

Mission Statement: To protect the health and socioeconomic well being of the citizens of Twin Falls County from harmful vectors and pests, employing environmentally sound abatement practices.

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Report Prepared by District Manager Kirk Tubbs

Report to Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District Board of Trustees

Introduction

This was the fourth season of operation for Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District (TFCPAD). Once again we experienced operational changes as compared to last summer; however we maintained our primary focus of using a Integrated Pest Management approach to control larva for Black Flies and mosquitoes. Changes were a result of improved products available for use as well as an increased understanding of pest biology and our local area. The staff consisted of one full time manager, and during the summer three full time seasonal employees. A part time office administrator helps out with board meetings. To accommodate workers' college schedules and other obligations employees worked varying amounts of hours and different schedules during the season. Seasonal employees were: Aaron Ursenbach, Adam Darrington and Ashley Haun.

New for this year were the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements for the new National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This permit was obtained and additional recordkeeping and annual reporting are part of the process. Considerable time was spent early in the year ensuring all permit requirements were met. To better facilitate compliance with this permit, a GIS system consisting of 4 handheld rugged field units, software, and product support was purchased. Cost of this system was just under \$20,000. This expenditure was not budgeted for, and was paid for by reductions in spending in other areas. In addition to keeping us compliant with the new permit, the GIS units have made overall recordkeeping more efficient as well as helped in preserving field knowledge from one year to the next. This will be a great help in training new field employees.

Another significant purchase was a full sized pickup which has been set up to carry full totes of product for black fly work. The truck was set up so it can be easily converted to other uses as needs change during the season.

Geographic Area

The TFCPAD primarily conducts work inside Twin Falls County. The county contains approximately 1,232,000 acres. Twin Falls County has a population of 77,230 (2010 Census up 20% from 64,284 in the 2000 census). Work is targeted to the areas that will produce the best results for the time and money spent.

Surveillance and subsequent treatment areas for Black Fly control consisted of most moving waters in Twin Falls County: The Twin Falls Canal system which contains 110 miles of major canals and over 1,000 miles of laterals, the Salmon Falls Canal System which has over 300 miles of main and lateral canals, and the Roseworth Canal System which contains over 10 miles of main and lateral canals. In addition portions of coulee drainage streams, Rock Creek, Deep Creek, Cedar Draw, Dry Creek, Salmon Falls Creek, and the Snake River received some treatment. The entire Milner Irrigation Canal System was also treated; this system originates in Twin Falls County, runs through Cassia County, then returns into Twin Falls County and contains over 25 miles of canal.

Mosquito Control work was conducted mainly in the more populous areas of the county. Priority in treatments was given to residential areas, locations where historically West Nile Virus was found and recreational or high public use areas. Mosquito monitoring conducted during the season further helped to focus our work where it was most needed. In general the Snake River was the dividing line for treatments, but a few areas in adjacent counties were treated when we treated along the Snake River due to their direct impact on Twin Falls County. Clearlake's Homeowners Association and the area near Centennial Park are some examples.

In addition to our work inside Twin Falls County, some limited surveillance work was conducted in Jerome, Gooding, Cassia, Lincoln and Minidoka County. This was mostly to provide a better understanding of Black Fly numbers and movement. This also provided some mosquito samples which were tested for West Nile Virus (WNV) as well.

1. Collaborative Agreements

We have welcomed partnerships and the sharing of information and resources in order to fulfill our mission. All parties worked with in 2011 continued in provide assistance. Some of the more significant collaborators are noted.

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare provided supplies as well as \$3,000 for mosquito surveillance through a grant. The state lab also provided confirmation virus testing.

The Twin Falls Canal Company, Salmon Falls Canal Company, and Milner Irrigation District provided canal information, water flow rates, and data. TFCC also provided the loan of water flow meter equipment.

Clearlake's Homeowners Association contracted to have mosquito surveillance and control. This resulted in treatments that benefited Twin Falls County residents in adjacent area as well as the homeowners association.

