



## Appendix A: Implementation Guide

- I. Proposed changes to the Phase I trail corridor will be re-evaluated by the necessary specialists prior to implementation.
- II. Subsequent phases will be surveyed by resource specialists prior final trail location approval and construction. If sensitive resources are discovered during surveys and/or implementation activities, they will be avoided or mitigated based on Forest Plan standards and guidelines or site specific mitigations in order to keep effects within what has been analyzed, as applicable. Any needed consultations with the FWS, SHPO, and Tribes will take place prior to construction.
- III. Botany
  - All equipment used to construct the trail shall be thoroughly cleaned before entering onto federal property to prevent the introduction of any additional non-native invasive species (NNIS) to the area.
  - The project administrator for the Forest Service will ensure that all equipment is clean before construction occurs. Equipment can be cleaned at any high pressure wash facility, with a high pressure hose or with a brush/broom. Additionally, compressed air can be used to clean debris from hard to reach areas such as engine compartments, intakes, skid plates, belly pans, and areas with recessed hydraulic hoses and fittings.
  - Restoration of impacted areas will include using the Wayne National Forest approved seed mix
  - Avoid moving equipment through known infestation of NNIS (especially Japanese stiltgrass), which can result in infestation of the rest of the project area; when possible, skirt uphill of known infestations to prevent rainwater runoff and seed transport to the trail tread; and situate access points from roads or parking lots to either side of an infestation and harden the access to limit seed dispersal.
  - Gravel and stone used in the project should be essentially free of weed seeds. The project administrator is to contact the zone botanist for a list of previously inspected bulk stone facilities in the area.
- IV. Wildlife
  - All applicable standards and guidelines from the 2006 Forest Plan meant to avoid and minimize incidental take in summer habitat have been incorporated into the proposed action. These include:
    - All shagbark or shellbark hickory trees  $\geq 6$ " diameter at breast height (dbh) will be retained throughout the project (GFW-TES-9).
    - Trees (live or dead) exhibiting Indiana bat or northern long-eared bat-roosting suitability will only be cut during the hibernation



period, unless they are deemed an imminent safety hazard during work, thus minimizing direct effects to roosting bats. Potential roost trees identified during the non-hibernation period that require removal should be brought to the attention of a biologist (with photos and a description of species and diameter) prior to removal, in case a nighttime emergence survey is required (SFW TES-10).

- Personnel (including employees, partners, and contractors) involved in trail construction will receive training and an implementation guide to provide context to the WNF's bat avoidance and minimization measures and basic skills to identify trees exhibiting suitable bat-roosting characteristics.

#### V. Heritage

- The entire trail corridor as originally proposed was investigated for cultural resources, and no significant sites were identified. Therefore, the project will have no effect on historic properties. Should the original corridor be changed in any way, the Forest Archaeologist should be consulted as to possible effects.
- Should cultural resource sites be identified along the project corridor in future phases the same coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office and Tribes will occur.

#### VI. Watershed

- The future phase's conceptual routes show the trail overlapping with a few small areas on the FWS wetlands inventory. These areas will be avoided during construction by re-routing the trail. Other wet areas may have puncheons installed, which will minimize adverse impacts by keeping the trail on a boardwalk.
- The hydrologist will conduct a field review of future phase's stream crossing locations.