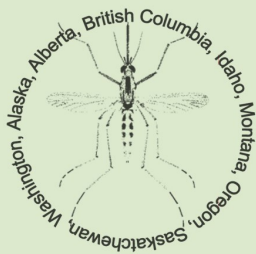




# Vector News

A Publication of the Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association

Fall 2023



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## Executive Director's Report

Hello All,

Well, we are nearing the end of another mosquito season, I hope everyone has had a positive year. For most of us the season started off fast with a hot start to the year, mosquito numbers rose fast and left most of us playing catch up for a while. Luckily this summer didn't seem as warm as usual and most people that I spoke with were able to catch up. Seasonal employment seemed to be a little better so adequate staffing helped for sure. Now being at the end of the season we can focus on finishing strong and looking towards goals in the off-season. The meeting in Whitefish should be a good one, hopefully everyone will take something away from the meeting, while having a good time.

The temperatures in late April and May were sometimes 15-20 degrees above normal. This led to a more rapid larval life cycle for the mosquitoes. Normally in the spring we have weeks for the newly hatched eggs to reach adults but this year it was closer to a week early on. Pairing this with having a ton of water due to spring runoff it was the perfect storm to start off the year bad. The calls numbers towards the end of May and beginning of June were far above normal. But with hard work and playing catch up most districts were able to rebound and at least for us got things under control by the forth.

Staffing seemed to be a little better this year, that and the increase use of drones have helped programs stay on top of things. Many programs have raised their seasonal wage and found more creative ways to find employees. The increased use of drones has not only allowed us to do the work with fewer people it has also allowed us to get to more places and in the end, results in better service. Hopefully we will see these trends continue and expand in the future.

The meeting in Whitefish is set, Dave has chosen a good location and Michael has put together a great agenda. These fall meetings are a great event where we can all come together and learn while also relaxing and enjoying each other's company and stories. I look forward to seeing everyone there.



*Kelly Beehler*  
*NWMVCA Executive Director*

Grouse Mountain Lodge, Whitefish MT

## President's Message

Good Morning/Afternoon my fellow Mosquito Control Professionals,

As the summer months wind down, I want to remind everyone that our fall meeting is just around the corner, and if you haven't done so, please make sure to register for the meeting in Whitefish, MT.

With the 2023 season winding down, I just wanted to take a moment to reflect. With the huge amount of snow that California received during the 2022/2023 winter, our Pacific Northwest (PNW) was kind of forgotten about during the evening news. We all know the truth and for the most part, we all had above average snow falls during the winter and spring of 2023. We also saw a slow warm-up followed by a rush of heat in the late spring which led to some areas of the PNW seeing higher-than-average run-offs. This resulted in a very busy spring for all of us that never really slowed down.

I want to give a shout-out to my fellow industry partners, as I never heard anything about not having inventory available when the district needed product. This is a huge difference from two years ago when most suppliers were facing supply chain issues, transportation restrictions, and shortages.

As an industry representative, I had the opportunity to travel across the region and observe many areas during the different phases of the season. The most common concerns during my travels were flooding in the spring and the threat of West Nile during the summer. This has been the norm for many years with minimal deviations from this pattern over my tenure. I feel our region has done well coming out of the dark of the 2020-2021 COVID-19 and has gotten back into the swing of Public Health. During the early stages of COVID-19, most of the Mosquito Control Districts had a difficult time getting employees and needed to change the "business as usual" model. Part of this change was to incorporate drones instead of the standard practice of 4-wheelers and herd-seed spreaders. The adoption of drones allowed Districts to treat many more acres in a single day with two people than they could have done with a full crew and 4-wheelers during a week. This practice has almost been fully adopted in the PNW and I see more drones being used now than ever before. I feel this adoption of technology was key to our region being able to stay in front of the public health needs during a very difficult time. I applaud you all for this. Well done.

