



Who, What, Where, When: Tracking and Protecting
Wisconsin's Bat Populations During the Invasion of
White-nose Syndrome

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Who

- WI bats
 - 8 species, 4 hibernators, 4 migrators
 - 4 susceptible to White-nose Syndrome
 - Some bats roost or hibernate in artificial structures, but all bats in Wisconsin use forests



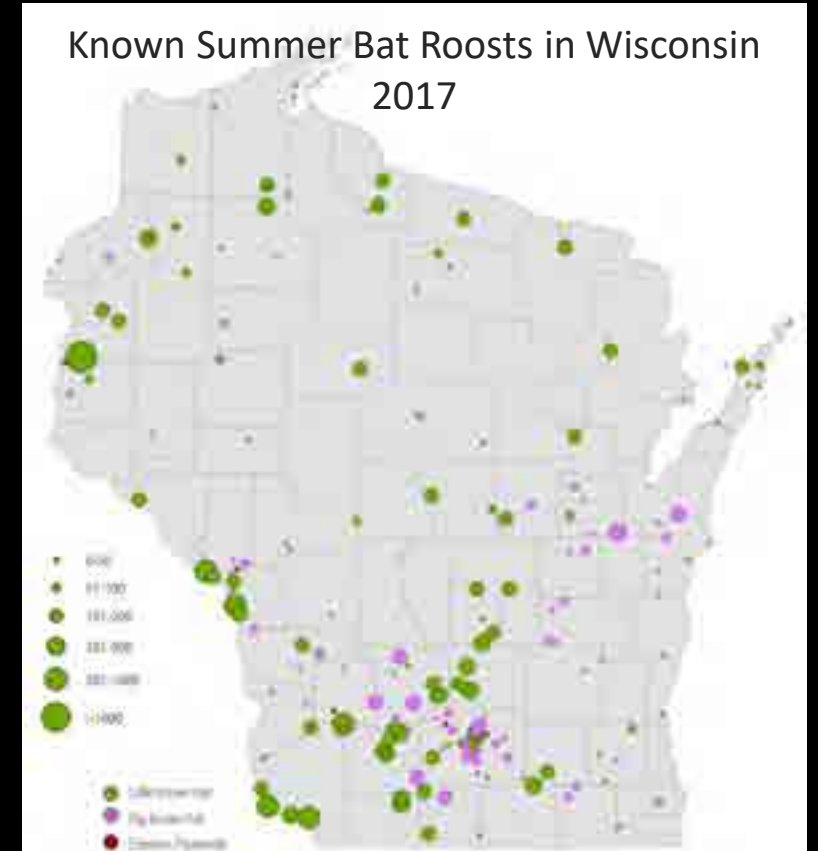
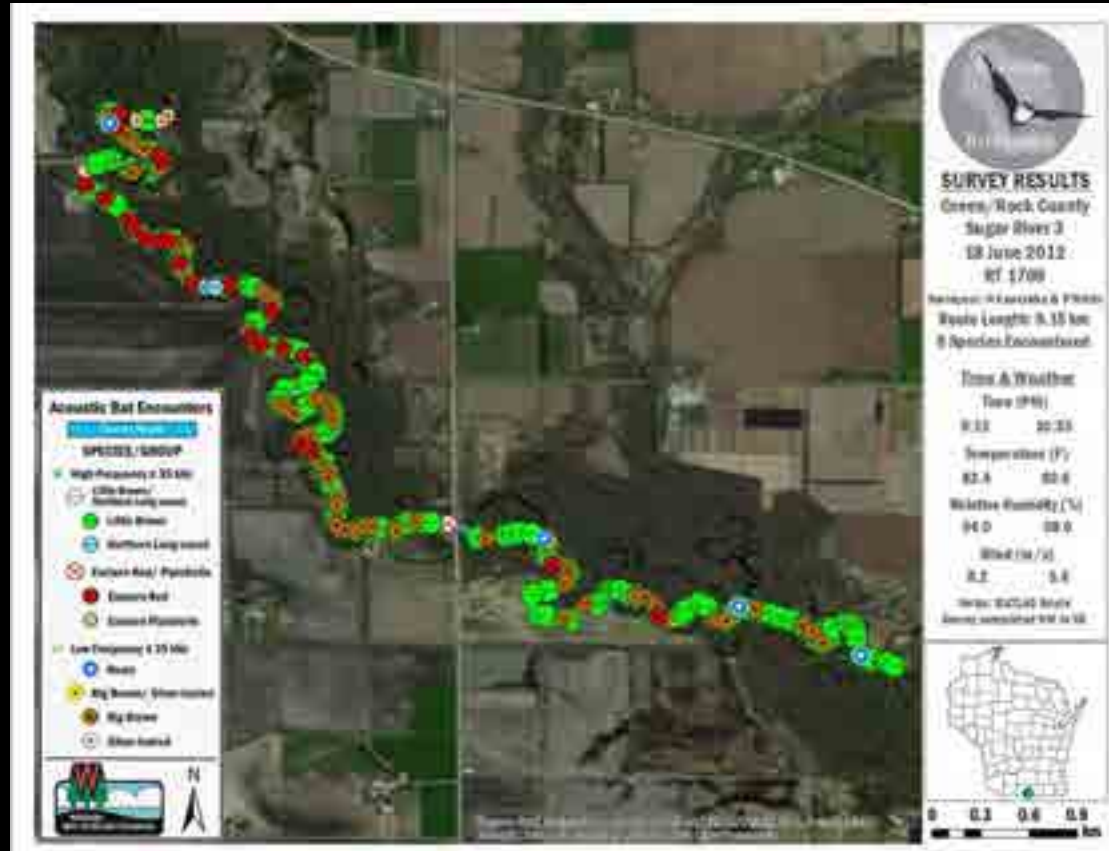
What

