Threats and Actions

To classify threats and conservation actions, we used the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)–Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP) Threats and Actions Classifications framework. The SWAP considers threats regardless of their origins (e.g., local, state, regional, national, and international) where relevant to Idaho's species and habitats. Similarly, where relevant, the plan describes conservation actions for Idaho species and habitats that could be addressed by federal resource management agencies or regional, national, or international partners and shared with other states (e.g., out-of-basin fish passage, threats on wintering grounds). Threats and conservation actions for species are described in the species assessments (Appendix F) as well as each of the 14 ecological section plans.

Monitoring

As described in Conceptualizing and Planning Conservation Projects and Programs: A Training Manual (FOS 2009), we define monitoring as the periodic process of gathering data related to the project goals and objectives. Based on methods outlined in the Training Manual, the Open Standards (CMP 2013), and Measuring the Effectiveness of State Wildlife Grants (AFWA 2011), we plan to develop a formal monitoring plan that we can use to evaluate the assumptions in our results chains and to track progress in achieving our stated objectives. In doing so, the plan will enable us to identify the resources needed for implementation, a timeline for data collection and analysis, and a reflection of potential risks that we should consider. The target audience for our monitoring is the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and its partners and stakeholders, specifically, the 14 ecological section teams, which we consider adaptive management teams for SWAP.

We plan to develop specific indicators that we will use to collect and analyze the data required to meet our information needs. These indicators must meet the criteria of being measurable, precise, consistent, and sensitive and tied explicitly to the objectives identified in the SWAP for each of the 14 sections and that address both species and habitats. We had already begun work on this in the initial 14 section plans in Miradi and some species and habitats already have indicators for monitoring.

Conceptual models

A conceptual model is a diagram of a set of relationships between certain factors that are believed to impact or lead to a conservation target. The example conceptual model in Fig. 2 depicts 2 threats to bats, white-nose syndrome and human disturbance. Initial work for the 14 section plans in SWAP began by developing such conceptual models. These provided the framework for the materials in this plan.

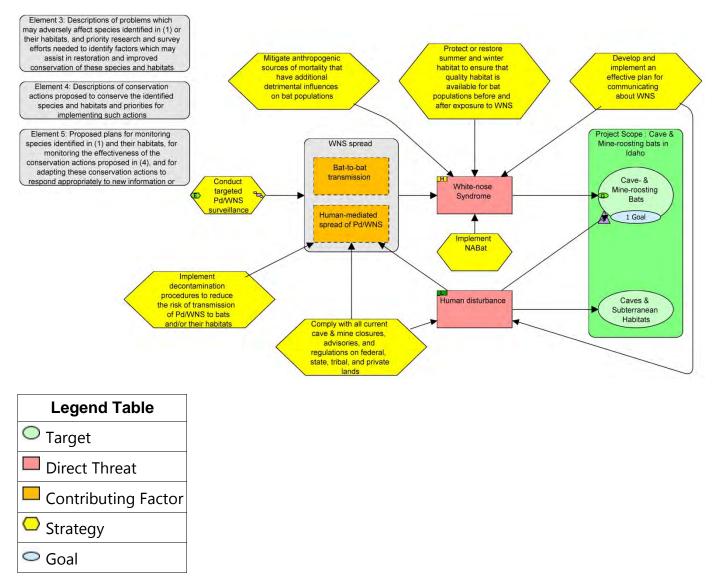


Fig. 2. Conceptual model showing bats and threats of white-nose syndrome and human disturbance

In Fig. 3, a results chain shows the desired results (e.g., threat of white-nose syndrome reduced), the causal links (i.e., if . . . then statements; e.g., if we detect *Pd*/WNS, then appropriate management actions are taken), demonstrates change (e.g., improve, increase, or decrease), reasonably complete (i.e., sufficient boxes to construct logical connections but not so many that the chain becomes overly complex), and simple (one result per box). We plan to construct results chains to monitor species and habitats identified as priorities in each of the 14 ecological section plans of SWAP. Example results chains for different kinds of actions are provided in (AFWA 2011). We will use those as templates to guide our efforts.

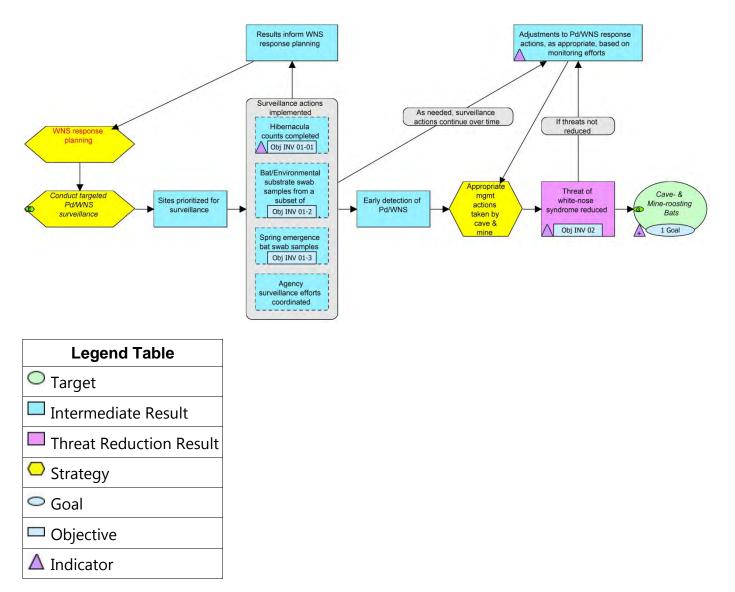


Fig. 3. White-nose syndrome results chain with potential indicators