The Shoshone Basin Sage Grouse Working Group which includes a partnership of Federal and State land management agencies as well as private land owners and grazing permit holders partnered with us to treat water sources in areas of concern for sage grouse. We provided product and training and the provided the manpower to treat these remote locations with the goal of reducing WNV incidence in sage grouse.

2. Surveillance

2.1 Black Fly (BF) adult surveillance is conducted using the same traps and methods that are used for adult mosquito's surveillance. The traps are not intended to remove or catch all the BF, rather they provide a measurable comparison from year to year. Vesicular stomatitis was detected in New Mexico and Colorado this year, but none was found in Idaho.

Simuliun *vittatum* is the predominate species found throughout the county. It generally does not bite humans; it prefers to feeds on livestock and is a concern because of its



Photo 1. S. *vittatum* on left, S. *bivittatum* on right. Dime used for size comparison.

potential for disease transmission and its negative effect on livestock behavior. When people notice Black Flies swarming in their face, it is generally this species.

Simuliun *bivittaum* This very small species of BF has a similar lifecycle and habitat preferences to Simuliun *vittatum*, but likes to bite people as well as animals. They are smaller and harder to see, and are general more numerous in the west end of the county. This species was first identified by TFCPAD in 2011 due to our increase lab capacity.

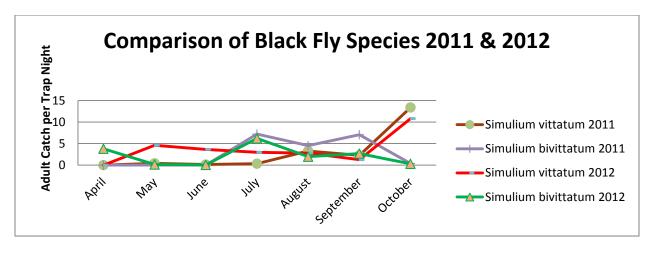


Chart 1.

2.2 Black Fly larval surveillance in canals primarily took place with yellow sample ropes hung in the waterways. A six inch section of the rope was marked off and larvae found on that section were monitored. Other waterways were also monitored by pulling up vegetation and looking at it and rocks for larva presence. In fluctuating water flows the BF Larva move around a great deal in the stream searching out optimum attachment sites, rendering the rope surveys not as effective. Some waterways are surveyed year round. Surveillance was done in order to find BF Larva, to gage larval stage and growth so treatment could be conducted where needed and at optimum larval stage.

Mosquito surveillance for larva was conducted by dipping for larva in standing water sources such as ponds and water retention areas. Work primarily focused around the more populated parts of the county; however any standing water encountered was sampled whenever possible.

2.3 Adult mosquito trapping was conducted on a weekly basis during the summer (April 23 to Oct 10). Traps used a light and CO2 produced by dry ice to attract the mosquitoes. Traps were set in the evening and retrieved the following day. 216 trap nights produced a total of 5,247 female mosquitoes that were speciated as a part of this surveillance. This excludes data where traps failed or where efforts were being duplicated. This trapping provided mosquitoes for West Nile Virus (WNV) testing as well as feedback on treatment results and needs. Testing of mosquitoes this year was conducted in house with confirmation testing of results being done by the state health lab. Using data from previous years we conducted surveillance in three ways:

Targeted surveillance of high priority areas.

Random sampling to locate new areas in need of treatment.

Abundance trapping to provide a look at populations over time.

Using data from previous years and state guidelines we have established a Twin Falls County specific operations guide and treatment thresholds and procedures. These guidelines were followed regarding trap counts of certain mosquito species and when a high number were caught, traps were reset to help determine if the population was rising or falling and to evaluate the effectiveness of our treatment efforts. The goal was to find potential problem areas quickly so that we could maintain mosquito numbers below the threshold where disease is easily transmitted. These guidelines are reviewed and updated with the new data as needed.

