

Southern Appalachian Creature Feature Podcasts

Grants to combat white-nose syndrome

Greetings and welcome to the Southern Appalachian Creature Feature.

As the bat disease white nose syndrome continues to spread in the Southern Appalachians, the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service recently announced 1.4 million dollars to fund research into the disease and ways to control it. Funding for the grants was provided under the Endangered Species Act.

White-nose syndrome has killed more than 5.5 million bats in eastern North America and has spread rapidly across the United States and into Canada since it was first detected in 2006.

Funded projects include detailed studies of the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome; developing a better understanding of how white-nose syndrome is transmitted; determining the mechanics of the fungal infections, including the susceptibility and resistance of bats to infection; determining how persistent the fungus is in the environment; and identifying and developing non-chemical control options for treatment and prevention of the disease's spread.

White-nose syndrome has been confirmed in 19 states and four Canadian provinces at caves and mines where bats hibernate. Surveys of bat hibernation sites are wrapping up, but the disease is expected to continue to spread in the future.

Additional information about white-nose syndrome can be found on the new website, www.WhiteNoseSyndrome.org. The site contains the most up-to-date information and resources from partners working to counter white-nose syndrome, including current news, and links to social media.

For WNCW and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, this is Gary Peebles.