

# Help Researchers Protect BC Bats

Report Bat Observations to Help Detect and Prevent  
the Spread of White-Nose Syndrome (WNS)

## What is WNS?

a fungal disease harmless to humans, but devastating to bats, now in Washington > 100 km from the BC border and in Southern Alberta

WNS causes bats to wake from hibernation, using limited fat reserves leading to death from hypothermia and starvation

millions of bats killed, with over 90% decline in some species

Little Brown Myotis & Northern Myotis are now **Endangered** under the Federal Species at Risk Act



## We Need Bats

As a key predator for many night-flying insects, bats are an essential part of BC's ecosystems. They provide billions of dollars in economic benefits to North America by helping control agricultural, forest, and urban pests.

## and Bats Need Us

WNS has spread to 8 provinces and 38 states, and arrival in BC is imminent. Detecting the disease in BC is challenging as our bats hibernate alone, or in small groups across the province.

Public reporting increases our understanding of how WNS will spread and affect local bat populations. Your reports will help us respond to this wildlife health crisis.



# How You Can Help

## Stop the Spread of WNS

### Report Bat Observations

#### What?

- dead bats
- sick bats
- winter activity
- unusual behaviour



#### Who?

### The BC Community Bat Program

1-855-922-2287 EXT. 23

info@bcbats.ca

[learn more at bcbats.ca](http://bcbats.ca)

#### When?

The fungus that causes WNS thrives in cold temperatures, which is why bats are at risk while hibernating. Report all observations between **Nov 1st and May 31st**

#### Where?

**anywhere in BC**  
especially South near the United States border



## If you find a bat...

Healthy bats are occasionally active in winter, and some even choose to hibernate in woodpiles or under house trim. These sleeping bats should be left alone - keep your distance, snap a photo and report it to the BC Community Bat Program.

If you must move a bat, visit [bcbats.ca](http://bcbats.ca) for advice, and remember- NEVER touch a bat with your bare hands.

Please note that if you or your pet has been in direct contact with the bat, consult a doctor for further information regarding the risk of rabies.

## Collecting Dead Bats

Dead bats can be examined for signs of WNS.

- collect the bat without touching- NEVER touch a bat with your bare hands
- wrap it with paper towel and place in a ziploc bag
- label with the date, your contact info, and address
- Contact the BC Community Bat Program immediately
- Refrigerate the specimen or freeze if it will be longer than 48 hours before the bat is picked up

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:  
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 Environment and Climate Change Canada    Environnement et Changement climatique Canada



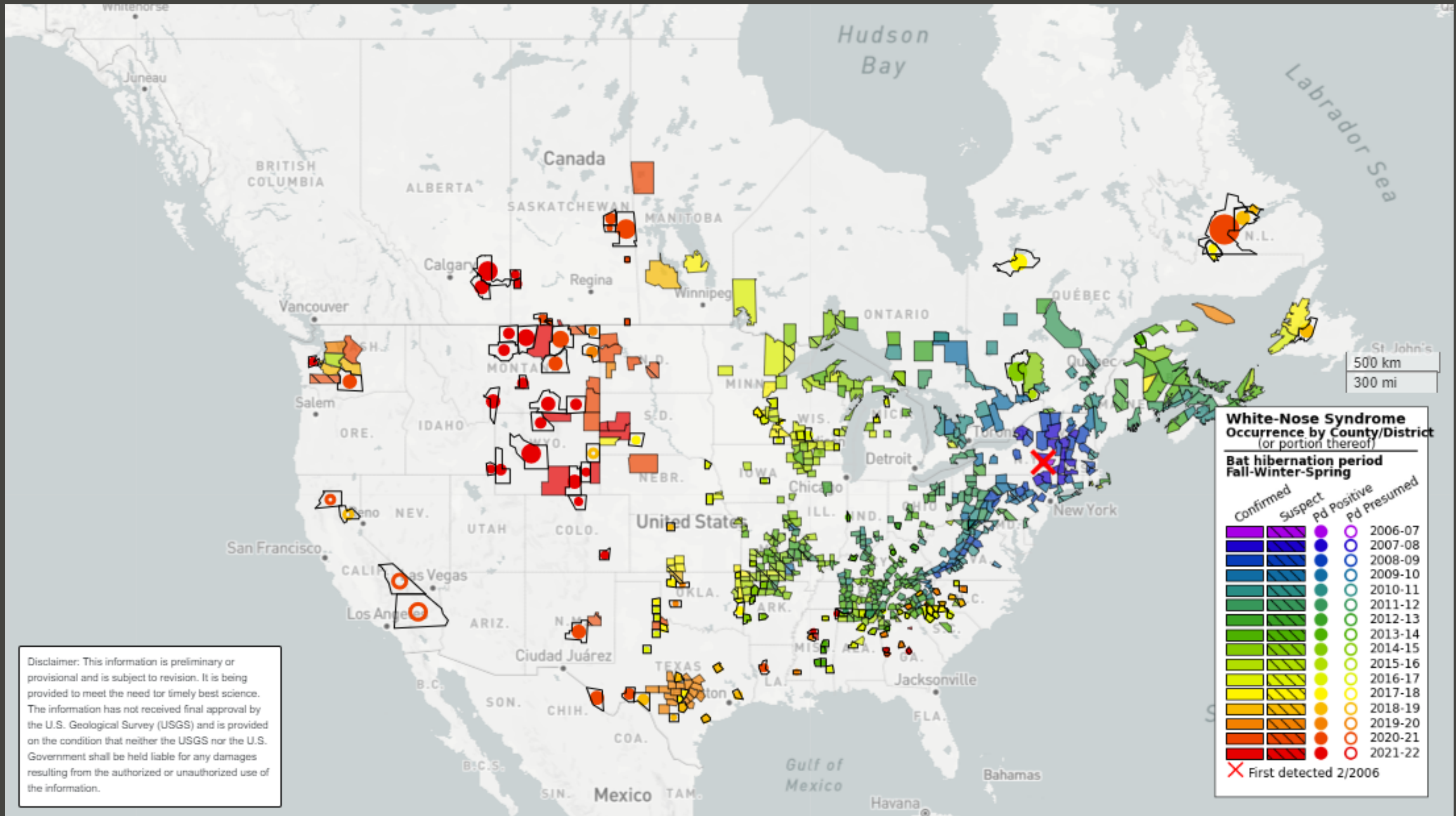
Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia





# Where is WNS?

## Track the Spread



White-nose syndrome occurrence map – by year (2023)  
Available at [www.whitenosesyndrome.org/where-is-wns](http://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/where-is-wns)



## Stay Connected

The BC Community Bat Program provides information and promotes local stewardship and citizen science in partnership with the BC Ministry of Environment, and is funded by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Forest Enhancement Society of BC, Habitat Stewardship Program, and local sponsors.

Learn more about the BC Community Bat Program and options for helping local bat populations at

[www.bcbats.ca](http://www.bcbats.ca) | [info@bcbats.ca](mailto:info@bcbats.ca)  
1-855-922-2287 (1-855-GOT-BATS)

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