

White-nose Syndrome in Bats: National Park Service Perspective

Kevin T. Castle DVM, MS

Wildlife Health Program

Biological Resource Management Division

Natural Resource Stewardship and Science



NPS “Dual Mission”

Conserve unimpaired many of the world’s most magnificent landscapes, and natural and cultural resources.

NPS “Dual Mission”

Provide for the enjoyment of park resources and values by the people of the United States for this and future generations.



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

White-Nose Syndrome Impacts



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Caves and Mines in NPS Units

- 85 Units with caves
- 4,000 Caves
- 126 Units with mines
- 3,100 Mines



Carlsbad Caverns NP

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Impacts on Natural Resources and Ecosystem Functions



Impacts on Cave Users

- Visitors
 - Tours
 - Cavers
- Researchers
- Education
- Maintenance



Carlsbad Caverns NP



- Associated Economic Impacts



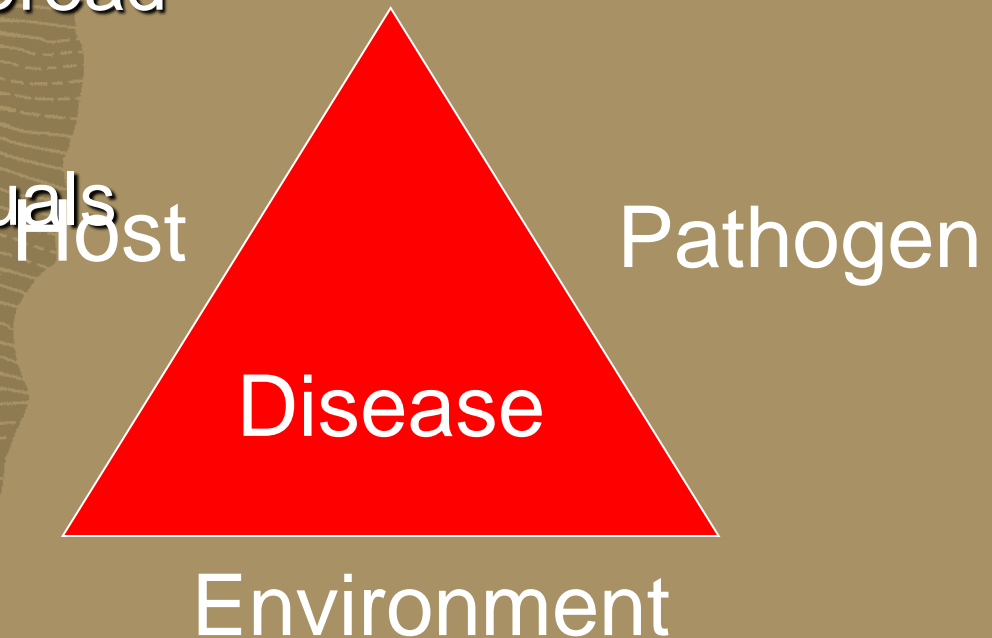
Gary Berdeaux



Carlsbad Caverns NP

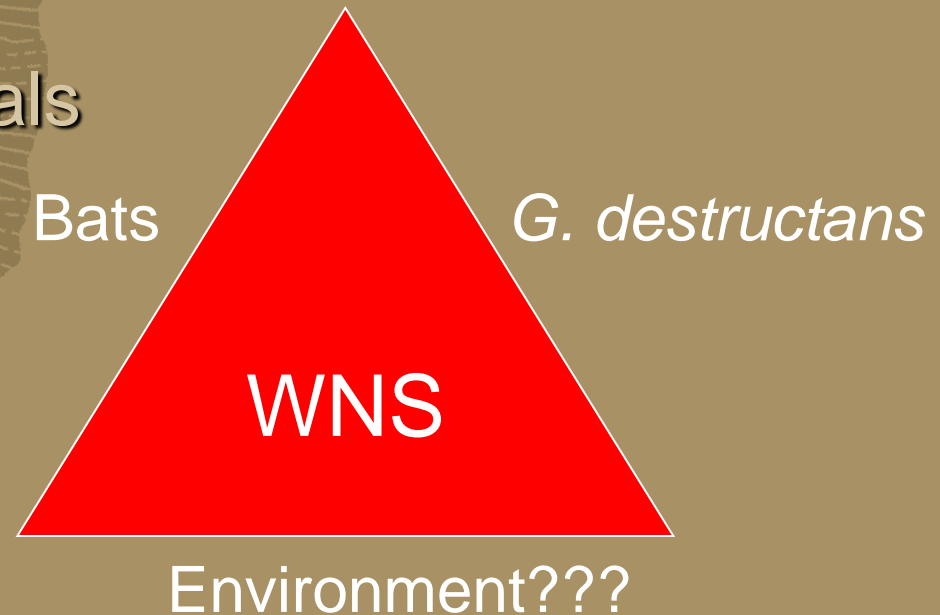
Potential NPS Actions vs. Wildlife Disease

