

ESA Listing Updates



Northern long-eared bat

- Assessments initiated in 2010:
 - Eastern small-footed bat (petition)
 - Northern long-eared bat (petition)
 - Little brown bat (proactive)
- June 2011
 - Eastern small-footed bat and Northern long-eared bat - positive 90-day finding
- October 2013
 - Eastern small-footed bat – listing not warranted – review is complete
 - Northern long-eared bat – proposed rule

Northern long-eared bat (NLEB)

- Proposed Rule – October 2, 2013 in Federal Register
- Comment period closed January 2, 2014
- Proposed as Endangered
- Critical habitat – not determinable
- Threats:
 - WNS is primary threat
 - Compounding threats may include:
 - Impacts to hibernacula
 - Mortality from wind projects
 - Forest conversion/loss

NLEB

- Final rule anticipated fall 2014
- Proposed critical habitat rule anticipated fall 2014
- Final critical habitat determination no later than one year after that

What is Required for a Proposed Species? What Do You Need to Do Now?

- No “take” prohibitions for proposed species
- ESA process for projects involving federal agencies (funding, permits, actions) – conference
- Conference is required if agency determines action is “likely to jeopardize” NLEB
- Goals:
 - Identify and resolve conflicts between a proposed action and proposed species or proposed critical habitat at an early planning stage
 - Increase agency awareness of species needs
 - Don’t further degrade the status of the species right before potential protections

Recommended Priority Projects for Conferencing

- Projects in the vicinity of known summer captures or acoustic detections, known roosts, known telemetry points, and known hibernacula.
- Projects most likely to result in lethal impacts or significant adverse impacts to NLEB
- Projects that will still be in progress during/after a final listing decision
 - Save time later - an existing conference report or opinion, can be converted to a concurrence letter or biological opinion after quick review
 - Even if agency does not believe the action “is likely to jeopardize”, it would be worth conference if incidental take is likely (take prohibition applies after listing)

