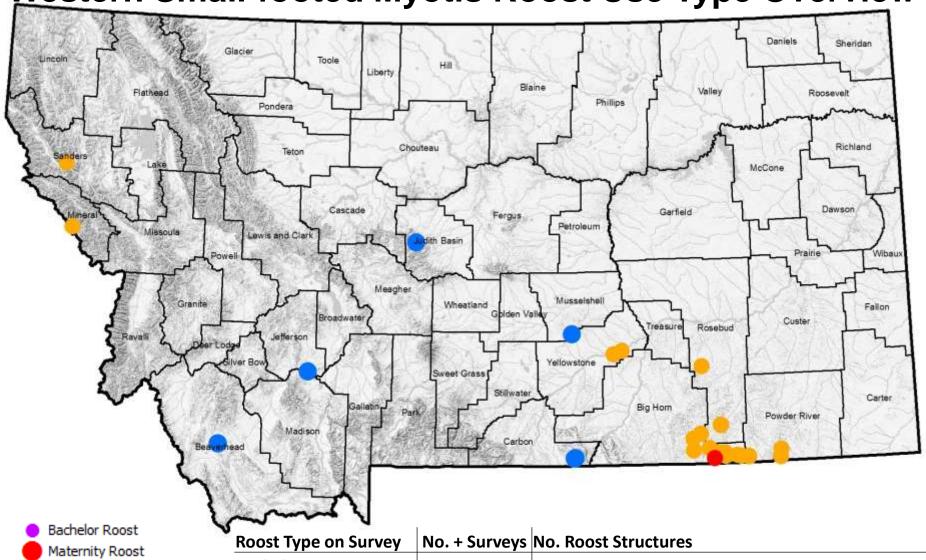
Western Small**footed Myotis** G5, S4







Western Small-footed Myotis Roost Use Type Overview



Hibernacula

Day and Night Roost

Night Roost

ಂತ	Roost Type on Survey	No. + Surveys	No. Roost Structures
	Bachelor Roost	0	
	Maternity Roost	1	1 Rock Outcrops
	Hibernacula	11	2 Caves, 6 Mines
	Day and Night Roost	24	16 Rock Outcrops, 2 Bridges, 2 Buildings, 3 Mines
	Night Roost	0	