2.4 West Nile Virus Testing

West Nile Virus is considered endemic in Idaho. Our goal is to reduce the likelihood of virus transmission by limiting its vector. We test mosquitoes regularly as part of our surveillance. This year 76 pools of mosquito were tested in house as part of routine surveillance. TFCPAD uses a rapid immunochromatographic system for screening samples (referred to as a RAMP test). It provides quick and accurate testing of samples. In some cases samples fall within a range where additional testing is required, when needed the state lab provided confirmation testing.

Results of RAMP test are: First positive mosquito pool location was found on August 15, 2012 west of Buhl. Location tested positive again on August 20. Second positive mosquito pool location was found on August 20, 2012 south of Hansen.

Mosquito speciation also let us know what type of habitat to look for, and if we were dealing with a potential vector of disease or just a nuisance mosquito. Vectors of disease generally bite, lay eggs and then bite again. This repeated feeding transmits the disease. Nuisance species bite, lay eggs and die and are not likely to spread disease. Most nuisance species are in flood water areas and most disease vectors come from more permanent standing water. Trap results can be used in planning when and where to work to reduce potential disease vectors before they become a problem.

Chart 2 shows the population distribution of trapped female mosquitos in TFC. *Culex tarsalis* and *Culex pipians* are the two species likley to carry WNV. Culex are most often found in ponds and various containers. *Culex pipiens* most often come from storm drains and small containers of water in areas where people live. A mild winter and a dry summer favored Culex species mosquitoes, they overwinter as pregnat female adults. A mild winter allows them to survive well, emerging in the spring ready to lay eggs in small ponds or containers. Flooding events favor other species whose eggs lie dormant in the soil waiting for the right flooding conditions to hatch. This years data shows a higher total culex catch of over 53% of our total catch when a 15 to 35% has been the normal. Dry summers also tend to conceentrate birds who may have WNV at the limited watersources allowing for a higher infection rate of mosquitoes.

Results for floodwater mosquitoes were quite varried over what they have been in the past. In part this is due to limited flooding this year and also due to targeting the sources early before they emerged. Historical data helps with finding and treating areas early. They are most often found in floded areas along the river and flooded irrigation areas . They would sometimes generate complaints, but are mostly a nuisance mosquito not generally a vector of disease. Last year *Ochleratatus melanimon* numbers soared to over 52% of our total catch from a norm of less than one percent due to flooding in areas not normaly flooded. This year they droped back to 6%. There eggs can last for years in the soil and are just waiting for another wet year.

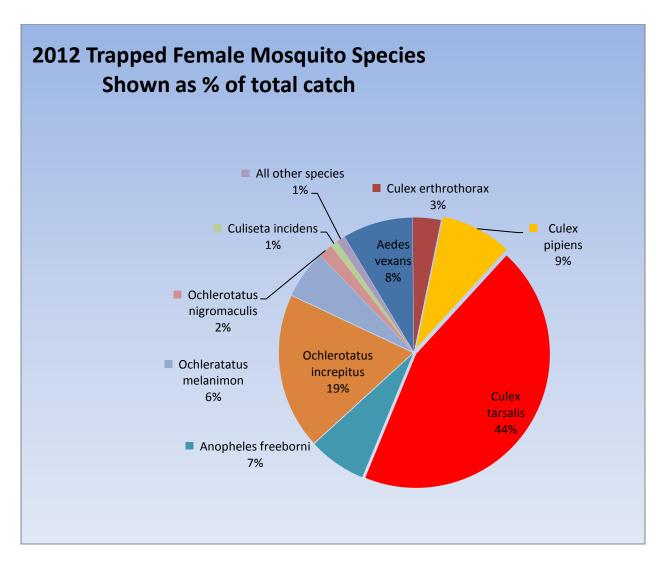


Chart 2.

Another intresting note from our mosquito survelence is that both last year and this year we caught a mosquito noted for its roll as the vector for Dog heart worm. Aedes sierrensis is very uncommon in idaho. Our catch of 2 mosquitoes each year of these is significan only to note that they are present. Only Boise Idaho has reported catches of these as well. A few cases of dog heart worm have been reported in idaho, however is belived that it was acquired before coming to idaho.

Over all mosquito numbers were low throught the county. All areas requesting service were related to excess irrigation and a hatch of flood water mosquitoes.

