



## IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

### **May 2026 Commission Meeting**

**Agenda Item:** *White-nose Syndrome Update*

**Presented by:** *Rita Dixon*

**Position/Title:** *State Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator*

**Agenda Item No.:** 9

**Supervisor Approval:** SR

### **Background:**

White-nose syndrome (WNS) is a disease of hibernating bats caused by the invasive fungus *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, or Pd for short. Since first discovered in 2006, WNS has killed millions of bats in North America and continues to spread across the continent. In January 2026, the Department received laboratory confirmation from the US Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center that two bats collected in northern Idaho (Bonner County) tested positive for WNS, the first cases of the disease in Idaho. This was soon followed by the confirmation that a bat from Kootenai County tested positive for the disease. Staff will provide an update to the Commission on the current status of WNS and Pd in Idaho, an overview of ongoing pathogen and disease surveillance, and management interventions being used in Idaho to protect bats.

### **Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**

Idaho statute 36-103 states that all wildlife within the state is considered property of the State of Idaho. In addition, Idaho statute 36-104(b) and 36-201, authorize the Commission to adopt rules concerning the classification and protection of wildlife in the state (IDAPA 13.01.06, "Rules Governing Classification and Protection of Wildlife"). As such, all bat species in Idaho are legally protected under IDAPA 13.01.06 and classified as "Protected Nongame Species."

### **Public Involvement Process:**

None.

### **Justification:**

To update the Commission on the status of white-nose syndrome in the state and the actions being taken to respond to it.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

None – Informational only.

### **Suggested Motion:**

None – Informational only.