Bats Northwest

Bats Northwest Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 3026
Lynnwood, WA 98046
206.256.0406
Bats Northwest web site: www.batsnorthwest.org

Become a Bats Northwest Member
Join us in the adventure to learn more about our bat neighbors!

Membership Options: $35 $50 $75 $100 Other

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BATS NW T-SHIRTS
You'll look great in our Bats Northwest short sleeve T-Shirt!
It also makes a wonderful gift.
Heavyweight cotton, natural off-white, with a brightly colored bat graphic.

I would like to order _____ (quantity) Bats Northwest T-Shirt(s) at $22.00 each for a total of $ ____ (amount).

Small__ Medium__ Large__ X-Large__ 2X__

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Northwest Flower & Garden Show 2013

Please join Bats Northwest this year at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show. We will be in booth 2509.
We are seeking volunteers to work at our booth. If you would like to share your bat knowledge with hundreds of people, let us know! E-mail info@batsnorthwest.org. As a bonus, if you work a 4-hour shift, you can enjoy the rest of the day at the show for free.

About the show: (from www.gardenshow.com)
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BNW is a NON-PROFIT, ALL VOLUNTEER CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
SUMMER 2012

Join our monthly BNW Meetings!
Second Tuesday, 6:30-8:30
Location TBD.
E-mail for details.

www.batsnorthwest.org

206.256.0406
Lynnwood, WA 98046
Bats Northwest

we're exhibiting at the 2013 NORTHWEST FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW
Washington State Convention Center
THERE'S A LITTLE GARDEN IN ALL OF US
OPEN FEBRUARY 20-24th
sneak preview: gardenshow.com

Bats Northwest web site is waiting for you at:
www.batsnorthwest.org
**White-Nose Syndrome Bat Recovery May Present Challenges Similar to Those in Some Recovering AIDS Patients**

From USGS:
Carol Meteyer, 703-648-4057
Alex Densmore, 703-648-4421
Judith Mandl, NIH, 301-496-0802

Bats recovering from white-nose syndrome show evidence of immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome (IRIS), according to a hypothesis proposed by the U.S. Geological Survey and collaborators at National Institutes of Health. This condition was first described in HIV/AIDS patients and, if proven in bats surviving WNS, would be the first natural occurrence of IRIS ever observed.

IRIS is a syndrome in which an organism’s immune system, having been suppressed for a time, reactsivate and, as a result, attacks infected areas. This results in excessive inflammation and tissue damage in infected areas.

In both human patients with HIV/AIDS and bats with WNS, the functioning of the immune system is severely reduced. For humans, this occurs when the HIV virus attacks the patient’s white blood cells, and for bats, this occurs during normal hibernation. For both humans and bats, IRIS can be fatal.

The potential discovery of IRIS in bats infected with white-nose syndrome is incredibly significant in terms of understanding both the reasons for bat mortality and immune response, said USGS lead researcher Carol Meteyer. “We hope that these findings will stimulate more experimental studies that yield insight into the role of the immune response during IRIS in humans as well as hibernating bats.”

Even as the G. destructans fungus spreads throughout the bat’s body, there is no obvious inflammation in response to this hibernation-dependent fungal skin infection. This lack of inflammatory cell response is consistent with IRIS observed in human HIV-AIDS patients.

The report, entitled “Pathology in euthermic bats with white nose syndrome,” is published in the November issue of the Journal Virulence.

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**206.256.0406**
www.batsnorthwest.org

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All bat species in the state have insectivorous diets and forage at night and at dusk. Echolocation is used to capture prey and navigate. All species breed once per year in the summer, with most having a litter size of one pup. Most species make use of torpor (i.e., the body temperature and metabolic rate are greatly reduced, allowing animals to become inactive during periods of harsh weather and food shortage) during winter hibernation or on a daily basis during other seasons. Two species, the hoary bat and silver-haired bat, are long distance migrants that overwinter in southern North America, although some silver-haired bats remain in Washington year-round. A number of other species are believed to be short distance migrants that change elevations as they move to winter roosts with temperature suitable for hibernation.

Roost sites are crucial habitat features for bats, with a variety of roost types used to meet daily and seasonal needs, including trees, tree snags, caves, mines, cliffs, talus, buildings, and bridges. Nearly all species in Washington occupy a variety of roost structures, whereas hoary bats roost almost exclusively in trees. Many of the state’s bat populations make widespread use of cavities and crevices in and around trees and when these are lost, with a strong preference for large snags and trees and in the early to intermediate stages of decay. Microclimate plays a large role in roost selection, with bats seeking locations having optimal temperatures for saving energy, development of fat, and rearing young. Suitable densities of roost sites, especially snags and trees, are important for maintaining sizeable bat populations.

Adequate foraging habitat is a second primary requirement of bat populations. Wing and echolocation characteristics influence a bat species’ ability to exploit different habitats when foraging. Slow maneuverable species with short broad wings and low intensity echolocation usually prefer forest cover and avoid large openings, whereas faster flying and less maneuverable species with longer, narrower wings and louder calls forage more often in or above the upper forest canopy or in other open habitats. A number of bat species in Washington often concentrate their feeding near fresh water (especially in riparian areas) and along edge habitats, where insect availability is commonly high and vegetational clutter is reduced.

