

Lake States Forestry Management HCP

November
13, 2019

National HCP Coalition
Annual Meeting

Shawna Barry,
Manager
Conservation Planning
and Implementation

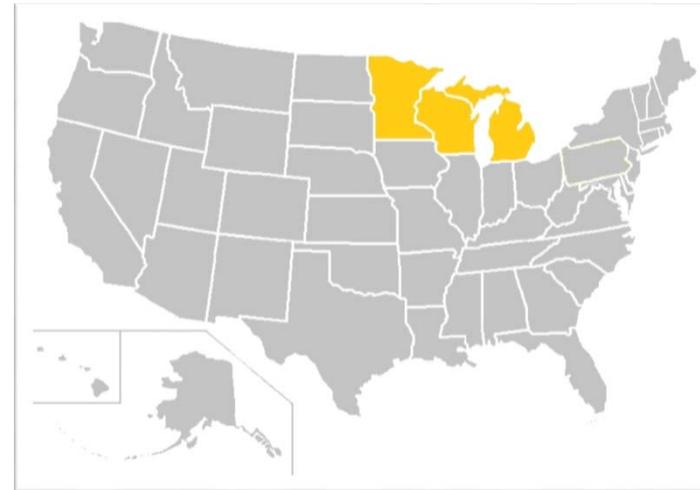


Project Proponent



- **Steering Committee:**

- Michigan DNR
- Minnesota DNR
- Wisconsin DNR



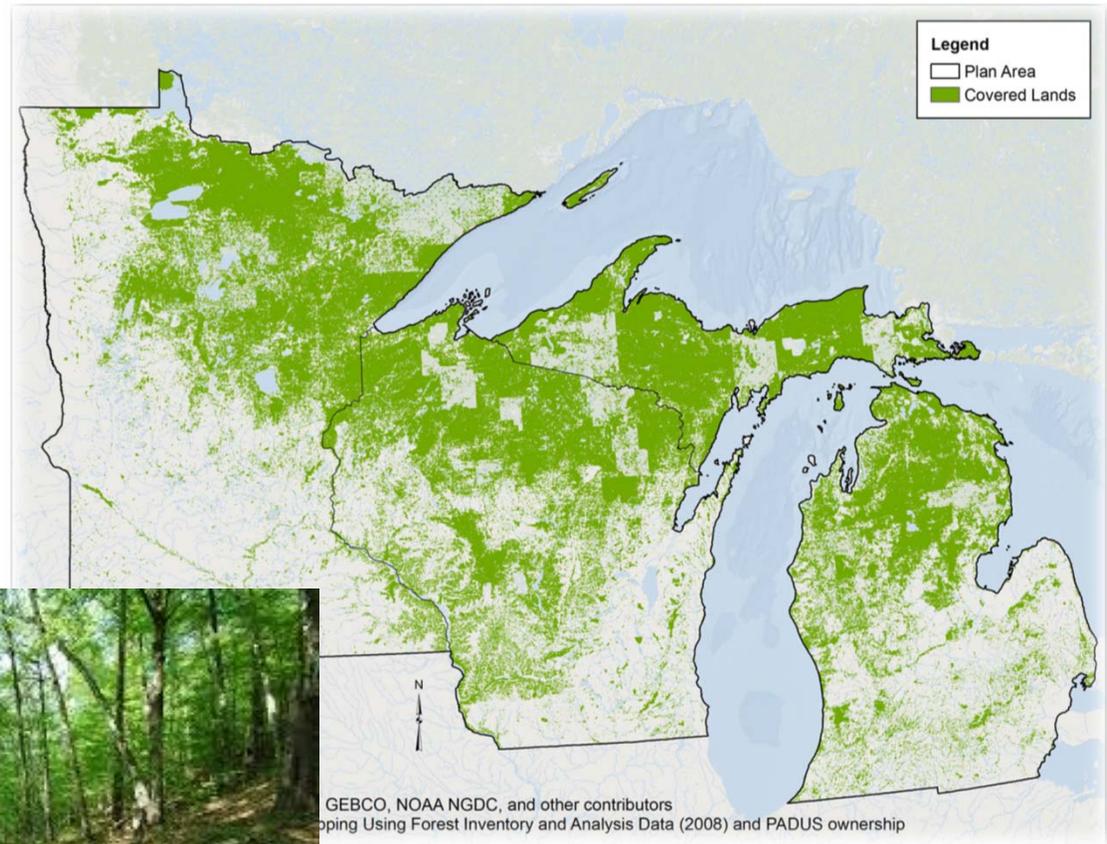
- Each state represented by:

