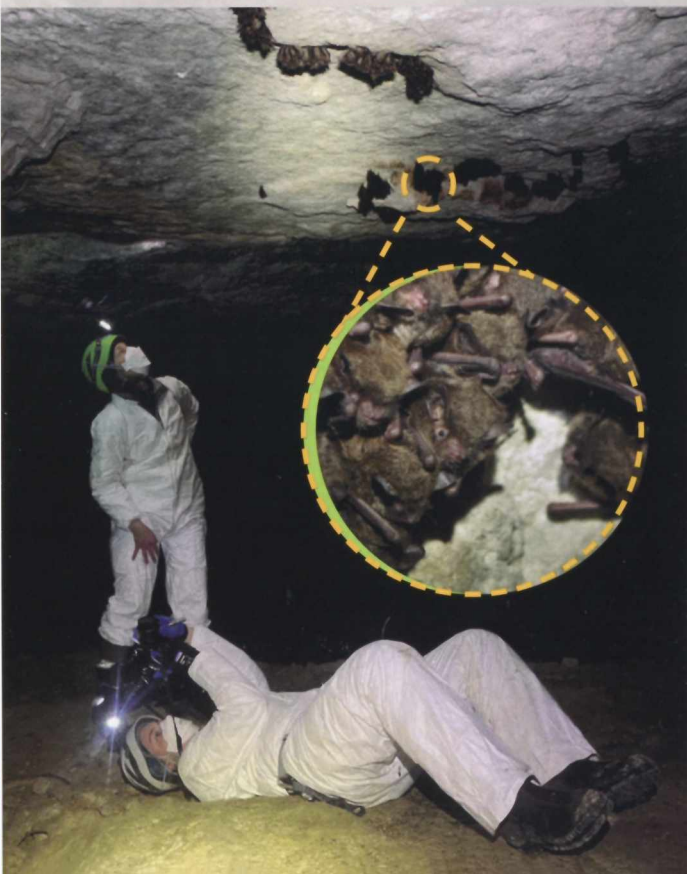


How does white-nose syndrome spread?

Bats usually come into contact with the cold-loving fungus that causes white-nose syndrome, *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, during hibernation in roosts, including caves. Fungal spores can be moved across the landscape by bats, humans, and other wildlife.

These fungal spores cannot be seen, and persist on bats, cave walls, floors, and other surfaces unless actively cleaned by chemical or other means.



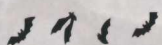
How can you help?



Observe all cave closures and avoid disturbing hibernating bats.



Clean and disinfect your gear before and after visiting caves and mines.



Share with others the importance of bats and bat conservation.

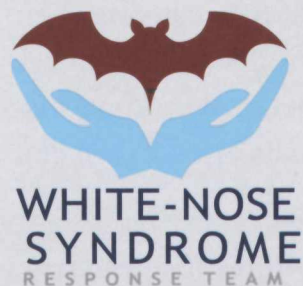


Protect and create wildlife habitat in your community.

For more information on white-nose syndrome, the current state of bats in North America, decontamination procedures, protecting habitat and more visit the National White-nose Syndrome Response website:

www.whitenosesyndrome.org

Developed by:



WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME
RESPONSE TEAM



Be Better for Bats

It takes all of us to protect bats from extinction. The National White-nose Syndrome Response Team combines the resources of over 150 organizations. Together these researchers and land managers are using the best available science to develop new treatment and management solutions to reduce the harm of white-nose syndrome. Join us in protecting these incredible animals.

Bats matter!

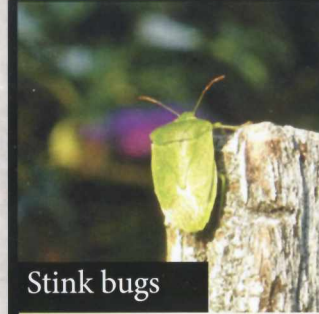
All bat species currently infected with white-nose syndrome are insectivores, meaning they eat insects. Studies estimate that bats save United States farmers more than \$3 billion per year in pest control!



Loss of bat species could lead to increases in pesticide use or population increases in many insects, including those that may carry diseases to animals and plants or damage forests and crops.

Bats play critical roles in maintaining balanced, healthy natural areas. The loss of these important species will have unknown cascading effects to the health of the species around them, including human beings.

Common pests eaten by bats



Stink bugs



Corn earworm moths



Mosquitos



Japanese beetles

As white-nose syndrome continues to spread, we face the real possibility of losing entire bat species.



White-nose syndrome

White-nose syndrome is a deadly disease that affects bats across North America. This disease got its name from the white fungus that grows on the bare skin of bats' faces, ears, wings and tails, typically during hibernation.

As the fungus grows it damages the skin of bats causing them to wake up more frequently in the winter. With limited fat reserves and no insects to hunt, infected bats often die of starvation.

Since its first documentation in 2006, white-nose syndrome quickly spread

from New York across North America. Research indicates that the fungus is found across Europe and Asia, however the bats in those regions do not appear to get as sick as those in North America.

Considered one of the deadliest wildlife diseases, white-nose syndrome has killed millions of bats in North America. At some hibernation sites, entire colonies have been completely wiped out.

Scientists from all over the world are working together to study the disease, how it spreads and infects bats, and develop tools to control and manage it.