



The last two weeks of January were quite cold but there was no rain (and no snow!). It may be too early to predict what will happen with next spring's weather. We will wait to see the weather conditions in February in the Cascades (snowpack) and the northern Rockies of Canada. In general, more snow/rain in the next months could indicate a higher water level of the Columbia River and could mean a harsher mosquito season.

Below please find a general report on our different departments/activities during the month of January, 2026.

- **Administration:**

- **County**

- Nothing to report.

- **Clark County Public Health (CCPH)**

- Nothing to report.

- **County Treasurer**

- Nothing to report.

- **TDJ CPA**

- Nothing to report.

- **Budget 2025:**

- We were around \$225K below budget at the end of 2025. The main savings were:

- Salaries \$37K (some employees left early in July)
    - Total supplies \$31K (\$23K less pesticides purchased)
    - Professional Services \$51K (no helicopter contract)
    - Extra revenues \$96K (investment interests + revenues)

- We did not use the surplus that we gained from being under budget in 2025 to reduce the planned revenue for the 2026 budget. All of the surplus from 2025 went in the Fund Balance.

- **Operations**

- Based on a quick survey conducted by Emma in January, three of our seasonal employees from last year will be back for our 2026 season, which is very good news. Job postings for the seasonal employees will be published in the first week of February. Most of our seasonal employees are expected to start in the last week of April.

- All annual reports for 2025 were submitted. Our full-time team is working on preparing for our next mosquito season by updating the website, cross training, etc. Mark is also studying to get his pilot license for operating our drones.
- On January 6 - January 7, 2026, Madison and Mark attended a roundtable meeting hosted by the Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control Association in Pasco, WA regarding drone operations. They came back with information on new technologies, regulations, and safety protocols. They also made valuable connections with other mosquito districts and professionals working in the drone industry.
- Our helicopter contractor reached out regarding updates on potential aerial larviciding treatments next May and June. We got our Congested Areas Plan (CAP) from FAA last year, but the big change for this year is the FAA will be requiring more on the public notification front than before. This will require either a broadcast local news piece or radio announcement, as well as a mailing list & notification letter for any applications that abut private property.
- The Refuges' administrators are still working on their Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) plan. We recently got news from them that they will still have to go through many steps before they can get an approved IMM. We hope (but it is very unlikely) that the final approval of their IMM will happen in time for our spring treatments usually performed in May and June.

- **Lab**

- After a few years of discussion, we ordered a PCR testing kit that will replace the RAMP technology that we have been using for many years. The PCR will allow us to get more accurate results on our West Nile virus (WNV) tests, and we will also be able to simultaneously test for two other viruses similar West Nile virus (Western equine encephalitis and St. Louis encephalitis).

We are expecting to receive the equipment by the end of February for training scheduled for the week of March 9<sup>th</sup>.

- We are still working on an agreement with a laboratory to test the DNA of *Culex pipiens* sampled last summer, to confirm if we do have a hybrid population present in Clark County. We want to continue documenting the potential presence of the *Culex pipiens* hybrid population in our catch basins.

## Key Performance Indicator

		2022	2023	2024	2025
Columbia River height in spring <sup>(1)</sup>		16'	13'	9'	7'
Budget	Budget	\$1,047,778	\$1,299,500	\$1,692,492 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$1,549,338 <sup>(3)</sup>
	Cost per parcel (including County's administration fees of \$0.75)	\$7.59	\$9.15	\$11.55	8.56 <sup>(4)</sup>
Employees	Number of employees	13	14	16	17
	Full-time	2	3	4	4
	Part-time	1	2	2	1
	Seasonal	10	9	10	12 <sup>(5)</sup>
Operations	Number of acres treated	2,086	1,228	293	700
	Acres by helicopter <sup>(6)</sup>	1,621	918	0	0
	Acres by drone	0	42	231	50
	Acres by other means (amphibious vehicles (argos), all-terrain vehicles (atvs), backpacks, etc.)	465	268	62	650
	Number of catch basins treated	130,000	175,000	197,000	195,000
	Number of fogging treatments (adulticide)	54	86	6	0
Surveillance	Number of mosquitoes caught	335,000	354,000	127,000	66,144 <sup>(7)</sup>
	Number of "pools" of mosquitoes tested for West Nile virus (WNV) <sup>(8)</sup>	1,077	906	722	985
	# of positives for WNV	0	0	0	0
Service Requests	Number of Services requests	814	1192	160	117
	For nuisance	794	1172	91	75
	Other than nuisance	20	20	69	42

(1) The height of the Columbia River in spring has a very important impact on our operations

(2) In 2024, the budget includes an extra full-time employee with benefits and \$182K for potential treatments at the two National Wildlife Refuges (Ridgefield and Steigerwald Lake)

(3) Decrease in our budget. Money for treating refuges was planned to be used from Emergency Funds if necessary

(4) \$300,000 was used from 2024 end of year expenditures to fund the 2025 revenues - representing a saving of \$1.87 per parcel (\$300K/160340 parcels)

(5) That includes the hiring of two studentss for the first time

(6) The number of acres treated by helicopter is largely influenced by the number of acres flooded by the Columbia River (height)

(7) A lot less of *Aedes vexans* since the river only reached about seven feet (less flooded areas - no need of helicopter)

(8) Over the last 4 years, between 30% and 40% of all the mosquito pools tested annually in WA State were from Clark County