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Long-nosed Bats Added to U.S. Endangered List

Two species of long-nosed bats, Sanborn's long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris sanborni*) and the Mexican long-nosed bat (*L. nivalis*) were added to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service list of endangered and threatened wildlife. The measure became effective on October 31. Both species have suffered severe population loss in the United States and in Mexico where they follow the bloom of certain agaves and giant cacti. Long-nosed bats are considered vital pollinators of these familiar desert plants. Some ecologists are concerned that, without the bats, the future of entire Southwest desert ecosystems may be threatened. The next step toward the protection of these species is to formulate a recovery plan.

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