

Important Information on Townsend's big-eared bat and Timber Operations

A petition to list Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) (COTO) as Threatened or Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) was received by the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) on November 1, 2012. On June 26, 2013, the Commission voted to designate COTO as a candidate for listing. Starting on the date it officially becomes a candidate, COTO will receive the same legal protections under CESA as a threatened or endangered species, including the general prohibition on "take" of such species. You may consider including an analysis and appropriate mitigation measures in your timber harvesting plan (THP) prior to the date it officially becomes a candidate in order to avoid amendments to your THP in the future.

The range of the COTO extends throughout the State. COTO primarily roosts in caves, mines, abandoned dwellings, and large basal hollows of trees. The Biological Impacts section of your proposed harvesting plan should include a discussion of COTO (life history, threats, available habitat and appropriate mitigation) if the proposed timber operations may result in a significant adverse impact, cumulative impact, or *take*, once the species candidacy is formally announced. Proposed avoidance and mitigation measures should be included under Section II, Item 32a of the Plan if appropriate.

For more information; the evaluation of the petition to list, a life history account, and a range map can be viewed by going to the following web site and searching for "Townsend's big-eared bat".

<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/documents/docviewer.aspx>