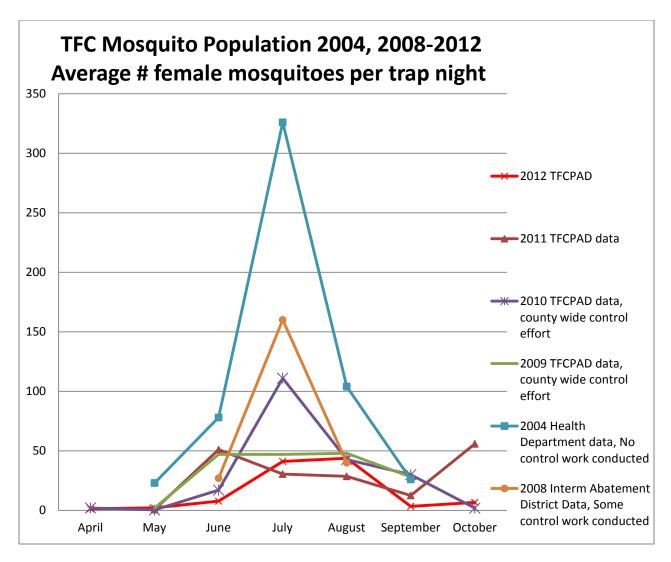
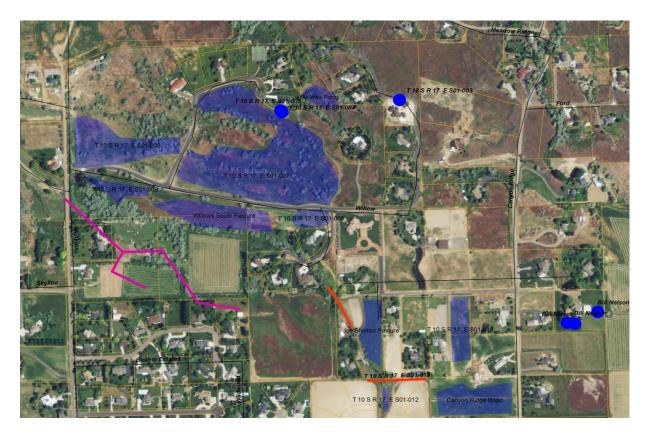


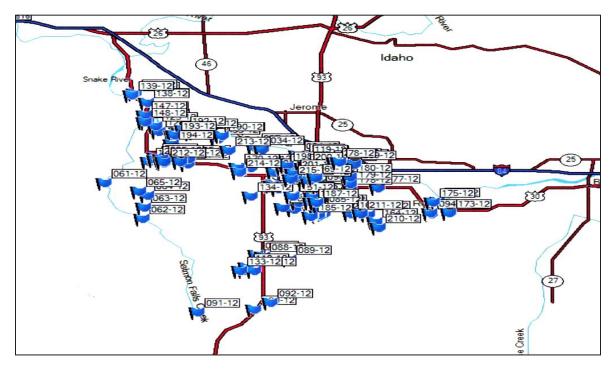
Chart 3.

3. Mapping

GIS units were used to provide accurate records of treatment locations, to measure treatment areas, and to record this information for future use. The new GIS units allow for field recording of data, field review of previous work and mapping of all treatments. Below is a screen shot of our GIS mapping showing mosquito surveillance and treatment sites. The pink line is a drain tile. These drains are often a source of year-round water and an overwintering location for black flies.



Map 1. Screen shot from GIS map to give an idea of information recorded. Shaded areas are treatment blocks for mosquitoes. Dots are small point sources treated for mosquitoes like ponds or storm drains. Lines show drainage tiles.



Map 2. Locations where adult mosquito traps were set in testing for WNV.

4. Source Reduction

Educational efforts in utilizing good landscape design to reduce potential pest habitat has been a part of our public education campaign as well as our meeting with homeowners. The biggest impact we are having in source reduction is through educational effort. We cannot find and treat every potential breeding site, but when landowners know what to look for they help immensely by draining or flushing standing water. The species of concern for WNV are short range flyers which are why preventing mosquito production in backyards is so important.

