

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Notice of Request for Extension and Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection

Comment On: AMS-LPS-17-0059-0001

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals

Document: AMS-LPS-17-0059-0003

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General Comment

Over 100,000 bats are being killed by wind turbines each year. Bats have Great Value to Farmers, a single colony of 150 big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*) in Indiana has been estimated to eat nearly 1.3 million pest insects each year, possibly contributing to the disruption of population cycles of agricultural pests . Other estimates suggest that a single little brown bat can consume 4 to 8 g of insects each night during the active season. published estimates of the value of pest suppression services provided by bats ranges from about \$12 to \$173/acre (with a most likely scenario of \$74/acre) in a cotton-dominated agricultural landscape in south-central Texas. The value of bats to the agriculture industry is estimated nearly \$23 billion per year, but may range from \$3.7 billion to \$53 billion a year. Brazilian free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) form enormous summer breeding colonies, mostly in caves and under bridges, in south-central Texas and northern Mexico. Their prey includes several species of adult insects whose larvae are known to be important agricultural pests, including the corn earworm or cotton bollworm (*Helicoverpa zea*). Estimate the bats' value as pest control for cotton production in an eight-county region in south-central Texas. Calculations show an annual value of \$741 000 per year, with a range of \$121 000-\$1 725 000, compared to a \$4.6-\$6.4 million per year annual cotton harvest. Bats feed on some of the most damaging crop pests - including the moths of cutworms and armyworms - which helps to protect food crops naturally. Farmers appreciate the pest control provided by bats and many look forward to having bats return to their farms each year. migratory species that are the most susceptible to direct impacts from a wind facility. FEIS at 310, AR03C.00812. NEPA regulations require federal agencies to independently evaluate any

environmental information submitted by applicants for possible use by the agency in preparing an EIS, 40 C.F.R. 1506.5(a),