



2006 Year End Summary

Del Gilkerson, Cowlitz County Mosquito Control District

2006 was a fairly typical year for our district. We used our adult mosquito surveillance program to locate problem areas and better allocate our resources. We placed a total of 297 EVS traps throughout the county in response to service calls. We also used gravid traps for the first time and found two new species in our county. *Oc japonicus* was first found in an EVS trap near Kelso. We set gravid traps in that location and several other places in the county and found additional *japonicus* in a second location, about 10 miles distant. We also picked up one *Cx territans* in a gravid trap.

We submitted mosquito pools to WA DOH and tested many other pools in our lab. A total of 83 pools were tested from Cowlitz County and none were positive for West Nile Virus.

Even with 10 seasonal employees, we were kept very busy responding to service calls and treating known larval sites around the county. As usual, almost half our calls were triggered by *Cq perturbans* emerging from wet lands around Silver Lake. We also had a new "hot spot" in the county, in the Carrolls area near the Columbia river. These mosquitoes were *Oc sticticus* which seemed to be coming from sites on Cottonwood Island in the river. We will definitely treat these sites early in the season, next year.

With the news of WNV in Idaho and an infected bird found in Kelso, our board has approved, for the first time, funds to larvicide the wet lands near Silver Lake. This will increase our budget by a significant amount but with the real threat of WNV closing in, it will be money well spent.

This winter we are preparing handouts and posters to educate the public on personal protection if and when WNV does arrive in our county. News releases and procedures to deal with the media are high on our list of preparation work for the coming season.