

## White-nose syndrome

- White-nose syndrome is a fungal disease that has killed millions of hibernating bats, mostly in eastern North America.
- White-nose syndrome only affects bats and does not pose a threat to people, pets, or other animals
- The disease is confirmed in 31 states and five Canadian provinces since it was first documented in 2006 in New York.
- In March 2016, the first case of the disease in Washington was confirmed about 30 miles east of Seattle.

Photo: USFWS



## About bats

- Bats are protected wildlife, and it is illegal to kill or harm them.
- Bats provide valuable pest control by eating millions of insects (like those pesky mosquitos!)
- 15 bat species are native to Washington – all are insect-eaters.
- Our most common bat species, the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), weighs about the same as a nickel.

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### For more information on bats

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**  
[wdfw.wa.gov/bats](http://wdfw.wa.gov/bats)

**White-nose syndrome:**  
<https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/>

**Bat Conservation International:**  
[www.batcon.org/why-bats/bats-are/bats-are-important](http://www.batcon.org/why-bats/bats-are/bats-are-important)

**Bats Northwest:**  
<http://www.batsnorthwest.org/>

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### If you need help

If you have been bitten or scratched by a bat, call your local public health department immediately.

If you need help dealing with a bat on your camper, or if you've found a bat that seems injured or sick, please contact:

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**

**[wdfw.wa.gov/bats](http://wdfw.wa.gov/bats)**

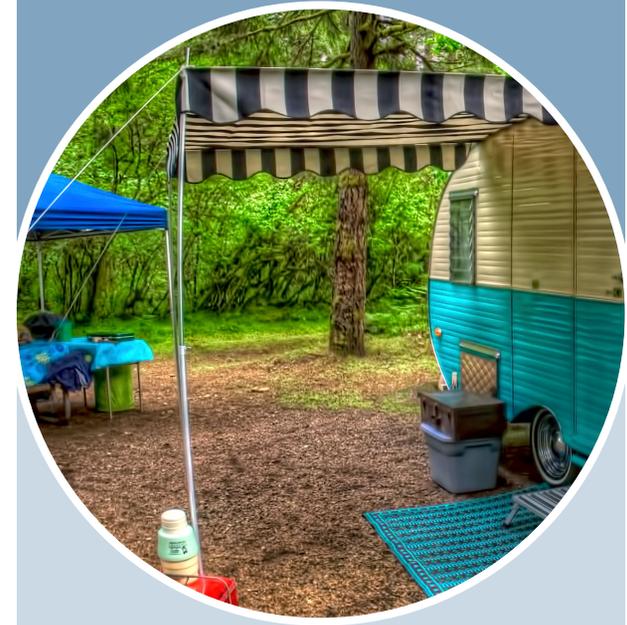
**360-902-2515**

**[wildthing@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:wildthing@dfw.wa.gov)**



# Bats Astray

## Please don't take bats with you!



**Check your campers, tents, awnings and umbrellas before you leave your campsite.**



Photo by Steve Walser, Creative Commons



Photo: Bob Davies

Bats that are accidentally taken to new areas may not be able to find safe roost sites or places to hibernate, and may not survive their move.

Bats that are moved to new locations may transmit spores from the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome and infect previously-healthy bat populations.

## REMEMBER

Never touch a bat with your bare hands. Use a thick towel, oven mitts or a leather glove to remove a bat, or GENTLY nudge the bat into a container using a whisk broom.

# Lost bats



## How you can help

### When you arrive at your camp

- Carefully inspect awnings, umbrellas and pop-up trailers as you open them
- If you find a bat at your campsite, report it to the park ranger. If the bat appears sick or is dead, report it to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at [wdfw.wa.gov/bats](http://wdfw.wa.gov/bats) or 360-902-2515.

### Before you leave your camp

- Inspect the outside of your camper, trailer or tent before you leave to make sure no bats are there
- Check the underside of your umbrella before packing it away, and check your awnings before rolling them up
- If possible, inspect your awnings and umbrellas and close them before you go to bed

## If you see a bat on the outside of your camper or in an awning

- Keep an eye on the bat, and keep children and pets away from it. Like most wildlife, bats may bite if they are handled.
- The bat will probably leave on its own. Make sure the bat has left before you drive away from the campground.
- Do not fold your umbrella or retract your awning if a bat is present.
- If the bat does not leave on its own, carefully and gently nudge the bat with a broom to remove it from your camper or umbrella.
- If the bat does not fly away, place it on a tree or shrub, high enough that children and pets cannot reach it. Remember to never touch a bat with your bare hands.

