

IMPACT



Elmore County, 535 E. Jackson, Mountain Home, ID 83647; 208-587-2136; Fax: 208-587-2137

Successful Spray Halts Spread of West Nile Virus in Elmore County

The Situation

Because of the major West Nile Virus mosquito infestation in Elmore County, there were 47 reported cases of human West Nile Virus infection and hospitalization, and three mortalities. It was critical to immediately implement a mosquito spray program.

Our Response



By order of the County Commissioners, the Educator facilitated the gathering of information, mapping, and wrote the spray proposal that was submitted to the Governor's Office for approval.

Under the direction of the Elmore County Disaster Service, and in cooperation with Elmore County Commissioners, ISDA specialists, the Department of Health, and with the extraordinary assistance of the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, we began the implementation phase.

The Educator, his office Program Assistant, and his former technician mapped over 90,000 acres in Mountain Home, Glens Ferry, Hammett, King Hill, Pasadena Valley, Pine, Featherville, and Smith Prairie, utilizing G.P.S. technology.

The Educator wrote a comprehensive article on WNV biology, control measures, toxicology of the insecticide, and precautions to be taken during the spray night, which was published by El-Wyhee Hi-Lites Newspaper and distributed to over 7,000 people.

Program Outcomes

Positive feedback from the public and two Achievement Certificates awarded by the Elmore County Disaster Service Coordinator and Elmore County Commissioners reflect the successful implementation of WNV technical and public safety education programs. Because of the Endangered Species Act, BLM lands in the spray area were totally excluded from the spray areas mapped. The Educator did a post-spray survey which showed from 86 to 95 percent control.

For More Information

Mir M. Seyedbagheri, Extension Educator/Professor
University of Idaho Extension—Elmore County
535 E. Jackson
Mountain Home, ID 83647
208-587-2136
Fax: 208-587-2137
Email: mirs@uidaho.edu

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