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West Virginia receives \$42,500 in grants to fight white-nose syndrome

By Staff reports

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has awarded grants totaling \$42,500 for surveillance and research projects in West Virginia designed to fight white-nose syndrome, the disease that has killed more than 5.5 million bats in 19 states and four Canadian provinces during the past five years.

"Grants like these provide essential support to our state partners in responding to white-nose syndrome," said Jeremy Coleman, national white-nose syndrome coordinator for the federal agency. "Responding to the rapid spread and severity of this disease has been difficult for state agencies and other partners. Providing funds directly to states helps to improve capacity for response within those states, but also provides support for critical research projects and strengthens our national response effort."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is leading a cooperative effort to research and manage the spread of WNS. The agency awarded a total of nearly \$963,000 in grants to WNS projects in 30 states, including West Virginia, using funds from the Endangered Species Recovery program.

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