Roost-Site Selection and Potential Prey Sources after Wildland Fire for Two Insectivorous Bats in Western Montana

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Wildland fire creates a unique habitat used by a diverse range of organisms. Improper post-fire management of public land can eliminate the positive benefits of fire to wildlife. This research focused on characterizing roost sites at multiple spatial scales and sampling potential prey sources for two insectivorous bat species, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) and the long-eared Myotis (*Myotis evotis*), in recently burned forest. Wildland fire seems to create a superabundance of roosting sites and insect prey. Removing trees, important roost structures, may decrease both mammalian and avian insect predators for the apparent insect explosion one-year post fire. This research will give land managers an important tool for retaining the forest elements essential for bats and minimize any negative impacts to bats in post-fire management plans.