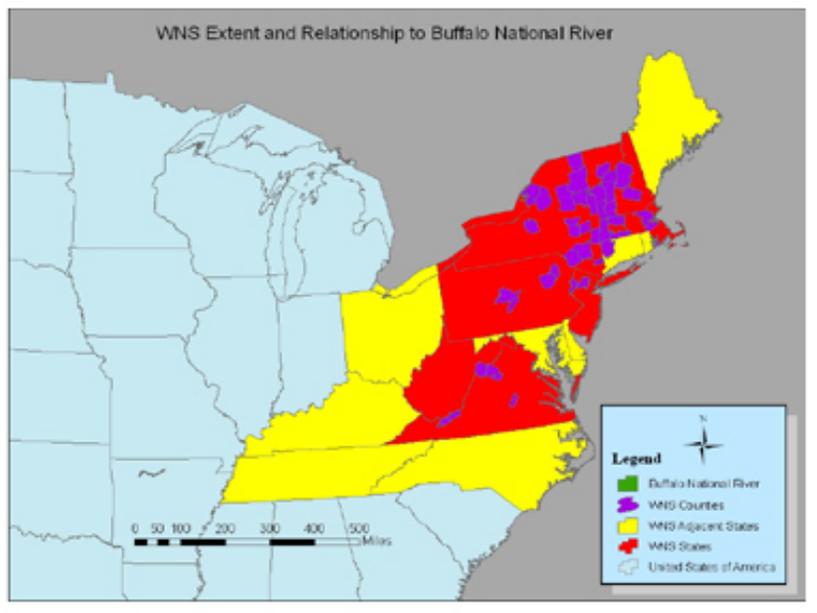




White Nose Syndrome



A bat with White Nose Syndrome.
Photo by Al Hicks, New York
Department of Environmental
Conservation



White Nose Syndrome affected states. Map by Chuck Bitting,
Buffalo National River

To help stop the spread of the *Geomyces* sp. fungus suspected to be the causative agent of White Nose Syndrome, most park caves are closed to recreational caving until further notice.

A few caves that continue to remain open for unrestricted recreational caving. These are:

- **The caves in Lost Valley from Eden Falls Cave downstream to the parking area**
- **The caves at Buffalo Point with the exception of Bat Cave.**

The NPS will continue offering interpretive tours to Back O' Beyond Cave and Silver Hill Cave during the closure, but they will not be open to other recreational caving.

Further information about White Nose Syndrome made be found at the Unites States Fish and Wildlife Service website http://www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html , Bat Conservation International's website <http://www.batcon.org/index.php/what-we-do/white-nose-syndrome/subcategory/intro.html> or the National Speleological Society website <http://www.caves.org/WNS/>

If you have further questions, you may contact: Chuck Bitting, Geologist, Buffalo National River: 870-365-2762 or chuck_bitting@nps.gov



Cave Research at Buffalo National River

Because of the threat of White Nose Syndrome, the National Park Service is requiring a special permit for all research activity dealing with caves.

Research includes:

- Cave mapping
- Biological investigations performed in caves and mines
- Geological investigations performed in caves and mines
- Bat netting
- Any other research that requires entering a cave or mine or handling bats.

In addition to the permit, all researchers must comply with the protocols established by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for entry into caves, and the netting and handling of bats. The following links contain information about USFWS protocols.

Caving Activity

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenose/FINALQuickReferenceforDeconProtocolsforCaveActivityJune2009.pdf>

Bat Field Research

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/whitenose/FINALDisinfectionProtocolforBatFieldResearchJune2009.pdf>

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