



National Wildlife Health Center
Wildlife Health Bulletin 2012-01

White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) Updates

To: Natural Resource/Conservation Managers
From: Dr. Jonathan Sleeman, Center Director, USGS National Wildlife Health Center
Date: January 27, 2012

WNS Winter Submission Guidelines

The National Wildlife Health Center has updated the [WNS Winter Submission Guidelines](#) for 2011/2012, which are available on the NWHC WNS Web page. These guidelines replace all previous bat submission criteria documents for the NWHC. Included in the guidelines is a new quick reference chart designed to assist submitters with selecting priority species and appropriate samples for diagnostic submission based on location either within or outside of the WNS confirmed area. These guidelines support the surveillance objectives for identifying new geographic locations and bat species impacted by WNS.

Disturbance at bat hibernation sites can result in unintended mortality in otherwise healthy bat populations. NWHC advises delaying entry into caves for surveys until mid-February whenever possible, as fungal growth is expected to be more visible in contaminated sites as the season progresses. Hibernacula can be monitored for signs of increased bat activity at entrances in areas where the presence of WNS is unknown.

Recent WNS Publications

Lorch, J. M., Meteyer, C.U., Behr, M.J., Boyles, J.G., Cryan, P.M., Hicks, A.C., Ballmann, A.E., Coleman, J.T.H., Redell, D.N., Reeder, D.M., and Blehert, D.S., 2011, [Experimental infection of bats with *Geomyces destructans* causes white-nose syndrome](#): Nature, v. 480, no. 7377, p. 376-378. This study definitively determined that *Geomyces destructans* is the cause of white-nose syndrome in bats.

Pikula, J., Bandouchova, H., Novotný, L., Meteyer, C.U., Zupal, J., Irwin, N.R., Zima, J., and Martínková, N., 2012, [Histopathology confirms white-nose syndrome in bats in Europe](#): Journal of Wildlife Diseases, v. 48, no. 1, p. 207-211. This study is the first confirmation that the disease (WNS) also occurs among bats of Europe. It should be noted that unusual mortality of European bats resulting from WNS has not been observed.

New Field Investigations Team Member for the Western States

For those in the Western states who may be submitting bats or other animal carcasses, Barb Bodenstein is the newest member to join the NWHC Field Investigations Team (FIT). Her area of responsibility includes partnering with wildlife health professionals in conducting wildlife disease field investigations and research for the western United States. Barb transferred to the NWHC from the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, National Wildlife Disease Program where she served as the Wildlife Disease Biologist for Wisconsin and Minnesota. More information about Barb is in the latest [NWHC Newsletter](#). Click [here](#) for a map showing areas of coverage by the FIT members, as well as instructions for contacting a FIT member and reporting wildlife mortality events.

Relevant Links

More information on WNS in bats can be found at:

- ❖ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: <http://www.fws.gov/whitenosesyndrome/>
The Fish and Wildlife Service recently issued a [news release](#) that updates estimates of bat mortality from WNS.
- ❖ USGS National Wildlife Health Center:
http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/white-nose_syndrome/

❖ USGS Fort Collins Science Center: <http://www.fort.usgs.gov/WNS/>

The [2012 WNS Symposium](#) is being held June 4-7 in Madison, WI; an open call for abstracts was recently announced (due by February 15). For those unable to attend the symposium, a webinar will be offered. Contact Christina Kocer at USFWS for more information (christina_kocer@fws.gov).

To report or request assistance for wildlife mortality events or health issues, visit

http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/mortality_events/reporting.jsp or contact Dr. Anne Ballmann, 608-270-2445, aballmann@usgs.gov; Dr. LeAnn White, 608-270-2491, clwhite@usgs.gov; Barb Bodenstein, 608-270-2447, bbodenstein@usgs.gov; Dr. Thierry Work, 808-792-9520, thierry_work@usgs.gov (Hawaii and Pacific Islands); or Jennifer Buckner, 608-270-2443, jbradsby@usgs.gov (single mortality events nationwide).

To see past Wildlife Health Bulletins, including the most recent bulletin distributed by the NWHC, “Universal precautions for the management of bat white-nose syndrome”, click [here](#).

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