



**February 14, 2024**

**The Forest Resources Association (FRA) Statement on the  
ESA Flexibility Act of 2023**

The ESA Flexibility Act is a commonsense fix to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), providing authority to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to allow forest management practices to continue when they are not the reason a species is being listed as endangered under the ESA. An example is the listing of the northern long-eared bat and the soon-to-be-listed tricolored bat and little brown bat as endangered, whose populations are significantly declining, primarily due to white-nose syndrome. Well-managed forests maintain and create environments required for the survival and recovery of these bats, and listing these species as endangered may restrict active forest management. The ESA Flexibility Act would provide a tool the USFWS can use to allow the agency to avoid unnecessarily harming rural forest-based economies when species are listed as endangered under the ESA.

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*The Forest Resources Association (FRA) is the only national association to represent all sectors of the [wood supply chain](#), with more than 350 member companies from the forest products industry. FRA promotes the interests of its members in the economic, efficient, and sustainable use of forest resources to produce products used by Americans every day. Our members include forest landowners, logging businesses, log haulers, consuming mills, associated businesses, and state forestry associations. FRA members are represented in 49 states and 377 congressional districts, and our membership provides for the livelihoods of nearly 926,000 families and contributes more than \$325 billion annually to the U.S. economy.*

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