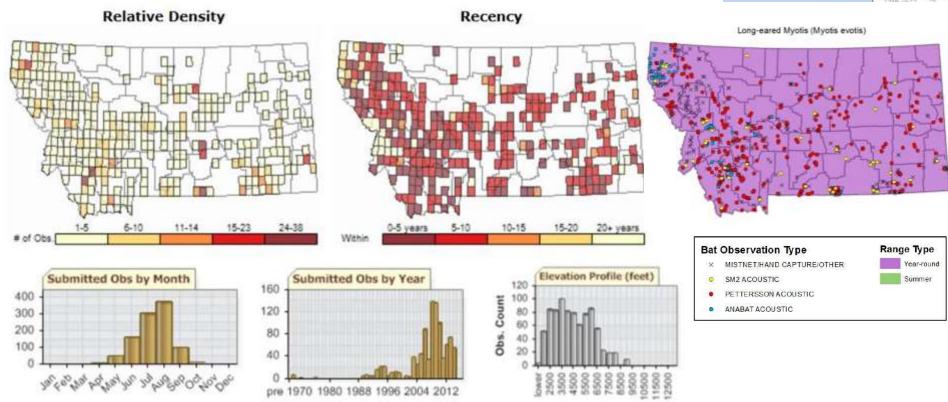
Long-eared Myotis G5, S4



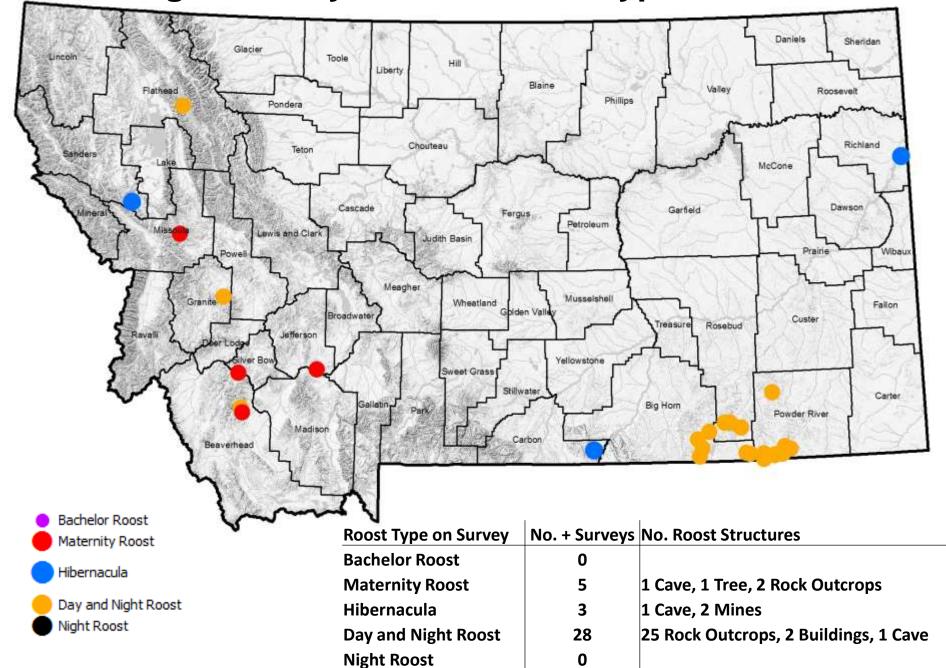


Summary of Observations Submitted for Montana

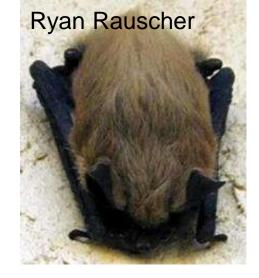
Number of Observations: 1047

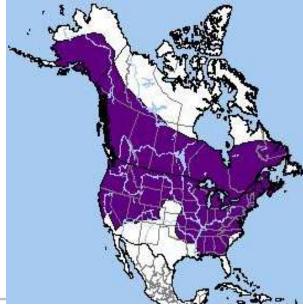


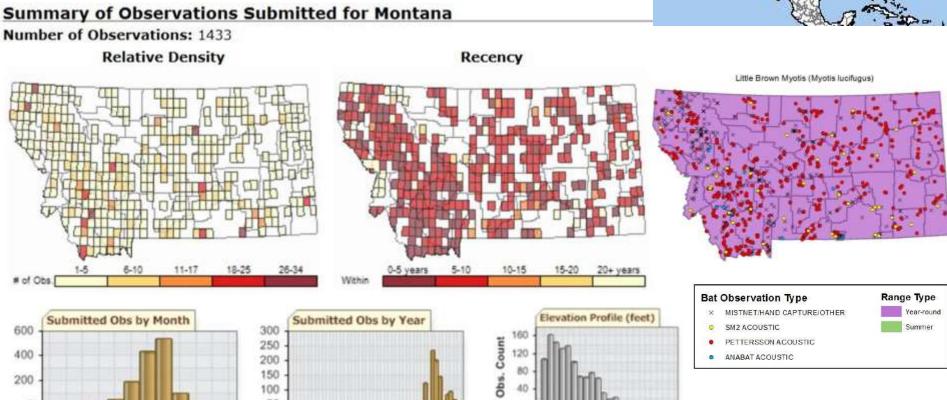
Long-eared Myotis Roost Use Type Overview



