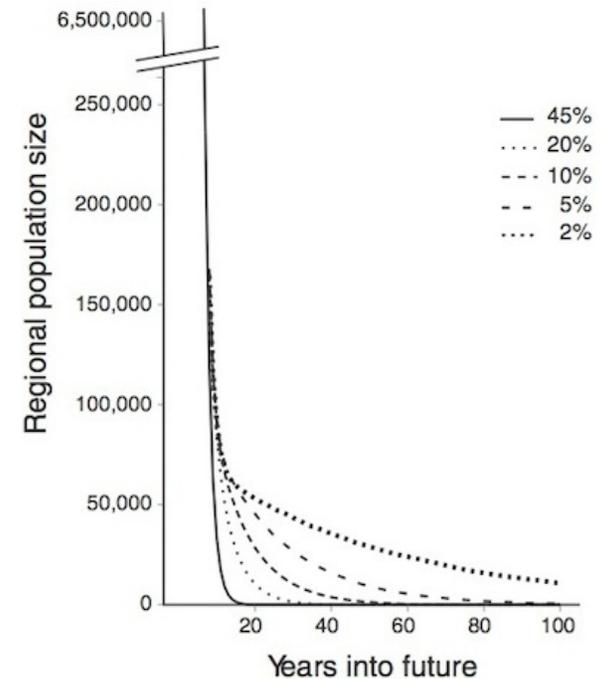


# Cave Dwelling Little Brown Bats are Headed for Extinction



More than a million have died so far, a die-off comparable to slaughters of passenger pigeons or Great Plains bison, only faster. Scientists have declared it “the most precipitous decline of North American wildlife in recorded history,” a diagnosis quantified by the new little brown bat predictions, published August 5 in Science.

~Wired Magazine <http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2010/08/bat-extinction/>, August 5, 2010

**“Ridge-top wind facilities in the East resulted in the highest bat collision mortality levels among wind facilities in the nation.”**

**“As turbine and rotor heights have increased to over 400 feet in recent years, there is evidence that the taller turbines may actually be killing a greater number of bats.”**

~Scott Darling, Wildlife Biologist, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife October 2010

## **Migratory Bats are killed in significant numbers by forested ridgetop wind turbines**

Wind energy development is known to be most threatening to long-distance migrants and tree-roosting species, but may pose problems for regional migrants like *M. leibii* and *M. septentrionalis* as well, particularly in certain contexts.

**Bats are killed in significant numbers by utility-scale wind energy facilities, with the greatest number of fatalities occurring along forested ridgetops in the eastern United States.**

Wind power is an increasingly common source of renewable energy in the United States: It is difficult to make accurate predictions because so little baseline population data exists for most bat species, but **the basic and unanimous understanding is that wind energy-related bat deaths are and will continue to be significant.**

Because of its association with rocky ridgetop habitat, *M. leibii* may be vulnerable to habitat loss caused by wind development in these areas.

**Such additive mortality as is represented by wind energy-related deaths is unsustainable for already small or declining bat populations like *M. septentrionalis* and *M. leibii*.**

**~from the PETITION TO LIST THE EASTERN-SMALL FOOTED BAT MYOTIS LEIBII AND NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT MYOTIS SEPTENTRIONALIS AS THREATENED OR ENDANGERED UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, filed by the Center for Biological Diversity, January 21, 2010**