

NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

PROPOSAL TO LIST AS ENDANGERED



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

www.fws.gov/species/northern-long-eared-bat-myotis-septentrionalis

AGENDA

- Meeting Ground Rules
- Presentation
- Question & Answer Session (~60 minutes)
- Public Comment Session (60 minutes)
- Closing Remarks



MEETING GROUND RULES

1. The meeting is being recorded; and will be posted to the USFWS website.
2. Microphones and videos of participants will be automatically muted for the duration of the meeting unless the moderator unmutes you during the Question-and-Answer session if you are a phone caller or during the verbal public hearing portion.
3. Questions will be addressed during the question-and-answer session at the end of the PowerPoint presentation.
4. Public comments can be provided after the question-and-answer session. Written comments can also be submitted through www.regulations.gov or via the mail



PURPOSE

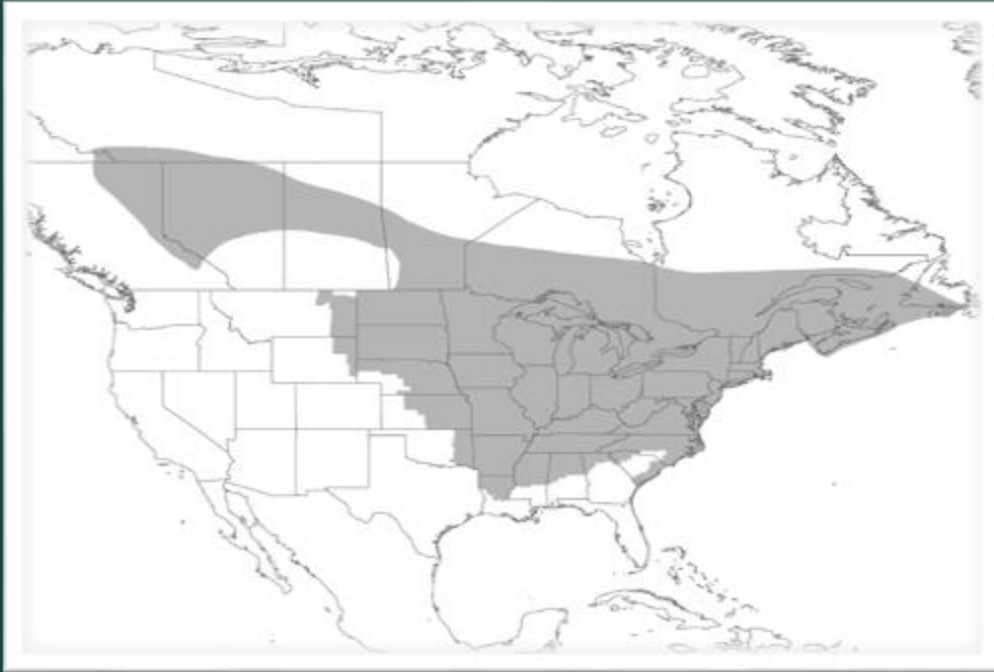
- Information sharing session to help partners and stakeholders understand the decision process and proposal
- Describe background and rationale
- Describe the Service's follow-up to the proposal
- Clarify opportunities for stakeholders and partners to provide comments and feedback



Photo by: Steve Thomas



NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT



TIMELINE



SPECIES STATUS ASSESSMENT PROCESS

- Requested data from states, tribes, researchers, others.
- Considered species' needs
- Evaluated threats
- Projected species' future abundance and distribution