I want to thank you all for allowing me the opportunity to work with you as your President, but most importantly, thank you for letting me get to know you. This has been a wonderful experience.

Sincerely,

*David Boggs, President NWMVCA*

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## Thank You to Our Sustaining Members

Ada County Mosquito Abatement District  
Azelis  
Benton County Mosquito Control  
Canyon County Mosquito Abatement District  
Central Life Sciences  
Clarke  
Frontier Precision, Inc.  
Hover Crane

Leading Edge  
North Morrow Vector Control District  
Target Specialty Products  
Three Rivers Mosquito & Vector Control  
Valent BioSciences  
Veseris  
West Umatilla Mosquito Control District

## **Nominations for NWMVCA 2023 Ballot**

Nominations put forth by the Nominating Committee for the NWMVCA 2023 Ballot Include:

Vice President: Shaun Calver, B.C. Canada  
Alaska Rep: Write-in  
Alberta Rep: Write-in  
British Columbia Rep: Cheryl Phippen  
Idaho Rep: Chris Ocegueda or Heather Ward  
Industry Rep: Nate Hill  
Montana Rep: Jessica Bushnell  
Oregon Rep: Ken Carver  
Saskatchewan Rep: Write-in  
Trustee Rep: Doug Shinn  
Washington Rep: David Beus

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## **Current Officers and Representatives**

Executive Director: Kelly Beehler  
President: David Boggs  
President Elect: Michael McKegue-Foster  
Vice President: Nikki Harris  
Past President: Randy Gerard  
Industry Rep: Nate Hill  
Trustee Rep: Doug Shinn  
Idaho Rep: Desiree Keeney  
Oregon Rep: Ken Carver  
Washington Rep: David Beus  
Montana Rep: Jessica Bushnell (serving the remainder of Josh Miller's term)  
Newsletter Editor: Cheyenne Keel  
Webmaster: Kevin Shoemaker  
North Pacific AMCA Director: Greg Barron  
Alaska: Vacant  
Alberta: Vacant  
Saskatchewan: Vacant

*Angela Beehler is currently on the AMCA ballot to be the next North Pacific Director of the AMCA, so please go to [mosquito.org](http://mosquito.org) and vote.*

Respectfully submitted by  
Greg Barron, North Pacific AMCA Director

## 61<sup>st</sup> Annual NWMVCA Conference in Whitefish, MT October 23<sup>rd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> at Grouse Mountain Lodge

- Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> A.M.:  
Executive Committee Meeting.
- Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> P.M.:  
Half Day Presentations.
- Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> Evening:  
Welcome Reception.
- Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>:  
Meeting all day, followed by the Awards Banquet.
- Thursday October 26<sup>th</sup>: Everyone heads home



Grouse Mountain Lodge: 2 Fairway Dr, Whitefish, MT 59937

### LODGING ROOM RATES

GROUSE MOUNTAIN LODGE Oct. 23-26, 2023			
Room Type	Standard/Double	Triple	Quad
Standard/ Golf View	\$109	\$124	\$139
Corner Suite	\$169	\$184	\$199
Loft Suite	\$229	\$229	\$229

1% Tourism  
8% State Bed Tax  
3% Whitefish Resort Tax  
**\$10.00 Amenity Fee/room/night**

### BOOKING / CANCELLATION POLICY FOR ROOMS ON INDIVIDUAL PICK UP

1. A credit card needs to be put on file at the time of booking.
2. One night stay will be charged at time of booking.
3. Deposit will be charged based on cancellation policy below.
4. Cancellations made outside 72 hours prior to arrival – deposit will be refunded less a \$15 cancellation processing fee.
5. Cancellations made within 72 hours prior to arrival or less – Deposit will not be refunded.
6. No-shows on date of arrival will be charged for the entire stay that was booked.
7. Full payment due at time of check out.