TFCPAD helped sponsor a Tire Amnesty day and conducted public education as part of this day. Removal of discarded tires greatly reduces container habitat for certain species of mosquitoes.

Educational Public Service Announcements were produced and aired during the summer months on local radio stations to educate people about backyard mosquitoes.

Several public presentations at events such as The Twin Falls County Fair, Southern Idaho Home and Garden Show and other community events were well attended.

5. <u>Larval Control</u>

Almost all control efforts were targeted towards the larval stage of both mosquitoes and black flies. At this stage of the lifecycle they are confined to a smaller nursery and treatment is safe and effective. Studies suggest that larviciding 1,000 acres is the equivalent of adult control on 72,000 Acres. With Black Flies, there is no efficient way to control adults without treating large geographic areas. A mile of river with good Black Fly habitat can produce over 1 billion black flies per day; hence it is best to treat the source.

Our primary larvicide is Bti (Bacillus thuringienisiis v. israelensis) which is a product of a natural soil bacteria, when refined it produces multiple protein crystals that when consumed, react with the alkaline gut of a mosquito or black fly resulting in larval death. There is no secondary toxicity, or recycling of the product. It has little to no effect on non target species and does not persist in the environment. Black Fly Larvae were treated using Bti in a solution applied to moving water. Mosquito larvas were treated with Bti spread over still water. Larval stage, quantity and water temperature were monitored to determine treatment intervals and application rates.

5.1 Black Fly

Black fly reproduction continues even during the winter. Larvae grow slowly, but have a special adaption triggered by the cold that allows them to emerge as adults and immediately lay eggs without feeding or mating. Although black fly numbers can increase in overwintering habitats, the winter also provides an opportunity to get an early start on black fly management for the following season. During the winter, canals are dry and the overwintering habitat is limited, so winter treatments can greatly reduce populations. Overwintering larvae that emerge as adults during the spring disperse and colonize canals. By reducing the



Photo 2 Black Flies feeding on horse's ear.

number of black flies that first emerge during the spring we expect to reduce the overall population for the year. During years with typical water flow rates, the winter is one of the most cost-effective times to treat.

Flight range for Black Flies is 10-20 miles. A treatment program targeting black flies in Twin Falls County during 2010 and 2011 that included winter treatments gave excellent results. However, the ability of black flies to disperse long distances complicates management efforts since adults can immigrate to our area from untreated breeding sites outside the County. Despite our best efforts we will have higher numbers of black flies late summer and fall due to immigration from untreated areas outside of the county. Black fly control is best accomplished on a regional level by targeting the larvae in canals and rivers before they hatch.

The Snake River is one of the largest overwintering habitats in our area, and by treating the river we are able to reduce the numbers of black flies that would otherwise colonize canals, which benefits the entire region. Unusually high river flows kept TFCPAD from treating the Snake River during the winter months this year. Some treatments were conducted during early spring, but many black flies had already hatched and begun colonizing canals. As we have in the past, TFCPAD is still sampling for larvae in the canal systems and treating when appropriate. Over 1,000 individual applications of Bti were conducted for black fly control.

