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Inventory of Terrestrial Wild Mammals at Mammoth Cave National Park: 2005-2010

Steven Thomas¹

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Abstract

An inventory aimed at documenting the occurrence of at least 90% of the terrestrial wild mammal species potentially present on Mammoth Cave National Park took place from 2005 to 2010. Documentation of mammal occurrence was accomplished via visual encounters and trapping. Visual encounters included methods like sighting individuals, conducting spotlight surveys by boat, locating mammal sign, hearing mammal calls, and finding dead individuals. A variety of trapping methods were used, including remote “trail” cameras, live traps, pitfall traps, drift fence-pitfall arrays, and several other opportunistic capture methods. 663 mammal records were documented by visual encounter or some trapping method representing six orders, 13 families, and 32 species. Of the 37 species potentially present in 2005, 32 species (87%) were confirmed present in 2010. Total trapping effort (# of trap-nights) was 118,567. A total of 163 specimens were collected as vouchers. No federally listed species of terrestrial wild mammals were documented.