# WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME: A DEADLY BAT DISEASE

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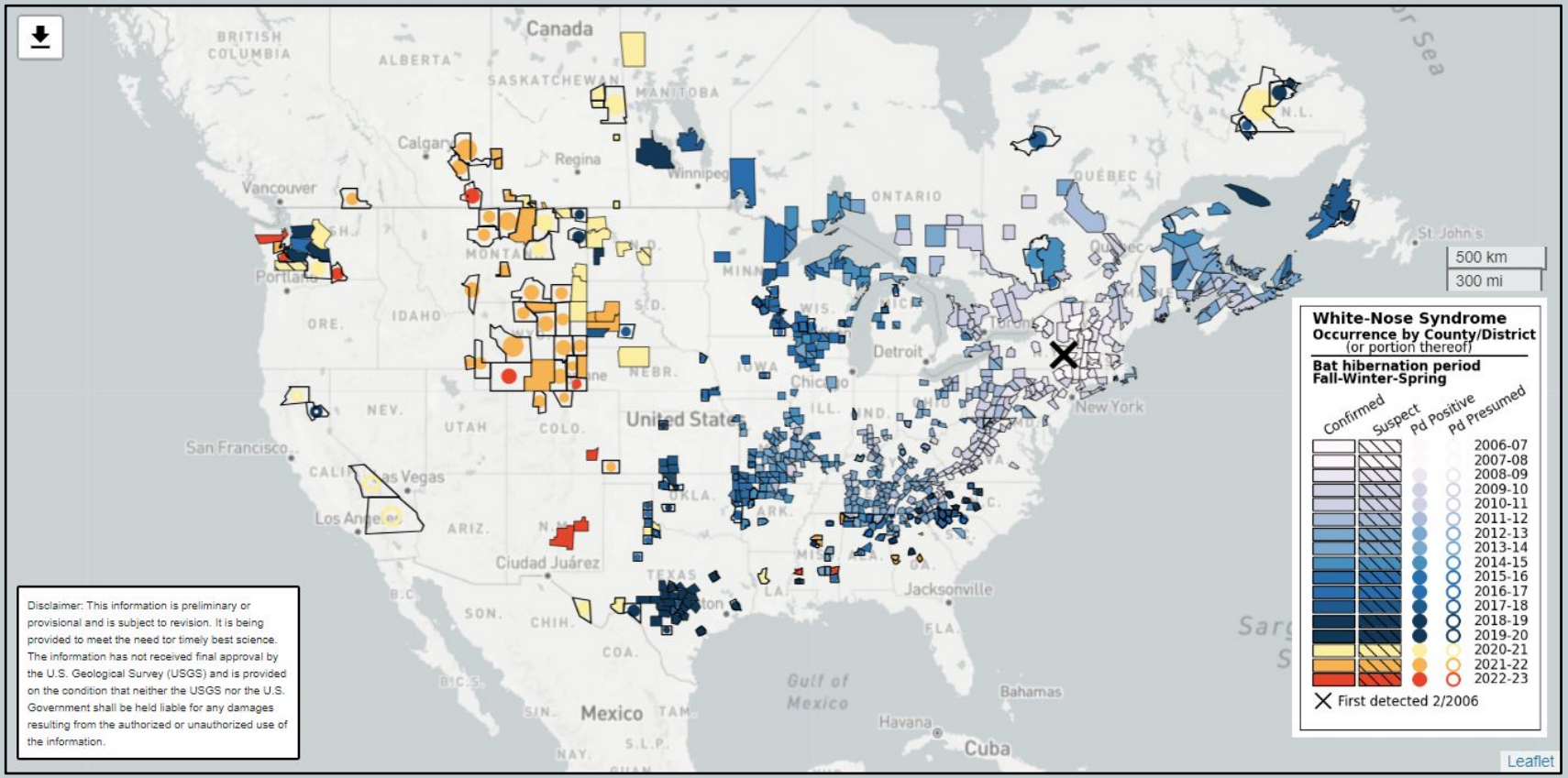
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

# WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

- WNS first discovered in North America in 2006/2007: cave in New York
  - *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* or *Pd*
  - 40 states and 8 provinces confirmed
  - Evidence of causative agent in 3 additional states and 2 Canadian provinces

# WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME



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- Fungal disease – Invasive species
  - Evidence of vast Eurasia distribution
  - Does not need bats to persist

