

IPM Extension Grant - Report **2008**

Project Title: Bat IPM: Addressing Stakeholder Needs

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Critical Issue Addressed:

Salary funding was obtained for support staff, Research Specialist and School IPM Coordinator Jennifer L. Snyder, to help develop outreach materials and conduct educational efforts.

State health lab data confirms an annual increase in the number of bats submitted for testing and, following from that, an increase in the number of bats testing positive for the rabies virus; 2007 produced an all-time high of rabies-positive bats (115 cases). As the leading mammal submitted for rabies-testing, bats are also among the most commonly encountered wild vertebrates in schools. Preventable or inappropriate staff/student interactions with wildlife on school grounds poses significant health concerns, and in some cases negatively impacts urban wildlife relationships and local conservation efforts.

Inputs:

Amount awarded for salary:	\$6,000
Amount awarded for operations :	\$2,500

What were your activities?

Batty about bats bulletin: http://cals.arizona.edu/urbanipm/pest_press/2007/oct_nov.pdf
Produce a bat oriented Pest Press for schools: <http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/insects/az1456.pdf>
Educational events (1 in Phoenix, 1 in Nogales).

Who participated?

Two UA departments (entomology and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology); The Arizona Game & Fish Department; Arizona Department of Health Services (Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control).

What were the short term, medium term and long term (if applicable) outcomes?

Short-term Outcomes

1) Arizona specific reference materials provide technical information and increase awareness of rabies exposure issues.

Medium-term Outcomes

- 1) Coordination of training. Increased awareness and a practicum on inspecting for bats.

Long-term Outcomes

- 1) I now have a better working relationship with Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control experts and have been asked to serve on a Q & A panel at the Vector borne and Zoonotic Disease Workshop 2009.

Unanticipated Outcomes

- 1) The subject of bats and rabies turned out to be a great deal more contentious than I expected. As a result I sort advice from CDC and Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Control experts, and am now part of a larger outreach effort.

Leveraged Funds

We applied for an Arizona Game and Fish grant, but were unsuccessful.