

From: [Ron Vocht](#)
To: [Jennings, Jonathan \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: Restrictions to Mosquito Control Districts
Date: Monday, March 15, 2010 11:37:56 AM

To Jonathan Jennings...Department of Ecology

Sir...

In regards to your Departments efforts to impose new restrictions upon mosquito districts in this state...I wish to register my comments with your office:

Effective organized integrated mosquito control programs are something that I know something about! I have been instrumental in the early formation of two mosquito control districts within eastern Washington state. Those two entities are the Columbia Mosquito Control District in western Walla Walla county, of which I spent 5 years as a Field Supervisor and over 45 years as a board member, and the Benton County Mosquito Control District where I spent 5 years as a Field Supervisor and manager pro tem, working with federal, state, and local entities and personnel.

Mosquito control districts were formed in this state in the early 1950's due to the rising waters caused by impoundments behind area dams owned and operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers. These impoundments produced intolerable numbers of nuisance and disease carrying mosquitoes within residential and rural areas. The Corps refused to do anything about this menace...until the residents demanded it! Then, the Corps contracted control efforts to local mosquito districts. It used to be a matter of fact, that after sundown, all outside activities ceased, and people remained indoors. It wasn't until cases of, and deaths from, equine and human encephalitis cases started rising in this area that health officials and municipal leaders took notice. I and my father were there at the start of organized mosquito control efforts.

I, and persons within this endeavor, have learned through experience two VERY important aspects to control.

- (1) Effective control takes place only over several years, to a "tolerance level", and must be maintained YEARLY!
- (2) Integrated mosquito control is the only effective method, utilizing modern technology methods and machines, biological, and chemical means of control. The differing mosquito species with their differing biological make ups make this a necessity! One method of control does not fit all species and conditions.

There are over 28 species of mosquitoes in our state, some are nuisance and some are disease vectors transmitting West Nile virus and human and equine encephalitis! These cases HAVE INCREASED OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS!

Therefore, hindering further efforts of mosquito control districts to effect public health should NOT be implemented! Mosquito control personnel are licensed by the state, are highly trained, and are environmentally conscious. Fogging for adult mosquitoes is ABSOLUTELY necessary to keep them at an "acceptable tolerance and disease level". The use of the medium toxic Malathion and Nalid is also absolutely necessary at times for effective mosquito control, that's what "integrated " control is all about. The " purpose" of mosquito control districts, is to maintain the public health. Any other agency that hinders or jeopardizes the public health...will be held responsible when cases arise...and will eventually have to answer to that public. I, since retired, thank you for this opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,
Ron Vocht

David Ensunsa, Manager

Business Phone: 547-4994

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SOUTHWEST WALLA WALLA COUNTY
912 W. HUMORIST RD. BURBANK, WA
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West Nile Virus (WNV) was very active in Washington last year. Monitoring found infections in birds and mosquito samples within the Columbia Mosquito Control District (CMCD) boundaries. I ask that you please read this Newsletter and do your part to help protect our community from this virus.

WNV is transported by birds. A mosquito feeds on a bird host to contract the virus and then feeds on humans or animals to transmit the virus to the new host. Humans and animals are considered dead end hosts. For example, WNV cannot be transmitted from person to person or from animal to person. Affected the most are birds, horses and humans.

The most susceptible birds affected are crows, ravens, magpies and blue jays. **If you find a bird that has been dead less than 48 hours and has no apparent reason for dying, call the CMCD or the health department. Do not touch or move the bird.** It is very uncommon for the virus to affect any pets or animals other than horses. If you have horses, you need to take them to your veterinarian and have them vaccinated for the WNV as soon as possible. They will need the original shot and a booster about 4 to 6 weeks later. They can still contract the virus up to 4-6 weeks after the booster. An annual booster should be given every year. Please contact your Veterinarian for more information.

A human vaccine for WNV is not available because of the length of time it takes to get approval.

Things you can do to avoid mosquito bites:

- Use an effective mosquito repellent and follow label instructions, repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 are recommended.
- Plan outdoor activities away from dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are active.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when in mosquito infested areas.
- Make sure the screens on all doors and windows work properly.

Things you can look for and do around your house to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds and help prevent the spread of WNV:

- ❖ Keep animal watering stations dumped and refilled regularly. If you request, we can put mosquito larvae eating fish in your watering stations.
- ❖ Dispose of tin cans, plastic container, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers that have collected on your property.
- ❖ Pay special attention to discarded tires. Stagnant water in tires is where most mosquitoes breed. They can breed in only ¼ inch of water.
- ❖ Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outdoors.
- ❖ You should have roof gutters cleaned every year, particularly if they are clogged with leaves from surrounding trees. Roof gutters can produce millions of mosquitoes each season.
- ❖ Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use. Stagnant water in a wading pool becomes a place for mosquitoes to breed.
- ❖ Turn over the wheelbarrows and don't let water stagnate in birdbaths. Both of these provide breeding locations for mosquitoes.

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- ❖ Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish. Water gardens can become a major mosquito producer if they are allowed to stagnate. Clean and chlorinate swimming pools not in use. A swimming pool left unattended by a family on vacation for a month can produce enough mosquitoes to result in neighborhood wide complaints. Mosquitoes may even breed in the water that collects on pool covers.
- ❖ Use landscaping to eliminate standing water that collects on your property. Mosquitoes may breed in any puddle that lasts for more than four days.

Adulticiding (fogging) procedures of the CMCD rely upon the expertise of the field technicians to monitor areas of resident complaints about mosquitoes, and determine if the mosquito species are possible carriers of vector borne disease. The technicians will also determine if the adult mosquito population creates a nuisance factor that is beyond a tolerable level. Our district does not fog areas on a regular schedule, however, the CMCD will adulticide specific areas after a site evaluation is conducted by our technicians. Resident calls concerning adult mosquitoes are very valuable to our agency and all residents who call our office will receive a response as quickly as possible. The foggers currently used by our district are silent and you will not hear them nor will you be able to smell the fogging (adulticiding) product. The adulticide our district uses is a product name "Anvil", which is a sumithrin. If you have questions concerning our adulticide products, do not hesitate to contact our office.

If you were on our year 2009 "Call (before we adulticide) List," your name and residence will be on our "Call List" for 2010. If you wish to have your name and residence added to our "Call (before adulticiding) List" so that we will not adulticide at your home, please contact our office at 547-4994.

The CMCD will begin field operations/monitoring on March 1, 2010 within the wetlands of the district. When applying larvicide to these wetlands, the following will be used:

- Bacillus Thuringiensis (a biological control agent)
- Agnique – a mono-molecular film
- Bacillus Sphaericus – a biological control agent
- Methoprene – a mosquito growth regulator

We also use **Gambusia fish** that we plant in your watering stations upon request or if we notice a potential problem upon our sight evaluation.

We have on file at the CMCD office, the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit for Mosquito Control required by the Washington State Department of Ecology. If residents have questions regarding our larvicide or adulticide products, please contact our office at 547-4994.