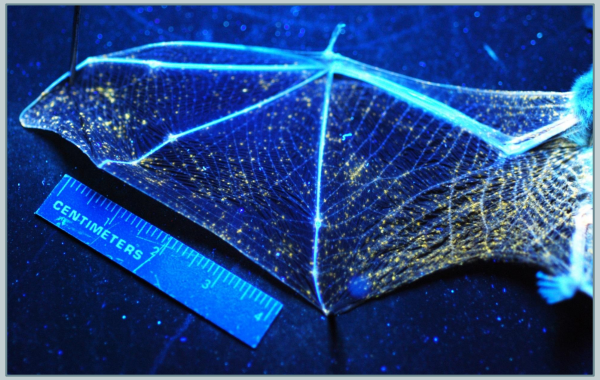
# WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

- Killed >6 million of hibernating bats in Eastern North America
  - >90% mortality rate at some hibernacula
- Transmitted by bat-to-bat or bat-to-environment contact
  - Humans shown to inadvertently spread
- Does not infect humans or other wildlife

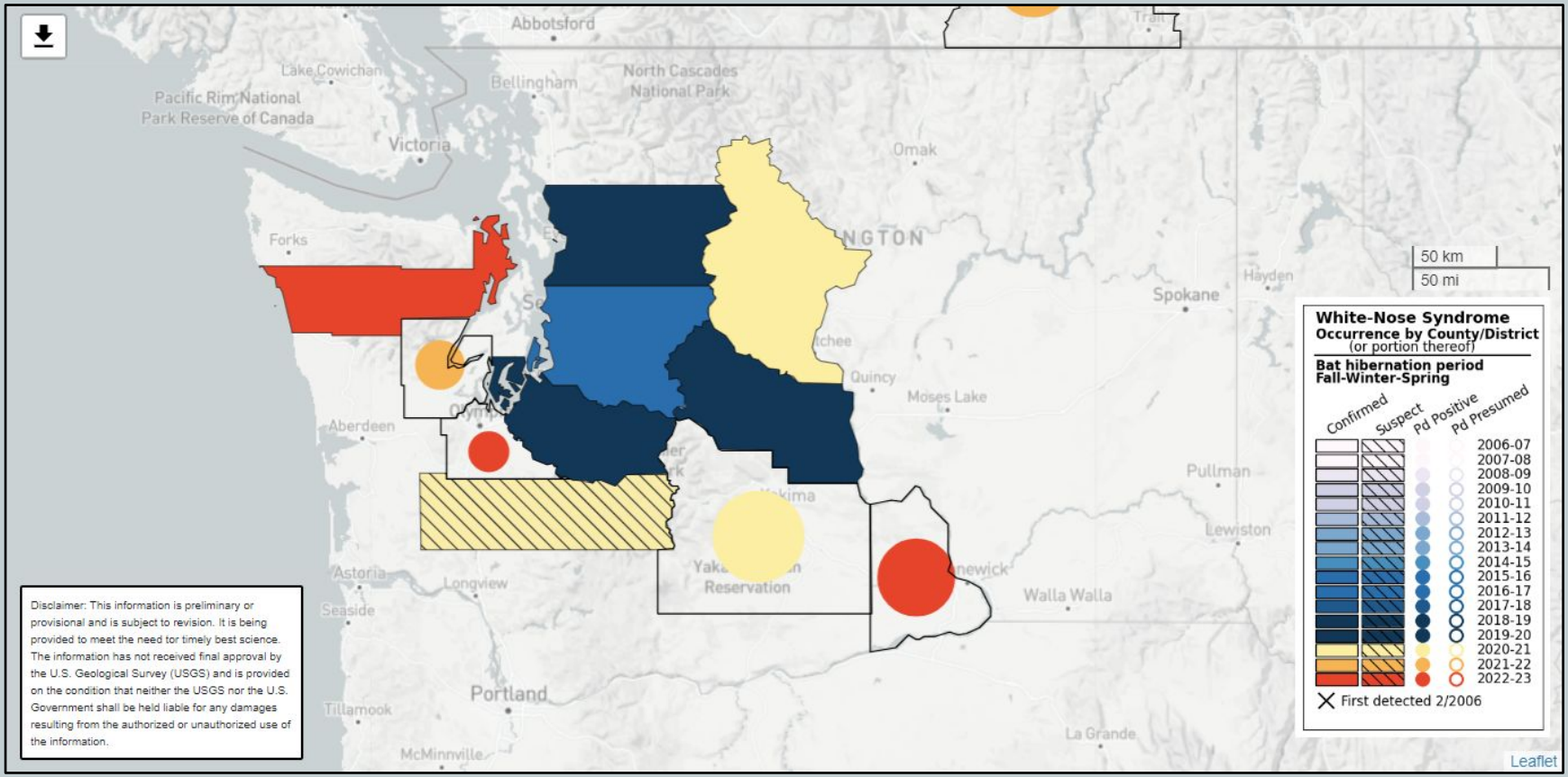
# WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