- White-nose syndrome – fungal disease of hibernating bats first discovered in New York in 2006 and spread quickly west across NA
- Mass mortality at affected sites
- Differences in effects among bat species



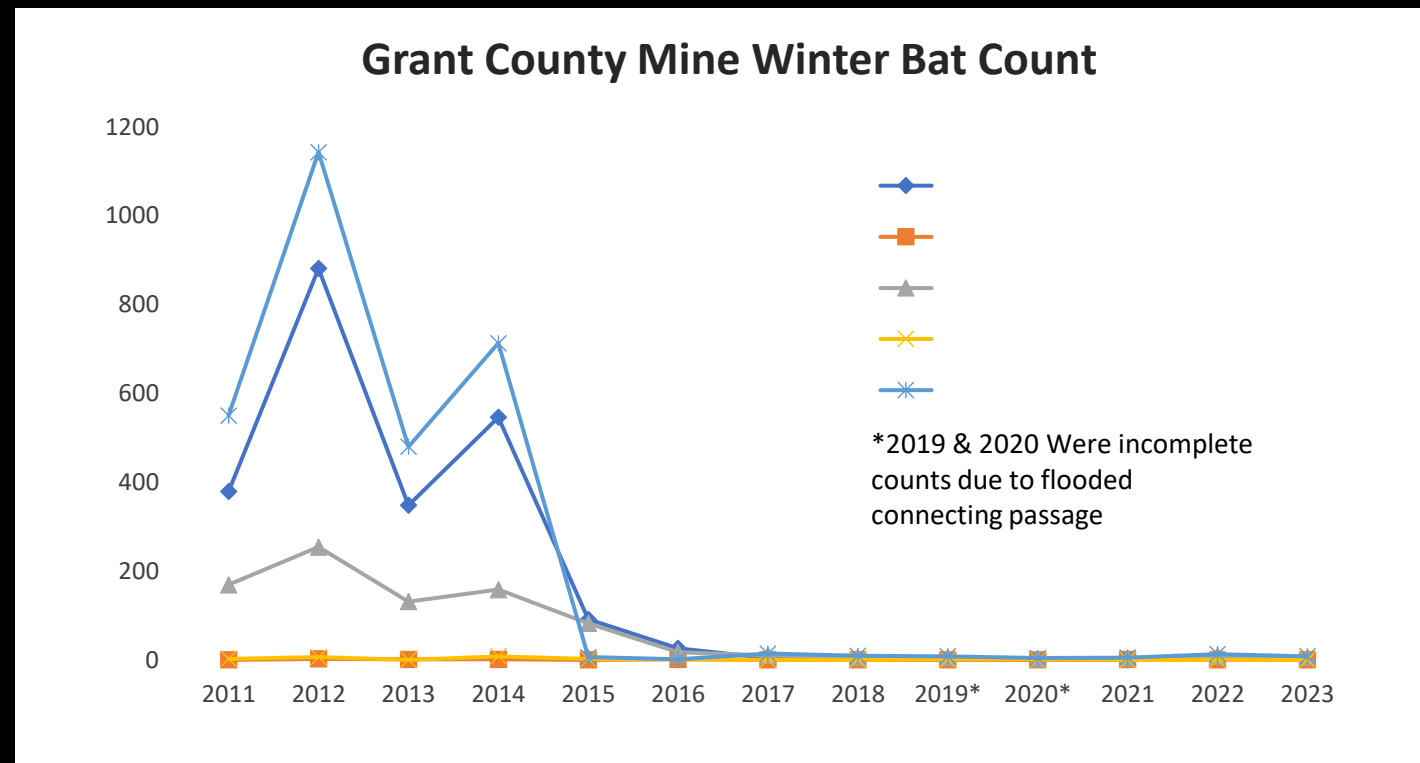
Where

- How we got information about WI bats prior to WNS arrival
- Where we found bats in WI



