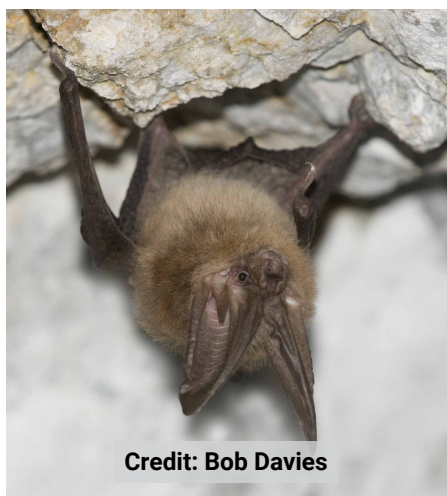




# Climbers, cliff walls, and bat roosts

A WDFW wildlife diversity grant project

Bats are phenomenal creatures that can fly and roost in inaccessible places. Unfortunately, these amazing animals are declining drastically because of a new disease called white-nose syndrome. To combat this disease and learn more about bats, knowing where bats roost is crucial. Rock climbers can provide new insights into bat ecology and roosting choices because they can observe bats roosting in cliff walls while climbing. This project partners with rock climbers to identify unknown bat populations and learn where bats may roost. This collaboration will produce new data on where Washington's bats are roosting and help prioritize conservation efforts.



Credit: Bob Davies

**Project name:** Identifying populations and cliff habitat for rare bat species of Washington

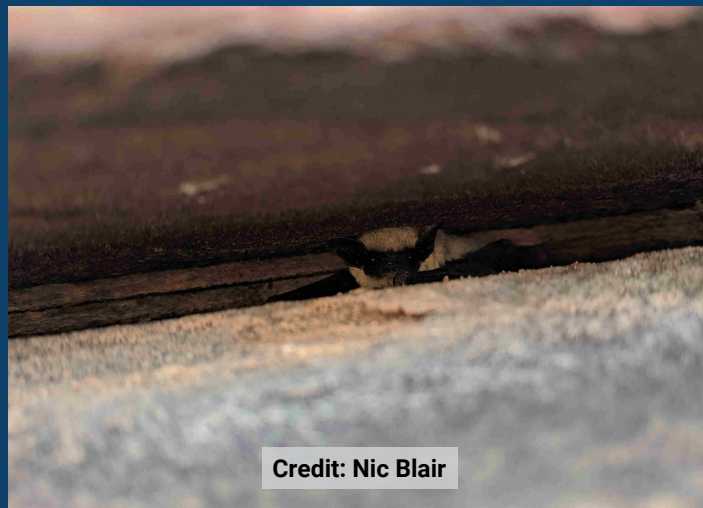
**Primary species benefitting:** Townsend's big-eared and myotis bats

**Grant total:** \$24,547

**Grantee & associated entity:** Dr. Shawn Davis, Climbers for Bat Conservation

**Webpage:** [climbersforbats.colostate.edu](http://climbersforbats.colostate.edu)

This project gives biologists and land managers new information on where to focus bat conservation. Because bats are so elusive and live in hard-to-reach locations, it is hard to know where or how to conserve populations. This project is a collaboration that facilitates conservation by uncovering new data and engaging a group of community scientists to provide data in the future. As Climbers for Bat Conservation meets with climbers, they will empower recreationists to make valuable contributions to bat conservation.



Credit: Nic Blair





Credit: Climbers for Bat Conservation

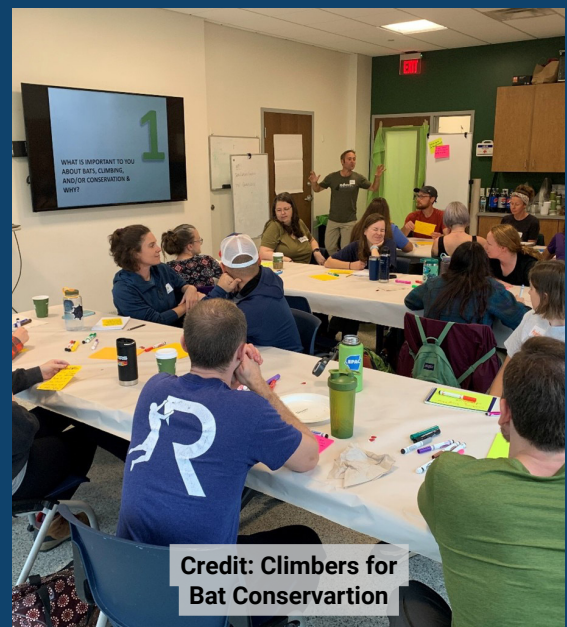
## Project goals and outcomes

- Engage a group of community scientists to collect data on where bats roost in Washington.
- Increase known records of where bats are roosting in Washington.
- Create an ongoing collaboration among climbers and biologists that increases awareness of bats and bat conservation needs.

## Unique collaboration informs conservation efforts

Many climbers do not know that they have unique insights on where bats roost and how they can contribute to bat conservation. This project will facilitate meetings with climbers, bat biologists, and land managers to get them engaged and working together for bat conservation.

New data on where bats are roosting in Washington can help WDFW prioritize conservation efforts and actions. This project will further connect land managers, bat biologists, and climbers in a collaborative relationship for further conservation efforts.



Credit: Climbers for Bat Conservation

This project was funded by WDFW through the [Wildlife Diversity Grant Program](#).

Request this information in an alternative format or language at [wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation](https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation), 833-885-1012, TTY (711), or [CivilRightsTeam@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:CivilRightsTeam@dfw.wa.gov).

March  
2025