Form 1100-001
(R 9/07)

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 8.B.3

SUBJECT: White-nose Syndrome

FOR: SEPTEMBER, 2009 **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Signe Holtz and David Redell

SUMMARY:

In general, bats are susceptible to decline because of their low reproductive rate and the fact that many species aggregate at a limited number of locations during critical stages of the natural history cycle. (i.e. hibernacula and maternity colonies). This behavior can make bats susceptible to catastrophic losses due to disease.

White-Nose Syndrome (WNS) is a devastating disease of hibernating bats that has caused the most precipitous decline of North American wildlife in recorded history. Since it was first discovered in 2006, WNS has infected six species of insect-eating bats in the northeastern and southern U.S., causing declines approaching 100% in some populations; estimated losses have exceeded one million bats over the past three years. If the spread of WNS is not slowed or halted, further losses could lead to the extinction of entire species and could more than quadruple those that are federally listed as endangered in the U.S. Such losses alone are expected to have unprecedented consequences on ecosystem health throughout North America, with unknown economic consequences.

With the anticipated arrival of WNS in Wisconsin in the next two to three years, the department will be involved in the following activities: 1) State WNS Contingency Response Plan development and implementation, 2) national and regional participation in task groups, 3) state & federal - structured decision making (SDM) (The SDM process will result in a set of situation-specific management guidelines for FWS and state biologists), 4) Wisconsin Cave Recreation and Mine/Cave BMP development, 5) regional surveillance protocol development and and implementation, 6) WNS transmission research, 7) identification, prioritization, conservation, and management of natural and artifical hibernacula and roosts.

RECOMMENDATION: Informational item

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

No	☑	Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes	☐	Attached
No	☑	Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required	Yes	☐	Attached
No	☑	Background Memo	Yes	☐	Attached

APPROVED:

Signe L. Holtz — Bureau Director, — Date 8/31/09

David Sturdevant — Administrator, — Date 8/31/09

Matt Frank — Secretary, Matt Frank — Date 9-2-09

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8