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CANYON COUNTY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mosquito Sample Tests Positive for West Nile Virus in Canyon County

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West Nile virus has been detected in mosquitoes collected June 23rd, southwest of Melba, Idaho. “This is the first detection of the virus this season” said Jim Lunders, Director of Canyon County Mosquito Abatement District.

Lunders explained that the Canyon County Mosquito Abatement District routinely sets 11 gravid traps and 120 dry ice baited EVS Traps throughout Canyon County to monitor for adult mosquito populations and the presence of vector borne diseases. To date, the District has tested 94 pools this season for West Nile virus.

“Most people who become infected with West Nile virus do not become sick. Some may develop mild flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches, and occasionally swollen lymph glands or rash. In some cases, West Nile virus may cause encephalitis, or inflammation of the brain,” Cate Lewis, Epidemiologist with Southwest District Health, “individuals with severe or unusual headaches should seek medical care as soon as possible.”

The areas where the mosquitoes were collected has been treated for both larval and adult stage mosquitoes. The staff at the Canyon County Mosquito Abatement District has increased control measures within the district in response to the increased public health threat.

“With the increased risk of West Nile virus we encourage people to take appropriate precautions to protect themselves from mosquito bites.” said Lunders. He offered the following suggestions to reduce the risk of exposure to West Nile virus:

- Eliminate all sources of standing water that can be a breeding ground for biting mosquitoes such as flooded fields, wading pools, clogged gutters, and old tires. If it holds water for 7 days, it can produce mosquitoes.
- Flush or change water in water troughs and bird baths weekly.

- Adjust irrigation to avoid runoff into city storms drains and other areas that hold water.
- Avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants when in mosquito infested areas.
- Use mosquito repellents containing DEET, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus, IR3535 or Picaridin, making sure to follow the container directions.
- Make sure all screen doors and windows are in good repair and fit tightly.

Additional information on West Nile Virus is on the Web at:

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/>

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare

<https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Health/DiseasesConditions/WestNileVirus/tabid/112/Default.aspx>

Canyon County Mosquito Abatement District

<https://canyoncountymosquito.com/>

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