

# WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME: A DEADLY BAT DISEASE



Photo: N. Heaslip

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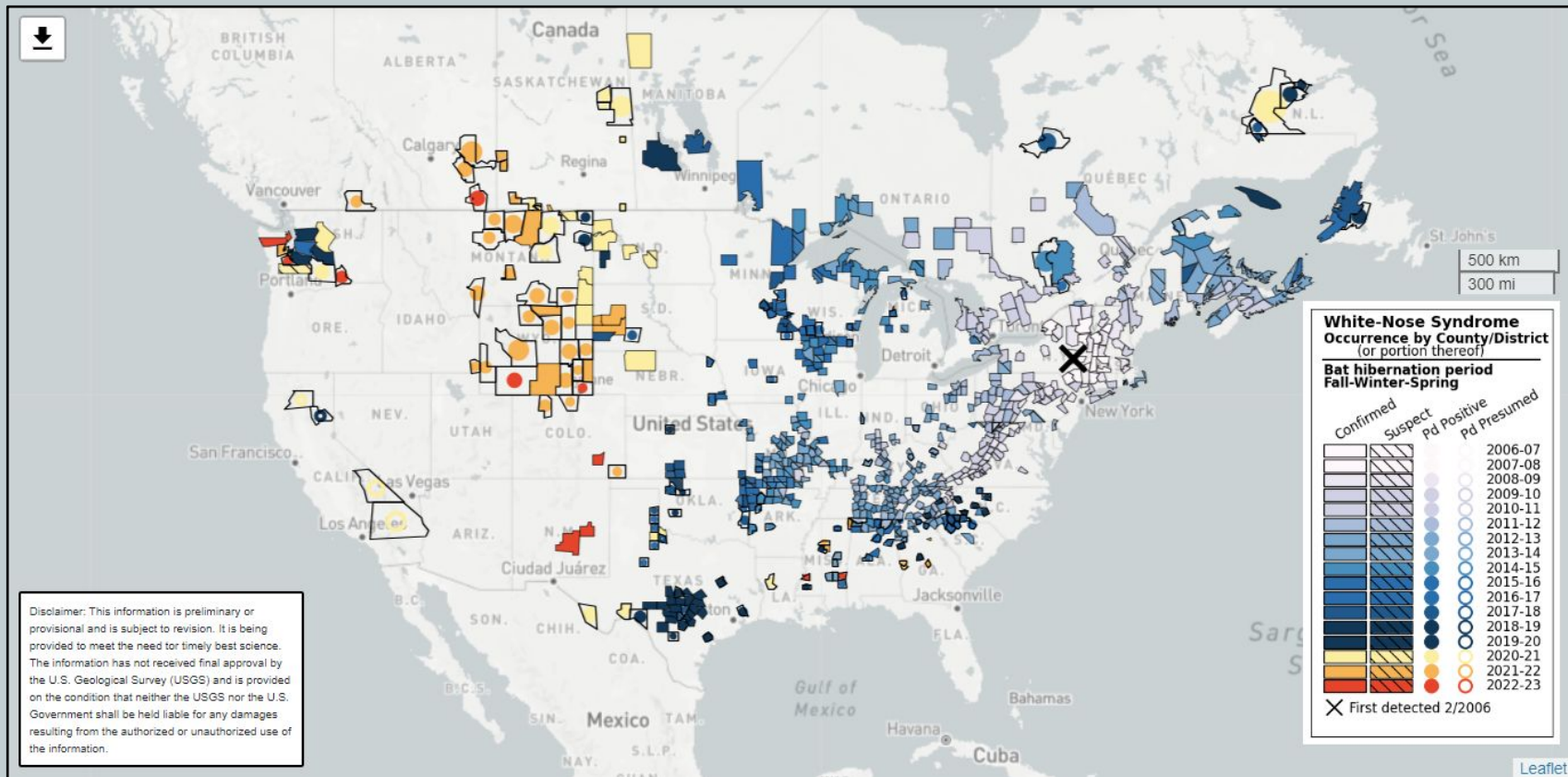


# WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

- 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



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  - 40 states and 8 provinces confirmed
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- Fungal disease – Invasive species
  - Evidence of vast Eurasia distribution
  - Does not need bats to persist



