

Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504  
C/O Water Quality Program

March 4, 2010

RE: Mosquito Control Restrictions

To Whom It May Concern:

The recent DOE recommendation to restrict preemptive mosquito spray programs will have a significant negative effect on our area. Moses Lake is one of the largest fresh water bodies in our State and because of its size, relative shallow depth, extensive undeveloped shorelines, low water turn-over and warm temperatures, are prone to massive infestations of mosquitoes. Surrounding irrigation drainage systems also contribute to the mosquito problem with standing water trapped in low lying areas.

The quality of life for those living in our community, and those who would consider our community as a future home, would be severely impacted by so-called "nuisance mosquitoes". These insects are not only annoying but are also capable of carrying diseases. "Vector mosquitoes" would also be allowed to breed and spread disease until a diagnosis was verified, which can take up to a month to confirm in some cases. This is a potentially dangerous practice and public health should be managed more proactively.

Citizens of Grant County pay Mosquito District 1 (included on their annual property taxes) to eradicate these pesky and sometimes dangerous insects. Our residential assessment is over \$200.00 this year and if this program is suspended we will have to resort to whatever means necessary to keep mosquitoes away from our house, which is located next to a natural spring area with a large amount of surface water. If you don't allow professional services, such as the Mosquito District, to take care of this problem, people will likely resort to more environmentally damaging methods to stop the infestations.

Moses Lake is an 'outdoor community' and the lake is a centerpiece for water sports and other recreational activities. Thousands of people enjoy themselves at nearby parks, campgrounds, playfields and surrounding neighborhoods. Without this spray program, we will be plagued with potentially harmful insects that are easily controlled with safe and effective pesticides. Our economy needs those dollars that visitors bring. Would you want to spend money on a vacation in a mosquito infested location? The potential health threat created by mosquito borne illnesses is far more hazardous than the alleged and unsubstantiated impact of the current mosquito control program.

We strongly request the Washington DOE allow Grant County to continue with current mosquito control program to ensure a healthy environment here.

Sincerely,

Lee and Linda Suksdorf  
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CA 311