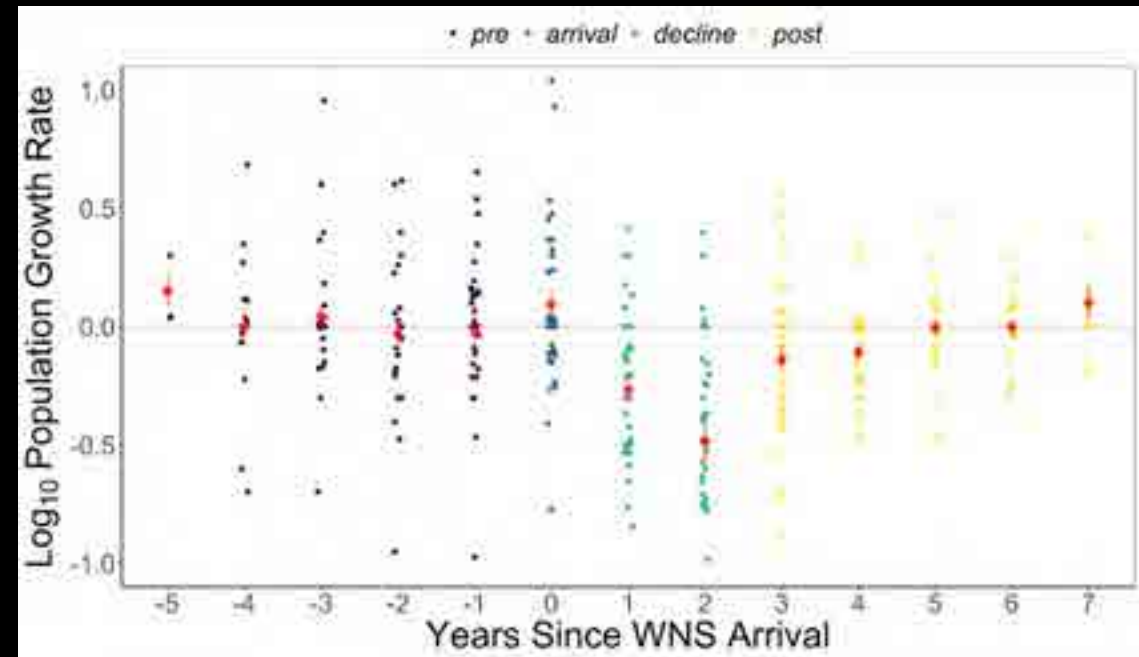
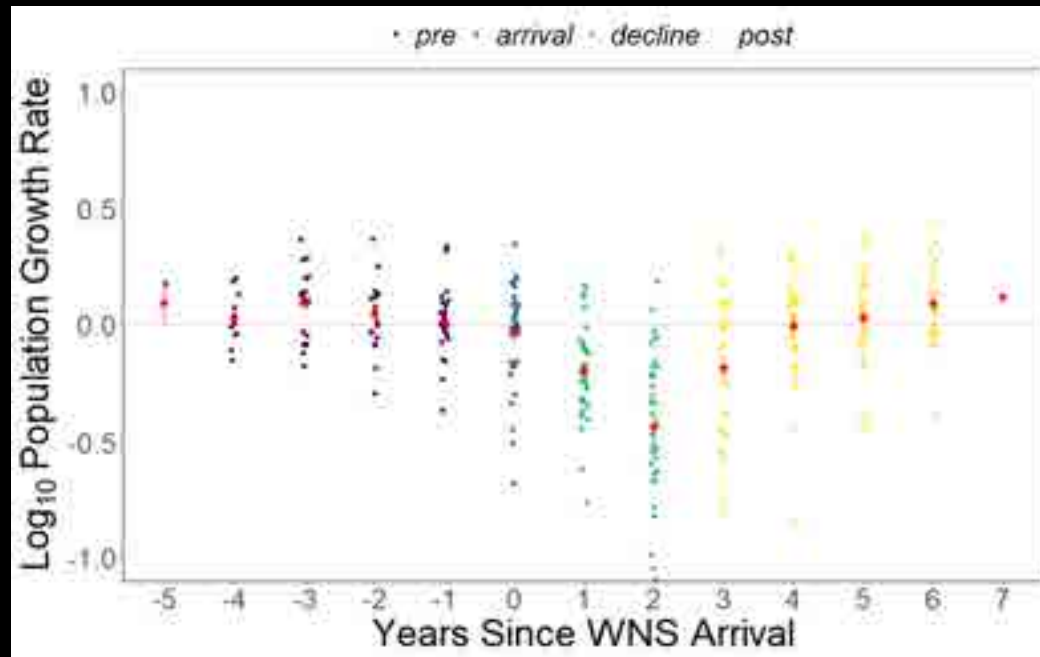
