Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District

MLIRD

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

MAR 1 7 2010

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

March 10, 2010

Mosquito Control Permit Comment
Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
P O Box 476000
Olympia WA 98504

Dear Department of Ecology:

The Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District (MLIRD) is very concerned about the adult population of mosquito's growing and bringing further infestation to the Grant County area and the immediate area of Moses Lake. "The Moses Lake Irrigation & Rehabilitation District is devoted to improve the water quality of Moses Lake. It is our goal to enhance the recreational aspects of the lake and to rehabilitate the lake to further the health, welfare and quality of life of the citizens that surround it." MLIRD is governed by RCW 87.84.050.

Prior to the Mosquito District controlling the adult mosquito's the population was so large that it was impossible for citizens in the Moses Lake community to venture outside without being swarmed. At times there is considerable wind in our area and fishermen have literally had to race their boats to shore, load their boats and return to shelter when the wind shifts to escape massive attacks. The possible danger of citizens having the same experience again poses unsafe conditions that could lead to disaster.

As General Manager and Director's of MLRD we would encourage you to jump through the red tape and get permits in place immediately so areas that will overrun this spring can be brought under control. This is extremely important to the quality of life for all citizens as well as animals and wildlife.

Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District, P O Box 98, Moses Lake WA 98837
Phone: 509-765-8716 Fax: 509-764-8425

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In addition, we would like to point out that this past winter was very mild and the anticipated need for pest control is higher than most years.

Our concern reaches subject matters as they relate to facts and statistics as all residents are at risk of getting West Nile, with the only protection to avoid getting bitten is to use repellants that can cause health issues for humans, which is of much more concern than spray applications where citizens can seek refuge for a shorter period of time.

MLIRD is working with the Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife to enhance fishing and habitat areas on Moses Lake where thousands of birds have found refuge for years. According to the USGS the West Nile Virus was first detected in 1999 among wildlife, primarily birds, in wild and captive species.

MLIRD has further concern for the wildlife of this area and farm animals as well. As General Manager, Directors, community leaders and private citizens, we strongly encourage you to issue permits to applicators immediately who use controlled application techniques.

Best Regards,

Curt J. Carpenter, LA
General Manager

Glen Rathbone, Director

Norm Benson, Director

Rich Archer, Director

/jhs

cc: Grant County Mosquito Control District #1

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