



Northern Long Eared Bat: Background

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Why Do We Care About Bats?

- Pest control
- Seed dispersal
- Pollinators
- Important prey source



Indiana Bat: USFWS, Andrew King

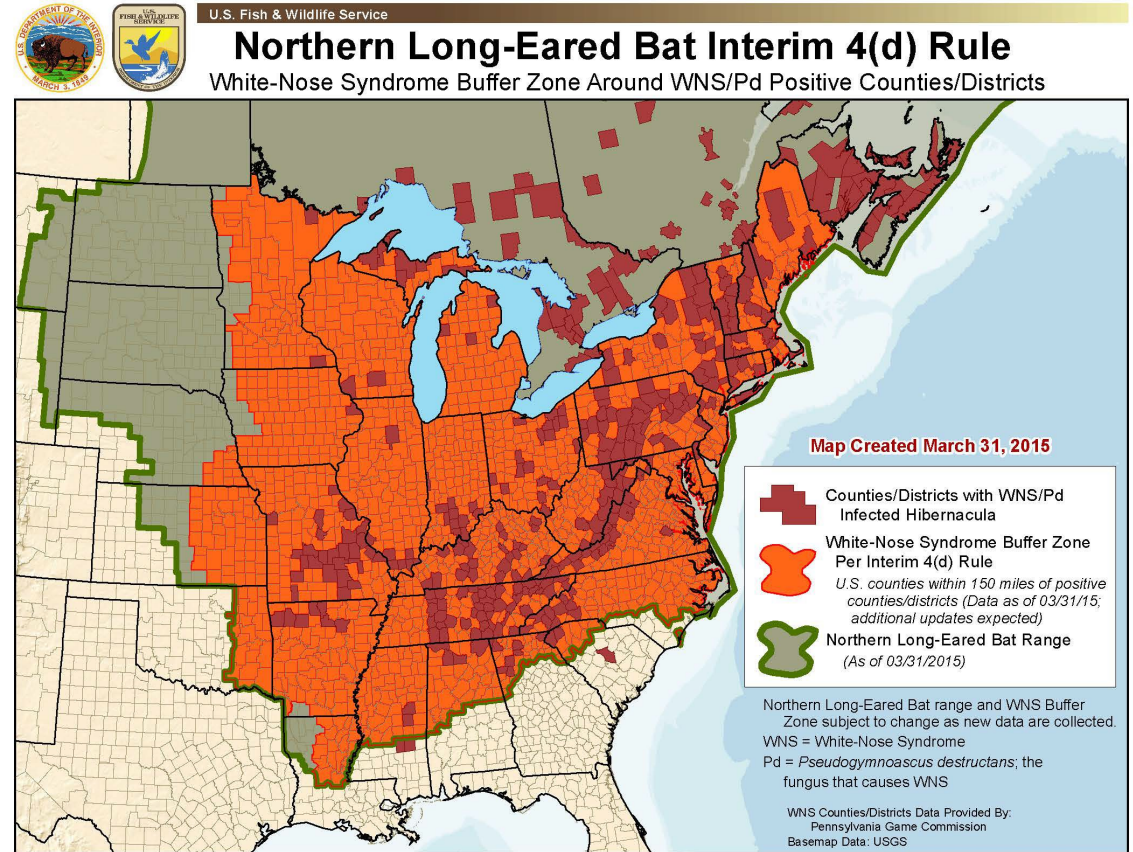
NLEB: The Original Listing

- Originally Listed under the ESA as Threatened
- White Nose Syndrome
- Population Declines of up to 97%



