

2009 White-nose Syndrome Symposium Summary

On August 11-13, 2009, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hosted a White-nose Syndrome (WNS) Symposium in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Seventy-two people, representing 33 nationwide partners from the Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, state natural resource agencies, Canadian agencies, universities, and non-governmental organizations, participated in the event. The overall goal of the symposium was to advance WNS research and management through communication, facilitated discussion and collaboration. The main objectives of the meeting were to update the WNS community on current research and management being conducted and planned; to develop the framework for a surveillance plan for WNS to be implemented this coming fall season; to identify new strategies and improve existing plans for WNS management, research, and outreach; to expand participation and collaboration, especially with those researchers/biologists working in the leading edge and unaffected states. There were several presentations on the first day, but the majority of time was spent in breakout sessions designed to accomplish specific tasks to move the investigation forward.