

# Stapleton MCA Mosquito Control Program 2014 Season Report

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the 2014 mosquito season, Stapleton MCA contracted OtterTail Environmental, Inc. (OtterTail) to operate an integrated mosquito management (IMM) program to protect public health from the effects of West Nile Virus (WNV) and to suppress local populations of nuisance mosquitoes. This report provides a summary of the 2014 program.

West Nile is a mosquito-transmitted virus that leads to anything from an asymptomatic infection to a neuroinvasive disease termed West Nile meningitis or encephalitis. West Nile Virus was first detected in the United States during the summer of 1999 in New York City while conducting routine St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) surveillance. The virus has since migrated across the U.S. and has been confirmed in all continental states. The bird population acts as a reservoir for the virus until a mosquito bites an infected bird. Only then can an infected mosquito pass the virus on to humans, horses and other animals through their bite. While many people who contract WNV experience mild or no symptoms, the more severe cases of West Nile meningitis or encephalitis can result in severe critical illness and sometimes death.

There are over 50 mosquito species in Colorado, yet only species from the genus *Culex* are known to be effective transmitters of WNV. Mosquitoes and other insects that transmit disease are called vectors; mosquitoes that are not known to transmit a disease are often called nuisance mosquitoes. The most abundant mosquito in the Front Range, the *Aedes vexans*, is an aggressive nuisance type mosquito. The two primary vector mosquitoes that are most likely to spread WNV in Colorado are *Culex tarsalis* and *Culex pipiens*.

Following Integrated Pest Management principles, Stapleton MCA and OtterTail focused on controlling and reducing mosquito populations and thereby protecting public health by decreasing the likelihood of WNV transmission. Through surveillance of potential mosquito breeding sites (larval sites), areas producing mosquito larvae were identified and treated with control materials known as larvicides. Larvicides prevent the mosquitoes from developing into adults, and next to eliminating the source, is the most efficient way to reduce mosquito populations.

In addition to larval mosquito surveillance and control treatments, Stapleton MCA monitored adult mosquito activity within the area utilizing 5 adult mosquito traps. These trap collections enabled OtterTail to monitor mosquito populations and possible WNV activity.

The State of Colorado experienced a significant decrease in WNV activity in 2014 when compared to the 2013 season. The climate patterns and cooler temperatures that occurred during the 2014 season caused mosquito populations to remain at below average levels throughout the season; consequently, there was significantly less WNV activity within the region. Stapleton MCA's IMM program coupled with education and personal protection measures, also likely continued to help reduce mosquito populations and WNV activity in the area during 2014.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Stapleton MCA contracted OtterTail Environmental, Inc. to operate an integrated mosquito management program in 2014. The primary goal was to protect local residents from the effects of West Nile Virus (WNV) and to suppress the local populations of nuisance mosquitoes. Specific objectives for the program included (1) the identification, monitoring, and treatment of habitats with a high potential for mosquito breeding; (2) monitoring adult mosquito populations by speciation and population counts; (3) use the adult surveillance data as an early warning system for the occurrence and severity of WNV activity in the program area; and (4) to limit any adverse effects on the environment from control materials in a cost-effective manner.

This report explains the methods used in the IMM program and provides a detailed summary of the results of the 2014 IMM program.

## 2.0 WEST NILE VIRUS (AND OTHER MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE) UPDATE

As of January 13, 2015, there were 2,122 WNV human cases and 85 WNV related deaths in 43 states and the District of Columbia reported for the 2014 season (**Table 1**). Colorado ranked fourth in the national case count with 115 human WNV cases and 4 WNV related deaths reported as of November 15, 2014. Most WNV cases occurred in Colorado within the populous regions of the Front Range (**Table 2**). The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) did not report any mosquito pools, horses, birds or humans as positive for St. Louis Encephalitis or Western Equine Encephalitis during the 2014 season. The decreased WNV activity and number of human infections in Colorado may be attributed to the temperature and precipitation patterns observed during the 2014 mosquito season and the affect they had on mosquito populations, as discussed further in **Section 3.0**.

