

White-nose syndrome remains a high priority for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Language in the Service's [Budget Justifications to Congress](#) for fiscal year 2011 (beginning Oct. 1, 2010) may give the erroneous impression that the Service will no longer fund the WNS investigation after Sept. 30, 2010.

The Senate's version of the Department of the Interior appropriations bill for FY 2010 originally earmarked\* \$500,000 for WNS work. However, on Oct. 30, 2009, Congress passed a bill raising that earmark to \$1.9 million, and President Obama signed the bill into law the same day.

Prior to receiving the \$1.9 million for FY 2010, the Service spent \$3.2 million on WNS in FY 2007 to FY 2009, and we will continue to fund WNS work in FY 2011 with funds appropriated for endangered species recovery.

The Service is diligently working in concert with other federal agencies, states and other organizations to address the threat of WNS. Ongoing efforts include research, surveillance and monitoring, testing of treatment and control measures, and captive propagation. In addition, the Service is leading the development of a national plan to assist states, federal agencies and tribes in managing WNS.

With responsibilities for protecting the six endangered bat species found in the contiguous United States, the Service will continue to consider WNS a priority as long as it continues to be a threat.

\*Earmarks direct funds to be spent on specific projects, e.g., the WNS investigation.