- Forester
- Wildlife biologist



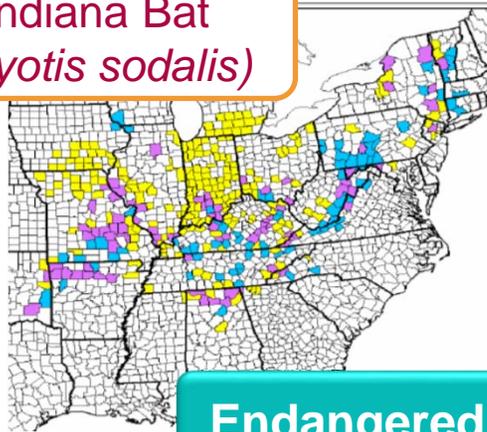
Covered Lands

- **Plan area** includes the States of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin
- **Covered lands** include 46.7 million acres of forested nonfederal land in the Lake States



Covered Species

Indiana Bat
(*Myotis sodalis*)



Endangered

Northern Long-Eared Bat
(*Myotis septentrionalis*)



Threatened with 4(d)
Rule

Little Brown Bat
(*Myotis lucifugus*)



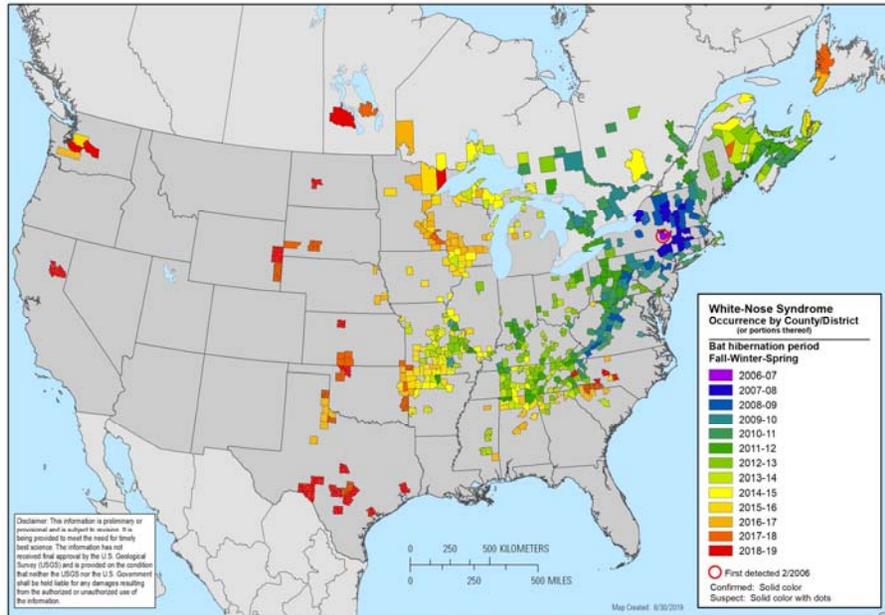
Status Review

Tricolored Bat
(*Perimyotis subflavus*)



Status Review

Why Address Bats?



Citation: White-nose syndrome occurrence map - by year (2019). Data Last Updated: 8/30/2019. Available at: <https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/static-page/wns-spread-maps>.

