

# Response Planning for White-nose Syndrome: Trying to Stay Ahead of the Storm

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# Who we are...

## Legislative Directive (C.R.S. 33-1-101 (1))

It is the policy of the state of Colorado that the wildlife and their environment are to be protected, preserved, enhanced, and managed for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of this state and its visitors...

- Governor
  - Department of Natural Resources
    - Colorado Parks and Wildlife

# Wildlife Conservation and CPW

- Multi-faceted approach to conserving species
  - Species protection vs. Habitat protection
  - Proactive work vs. Reactive work
  - Private lands & Public lands

All work is within the limits of staffing and budget as set forth by the legislature.

# Colorado Bats and WNS

- WNS has not been found in Colorado to date
- 3 species native to Colorado have been infected with WNS in the East
  - Little Brown Bat
  - Big Brown Bat
  - Tri-colored Bat
- Other *Myotis* species may be vulnerable, which would include another 6 Colorado species
- 13 bat species rely on cave/mine habitats in Colorado

# WNS Response Plan

- Purpose: “to describe the Colorado Division of Wildlife’s (Division) conservation and disease management actions to minimize the spread of white-nose syndrome (WNS) to bats in Colorado. ”
- “Collaborate with partners including federal agencies, tribal authorities, Colorado recreational caving organizations, private landowners, and the general public to manage the threat that WNS poses to native bat populations in Colorado. ”

# WNS Response Plan

- Coordination and Outreach
  - Internal Coordination between Terrestrial Section and Wildlife Health Program
    - Scientific Collection Permits
    - Bat Rehabilitation Permits
  - Serve as clearing house for WNS reports and samples
  - Develop Education and Outreach materials
  - WNS Working Group

# WNS Response Plan

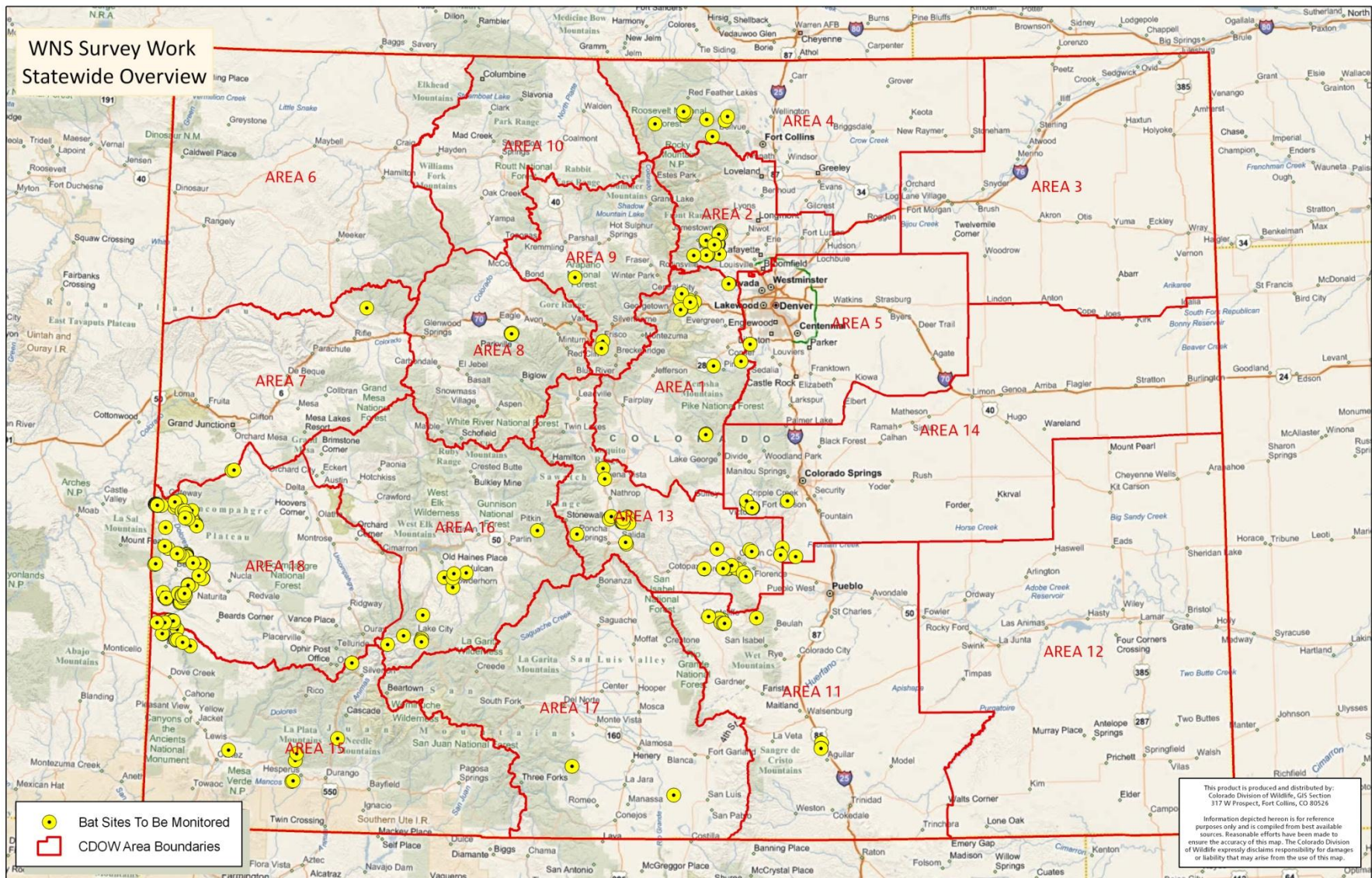
- Monitoring and Surveillance
  - Develop Surveillance and Monitoring Plan
  - Identify Priority Sites for monitoring
  - 3 types of survey effort
    - High Priority Sites
    - Coordinated (other agencies and AML work)
    - Public Reporting
  - Coordinate with other agencies on surveillance
    - Land Management Agencies
    - Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
    - Municipal Animal Control



# WNS Response Plan

- Priority Sites
  - Distance to Oklahoma Site
  - Bat-to-bat transmission risk (if known)
  - Significance of Cave/Mine to native bats
- Over 300 sites identified for 2011



# WNS Survey Work Statewide Overview



-  Bat Sites To Be Monitored
-  CDOW Area Boundaries

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# Plan Implementation

- Developed Surveillance and Monitoring Plan for 2011
- Coordinating with Federal Agencies to develop a risk assessment for Colorado watersheds
- Coordinating with CDPHE to receive dead bats
- Providing public outreach and education on bats and WNS

# Surveillance and Monitoring

- As of 6/1/11
  - 2 new Townsend's Big-eared Bat hibernacula located
  - Acoustic detectors deployed at ~25 sites
    - Data processing still on-going
    - >3,500 bat calls identified
  - Over 100 sites received external surveys
  - 4 dead bats received from public reports

**No signs of WNS during any of this work**

# So now what...

- Winter 2011/2012 Surveillance and Monitoring Plans
- Implement Microclimate Monitoring
- Update Plan
- Update Website
- Increase Public Outreach and Education
- Wait...