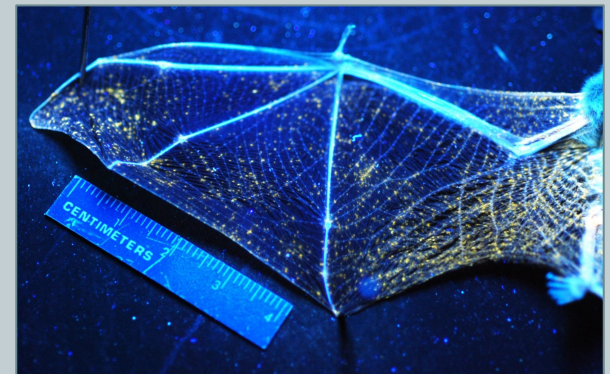
# WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

- 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



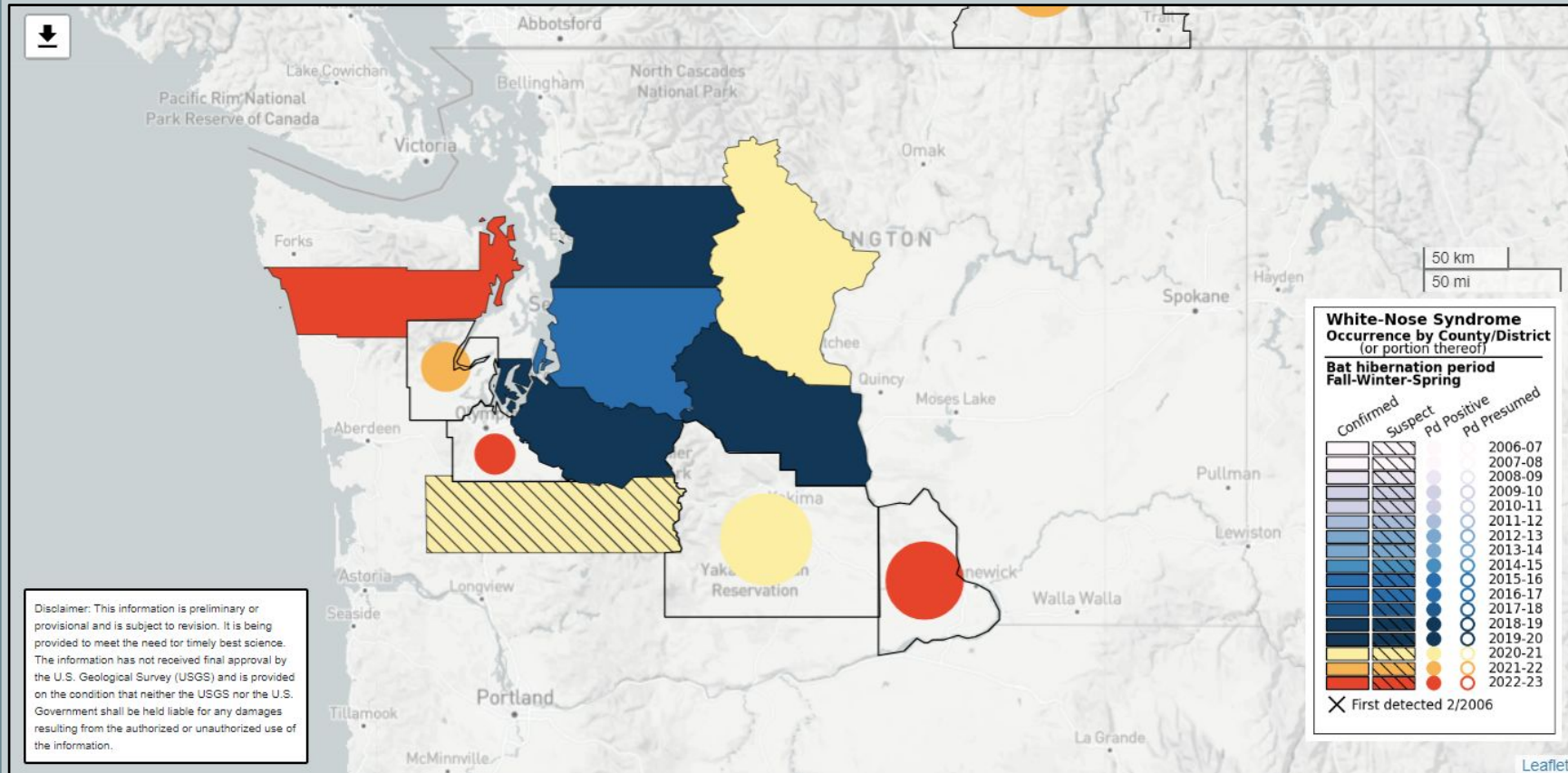
# WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