For room reservations – Please have your guests contact the Central Reservations office and quote the name of your group prior to making your reservation. You may reach this office via phone, e-mail or Fax: [glacierpark@pursuitcollection.com](mailto:glacierpark@pursuitcollection.com) - 406.892.2525 FAX: 702.914.5081.

For more information about the facility and local amenities please go to their website at : <https://www.glacierparkcollection.com/lodging/grouse-mountain-lodge/>

## State and Providence Reports

### Idaho

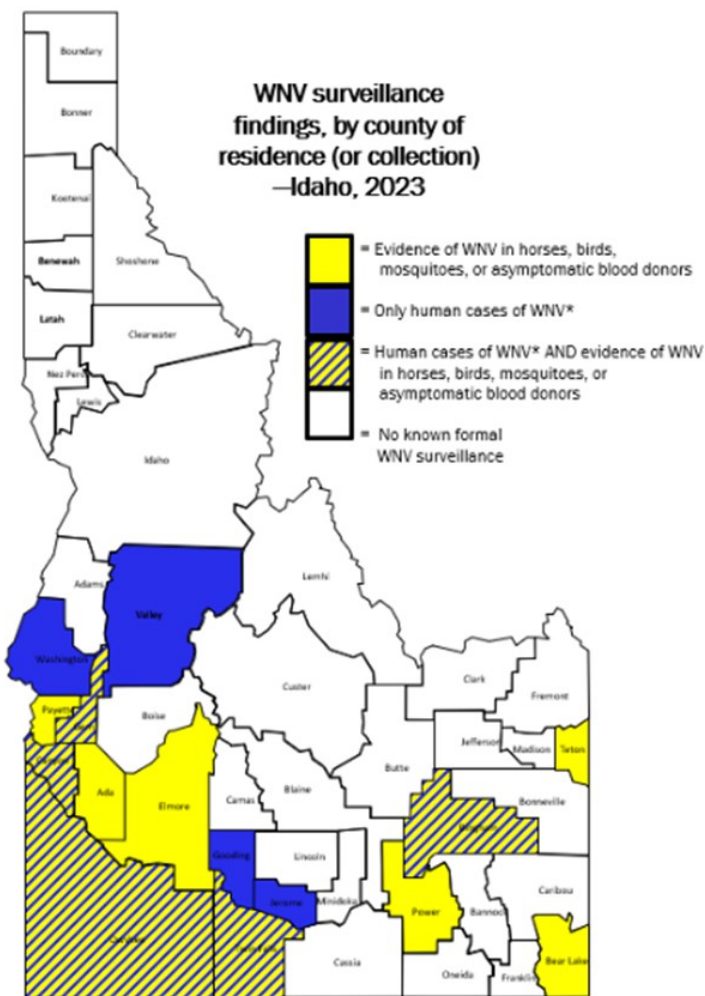
Overall, the mosquito season in Idaho across the state has been per the normal, atypical in one way or another. We had a long cool and wet spring in all parts of the state, however adult mosquito abundance has been relatively low overall.

West Nile virus has been consistent and “hot” all season for the western districts and detected in mosquito pools resulting in a few districts completing aerial adulticide applications once again. Some of the western districts have noted a shift of detecting WNV in *Culex tarsalis* mosquito samples more this year than in the last 3 years, which is more similar in the area when WNV was first found in Idaho (2003-2008) and *Cx. tarsalis* was the primary vector historically compared to *Culex pipiens* in more recent years.

The eastern side of the state has found no or relatively low WNV positive pools. The state health department has had WNV neuroinvasive cases in humans and 1 death at the time of this report in counties without mosquito districts. Districts have been also hearing from residents and the public that there are WNV human and horse cases, but they seem to not be reported to the state level since they (doctors and veterinarians) are not doing serological confirmation testing. This is causing concern amongst our district managers and trying to figure out how to get the word out for more education and potential public health risks to the public.