- White-nose syndrome discovered in New York State in 2006
- 90-100% declines in some infected caves
- Estimated 5.7 to 6.7 million bat deaths in North America from WNS
- Currently no deployable treatment



Covered Activities

- Timber harvest
- Road and trail construction, maintenance and use
- Prescribed fire
- Plan implementation



Project Status

Timeframe	Project Milestone
As of April 2019	USFWS comments received on the following chapters: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 1, <i>Introduction</i>• Chapter 2, <i>Covered Lands and Activities</i>• Chapter 3, <i>Environmental Setting</i>• Chapter 4, <i>Potential Effects of Covered Activities</i>• Chapter 5, <i>Conservation Program</i>
May 2019 – Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State DNRs adjudicating responses to USFWS comments on Chapter 5, <i>Conservation Program</i>• Data updates to Chapters 2 and 4
August 2019 – September 2019	Steering Committee review of Chapter 6, <i>Plan Implementation</i> and associated Landowner Enrollment Program Appendix
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• USFWS review of Chapter 6• Stakeholder review of Chapters 4 and 5



Project Challenges



Challenge 1: WNS Sucks.



- Meaningful mitigation difficult to identify
- Impact analysis must factor in population declines



Solutions:

- Focus on avoiding and minimizing impacts to roosts and hibernacula
- Take actions to maintain or increase the quality of bat habitat and promote WNS-survivorship

Challenge 2: Landowner Enrollment Program

- All State DNRs want to extend take coverage to nonfederal landowners
- Allowing all possible landowners to enroll would be both impractical for the DNRs and not meaningful for the species



Solution:

Land Ownership Sizes on Which Take of Covered Bats Is Reasonably Certain to Occur

Covered Species	Michigan	Minnesota	Wisconsin
Indiana bats	10,000 acres or more	Not applicable ^b	Not applicable ^b
Northern long-eared bats	10,000 acres or more	10,000 acres or more	10,000 acres or more
Little brown bats	500 acres or more	10,000 acres or more	500 acres or more
Tricolored bats	10,000 acres or more	10,000 acres or more	10,000 acres or more

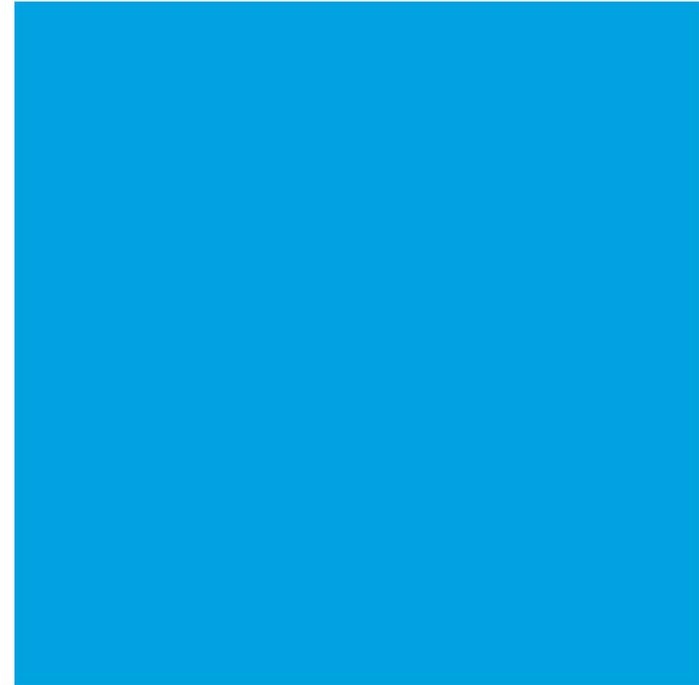
Challenge 3: All those Cooks in the Kitchen

- Each State brings a different perspective
- Changes in staff
- New opinions, new decisions



Solutions:

- Memorializing decisions with justification
- Comment resolution workshops
- State-specific meetings but full group consensus



Thank You!