Bat populations in Washington face a number of threats, including two that may become more severe in the future. Habitat loss and alteration are ongoing problems that affect both roosting and foraging habitat of bats. Logging and other forest management practices have resulted in younger and often denser forests across the state, causing a general decline in the availability of large snags and deciduous trees for roosts and impacting foraging habitat. Regulations requiring the retention of some snags and trees and buffers around riparian zones have helped reduce this threat, but the issue remains an important concern for forest-dwelling bat species. Agricultural land conversion, urbanization, and mine closures have also reduced roosting and foraging habitat for bats. Human disturbance of bats roosting Continued on page 4
Continued from page 3

in caves and other structures is a concern at some sites, but overall is not considered a major threat in the state. Sizeable numbers of hoary bats and silver-haired bats have been killed by wind turbines since the first commercial wind energy facility was built in Washington in 2001. Significant expansion of this industry is expected in the state in the coming decades and will likely continue to cause unacceptable mortality in bats. Lastly, white-nose syndrome has recently emerged as a major killer of cave-roosting bats in eastern North America and is spreading westward. It is unknown whether the disease will reach Washington or what impacts it may have on bat populations in the state, but it has considerable potential for causing declines in at least some species.

This plan lays out a number of strategies and tasks for conserving bat populations in Washington. These include (1) inventorying and monitoring populations of all species; (2) protecting bats from sources of mortality and human disturbance, including losses from mine closures, building evictions, wind power generation, white-nose syndrome, and environmental contaminants; (3) maintaining and enhancing roosting, foraging, and drinking resources in all habitats used by bats; (4) conducting research needed for bat conservation, including development of improved survey methods and investigations of the life history, habitat requirements, limiting factors, and threats for species; (5) reviewing and revising conservation planning documents for bats and the legal classifications of some species; (6) developing collaborative partnerships with agencies, landowners, conservation organizations, and other groups to advance conservation activities for bats; and (7) developing and implementing public outreach and education programs for bats.

Bats Northwest: A Unique Organization

by Greg Faika, BNW member

Bats Northwest is a non-profit organization formed in 1996 by scientists, educators, and interested lay people to help protect Pacific Northwest bat populations through education and research. Bats Northwest (BNW) maintains an excellent website [http://www.batsnorthwest.org](http://www.batsnorthwest.org). BNW puts out several quality newsletters each year, back issues can be found on the website (for folks interested in Pacific Northwest bats, I highly recommend John Bassett’s article in the summer/fall 2011 issue titled “Update on the Status of the Western Red Bat in Washington State: Death of an Urban Legend?”).

The BNW website provides numerous resources for bat conservation and education; BNW has assisted with the Washington Bat Grid surveys, organizes and leads 6 or more summer bat walks at an urban lake in Seattle, and the organization has a booth at the annual 5-day Flower and Garden Show in Seattle. Bats Northwest membership includes bat rehabilitation experts, researchers, private and government wildlife biologists, and educators. Meg, Barb, and John are familiar faces at WBWG and NASBR meetings.

This past summer Chris Anderson of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) organized a series of acoustic bat surveys with strong involvement from volunteers from Bats Northwest. Three WDFW Wildlife Management Units (WMU) in Lower Snoqualmie Valley (east of Seattle) were surveyed: the Stillwater, Cherry, and Crescent Lake WMUs. Surveys were conducted via manual “active” recordings by multiple teams equipped with a Pettersson D240x detectors and an iRiver recorder. Each of the three sites was surveyed during June, July, and August by doing area searches on foot. The recordings are now being examined by Bats Northwest members who have been learning call analysis from a couple of the bat acoustic ‘techs’ in the group. Food inspired social events have turned into planning and training sessions.

Check out the web site if you get a chance!

Bats Northwest volunteers at Crescent Lake Wildlife Management Unit prior to a night acoustic survey.
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DRAFT WASHINGTON STATE BAT CONSERVATION PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY


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Our Mission
Bats Northwest Envisions a Future . . .

Where the Public Recognizes the Vital Place of Bats
In Our Environment and Economy
Where all are Inspired by the Remarkable Attributes and Invaluable Contribution of Bats to Our Natural Heritage
White-Nose Syndrome Bat Recovery May Present Challenges Similar to Those in Some Recovering AIDS Patients

From USGS:
Carol Meteyer, 703-648-4057
Alex Demas, 703-648-4431
Judith Mandl, NIH, 301-496-0802

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IRIS is a syndrome in which an organism’s immune system, having been suppressed for a time, reactivates and, perhaps, intensifies an existing infection; it goes into overdrive resulting in severe inflammation and tissue damage in infected areas. In both human patients with HIV-AIDS and bats with WNS, the functioning of the immune system is severely reduced. For humans, this occurs when the HIV virus attacks the patient’s white blood cells, and for bats, this occurs during normal hibernation. For both humans and bats, IRIS can be fatal.

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As seen with human patients with HIV-AIDS and bats with WNS, with potentially fatal outcome in bats,” said USGS lead researcher Carol Meteyer. “We hope that these findings will stimulate more experimental studies that yield insight into the role of the immune response during IRIS in humans as well as hibernating bats.”

Even as the G. destructans fungus spreads throughout the bat’s body, there is no obvious inflammation in response to this hibernation-dependent fungal skin infection. This lack of inflammatory cell response is consistent with hibernation-induced inhibition of immune cell activity as the body temperature of hibernating bats drops to ambient temperatures 35-50 degrees Fahrenheit (2-10 degrees Centigrade). In addition, inflammation is not seen until the bat’s body temperatures reach their active levels of 93-102 degrees Fahrenheit (34-39 degrees Centigrade). These temperature levels indicate that the bat’s internal systems have come back online, including the immune system. Only then is the inflammation observed, and only in areas where the G. destructans fungus has taken hold. This behavior is consistent with IRIS observed in human HIV-AIDS patients.

The report, entitled “Pathology in euthermic bats with white nose syndrome suggests a natural manifestation of immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome,” is published in the November issue of the journal Virulence.
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