- PREVENTION
 - Education
- Contain, minimize spread
- Control
- Treatment of individuals
- Eradication
- Vaccination



Potential Actions vs. Wildlife Disease

- PREVENTION
- Contain, minimize spread
- Control
- Treatment of individuals
- Eradication
- Vaccination

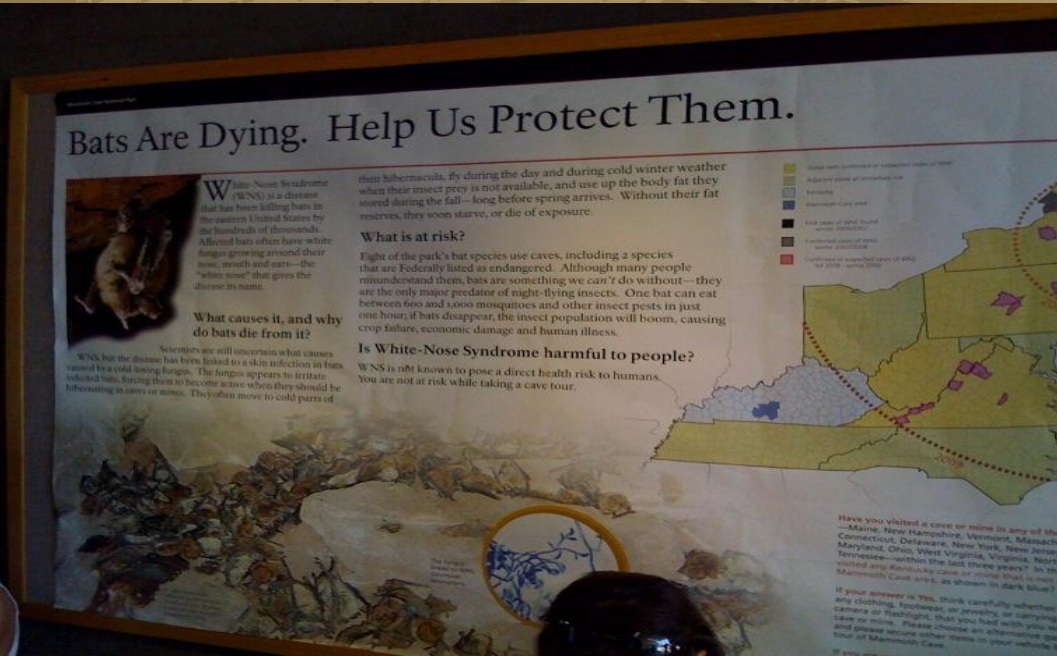


What National Park Service is Doing

- Control Cave Access (Prior to WNS)
 - FCRPA & NPS Policy 2006
 - Caves significant, permit needed
- 2010 Deputy Director's Guidance Document
 - Servicewide guidance
 - Cave access
 - Visitor screening
 - Disinfection (In and Out)
 - Education, Education, Education!
- Abandoned Mineral Lands
- NPS National Working Group

Mammoth Cave National Park

- WNS Education and Outreach Program
 - Develop visitor understanding of WNS
 - Contain the spread of WNS
 - Foster active stewardship by visitors