Little Brown Myotis SOC, G3, S3

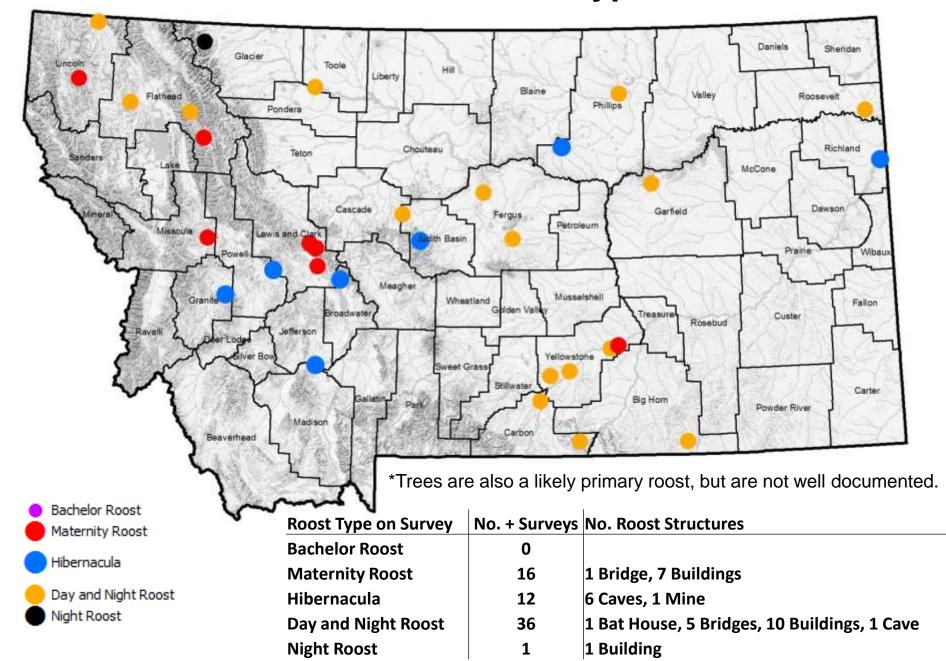






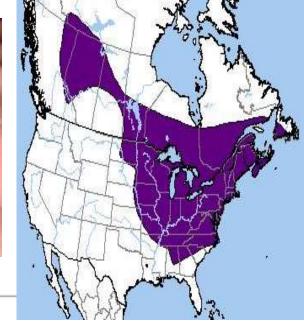
pre 1970 1980 1988 1996 2004 2012

Little Brown Bat Roost Use Type Overview



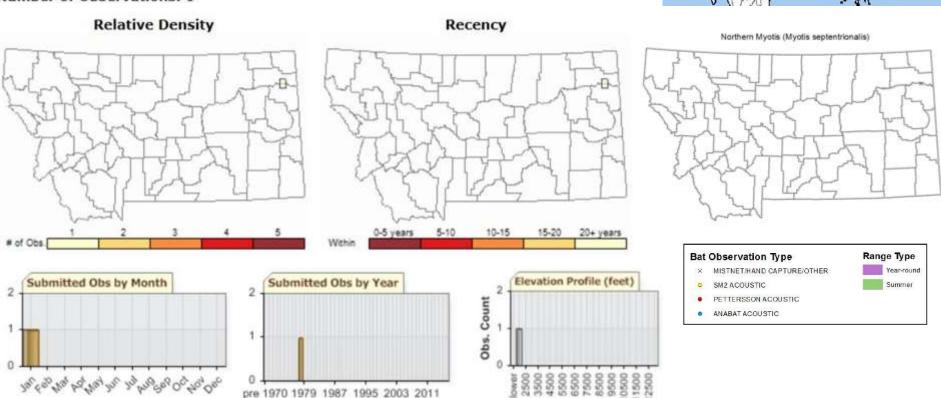
Northern Myotis PSOC, G1G3, SU



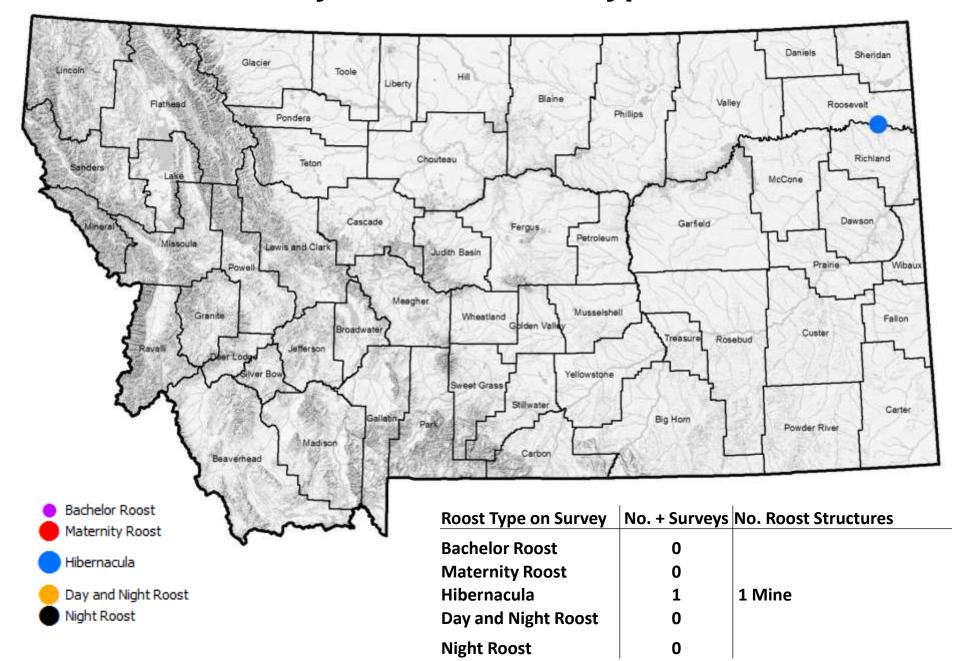


