PENNSYLVANIA IMPORTANT MAMMAL AREA #7 US Steel Mine

COUNTY(IES) Armstrong

APPROX. SIZE 52,911 acres (includes surrounding habitats)

OWNERSHIP Public (State and Local), Private

REASON FOR SELECTION

- Includes a habitat type that supports significant aggregations of mammals during one or more seasons
- Supports important core populations or population segments
- Sustains a confirmed viable local population of a Species of Greatest Conservation Need and the species or subspecies regularly occurs at the site during one or more seasons

DESCRIPTION

This abandoned mine is located near Brady's Bend. The mine is approximately 6000 feet long and portions are flooded. The current IMA boundary is a 5 mi-radius circle around the entrance. Critical habitat within the circle includes riparian forest along the Allegheny River.

MAMMAL NOTES

Bat species recorded here include all six species known to hibernate in PA – big brown myotis, tri-colored bats (formerly eastern pipistrelles), little brown myotis, Indiana myotis, eastern small-footed myotis, and northern myotis. Of the estimated 12,000 bats occupying this site, most are little brown myotis.

CONSERVATION NOTES

The mine entrance has been gated. The PA Game Commission has control of access, but the threat of a break-in persists because the area has been a popular "party spot" in the past. Hibernating bats are surveyed every other year. White Nose Syndrome now threatens resident bats.