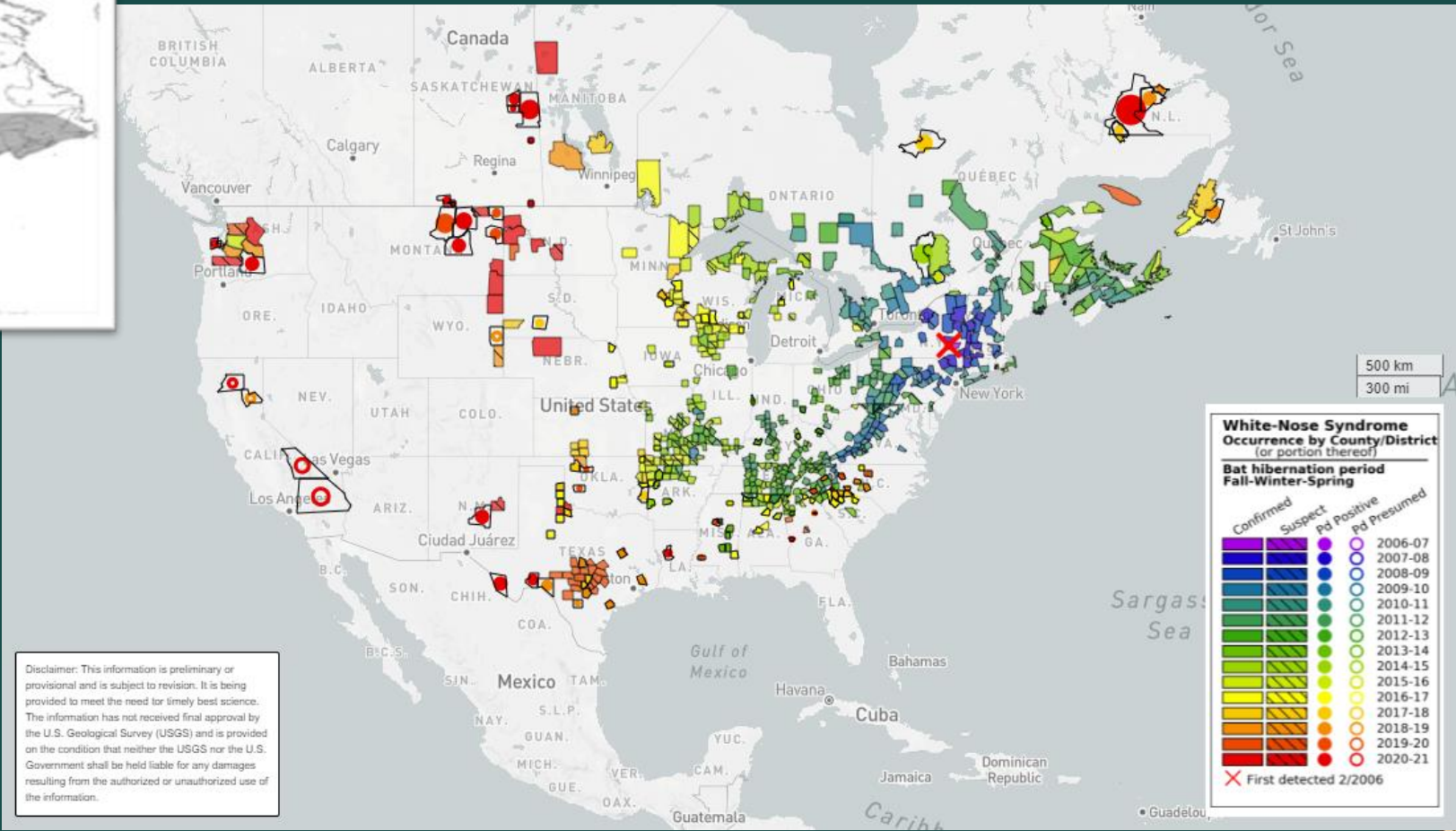
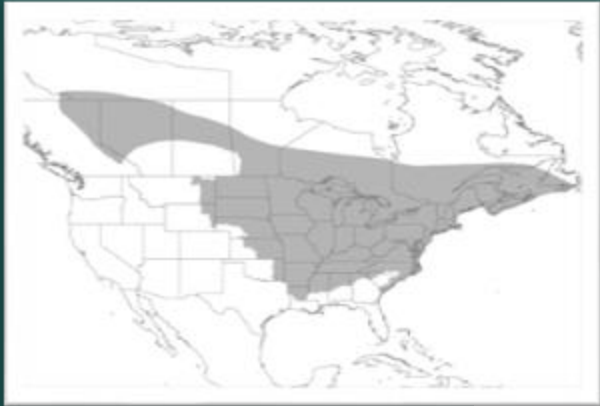


WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME (WNS) IS THE PRIMARY THREAT

- Kills bats during winter hibernation and in early spring
- An infectious disease caused by fungus (*Pd*) that thrives in cool, humid conditions
- Responsible for the deaths of millions of bats in eastern North America



WNS SPREAD – 2006 TO PRESENT



Disclaimer: This information is preliminary or provisional and is subject to revision. It is being provided to meet the need for timely best science. The information has not received final approval by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and is provided on the condition that neither the USGS nor the U.S. Government shall be held liable for any damages resulting from the authorized or unauthorized use of the information.