Lava Beds



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

NPS WNS/Bat Research

Abbreviations for National Park System Areas

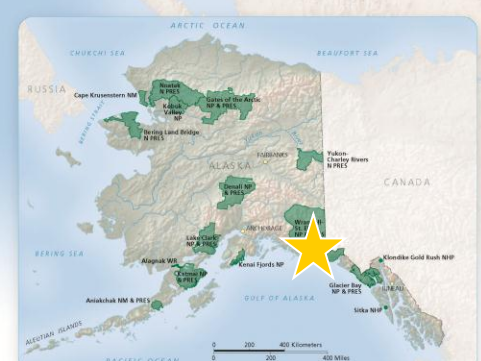
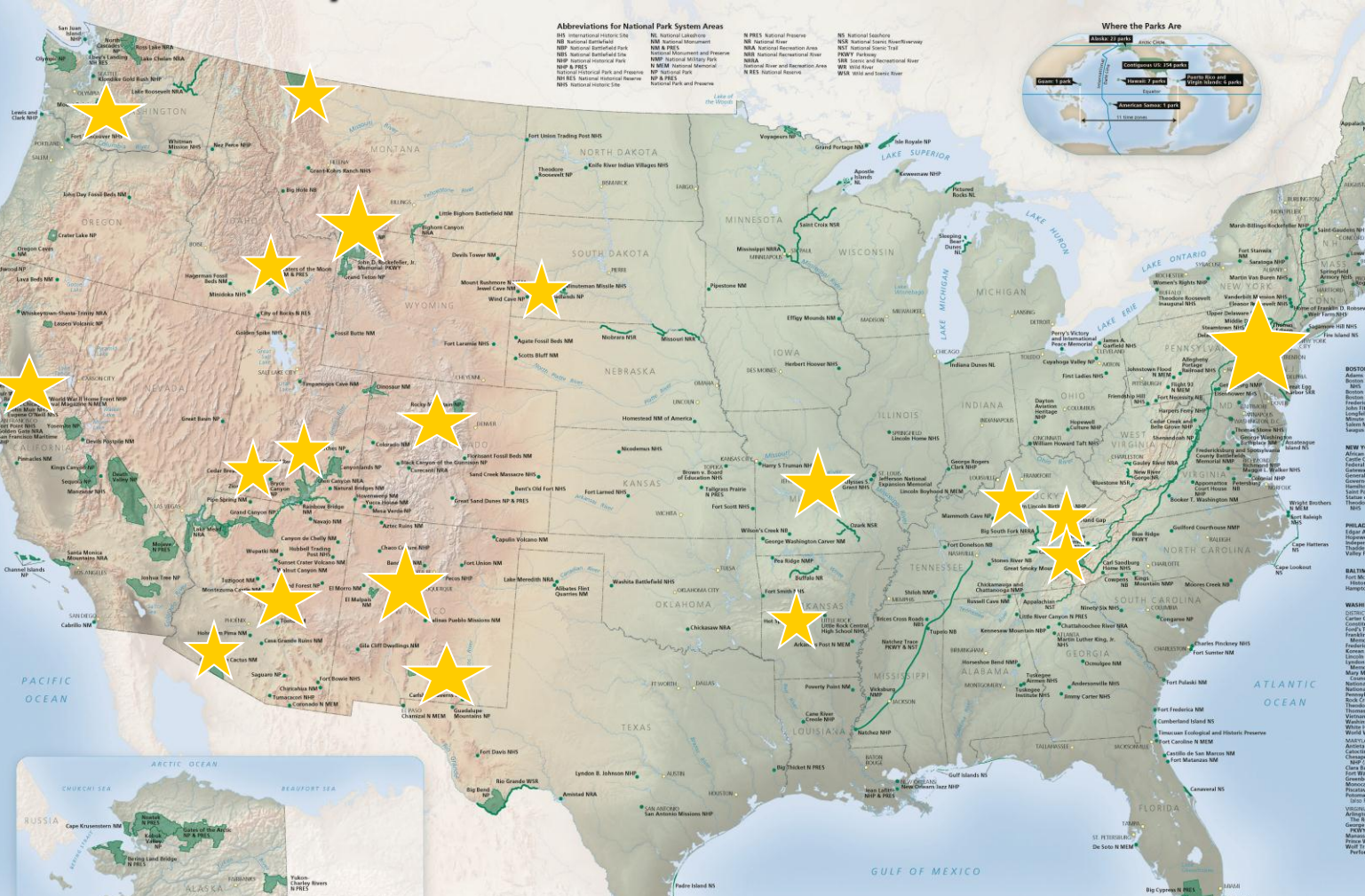
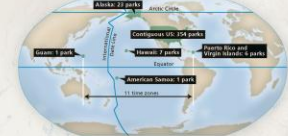
IA International Historic Site
NM National Monument
NHP National Historical Park
NPP National Preserve
NPS National Park
NRE National Recreation Area
NRS National Research Site
NUE National Wilderness Area
NWR National Wildlife Refuge

NP National Park
NPP National Preserve
NRA National Recreation Area
NRE National Research Site
NRS National Research Site
NUE National Wilderness Area
NWR National Wildlife Refuge

NR National Natural Preserve
NRA National Recreation Area
NRE National Research Site
NRS National Research Site
NUE National Wilderness Area
NWR National Wildlife Refuge

NH National Historic Site
NPP National Preserve
NRA National Recreation Area
NRE National Research Site
NRS National Research Site
NUE National Wilderness Area
NWR National Wildlife Refuge

Where the Parks Are



Scale for all areas except Alaska
0 100 200 Miles

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

NPS and Partners

- Collaborating on state response plans
 - New Mexico
 - Idaho
- Working with federal, state, and other partners to establish and implement National Plan
 - Executive Committee
 - Steering Committee
 - Coordination, Working Groups
- Providing input to Congressional hearings/briefings

Take-Home

- Recognize that the primary NPS goal is **resource protection**
 - Education
 - Minimizing potential spread by visitors
- Where access is allowed, and visitors can be screened, NPS caves are open
 - Parks are screening consistently
 - Decontamination protocols
- Parks should conduct monitoring/surveillance in a scientifically sound manner

The Vision: NPS Contributes to a National Monitoring Network

