

White Nose Syndrome



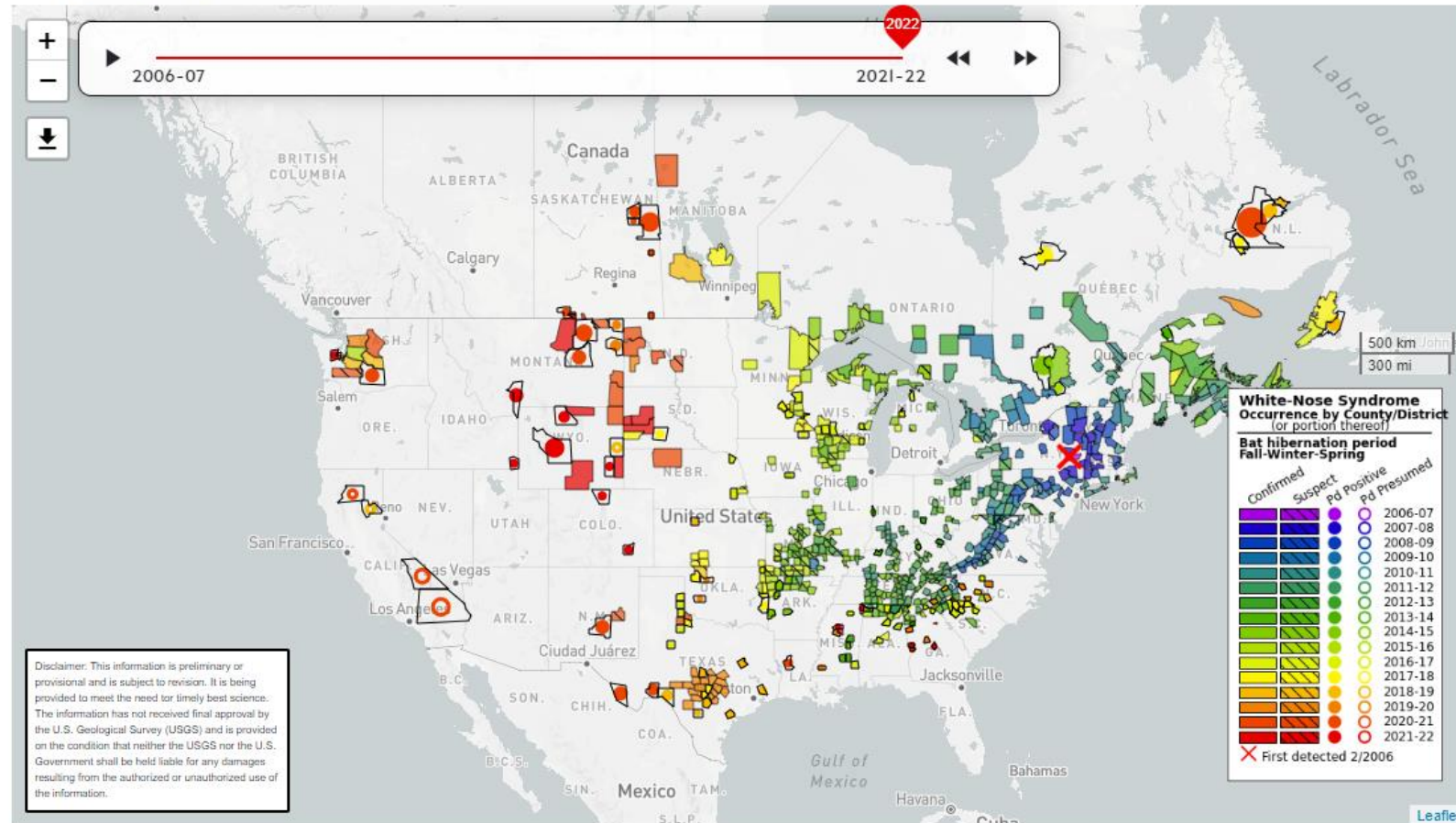
- Disease of old world origin.
- First showed up in North America in 2004
- Has caused high mortality (up to 90%) in effected bat roosts where present to susceptible species.
- Currently spreading across the continent