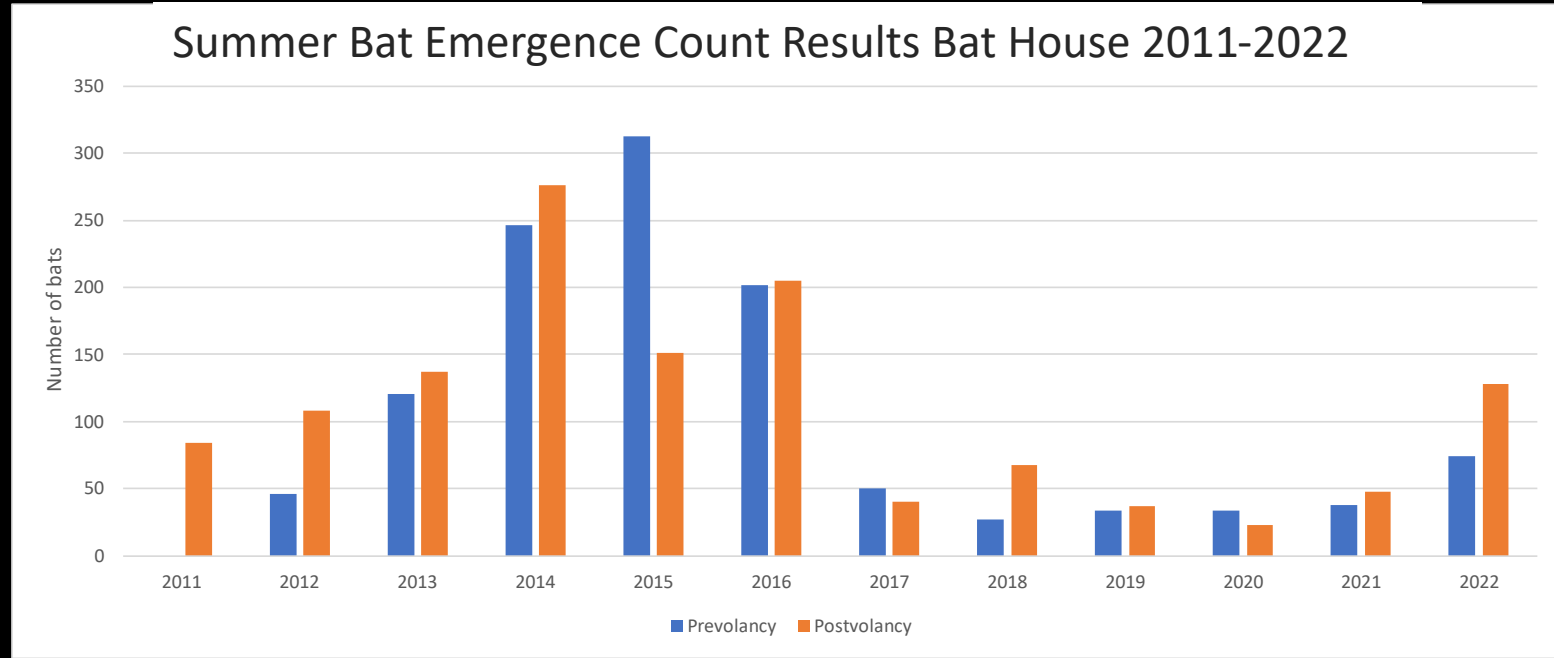
When

