

# Bat Pup-Rearing Season June 15 to August 31

You don't see them, but these small secretive creatures are resting in caves, abandoned mines, and trees, which provide safety from predators and shelter from the weather. Just as important, trees also provide protection for rearing the young.



*Mother bat feeding pup. SC DNR photo/South Carolina Wild*

Between May and July, female bats in the Black Hills gather and give birth. These birthing locations, known as maternity roosts, are often found in large, standing dead trees commonly called snags.

The baby bat, or pup, relies heavily upon the mother for survival. It will be several weeks before the young can fly and take care of itself. This is a critical time. The removal of one maternity roost could result in the loss of more than 50 bats.

## Contacts

### Supervisor's Office and Hell Canyon Ranger District

1019 North 5th. Street  
Custer, SD 57730  
605-673-9292

### Hell Canyon Ranger District

1225 Washington Blvd.  
Newcastle, WY 82701  
307-746-2782

### Mystic Ranger District

8221 Mt. Rushmore Rd.  
Rapid City, SD 57702  
605-343-1567

### Northern Hills Ranger District

2014 North Main Street  
Spearfish, SD 57783  
605-642-4622

### Bearlodge Ranger District

PO Box 680  
101 South 21st Street  
Sundance, WY 82729  
307-283-1361

*For firewood collection opportunities, please contact your local  
ranger district office.*



<https://www.fs.usda.gov/blackhills>



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## BLACK HILLS National Forest

### FIREWOOD GATHERING WILDLIFE SPECIES CONSERVATION FOCUSED



*A red-headed woodpecker perched  
on a tree outside of a cavity nest.  
USFWS photo/Jim Hudgins*

# Why are dead trees important for wildlife?



*Northern long-eared bat. USFWS photo/Al Hicks*

Any standing dead or live tree with special characteristics that provide valuable habitat for wildlife is a wildlife tree. The special characteristics (known as habitat features) include forked or broken tops, cavities, loose bark, large platform limbs and brooms.

Habitat features provide opportunities for wildlife to use the tree for feeding, nesting, shelter, over wintering or hibernation, and perching.

## Firewood collection with conservation in mind.

Before cutting a standing dead tree (snag) for firewood, check to see if it has the characteristics of a wildlife tree. If so, please question if the tree can be harvested outside of the nesting and pup-rearing season. Better yet, please consider conserving the tree and finding one that meets your needs all the while meeting the needs of the wildlife that may depend upon it.



*Blowdown on the Black Hills National Forest provides an opportunity for firewood collection. USFS photo/Ruben Mares*

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## Nest and Roost Protection

A nest is protected from harassment, destruction or removal (includes cutting down a tree) if it is occupied by an egg or nestling listed under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.



*A standing snag on the Black Hills National Forest. USFS photo/Ruben Mares*

Threatened and Endangered bats are protected from “take” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Take as defined under the ESA means “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.”



*A black-capped chickadee perched at the entrance to its nest cavity in a dead tree. USFWS photo/Courtney Celley*