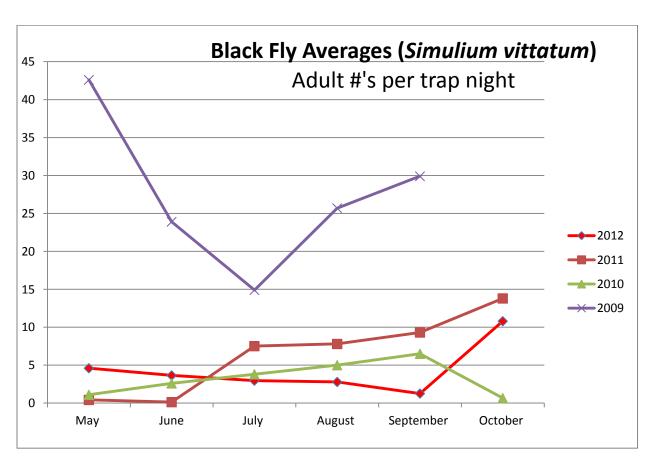


Chart 4

5.2 Mosquito

Mosquito larvae were controlled in several ways. Early in the season catch basins, storm drains, and some water retention ponds were treated using one of several slow release products. Altosid, Naturlar, and Four Star products were all used. Products lasted form 45-180 days depending on the type of location treated. The slow release formula allows these early season treatments to last during the summer. These treatments are designed to work so that even when the water dries up the product remains ready for the next time the catch basin fills with water. This treatment is ideal for storm drains where we do not have the man power to check and treat each one at intervals during the summer. Over 1,000 storm drains were treated in Twin Falls County by TFCPAD. In addition, product is supplied to the local municipalities to use for the retreatment of drains when they are cleaned during the summer. All products used in treatments are listed on the TFCPAD website.

Additional mosquito larval control was conducted by the use of Bti and a Bacillus sphaericus biological larvacide applied to standing water when mosquito larvae were found present. Bs works in much the same way as Bti, it is a natural soil bacteria that is consumed by the larvae. The difference is that it is a live bacterial that when consumed it multiplies inside the mosquito gut eventually killing the mosquito. The mosquito gut ruptures and releases the bacteria for other larva to consume. In areas of high mosquito larva this recycling of the product can make this type of treatments last longer than Bti. The drawback to this is that it costs more than what Bti does and does not work on all species of mosquitoes. A combo product that pairs the two bacteria in order to get 30 days of control has worked well for us; these products come on a loose corn cob granule (CG) inside a water soluble pouch (WSP). Various methods are used to broadcast this over standing water. Over 1,000 larval sites were treated for mosquitoes (not counting storm drains).

In some areas we use a surface film to treat for mosquitoes. The surface film is a monomolecular film that coats the surface of the water reducing surface tension, preventing pupa mosquitoes from emerging from the water. It can also plug a mosquito larva's breathing tube and suffocate it. The film is designed to break down rapidly, it is only used where we find pupa.

5.3 Bluegill

In addition, stocking of Bluegill for mosquito larval control was continued this year. Bluegills were stocked from Dierkes Lake. Many

of the locations that received fish are seasonal ponds and will need fish every year. The fish have



Photo 3 Bluegill being measured before release.

proven to be a valuable part of our Integrated Pest Management approach. As we stock more waters and have more locations to use as sources for fish this part of our program will expand. A number of volunteers helped with fish capture. Based on the public response, this is the public's favorite parte of our program.

5.4 Pesticide use totals

2012 TFPAD PESTICIDE USE TOTALS				
Product	EPA Reg. #	Quantity Used		
Four Star (45 day)	83362-3	344 each		
Four Star (90 day)	83362-3	754 each		
4 Star (180 day)	83362-3	1,273 each		
Agnique (surface Film)	53263-28	5.04 gallons		
Agnique WSP	53263-3	198 pouches		
Altosid Briquet (180 day)	2724-421	255 each		
Altosid WSP	2724-448	185 pouches		
Vectolex WSP (BS)	73049-20	924 pouches		
Vectobac CG (Bti)	73049-19	41.65 pounds		
Vectomax CG(BTi,BS)	73049-429	1,451.84 pounds		
Naturlar (180 day)	8329-84	637 each		
Naturlar Granular (30 Day)	8329-83	330.99 pounds		
Vectobac 12AS(Bti)	73049-38	6442.76 gallons		
All Pro MBG (Granular Bti)	7699-92	70.15 pound		

6. Control of Adult Mosquito Populations

Our most effective control of adult mosquitoes is accomplished by controlling the larva.

Control of adult mosquitoes through fogging was not conducted. We have 2 emergency aerial contracts in place in the event aerial application is needed. We did not meet the action thresholds to justify this type of work.

