

Model Ecological Mosquito Management Policy and Plan for Communities

Larvicide Only Option

Section 4: Surveillance

Establishes a framework for monitoring larval and adult mosquitoes, as well as the factors that affect their population size. Requires adult mosquitoes be trapped and tested for communicable diseases at set times during the year, with data made available to the public. Provides option to employ state monitoring data, rather than establish community-based program. Otherwise, tasks the community with the creation of a map of larval mosquito breeding sites that are further classified by the quality of their ecological habitat and mosquito breeding history. Employs a wetland and/or wildlife ecologist to conduct an ecological analysis at mosquito breeding sites in order to further develop non-chemical approaches to reducing mosquito populations.

Section 5: Education, Outreach, and Prevention

Creates a public education and outreach campaign aimed at developing community capacity to reduce mosquito breeding. The campaign aims to inform residents and businesses how to reduce mosquito breeding, and take personal protective measures. Suggests a range of outreach methods, and establishes a hotline for residents to call with questions about mosquito-related concerns. Outlines the content of a “mosquito protection toolkit” that can be distributed at educational events, sent to residents that call the hotline, or by request.

Section 6: Mitigation Measures

Establishes a tiered process to mitigate mosquito populations, with a focus on source reduction through habitat manipulation, and the use of least-toxic larvicides. Habitat manipulation is to include water management strategies to eliminate artificially created mosquito breeding areas. Such activities include but are not limited to removal of tires and other trash or old structures, improving drainage, removing water from old swimming pools or other artificial puddles of water, and enhancing habitat by improving access to streams and wetland for fish and other mosquito predators. Larvicides are to be applied based upon thresholds established from the monitoring of breeding sites, and aerial larvicide applications are prohibited. Determination whether to use adulticides is left to the decision making process outlined in Section 7.

Section 7: Community Mosquito Task Force

Establishes a task force of community residents to assist in the implementation of the policy. The task force is charged with making a determination whether adulticide use is appropriate within the community, provided, no adulticides shall be allowed to manage nuisance mosquitoes, and no aerial spray is permitted. This determination is to be reviewed by the task force each year. The task force also acts in an advisory capacity, suggesting potential changes to the mosquito abatement program, assisting the public education and outreach, and responding to resident comments on mosquito management.

Section 8: Reporting and Evaluation

Requires the enacting agency or board, community mosquito task force, wetland and/or wildlife ecologist, and any other relevant experts publish yearly findings on the successes and failures of the

community's mosquito management approach over the past year. Aims to develop additional methods of managing mosquitoes naturally, without chemical inputs. Makes this report available to the public.