- 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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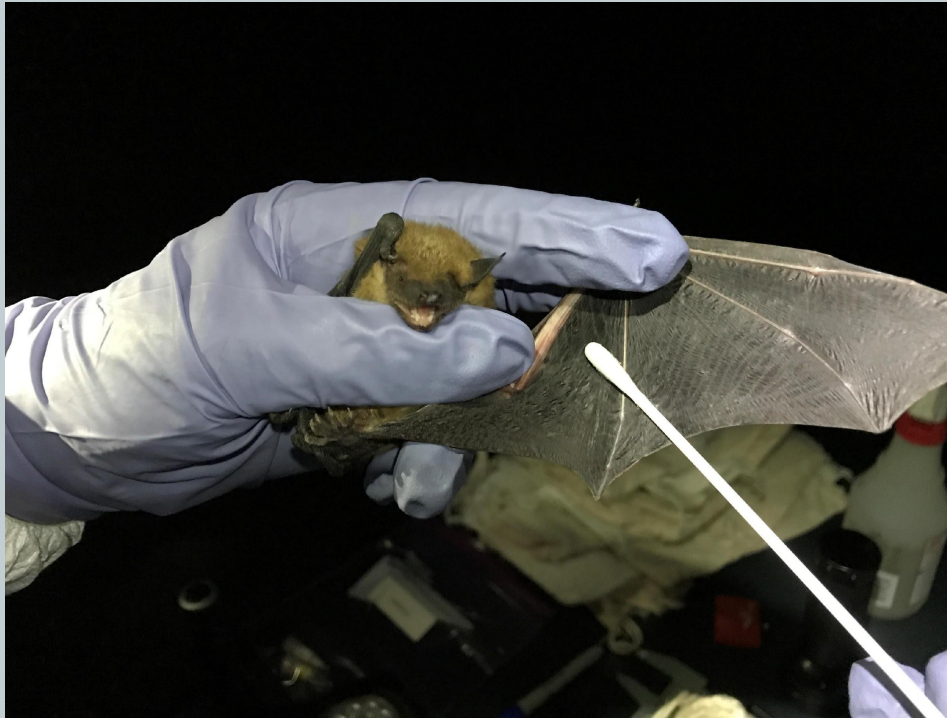
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## WDFW WNS RESPONSE

## 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



Species & Habitats

Species in Washington

Ecosystems in Washington

Living with wildlife

At-risk species

Habitat recovery and protection

Aquatic invasive species

**Wildlife diseases**

Amphibians and reptiles of Washington

Marine toxic contaminants

Wildlife viewing

### White-nose syndrome in bats

Across the United States, bats face many [threats](#) that put them at severe risk of [population decline](#). These threats include a devastating disease called white-nose syndrome, wind energy, habitat loss, and climate change.

Watch the video below to learn more about white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease that is often fatal to hibernating bats. This disease does not affect humans, livestock, or other wildlife.

Testing bats for white-nose syndrome

Watch on YouTube

**Report your bat observations**

Public reports of groups of bats (colonies), and sick, injured, or dead bats provide valuable information to track bat populations in Washington. Report bat colonies, sick or dead bats to help research efforts in Washington.

- [Report a group of bats](#)
- [Report sick, injured, or dead bats](#)

Found a bat? Learn how to [safely move them](#) or [reach out for help](#) from a wildlife rehabilitator.





Visit [whitenosesyndrome.org](http://whitenosesyndrome.org) or WDFW website for up-to-date info on new WNS detections

QUESTIONS

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