

## White Nose subcommittee Conference Call Notes for October 15, 2009

Participants: Eric Britzke, Darek Hall, Katie Miller, Pat Ormsbee, Scott Osborn, Toni Piaggio, Diane Probasco, Ella Rowan

### 1. Discussion on the WBWG BoD call on WNS.

Most of the call focused on the summer protocol, what worked and did not work.

There was discussion that some states do not require the protocol and why.

The main issue is that the protocol is not viewed as effective against the spread of WNS.

There is hope that the existing decontamination protocol will improve with input.

The reality is that mist-netting will probably be stopped without an effective protocol and that there will be real resistance to that.

We discussed whether WBWG should improve the protocol or have each state revise it. Pat suggested that we wait until we have results from the winter decontamination work.

It was noted that extra precautions may be misplaced because the risk to WNS is low in some western states.

Everyone is interested in having Pat talk to each state's WNS group.

The bottom line is that the protocol will change and that it will be a real change in how we operate as biologists.

Eric discussed the east coast perspective on the protocol and stated that there is a concern that the decontamination protocol doesn't stop intranight transmission. He stated that no mist-netting is likely to occur in several eastern states.

There is already no harp trapping in fall in the east.

We will likely see a decrease in bat-biologist contact in coming years.

Bat to bat contact may cause WNS to reach western states in just a few years.

### 2. National Plan

There is a draft National Plan in the works. There is a writing team and a steering committee. Pat is on the steering committee.

They are developing a document on survey and monitoring, which will likely be out soon for the East and Midwest; some of these protocols will apply to the West.

There is a need for a specific protocol for genetic testing, as this is not in the survey document, but will be in the National Plan.

### 3. Diane's WNS signs

Diane stated that once edits are in, she will give them to the WBWG BoD, and then incorporate their feedback.

A discussion ensued on whether humans are "likely" or "may" to spread the disease. Will "likely" alienate some of our stakeholders (i.e. grottos)?

We hope for compliance from the cavers.

Do we want to send the signs to western cave groups for their input?

To Do: do edits from the committee, then cavers (get feedback by end of the week), then BoD.

#### 4. Setting Western Priorities

We need to investigate the development of a method to ask assistance to prioritize sites to be surveyed/monitored in the west.

This subcommittee will work on criteria for prioritization. We can use other documents as a template and ID dates for surveys.

We will ask state reps to come up with surveillance sites.

A discussion on what kind of time/effort we are looking at ensued. Probably, a couple of visits/winter for the top 3 sites/state. This conflicts with the COTO recommendations, but it is decided that the benefit outweighs the risk.

Myotis is the target for now because it manifests itself primarily in Myotis species back east.

In the east, surveys occur in December, and then in March, which is a shift from our normal procedures.

Western priorities are the Western-Midwestern interface and the urban centers on the coast (Salt Lake City, Boise, Las Vegas, Sacramento).

Then, we can select the highest priorities across the west.

We still have the Action Plan to work on. Toni and Pat have been diligently doing their best, but we all know how busy they are.

This completed the conference call. Another date has not yet been established. We will likely wait until after the holidays.