Summary of Observations Submitted for Montana

Number of Observations: 1



Northern Myotis Roost Use Type Overview



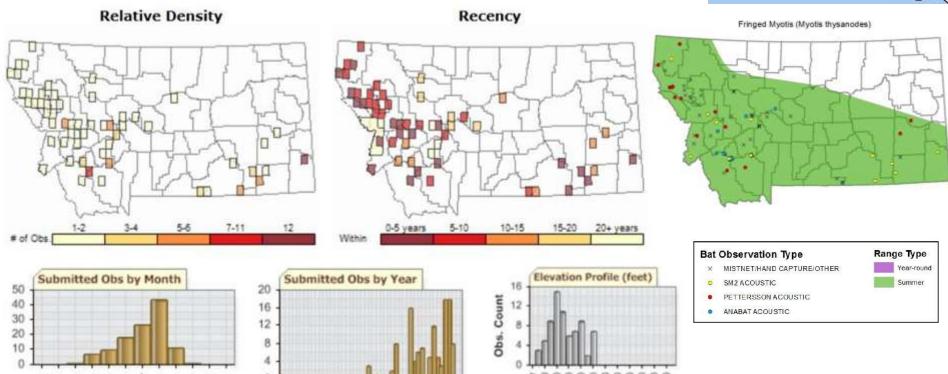
Fringed Myotis SOC, G4, S3





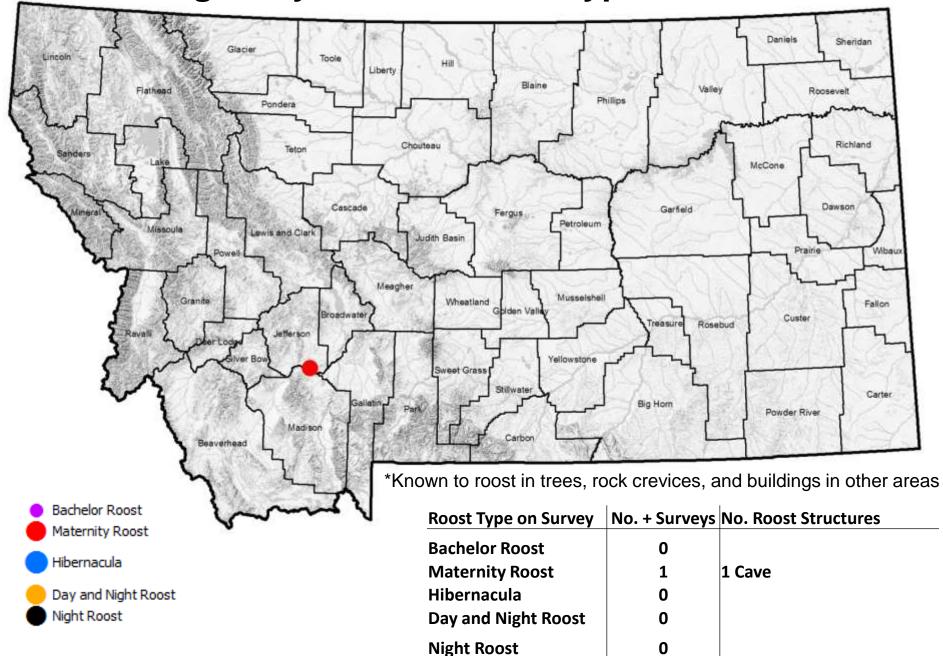
Summary of Observations Submitted for Montana

