



Photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Washington Bats Need Your Help!

A devastating bat disease called White-Nose Syndrome is now in Washington

Report Your Bat Sightings

- **If you find sick/dead bats or a group of live bats, report your observation** to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at wdfw.wa.gov/bats or **(360) 902-2515**.
- **Do not attempt to handle a live bat.** If you find a sick or injured bat, report it to WDFW and visit wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/health/rehabilitation to find a wildlife rehabilitation center near you.
- **Never handle a dead bat with your bare hands.** If you must touch a dead bat, wear durable gloves for protection.

What is White-Nose Syndrome?

- White-Nose Syndrome is a fungal disease that has killed millions of bats in eastern North America.
- The disease has been confirmed in 29 states and five Canadian provinces since it was first documented in New York in 2006.
- In March 2016, the first case of the disease was confirmed in Washington.
- White-Nose Syndrome does not pose a threat to humans, pets or other animals.

How does White-Nose Syndrome affect bats?

- The fungus can grow on the nose, wings and ears of an infected bat during winter hibernation, giving it a white, fuzzy appearance. After bats wake from hibernation, this fuzzy white appearance goes away.
- Even though the fungus may not be visible, it invades and damages deep skin tissues. Infected bats arouse more often during hibernation which causes them to use crucial fat reserves, leading to possible starvation and death.
- Infected bats may also die from wing damage, inability to regulate body temperature, breathing disruptions, and dehydration.

For more information please visit: wdfw.wa.gov/bats

How you can help

- **Whenever possible, avoid entering areas where bats may live** to limit potential of spreading disease and disturbance of roosting bats.
- **If you come into contact with crevices in rock cliffs, talus areas, caves or mines, please clean your gear.** If possible use the decontamination guidelines at www.whitenosesyndrome.org.
- **Improve bat habitats.** Reduce lighting around your home, minimize tree clearing, and protect streams and wetlands. For more information on living with bats, and instructions for how to build a bat house, visit: wdfw.wa.gov/living/bats.html



Little brown bat found in western Washington in March 2016. The fungus damaged the bat's wings making it unable to fly.

Photo: Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)

