



Chytridiomycosis (chytrid)



What is Chytridiomycosis?

Chytridiomycosis is a fungal disease of amphibians caused by two species of fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) and *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (Bsal). This disease has caused the decline or extinction of over 200 species of amphibians and has been found in over 350 species.

Where is chytrid found?

Chytridiomycosis is an emerging disease of amphibians found worldwide. Bd has a global distribution and has been found in several frog and toad species within Wyoming including the endangered Wyoming toad. Bsal has currently been found in Europe and Asia.

How is it spread?

The fungus infects keratinized skin of amphibians. Once the fungus matures in the skin motile spores are released and can spread into bodies of water where they infect new hosts. These spores can also be transported by fomites from one body of water to another.

What are some clinical signs of disease?

Clinical signs can include lethargy, anorexia, abnormal behavior such as failure to seek shelter when approached or failure to right when flipped over, sloughing skin and thickened or reddening of the skin typically on the legs and belly of adults, but can also be seen on the mouth of tadpoles. Finding small clusters of dead frogs or salamanders can also be an indicator of chytrid.

How does this disease affect me?

This is a disease specific to amphibians. There are no human health risks.

Information for outdoor recreationists:

It is important to disinfect all gear after recreating in or near water based ecosystems. This includes footwear, boats and fishing gear to help limit the spread of disease agents and invasive species. Using amphibians as fishing bait poses a significant risk of spreading this disease. Always report suspicious amphibian deaths to your local biologist.

For additional information on Chytridiomycosis or any other wildlife disease, please contact the WGFD Wildlife Health Laboratory at 307-745-5865.