

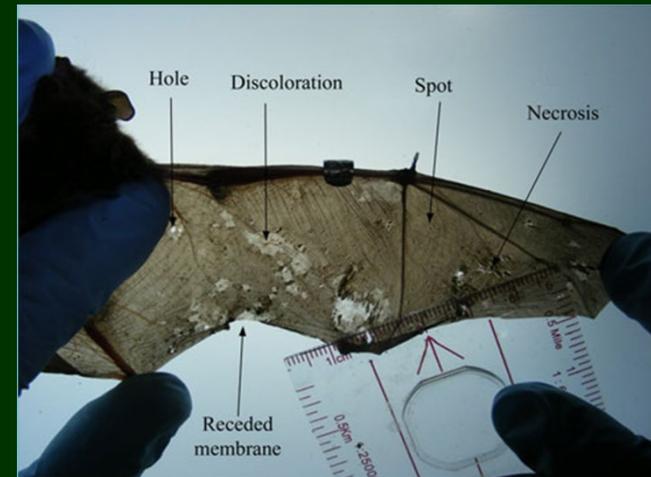
White-Nose Syndrome Update



John DePue
Wildlife Biologist

What is WNS?

- Disease caused by fungus
- *Pseudogymnoascus destructans* (*Pd*)
- Causes energy depletion
- Impacts whole suite of cave bat species; little brown, northern long-eared, tri-colored, and big brown bats



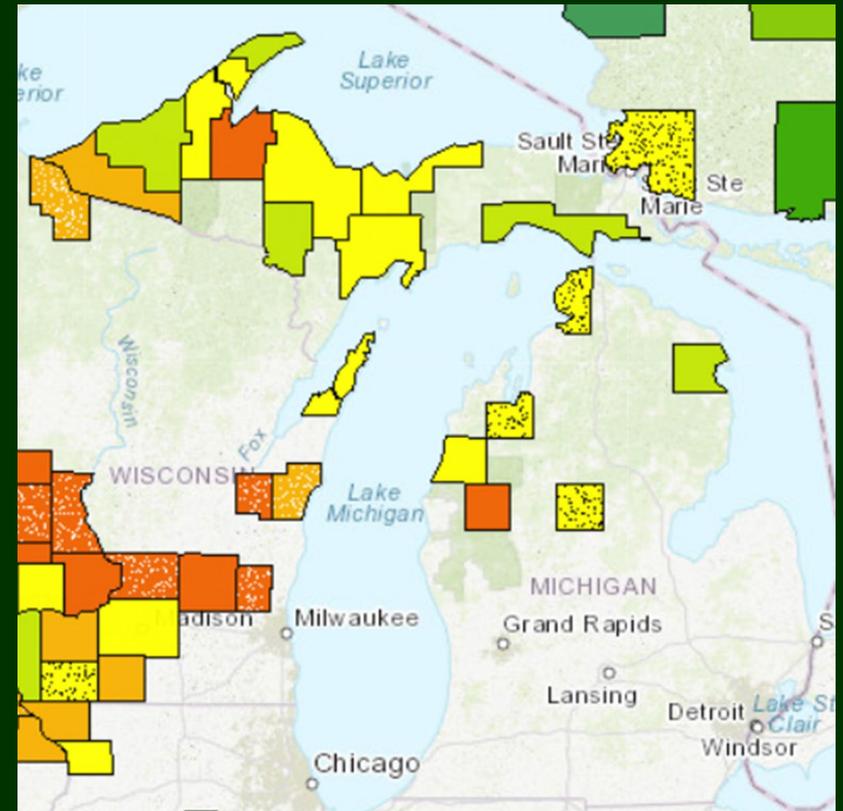
Impacts of WNS

- 90-100% mortality
- Cause of northern long-eared bat (NLEB), little brown bat and tri-colored bat declines
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed the NLEB as a threatened species



WNS in Michigan

- Michigan in 7th year of infection
- All hibernacula have presence of WNS
- Bats provide farmers 3.7 billion dollars of pest control services annually



WNS Impacts in Michigan

- 34 hibernacula surveyed in 2019/2020
- Survey data indicate 89% decline of the sites surveyed post-WNS infection
- Colder hibernacula continue to have higher survival



MI DNR Combating WNS

- Statewide bat monitoring
 - Disease
 - Acoustic
- Protect critical hibernacula
- WNS treatment trials
- Outreach/ education
- Bat Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)



Hibernacula Climate Manipulation

- Reduce internal temperatures to 36-38 degrees F



Outreach/ Education

- MI Bat Festival
- Programs



Lake States HCP

- MI, WI, MN
- Necessary to obtain incidental take permit
- Protection from litigation for forestry management practices while providing habitat conservation for federally listed species



Lake States HCP

- Ongoing Activities

- Reviewing stakeholder comments
- Early 2021 plan to have a draft to USFWS

- Completed Activities

- All chapters have been drafted
- Provided for stakeholder review



Thank you!

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