This issue, along with many social concerns today seems to lead into further issues with trying to continue to do public outreach locally and to people moving into our districts from out of state or from one county to the other thinking “WNV is not that big of a deal” or “I moved here to get away from all that chemical spray” public comments. Finding ways to improve IMM and accurate information and education to the public will be more important now than ever and in the future for mosquito control districts in Idaho and across the nation. I, like many of my colleagues, am looking forward the end of the mosquito field season and are fortunate we get to have one!

Desiree Keeney, Idaho State Rep, NWMVCA



\* symptomatic cases

Infographic last updated 9/8/2023 by Idaho department of Health & Welfare Division of Public Health

## Washington

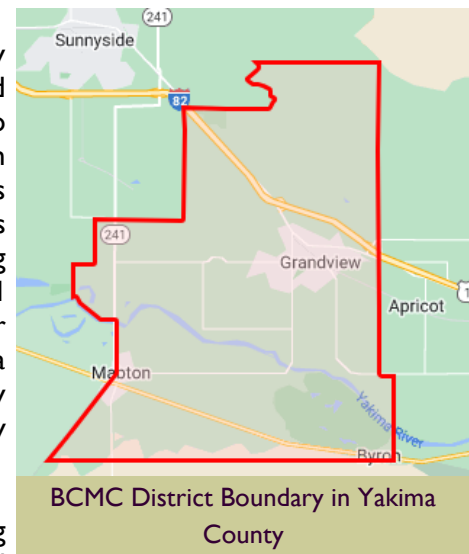
When you look at a West Nile Virus activity map for Washington state, a few counties tend to stand out, and this year was no exception. Historically, Benton, Yakima, and Grant Counties lead the state in mosquito testing. This year, the west side ramped up their surveillance. Thanks to Mario Boisvert and his team over in Clark County, along with efforts by the WA State Department of Health (DOH) to fill in where no mosquito control districts exist, we now have a better idea of what is happening throughout the state.

Benton County Mosquito Control District (BCMC), which also covers a portion of Yakima County, experienced its highest level of West Nile virus detection since the (WA) peak of the epidemic in 1999. At the time of this writing, BCMC had 42 positive mosquito samples compared to only 5 detections in all of 2022. Those 42 detections make up nearly 60% of the cases in the state.



BCMC District Boundary in Benton County

Typically, the virus is confined to specific wetlands managed by the City of Grandview (sewage lagoons) and the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife for waterfowl habitat. These areas are problematic due to limited access by ground and high organic content in the water, which reduces larvicide efficacy, and 98% of the collections from these areas are vectors for WNV. However, in 2023 the virus activity was widespread throughout the district. It is presumed that transitioning from RAMP testing to in-house PCR testing, considering the increased sensitivity and accuracy of this new testing method, is responsible for the increase in detections. Regardless of the number of detections in a season, the priority is to detect disease activity quickly and apply appropriate measures of control as soon as possible to ultimately prevent human infection of WNV as best we can.



BCMC District Boundary in Yakima County

In August, Washington held its first One Health Conference, bringing together individuals interested in human, animal, and environmental health. In the past, the state convened a zoonotic disease conference, but the focus has since expanded. A One Health workshop was held in the spring to identify data gaps throughout the state, and the August conference served as a chance to report back on the work currently being done to fill those gaps. Both meetings were well attended in person and allowed attendees from many disciplines an opportunity to brainstorm how to bridge the data “silos” that currently exist.

Lastly, the Washington Department of Ecology is currently drafting its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for 2024-2029. Mosquito control programs making pesticide applications to, over, or near waters of the state must pay close attention to the permit requirements. Any mosquito control programs with coverage under the current permit must apply for continuing coverage by December 4, 2023. If there is language in the existing permit that concerns you, or you would like to suggest language for the new permit, please contact Shawn Ultican, Aquatic Pesticide Permit Specialist, [shawn.ultican@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:shawn.ultican@ecy.wa.gov). For more information, see Aquatic mosquito control - Washington State Department of Ecology.