7. Certification

Professional Applicator Licenses were maintained by all of our applicators. In house training was conducted on defensive driving, water safety, CPR and First Aid, equipment calibration and use, emergency procedures for spills and insect identification. The water safety portion of our training was expanded this year providing each employee practicing self rescues in a swift water environment. The following is a list of trainings and important meetings attended.

Jan 10th Twin Falls Canal Company Annual Meeting.

Feb 28th 71 cattle association meeting*

March 15-15 North West Mosquito and Vector Control Association Spring Training

April 5-6th Idaho Mosquito and Vector control Association spring meeting *

April 29-May 2 Represented Idaho & IMVCA in Washington D.C (Served as Board Member for IMVCA, term ended this year.)

May 4th ICRIM Risk Manager Training

October 3-4 North West Mosquito and Vector Control Association *

November 7th Idaho Mosquito and Vector Control Meeting *

* In addition to attendance, Kirk Tubbs, TFCPAD manager presented a program.

8. Public Education and awareness

The following is a list of educational events attended by TFCPAD and significant coverage by the press:

Feb 17-18 Sothern Idaho Home and Garden Show

Feb 28-March 6th Filer intermediate school. Set up display and visited with classes.

April 16-17th O'Leary Jr High speaking to science classes and setting up BF display

May 5th Tire Amnesty Day,

May 12th Career on Wheels Day, educational presentation for elementary students.

May 21,2012 Times News Article http://magicvalley.com/news/local/a-dry-spring-means-fewer-pests-but-disease-risks-are/article_d7086714-dce6-50a7-bab2-daf5f95e4411.html

July 12 Presenter at Region 6 Association of Counties to Speak on Black Fly Control

July 29th Range Tour guest speaker about Black Fly and Mosquito control

August 29- September 2, Twin Falls County Fair

September 15th, Community Action Education Day at the Park.

November 13 Meadow Ridge Homeowners

December 11th Idaho Power Safety Meeting

July- Aug Lots of time has gone in to preventive education this summer. The media has covered this; some of the news story links are listed.

Times news mosquito update: http://magicvalley.com/news/local/spike-in-mosquitoes-prompts-warnings-for-west-nile/article_ef735eda-c72c-11e1-89e8-001a4bcf887a.html

Times news Black Fly http://magicvalley.com/business/local/livestock-owners-brace-for-more-black-flies/article 2f7b7b09-137b-5b4c-a242-153193498b0f.html

KMVT Black Fly http://www.kmvt.com/news/local/Black-Fly-Numbers-Rising-161617775.html

 $\frac{http://magicvalley.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letters-feel-lucky-they-diagnosed-west-nile-virus-early/article_473611ca-e1b4-11e1-8350-001a4bcf887a.html$

http://magicvalley.com/news/local/infection-at-first-bite/article_1282dd32-e1e6-11e1-88e3-001a4bcf887a.html

http://www.kmvt.com/news/local/Fight-The-Bite-West-Nile-Virus-Returns-164508426.html

http://magicvalley.com/business/range-tour-highlights-benefits-challenges-to-grazing-land/article_f7a48b7e-a7f3-55d9-a2ca-c6ff9710fb79.html

http://magicvalley.com/news/local/fishy-labor-benefits-twin-falls-county/article_90434f00-300c-5079-ace4-ab3c4ba608ee.html

http://magicvalley.com/news/local/fishy-labor-benefits-twin-falls-county/article_90434f00-300c-5079-ace4-ab3c4ba608ee.html

 $\frac{http://magicvalley.com/news/local/west-nile-confirmed-in-twin-falls-county/article_f1f1a258-7a2c-56f7-8f11-429556edd73c.html$

http://www.kmvt.com/news/local/County-Fights-Back-Against-West-Nile-Virus-166663526.html

July-Sep Public Service Announcements played on local radio stations

In addition we have been able to get out information through homeowners associations, contributions to newsletters, our website and even taking hatch out jars of mosquito larvae into schools! Presentations were given to Master garden clubs, Elementary school classes; College classes and other local organizations.

