



End-of-the-Month Report – August 2025

Administration:

- Nothing to report

Operations:

- On July 31st, we sent another dead crow sample (FTA card) to the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (OVDL) to be tested for West Nile virus. The result came back as NEGATIVE for WNV virus.
- Before we got the result from the OVDL, our lab set up three traps during the week of August 4th close to the location where the crow was found. A total of four pools of mosquitoes from those traps were tested that week, and they were all NEGATIVE for the West Nile virus. Thanks to the lab for their quick response.
- Our seasonal employees will continue to work until at least mid-September. We will see if we are keeping them longer based on the work remaining to complete our third round of catch-basin treatments.
- We received an email on August 22nd that our new GO-4 has shipped. Once it arrives, the dealership will do a final setup and quality control.
- Paige, one of our two students hired for the summer, finished on August 29th. We want to thank Paige for her work with the district. Her project focused on the residual activity of two different types of briquettes used in head boxes. We had preliminary results presented on August 29th. Three months after the initial treatments, the results of the Altosid briquets show good control of the larvae but the Natular briquets started to show some failure after only 7 weeks. The products are designed to last up to 150-180 days. Madison will continue the follow-up on that project and collect more data.
- In one of Paige's head boxes, residual efficacy results were unexpectedly low, and we suspected that there could have been something wrong with the briquet. We sent the briquet to Clarke so they could do some tests on it. Clarke's lab was able to confirm it was not a product efficacy issue and it was most likely due to being submerged in dirt/organic material.
- On August 27th, we sent our comments to the refuge administrators regarding their IMM Draft. We are expecting a response from the refuge administration regarding our comments. After addressing our comments, the Refuge will open their IMM Draft for public comments.
- We also sent more egg rafts of *Culex pipiens* to the CDC lab in Colorado. They want to do more tests on the "hybrid" populations we have in Clark County.

Lab:

- We started to get inconsistent WNV results with our RAMP testing on August 7th. This was around the time we started to use the new RAMP kits ordered and received earlier this summer. After a few phone calls, it appears that we were not the only district having issues with WNV results. We tested some mosquito species in-house that were not infected with WNV and tested the buffer solution that comes with the RAMP kit (the buffer should give a “zero” for WNV reading). Both the mosquito species and the buffer showed unusually high WNV numbers when they should normally show no WNV detection.

We contacted the company that makes the RAMP kits and explained the situation. They mentioned that they had issues with that “lot” and that they would work on making a new lot that should be available very soon. In the meantime, the WA Department of Health agreed to run PCR testing on some of our samples until our RAMP problem is resolved.

I will talk with Wade about the possibility of switching to PCR next year based on the issue we faced lately with the RAMP.

- Kristen Ford, one of our seasonal employees in the lab finished on August 28th. We want to thank Kristen for her work in the lab this summer. In September and October, Madeline and Wade will have to take care of our weekly routes and continue testing our mosquitoes. Abby and Mark will help with mosquito testing if needed.
- Lucas, our second student hired for the summer, also finished on August 29th. We want to thank Lucas for his work with the district. His project was focusing on the comparison of different traps. The results of the project gave us many pros and cons about the different traps, and this will help us build better traps next year. We had preliminary results presented on August 29th.
- Overall, our mosquito counts have continued to be low in most of our traps.
- As of August 28th, we have tested 761 pools of mosquitoes for WNV this year. This corresponds to about 41% of all the pools tested in Washington State (761/1837). Our lower contribution compared to last month (62%) is mainly caused by the fact that we did not test as many pools because of our RAMP issue.
- As of August 28th, there are 27 pools of mosquitoes that have tested positive for WNV. Twenty-four are from Yakima County and three are from Benton County.