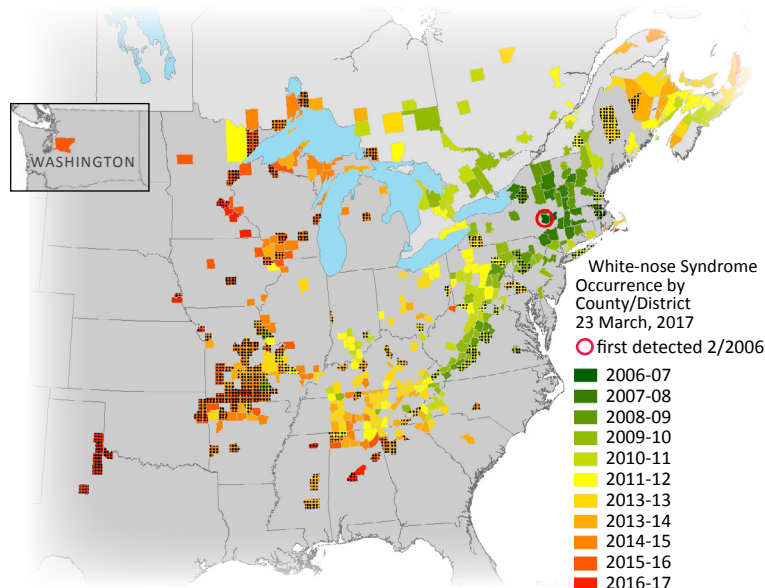


White-nose Syndrome and Minnesota's Bats

White-nose Syndrome (WNS) is a disease that is killing millions of bats in eastern North America. Infected bats often have white fungus growing around their muzzle—the “white nose” that gives the disease its name—as well as on their wings, tail and ears. As of winter/spring 2016-17, bats in 33 US states and 5 Canadian provinces have WNS or the fungus that causes this disease.

Minnesota's bats have WNS. To date, the disease or fungus has been reported from 10 counties. Bats hibernating in caves, mines and sheltered locations, like Soudan Underground Mine, are experiencing significant declines in their numbers. This winter, there have been numerous reports of bats flying during the day. Although WNS is fatal to bats, it does not affect humans, pets, livestock or other wildlife.



A little brown myotis (also known as little brown bat) hibernating in southeastern Minnesota, shows WNS fungus growing on its muzzle, ears and wings.

What are we doing to help bats?

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) is the lead agency for WNS response in Minnesota. Since 2009, MNDNR has been working in partnership with other state, federal, provincial and tribal agencies, national health laboratories, academic researchers, non-government organizations and local groups in an international effort to combat the disease.

MNDNR staff continue to monitor the health of the state's bat populations, working to slow the spread of WNS to clean sites, and are exploring promising treatment applications.

The MNDNR's WNS website provides more information about the status of WNS in the region and WNS-related activities in Minnesota: www.mndnr.gov/wns

How can you help?

The MNDNR needs your help to watch for unusual winter bat behavior. We also want to know about any summer bat colonies. You can send bat information to the Online Bat Observation Report: www.mndnr.gov/reportbats

Or contact the MNDNR Minnesota Biological Survey bat specialist:
Gerda Nordquist: 651-259-5124, gerda.nordquist@state.mn.us

Thank you for your help!