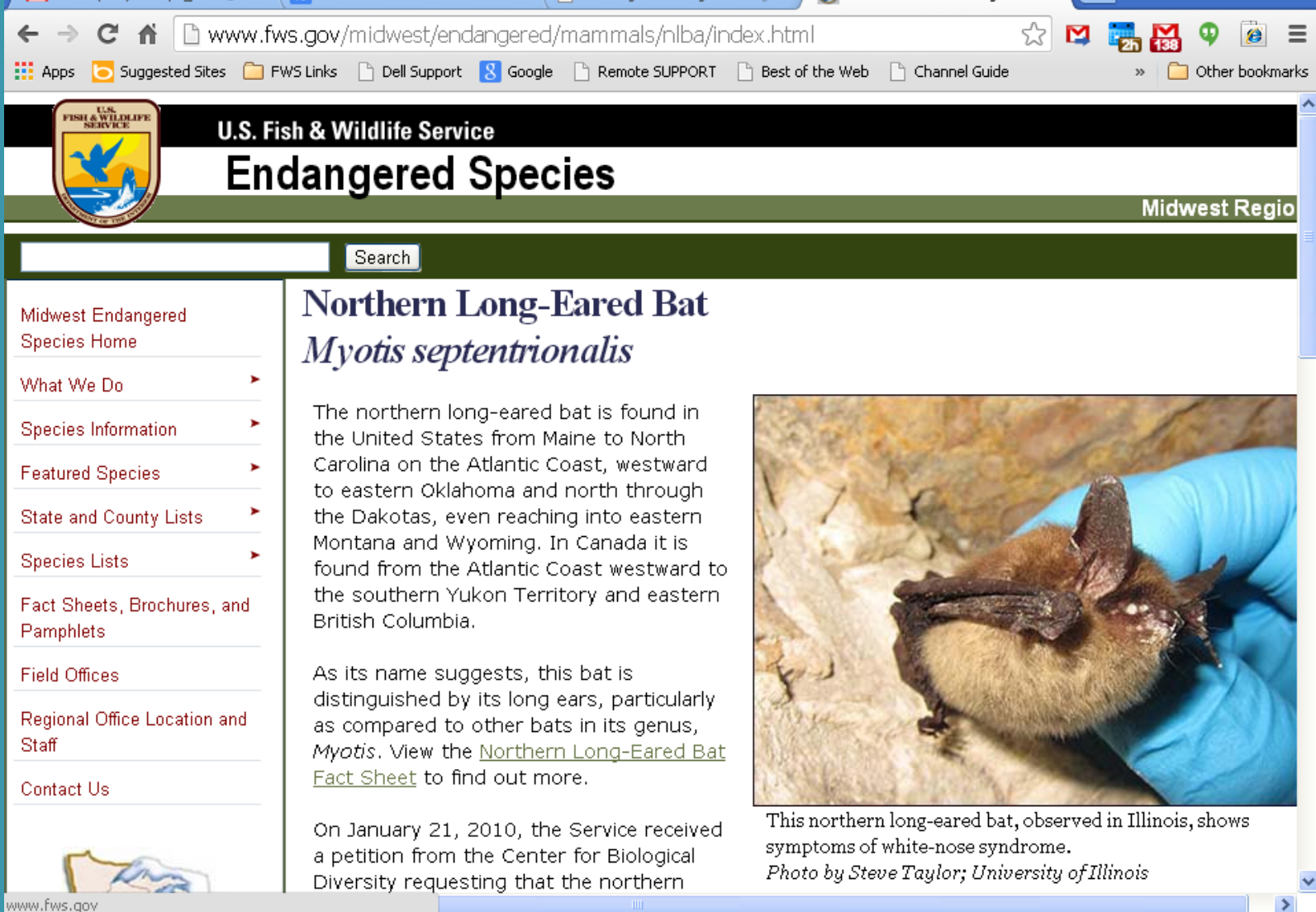
Conference Guidance and Beyond

- Wanting to get a jump on recovery planning for this species, should it be listed.
 - Early interest from a variety of partners and groups
 - Knowledge of the challenges from Ibat experience
 - Bringing new states and FWS regions into the listed bat world
- NLEB Recovery Strategy Team tasks
 - Interim conference and planning guidance – January 2014
 - Recovery Outline and Consultation Guidance – in time for final listing decision

Recovery Outline ≠ Recovery Plan

- Provides preliminary strategies for conservation
- Organizes near-term recovery actions
- Provides range-wide conservation context for FWS decisions
- Sets the stage for recovery planning and stakeholder involvement

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/index.html>



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service website. The address bar shows the URL: www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/index.html. The page header includes the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service logo and the text "U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service" and "Endangered Species". A navigation bar on the right indicates the "Midwest Region". A search bar is present below the header. The main content area features a sidebar on the left with a menu of links: "Midwest Endangered Species Home", "What We Do", "Species Information", "Featured Species", "State and County Lists", "Species Lists", "Fact Sheets, Brochures, and Pamphlets", "Field Offices", "Regional Office Location and Staff", and "Contact Us". The main content area displays the title "Northern Long-Eared Bat" and the scientific name *Myotis septentrionalis*. Below the title is a paragraph describing the bat's range in the United States and Canada. To the right of the text is a photograph of a bat being held by a person wearing blue gloves. Below the photograph is a caption: "This northern long-eared bat, observed in Illinois, shows symptoms of white-nose syndrome. Photo by Steve Taylor; University of Illinois". At the bottom of the page, there is a link to a "Fact Sheet" and a paragraph mentioning a petition received on January 21, 2010.

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Northern Long-Eared Bat

Myotis septentrionalis

The northern long-eared bat is found in the United States from Maine to North Carolina on the Atlantic Coast, westward to eastern Oklahoma and north through the Dakotas, even reaching into eastern Montana and Wyoming. In Canada it is found from the Atlantic Coast westward to the southern Yukon Territory and eastern British Columbia.

As its name suggests, this bat is distinguished by its long ears, particularly as compared to other bats in its genus, *Myotis*. View the [Northern Long-Eared Bat Fact Sheet](#) to find out more.

On January 21, 2010, the Service received a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity requesting that the northern



This northern long-eared bat, observed in Illinois, shows symptoms of white-nose syndrome.
Photo by Steve Taylor; University of Illinois

www.fws.gov