



Northern Long-eared Bats and Forestry in North Carolina

White-nose Syndrome Facts

- ▶ White-nose Syndrome (WNS) is a fungal disease from Eurasia that originally was detected in a cave in New York state in 2006
- ▶ Causes bats to wake from itching and they starve to death when they normally sleep all winter
- ▶ Now occurs in 37 states and all Canadian Provinces out to British Columbia in North America
- ▶ Northern long-eared bat populations have declined 97-100%
- ▶ WNS showed up in western NC around 2012, 6 years after it was initially discovered in New York.
- ▶ Prior to WNS, Northern long-eared bats were very common in western North Carolina
- ▶ Other local bat species with severe declines are: Indiana bat, little brown bat, and tri-colored bat

Endangered Species Act Uplisting

Northern long-eared bat
Endangered status becomes
official March 31st



What will this designation
mean for foresters in
North Carolina???

Federal versus Private Issues

Lands with a Federal Nexus (Federal Lands Projects and Projects that receive federal dollars)

- ▶ A Bat Conservation Strategy is being developed for National Forests in eastern North America
- ▶ The BCS will have Conservation Measures to protect important habitat like roost trees and hibernacula

Private Lands

- ▶ Following State BMP's helps bats
- ▶ Try to avoid harvest during pup season - June 1 - July 31
- ▶ If you harvest during this period, try to leave live trees with crevices, holes, or large dead sections and try to leave snags with lots of bark left or snags with cavities (keeping in mind OSHA regulations)

Important links:

- This link to a bats and forestry article could be uploaded to your website

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.whitenosesyndrome.org%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7C3940004195e04356b9a608db25a11b1c%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C638145146109622124%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=TDlrBSi3Zode%2FtMUI4eOk3NnFzGwvWoNgDtUi%2BV%2FDk%3D&reserved=0>

- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Frequently Asked Questions

https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/FINAL.FWS_FAQs_NLEB%20final%20rule%20FAQs.11222022%20%281%29.pdf

