

Bat Identification and Management Summary

Bat Identification

New Zealand has two Native Bat species, Long-tailed and Short-tailed bats.

They are the only native land mammals occurring in New Zealand.

New Zealand's Bats are a protected species which is present in this forest.

Ernslaw One Ltd is currently undertaking to reduce impacts of our operations on this species and ultimately protect and enhance our populations of this species.

The short-tailed bat is listed as nationally critical, the long-tailed bat is nationally vulnerable. Due to difficulty of identifying the species initial sighting should be treated as the more endangered.



Figure 1 Long-tailed bat



Figure 2: Short-tailed bat

- Short-tailed bats have long ears and short thin tails
- Long-tailed bats have short ears and the tail is linked by a membrane to the forelimbs.
- Both bats are smaller than a mouse and will fit into the palm of your hand.
- Roost by day in cavities of native trees, large hollow tree stumps, caves or fractures and joints in rocky bluffs.
- Active at night, with long-tailed bats often seen flying at dusk.
- Navigate and hunt by echolocation, which can sometimes be heard (clicking) without the aid of bat-detectors.
- Typically hunt for insects on the wing, but short-tailed bats will also forage for insects, fruit and pollen at or near the forest floor, e.g. woodrose (*Dactylanthus*).
- The presence of woodrose is often a sign that short-tailed bats may be present (refer to the woodrose section).
- Bats are known to roost in large exotic trees and have often been found in old crop radiata and Douglas fir. They are often discovered when these large trees are felled at harvesting.
- They often use forest roads for feeding access.

Bat Management

The main threat posed to Native Bats by our operations is the loss of habitat through felling of roost trees.

If workers or staff find a Bat roost or sight a Bat.

- Do not approach any closer
- Notify Ernslaw staff

Subsequent Management by Ernslaw

- Harvesting operations, in compartments containing known Bat sites should be undertaken with care to avoid felling of bat roosts.
- Best management practises should always be followed to ensure trees are directionally felled away from known bat roosts.
- Where safe and practical, potential bat roost trees should be maintained within areas of the forest.
- Pest control should be maintained to 5% RTC (Residual Trap Catch) using approved methods to avoid competition and predation.
- Avoid pesticides that could be toxic to bat species, particularly pastes.
- Undertake staff training to Identify and protect roost trees including exotic species older than 40 years.
- Injured or dead bats: Place injured bats in a cardboard box (keep shaded) and deliver to a local vet, SPCA, DOC. Call DOC if bat is dead.
- Liaise with DOC about bat survey and monitoring methods.
- Survey at night using bat detectors (equipment and instructions are available from DOC).