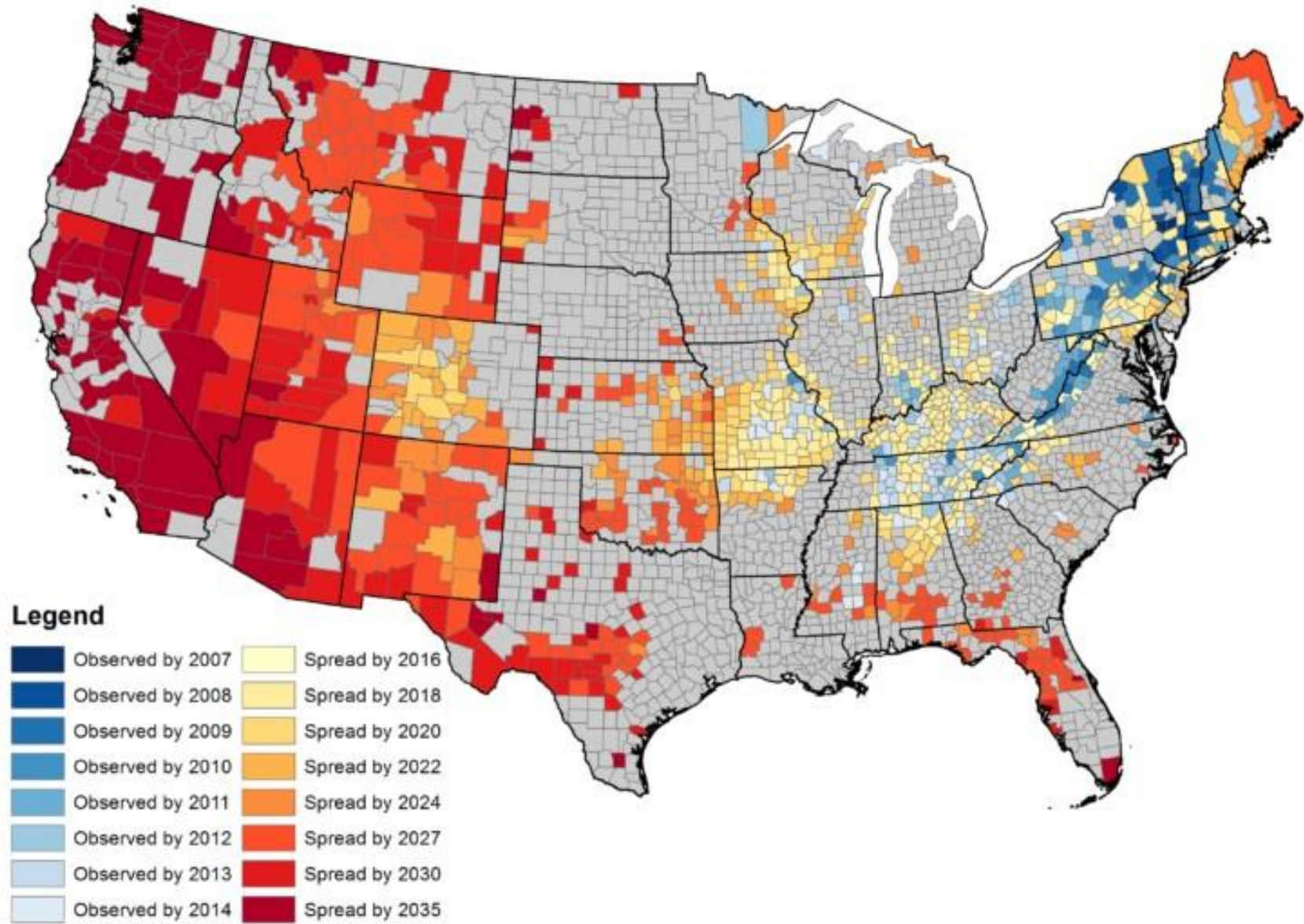


- Bats with the disease symptoms of WNS are found in 35 U.S. states and 7 Canadian provinces.
- To date, 12 North American bat species have been confirmed with WNS, including two federally endangered species, the gray bat and Indiana bat.
- The Northern long-eared bat was listed as federally threatened due to the rapid decline of this species from WNS.

Where is WNS Now?



- Currently spreading by bat to bat transmission, however humans are also a vector.



A question of when not if, and if how much, and how much is too much

- Only known to infect bats.
- May cause localized extinctions of susceptible species
- Could potentially cause a trophic cascade, bats eat lots of moths.
- Could cause a loss of other ecosystem functions in areas south of Nevada where bats are key pollinators and seed dispersal agents.
- May increase the potential for insect-based diseases in humans such as West Nile or malaria.