SPECIES STATUS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Declines of 97 to 100% in WNS-affected northern long-eared bat populations
- Significant downward trend in abundance and distribution
- Continued declines expected across the range



ONGOING CONSERVATION NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT

- WNS National Plan
- Wind energy – efforts to reduce and avoid mortality
- Work collaboratively to monitor bat populations and share survey data
- North American Bat Monitoring Program



TACKLING WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

- WNS National Plan: framework for collaboration and coordination with 150+ partners in US.
- Support research and development of management strategies through annual grant programs
- More than \$46 million to states, tribes, federal agencies, research institutions and NGOs



WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME
R E S P O N S E T E A M



TACKLING WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME

- Fungus present in a large part of North America and expected to continue to spread
- Solution is not a single cure, but a multi-faceted approach
- Suite of tools in development



Steve Taylor/University of Illinois (CC BY 2.0)



OTHER STRESSORS

- Wind energy-related mortality
- Habitat loss
- Climate change



Photo by: Al Hicks



LOOKING AHEAD: CONSERVATION TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

- Focus on surviving bat populations, protect sensitive life stages
- Use our experience with other endangered bats
- Use existing ESA tools to work with
 - federal partners like U.S. Forest Service and Federal Highways Adm.
 - states, tribes, private land managers
 - wind industry
- Streamline ESA processes



2022 CHANGES FOR PROJECT PROPONENTS

- If proposed listing action finalized, species-specific 4(d) rule removed
- How will proposed federal agency actions be affected?
 - Projects completed prior to December 2022
 - Still able to use 4(d) rule
 - No need for further consultation
 - Projects completed after December 2022 may require consultation or re-initiation



NEXT STEPS

- Public comment period
- Virtual public information meeting and hearing
- Gather additional information from state, tribal, and other partners
- Craft a conservation approach focused on surviving population
- Develop tools and guidance to assist partners and stakeholders
- Final decision by end of November 2022



SUBMIT COMMENTS

- Public comment period (60 days) – open through May 23, 2022

- Submit comments to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)

- By mail:

Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R3-ES-2021-0140,

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB/3W

5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

- Public hearing tonight
- For more information go to:

<https://www.fws.gov/species/northern-bat-myotis-septentrionalis>



INPUT FOR FUTURE COORDINATION



Steve Taylor/University of Illinois (CC BY 2.0)

Based on your experience:

- What tools have worked well with listed bats and other listed species?
- What tools, guidance, and clarification would be helpful moving forward?
- What questions and concerns do you have that we should consider?

You can email us with your questions at:
TwinCities@fws.gov

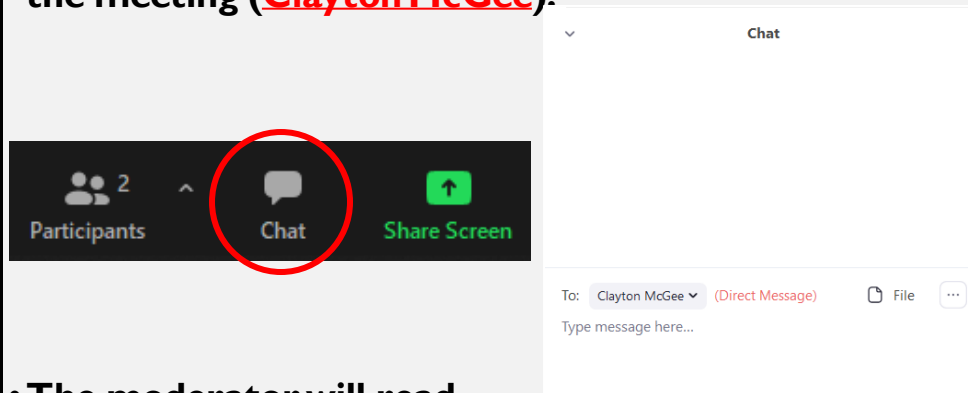
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QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION: INSTRUCTIONS

- Click on the “chat” icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen to write and send your question to the host of the meeting (**Clayton McGee**).



- The moderator will read questions aloud for all participants to hear and a **USFWS** staff member will respond to questions aloud.
- We will try to answer questions in the order they are received.



Using Your Phone

- Press ***9** to “raise your hand” to let staff know you have a question. The moderator will then unmute you so that you can ask your question.
- You can unmute yourself by pressing ***6** on your phone keypad.
- You will be identified by the last four digits of your phone number.



VERBAL PUBLIC HEARING: GROUND RULES

- The USFWS wants to hear from all members of the public. We will be using the following guidelines:
- Be mindful of the length of your comment, so that everyone can speak
- Please be respectful of others
- Refrain from profanity
- If guidelines are not followed, your microphone will be muted, and we will move to the next person.