- Data pre-WNS
- Arrival of WNS in WI
- What populations look like now post-WNS



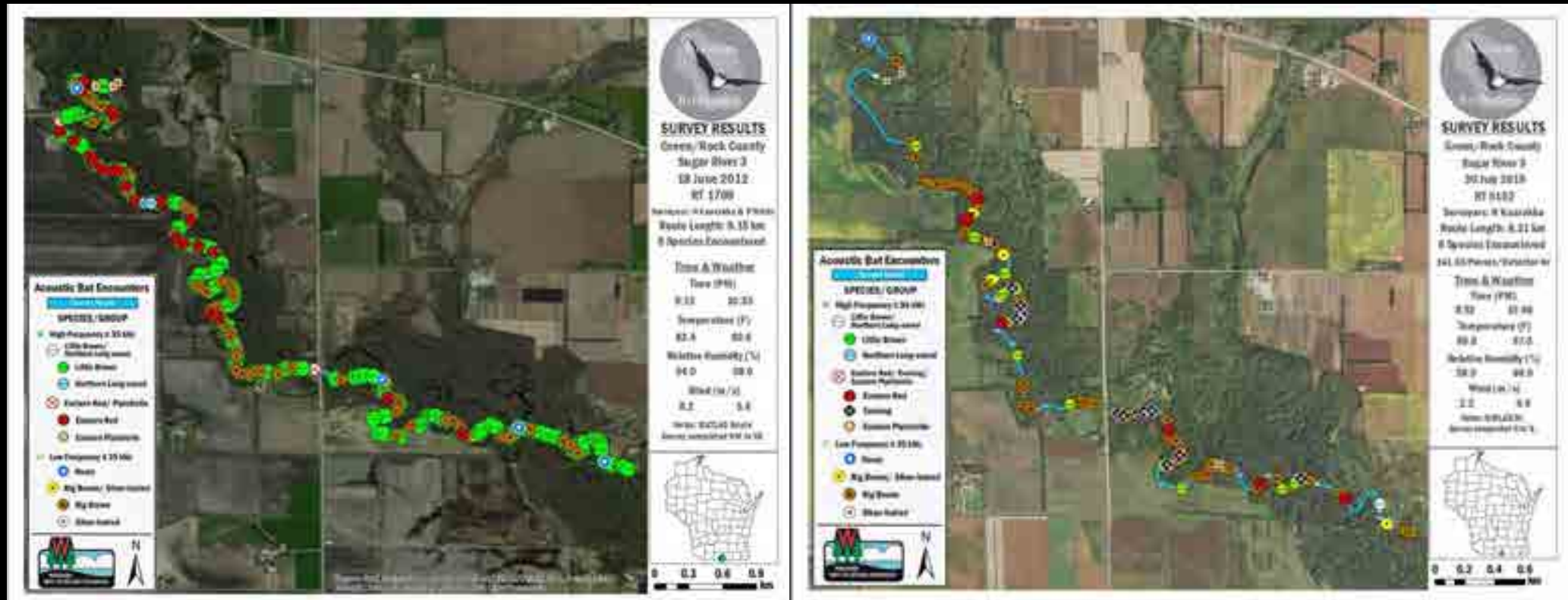
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How do we protect bats?

- Know where they are, identify surviving bats
- Provide new habitat (bat houses)
- Conserve and protect known habitat
 - Bat HCP



Lakes States Forest Management Bat Habitat Conservation Plan

- Continue forest management activities/timber harvest while also protecting rare species
 - Protecting forest around hibernacula, protect known roosting areas
 - Retain important trees like large hardwoods and snags that could be used as bat roosts



CBM Bat Monitoring

- We wouldn't be where we are today in our understanding of WNS impacts without efforts of citizen-scientists
- USFWS – we can't protect a species if we don't know where it is
 - CBM roost and acoustic monitoring has been a way to do that for common species