- Wing damage has physiological implications

- Can lead to death or reduced fitness while hibernating



# WNS IN WASHINGTON



# WDFW WNS RESPONSE

## Monitoring

Understand the natural history of Washington bat species and monitor populations.

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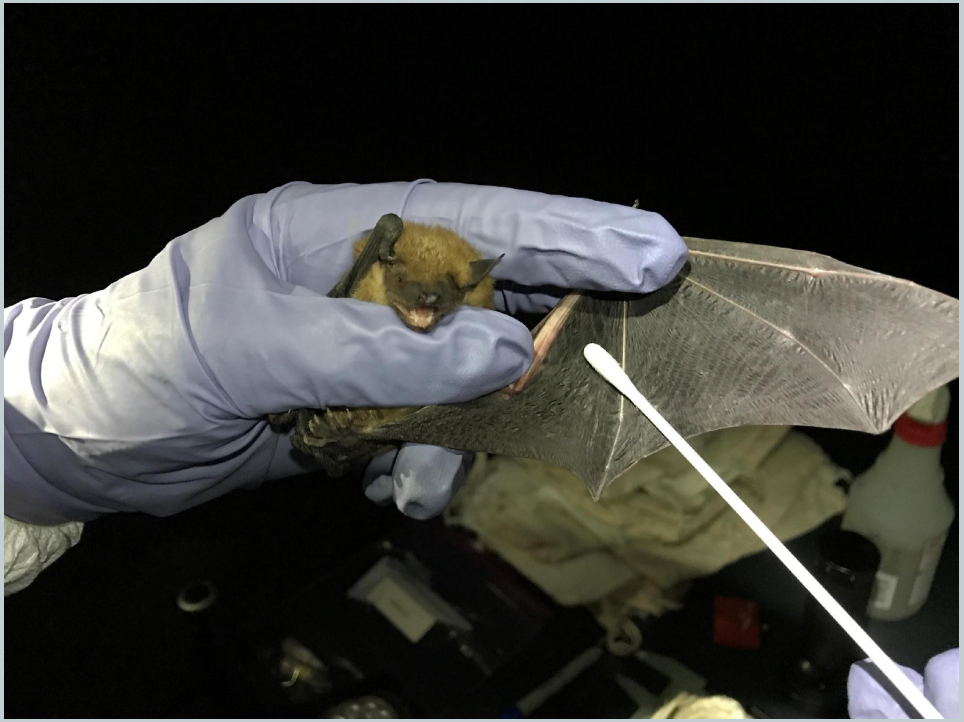
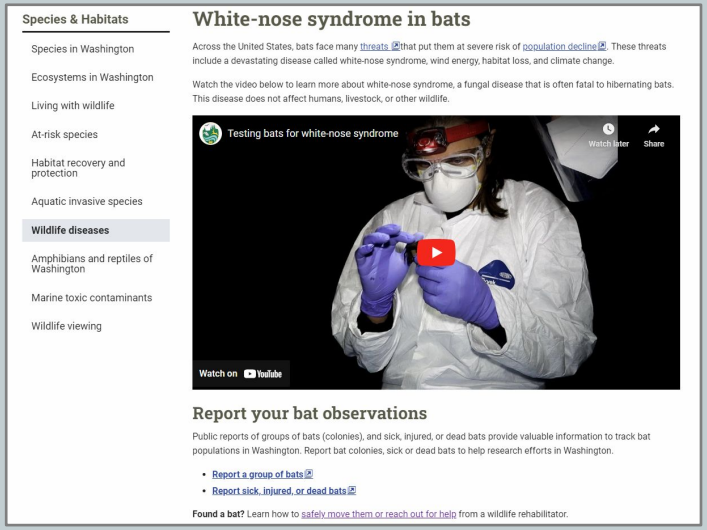
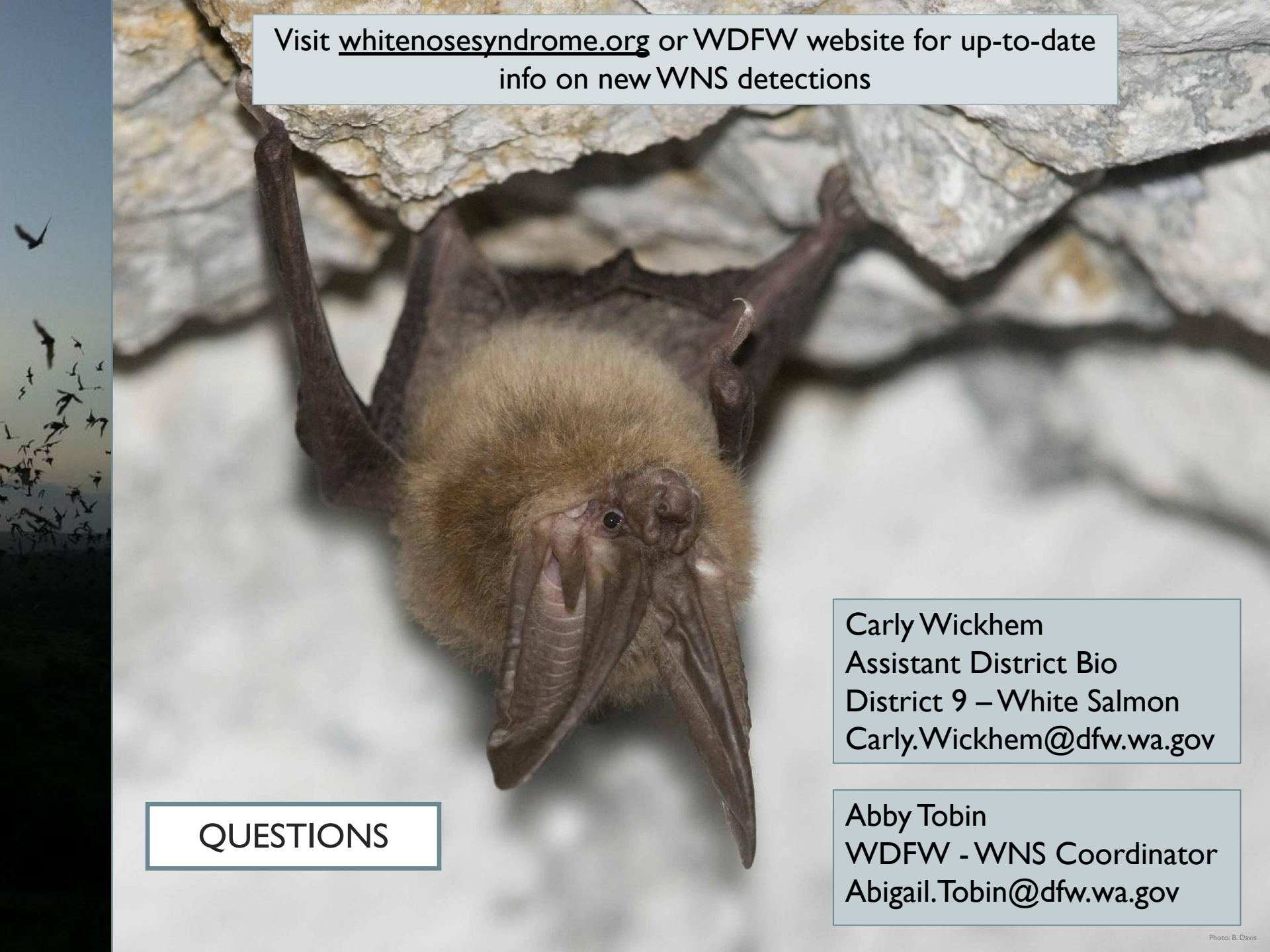
## Disease Testing



# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Outreach
  - Post posters or fact sheets
  - Report bat observations to WDFW
  - Tell members of the public to report observations
  - Let me know if you want to volunteer
- WNS distribution and ecology
  - Report sick or dead bats to WDFW – we will test bats for WNS that are collected between Dec and June.
- Protect bats
  - Avoid disturbing bats
  - Provide alternative roosts (e.g., bat houses)
  - Follow WNS decontamination procedures





Visit whitenosesyndrome.org or WDFW website for up-to-date info on new WNS detections

QUESTIONS

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Photo: B. Davis