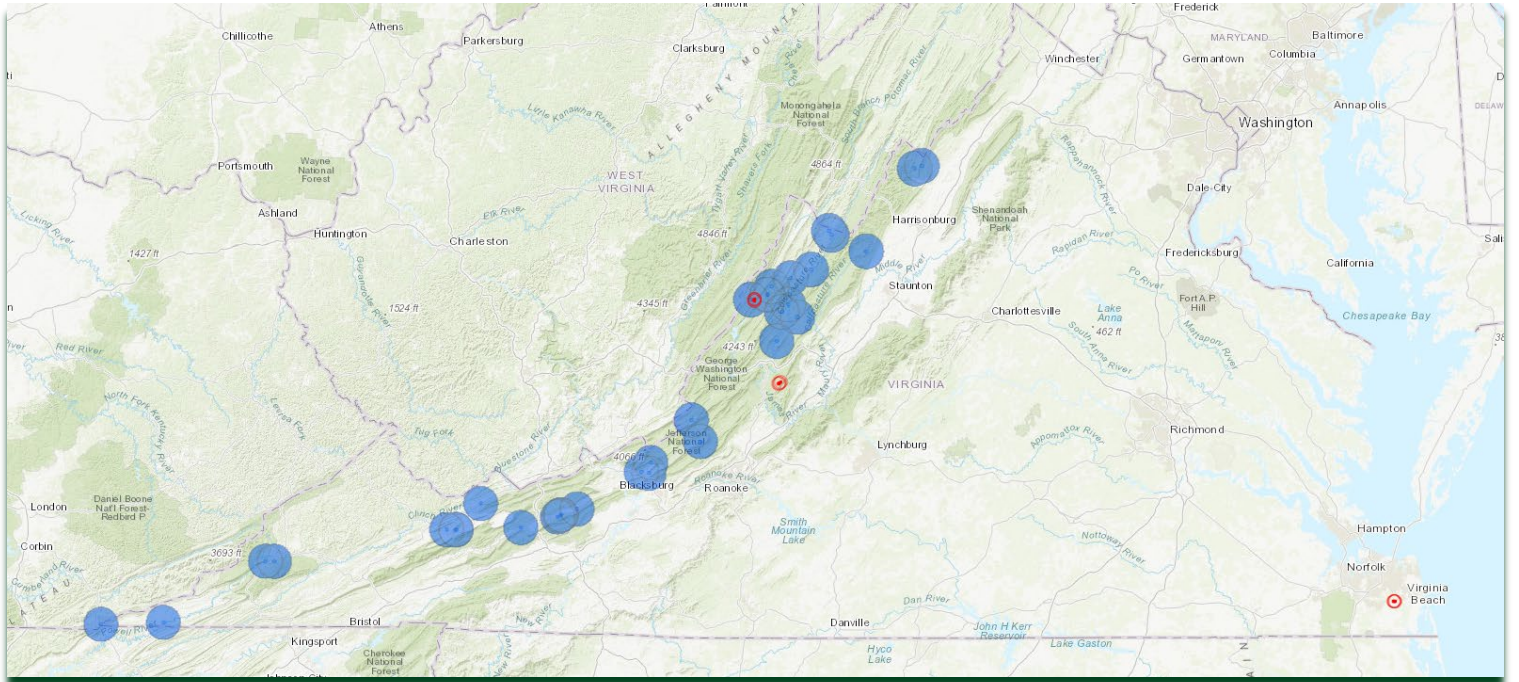
Northern Long-Eared Bat

- Species Range (2015)
- Habitat Generalist



The 4(d) Rule Solution

- Habitat Loss (?)
- Minimal Restrictions on Tree Clearing

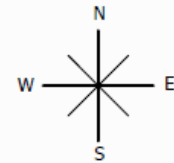
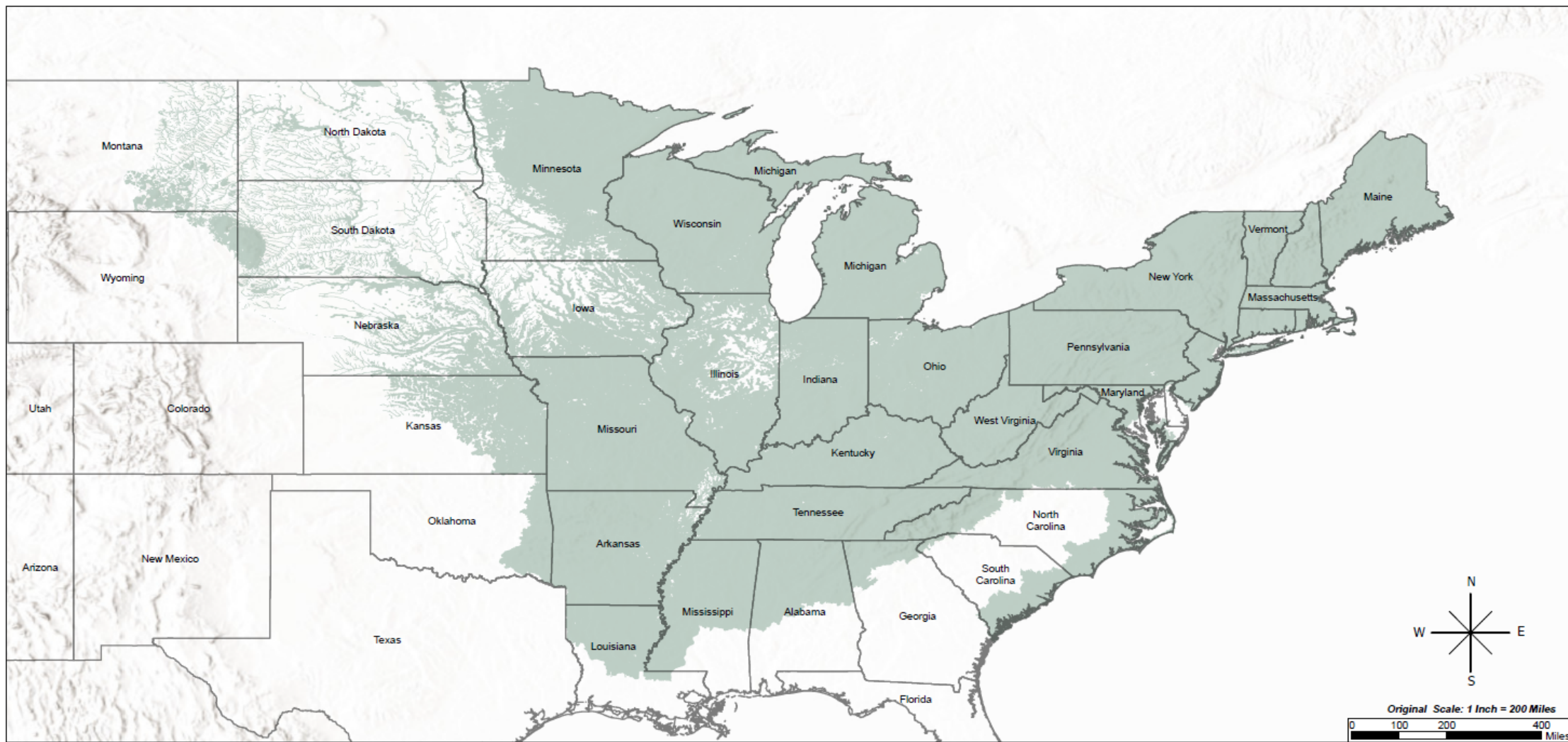


Source: NLEB Winter Habitat and Roost Trees; accessed April 8, 2023, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources

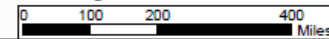
Then the World Changed...

- 2020 Court Case
- FWS goes back to the drawing board
 - 2022 Proposed Rule
 - 2023 Final Rule





Original Scale: 1 Inch = 200 Miles

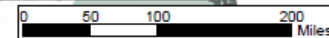


Range of Species

Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 ECOS Environmental Conservation Online System
<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045>

Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis Septentrionalis*)

The northern long-eared bat is a medium-sized bat about 3 to 3.7 inches in length but with a wingspan of 9 to 10 inches. As its name suggests, this bat is distinguished by its long ears, particularly as compared to other bats in its genus, *Myotis*, which are actually bats noted for their small ears (*Myotis* means mouse-eared). The northern long-eared bat is found across much of the eastern and north central United States and all Canadian provinces from the Atlantic coast west to the southern Northwest Territories and eastern British Columbia. The species range includes 37 states. White-nose syndrome, a fungal disease known to affect bats, is currently the predominant threat to this bat, especially throughout the Northeast where the species has declined by up to 99 percent from pre-white-nose syndrome levels at many hibernation sites. Although the disease has not yet spread throughout the northern long-eared bats entire range (white-nose syndrome is currently found in at least 25 of 37 states where the northern long-eared bat occurs), it continues to spread. Experts expect that where it spreads, it will have the same impact as seen in the Northeast. The species historical range included Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming. See below for information about where the species is known or believed to occur.



Coming Soon...

- Tricolored Bat
 - Proposed Sept 2022
 - Expected Final in 2023
- Little Brown Bat?

