

MAR 10 2010

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

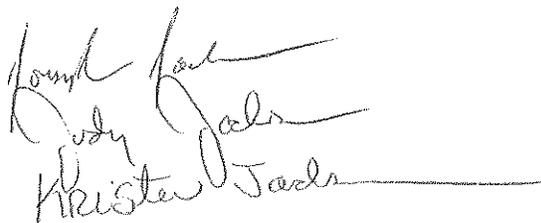
I am writing in concern with an issue in Benton County on mosquito control. For the last 20 plus years the Benton Mosquito control district has tried to control the mosquito population. Since I live in the south Kennewick/Finley area, the standing water and two irrigation ditches on three sides of my property makes the mosquito population a huge concern. During the summer I can not go outside after 9:00 PM because of mosquitos.I have severe reactions to mosquito bites.

In the past two years we have seen cases of west Nile virus in Benton County. I have started vaccinating my horses for the West Nile when cases were seen on the west coast. This year I will spent \$200 on vaccines just for my horses. I know many horse owners who do not vaccinate or do not have the money to vaccinate.

There is no vaccine for dogs, cats, other farm animals OR PEOPLE.I personally know of two people who contracted encephalomyelitis in past years, spread by mosquitoes. This has devastated their lives and their families.

I do not like pay the mosquito control tax but at least I see a result for the money spent. I can not image the mosquito problem in the south Kennewick area without spraying and treating the standing water for eggs.

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