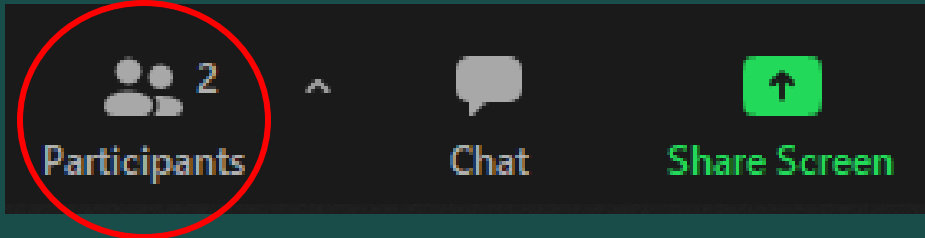


VERBAL PUBLIC HEARING: INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMENTERS

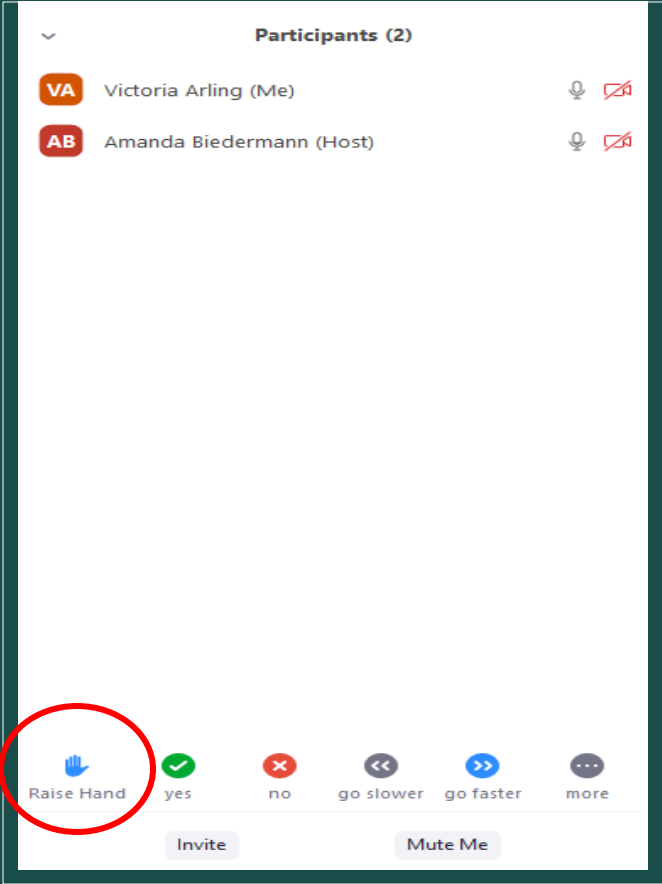
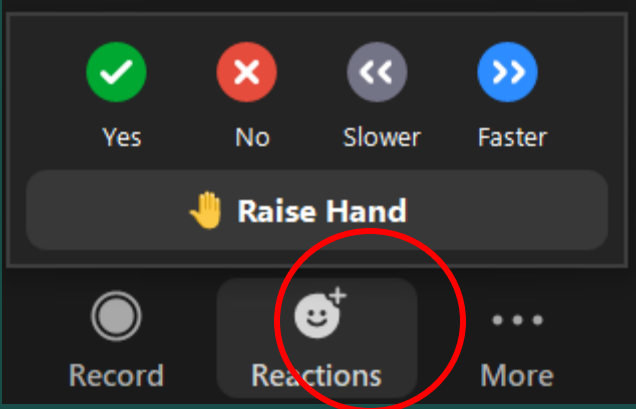
- Verbal public comments will be accepted in order of registration.
- When it is your turn, the moderator will call out your name and display your name on the screen.
- Use the “raise hand” feature at the bottom of your participants list or, if you are calling in through the phone, press *9 to “raise your hand.”
- The moderator will then unmute you.
- Please spell out your full first and last name for the record before you provide your comment.
- Your comment will be included in the project record



Zoom Participants Icon



Zoom Reactions Icon



To access the raise hand feature, click on the participants list icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen, then click on the raise hand button at the bottom of your participants list. If you are calling in using your phone, press *9 on your keypad.

*If you are unable to offer or complete your verbal public comment during the meeting today, the USFWS encourages you to submit your comment in writing through the *Federal Register*.

Current Commenter:

Next Commenter:

If you are having issues with your computer microphone, please dial in to the meeting: **Phone: 346 248 7799;**
Webinar ID: 876 5396 5341



THANK YOU FOR JOINING

- Public comment period (60 days) - now through May 23, 2022
 - Submit comments to www.regulations.gov or Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R3-ES-2021-0140, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB/3W, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803
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