9. Other Business

9.1 Board meeting Dates

All Board meetings were announced and open to the public. The following is a list of Meeting dates,

1/12/2012	4/19/2012	9/19/2012
2/21/2012	5/31/2012	11/14/2012
3/20/2012	8/22/2012	12/19/2012

9.2 Emergency planning

This year TFCPAD under took the task of establishing a basic guideline for evaluating potential emergency scenarios related to pests vectors and our ability to respond. A Pest Emergency Response Plan template was put together that can be filled out in advance to provide some idea of what resources we have and what we would need in different scenarios. In the upcoming year different pest vectors & diseases will be discussed. Working through test cases has been helpful for planning basic budgetary needs and cost associated with work above and beyond our current level of control.

9.3 BUDGET FOR TWIN FALLS COUNTY PEST ABATEMENT DISTRICT

Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District YTD Revenues & Expenses to 2012 Budget vs. Actual & 2013 Budget

Budget was approved at a public hearing Wednesday, August 22, 2012, at 7:30 PM at the Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District office.

В	udget Categories	Budget Items	2012 Total Budget	2012 Actual	2013 Total Budget
Revenues	1-01 Taxes		500,022	522,670	515,003
Revenues	1-02 Grants		-	2,000	3,000
Revenues	1-02 Foregone		-	-	12,288
Revenues	1-04 Carryover I	Money Other	268,112	268,778	315,495
Revenues	1-03 & 1-05 Oth	er Income	360	4,703	3,250
Total Revenues			768,494	798,151	849,036
Expenses					
"A" Budget(Salaries & Wages)			101,501	74,137	98,384
"B" Budget					
Benefits & Taxes Total			27,410	21,950	35,342
Building Expenses Total			24,566	20,932	25,796
Other Insurance Total			3,560	2,367	3,560
Vehicles Total			39,300	29,785	22,600
Travel Total			5,550	1,294	6,350
Training Total			2,120	1,285	2,120
IT and Communications Total			4,300	21,961	6,500
Emergency & Carry Over	10-01 Emergency	Abatement Fund	30,004	30,004	30,004
Emergency & Carry Over	10-02 Previous Yea	ar Carry Over	258,112	258,112	315,495
Community Outreach Total			7,300	4,140	7,400
Integrated Pest Management Tot	al		212,321	217,189	253,035
Administration Total			52,450	45,169	42,450
Total "B" Expenses			666,993	654,188	750,652
Total Expenses			768,494	728,325	849,036
Net Revenues over expenses		\$	\$	69,826 \$	

Budgeted Carry Over From 2011	Budgeted Emergency Abatement Fund 2012	Net Revenues 2012	Carry over to 2013
\$ 258,112	\$ 30,004	\$69,826	\$ 357,942

9.4 Emergency Abatement Fund Policy

Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District Emergency Abatement Fund Policy Position November 16, 2011

The Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District is charged with protecting the health and welfare of the citizens of the county from pests and vectors which carry disease or which might have a negative impact on social and economic well being of the citizens. The primary focus of the district's activity is to proactively abate mosquitoes and black flies in the county before they reach numbers which could cause harm.

The district must, however, also be prepared to react to threats which are currently not an issue. To those ends, the district has worked to accumulate monies into an Emergency Abatement Fund. When the District was formed, there were no monies allocated to fund emergency abatement. The financial target for the Emergency Fund is approximately one fiscal year worth of tax collections. This amount should allow a reasonable and non-excessive response to an emergency. Since the district's formation, money has been set aside each year from a line item on the budget and any unspent operating money has also been added to the fund.

Due to State of Idaho statutes for taxing districts, in order to make the Emergency Fund money available for use, the money in the Emergency Fund must be shown on the annual budget. The result of this is that the annual budget for the Abatement District has risen steadily and significantly each year. We anticipate that when the fund target is reached the district budget will be approximately two (2) times the annual tax revenue collection.

When the emergency fund target is met, the Twin Falls county Pest Abatement Board of Trustees will reevaluate budget expenditures, emergency fund needs, and tax collection rates and will form a policy addressing county abatement requirements at that time.