Number of Observations: 120



pre 1970 1980 1988 1996 2004 2012

Fringed Myotis Roost Use Type Overview



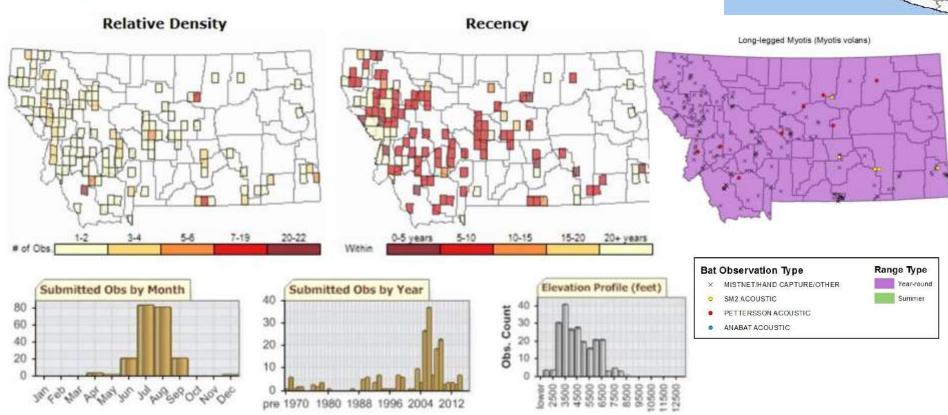
Long-legged Myotis G5, S4



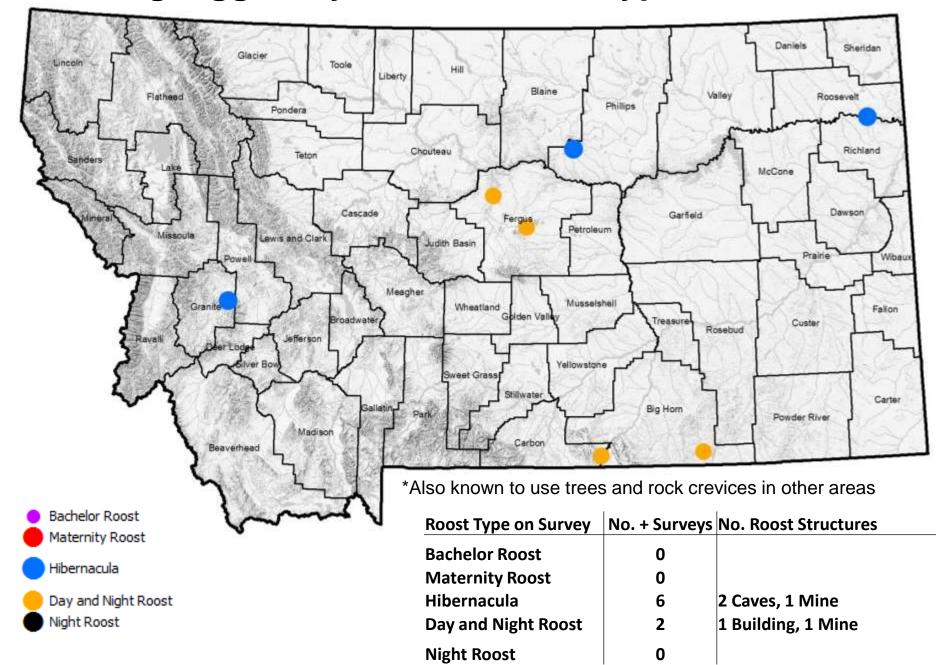


Summary of Observations Submitted for Montana

Number of Observations: 239



Long-legged Myotis Roost Use Type Overview



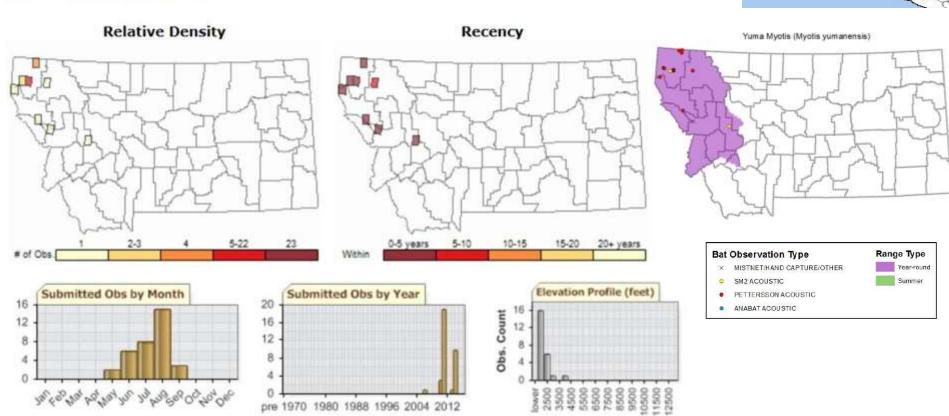
Yuma Myotis PSOC, G5, S3S4





Summary of Observations Submitted for Montana

Number of Observations: 34



Yuma Myotis Roost Use Type Overview

*Call data strongly supports this, but genetic confirmation is needed.



Bachelor Roost
Maternity Roost

Hibernacula

Day and Night Roost

Night Roost

Roost Type on Survey	No. + Surveys	No. Roost Structures
Bachelor Roost	0	
Maternity Roost	1*	1 Building
Hibernacula	0	
Day and Night Roost	0	
Night Roost	0	