*Angela Beehler, District Manager, Benton County Mosquito Control District*

## Oregon

Many mosquito districts in Oregon experience an early onset of mosquito activity in May and this continued throughout the summer months. A few areas within the State are seeing a slight bump in activity as we enter the later part of the season, however much of the State is beginning to slow down activities. In the coming weeks it is anticipated mosquito activity and control efforts will be considerably reduced to off-season levels.

As of this writing, West Nile activity in Oregon this year has followed normal activity patterns; with some of the eastern and southern counties of the State detecting local virus activity. These mosquito districts have detected West Nile virus in 58 mosquito pools and have detected three horses with the virus.

Beginning this fall, Multnomah County Vector Control will be conducting a rodent trapping and testing project working with the State Health Authority. One of the main goals of the project will be to test for diseases that can be transmitted to humans, with a focus on the houseless community.

The Oregon Mosquito and Vector Control Association fall training and business meeting will take place November 14 – 15, 2023 in Newport Oregon.

*Ken Carver, Oregon Rep, NWMVCA*

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### **Want to Join a Committee?**

NWMVCA needs members to serve on the following committees:

Audit  
Awards  
By-Laws  
Executive: Officers and Reps  
Legislative  
Membership  
Program:VP Chairs  
Public Education  
Resolutions

If you're interested please contact the NWMVCA President, David Boggs.

## Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association 2023 Annual Meeting Registration - **Standard Form**

**Dates and location:**

**October 23rd-25th, 2023**

Grouse Mountain Lodge  
2 Fairway Dr  
Whitefish, MT 59937



**Please return this form to:**

NWMVCA  
C/O: Chris Law  
PO Box 2943  
La Grande, OR 97850  
Or EMAIL: [nwmvca@gmail.com](mailto:nwmvca@gmail.com)

***Please use one form per person***

Full Name	Agency
Address	City, State, Zip Code
Phone Number	Email Address

Check Box	Item	Cost Each	Qty	Sub-Total
	NWMVCA Member Registrations (Includes receptions, breaks, and banquet)	\$200		\$
	Non-Member Registration	\$275		\$
	Guest Registration (Receptions and banquet only)	\$120		\$
	Extra Banquet Ticket	\$60		\$
	Late Registration Fee (After September 30th)	\$50		\$
	NWMVCA Annual Membership	\$50		\$
	NWMVCA Sustaining Membership (One membership)	\$250		\$
<b>Total:</b>				\$

Payment Enclosed    
  Will pay at the door (check or charge)    
  Bill me

**Make Checks Payable to: Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control**

Refund Policy: Registration fees will not be refunded unless a request is made prior to **October 13th, 2023**

## Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association 2023 Annual Meeting Registration - **Vendor Form**

**Dates and location:**

**October 23rd-25th, 2023**

Grouse Mountain Lodge  
2 Fairway Dr  
Whitefish, MT 59937



**Please return this form to:**

NWMVCA  
C/O: Chris Law  
PO Box 2943  
La Grande, OR 97850  
Or EMAIL: [nwmvca@gmail.com](mailto:nwmvca@gmail.com)

Company

Representative

Additional Registrants

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Phone Number

Fax #

Email Address

Check Box	Item	Member Cost	Non-Member Cost	Sub-Total
	<b>Vendor Booth Registration</b> (Includes 1 registration for meeting, receptions, breaks, and banquet)	<b>\$250</b>	\$500	\$
	<b>Additional Company Registrant</b> (Each)	<b>\$175</b>	\$250	\$
	<b>Guest Registrant</b> (Receptions and banquet only)	<b>\$125</b>		\$
	<b>NWMVCA Sustaining Membership</b> (Pre-approved by program director)	<b>\$250</b>		\$
	<b>Event Sponsorship</b> (See attached request)	Event _____		\$
<b>Total:</b>				\$

Payment Enclosed     Will pay at the door (check or charge)     Bill me

**Make Checks Payable to: Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control**

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