**Table 1 WNV Incidence, 2002 - 2014**

| Total WNV Human Cases                             | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009 | 2010  | 2011 | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Cases in the United States <sup>1</sup>           | 4,156 | 9,862 | 2,539 | 3,000 | 4,269 | 3,630 | 1,356 | 720  | 1,021 | 712  | 5,674 | 2,374 | 2,122 |
| Deaths in the United States <sup>1</sup>          | 284   | 264   | 100   | 119   | 177   | 124   | 44    | 32   | 57    | 43   | 286   | 114   | 85    |
| Highest State Count in United States <sup>1</sup> | 884   | 2,947 | 779   | 880   | 996   | 578   | 445   | 115  | 167   | 158  | 1,868 | 368   | 787   |
| Cases in Colorado <sup>2</sup>                    | 14    | 2,947 | 291   | 106   | 345   | 578   | 71    | 103  | 81    | 7    | 131   | 320   | 115   |
| Deaths in Colorado <sup>2</sup>                   | 0     | 63    | 4     | 2     | 7     | 7     | 1     | 3    | 4     | 0    | 5     | 7     | 4     |
| Cases in Denver County <sup>2</sup>               | 1     | 162   | 3     | 5     | 5     | 27    | 3     | 1    | 1     | 1    | 16    | 12    | 5     |
| Deaths in Denver County <sup>2</sup>              | 0     | 9     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 2     | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0    | 0     | 1     | 2     |
| Total WNV Positive Results                        | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  | 2005  | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009 | 2010  | 2011 | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  |
| Mosquito Pools in Denver County <sup>2</sup>      | 0     | 28    | 1     | 3     | 5     | 10    | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| Birds in Denver County <sup>2</sup>               | 0     | 60    | 0     | 0     | 4     | 2     | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     |
| Horses in Denver County <sup>2</sup>              | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     |

1. Reported by the Center for Disease and Control (CDC); 2013 data reported as of January 13, 2015.

2. Reported by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE); 2014 data reported as of November 15, 2014.

As of November 15, 2014 there were 5 WNV related illnesses and 2 WNV related deaths in Denver County reported by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). The number of Denver County human cases and WNV positive mosquito pools comprised approximately 4 percent and 0.5 percent of the state totals, respectively (**Table 2**). The lower number of human WNV cases and WNV positive mosquito pools suggests that the viral activity in Denver County was lower in 2014 than the 2013 season. It is likely that Stapleton MCA's mosquito control efforts to reduce mosquito populations, coupled with public education and personal protection measures, helped reduce the exposure and disease transmission within Stapleton and Denver County.

**Table 2 Colorado WNV Cases and WNV Positive Mosquito Pools, 2014**

| County          | Human Cases <sup>1</sup> |            | Human Deaths <sup>1</sup> |            | Positive Mosquito Pools <sup>1</sup> |            |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
|                 | Number                   | % of State | Number                    | % of State | Number                               | % of State |
| Adams           | 5                        | 4.3%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 9                                    | 4.6%       |
| Alamosa         | 1                        | 0.9%       | 1                         | 25.0%      | 0                                    | 0.0%       |
| Arapahoe        | 4                        | 3.5%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 2                                    | 1.0%       |
| Bent            | 2                        | 1.7%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 0                                    | 0.0%       |
| Boulder         | 10                       | 8.7%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 16                                   | 8.2%       |
| Broomfield      | 1                        | 0.9%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 0                                    | 0.0%       |
| Cheyenne        | 1                        | 0.9%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 0                                    | 0.0%       |
| Delta           | 3                        | 2.6%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 19                                   | 9.7%       |
| Denver          | 5                        | 4.3%       | 2                         | 50.0%      | 1                                    | 0.5%       |
| Douglas         | 1                        | 0.9%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 0                                    | 0.0%       |
| El Paso         | 2                        | 1.7%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 0                                    | 0.0%       |
| Freemont        | 2                        | 1.7%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 0                                    | 0.0%       |
| Jefferson       | 3                        | 2.6%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 2                                    | 1.0%       |
| Kit Carson      | 1                        | 0.9%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 0                                    | 0.0%       |
| Larimer         | 18                       | 15.7%      | 0                         | 0.0%       | 70                                   | 35.9%      |
| Logan           | 4                        | 3.5%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 0                                    | 0.0%       |
| Mesa            | 7                        | 6.1%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 6                                    | 3.1%       |
| Montrose        | 1                        | 0.9%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 0                                    | 0.0%       |
| Morgan          | 3                        | 2.6%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 0                                    | 0.0%       |
| Otero           | 2                        | 1.7%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 0                                    | 0.0%       |
| Prowers         | 6                        | 5.2%       |                           | 0.0%       | 0                                    | 0.0%       |
| Pueblo          | 7                        | 6.1%       | 1                         | 25.0%      | 6                                    | 3.1%       |
| Saguache        | 1                        | 0.9%       | 0                         | 0.0%       | 0                                    | 0.0%       |
| Weld            | 25                       | 21.7%      | 0                         | 0.0%       | 64                                   | 32.8%      |
| Colorado Totals | <b>115</b>               |            | <b>4</b>                  |            | <b>195</b>                           |            |

1. Reported by CDPHE as of November 15, 2014

### **3.0 REGIONAL 2014 CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA AND MOSQUITO ACTIVITY OVERVIEW**

The weather patterns leading into and during the mosquito breeding season are important factors that influence mosquito abundance and WNV activity. The following section describes the regional climate, the weather during the season, and how that may have affected the mosquito populations.

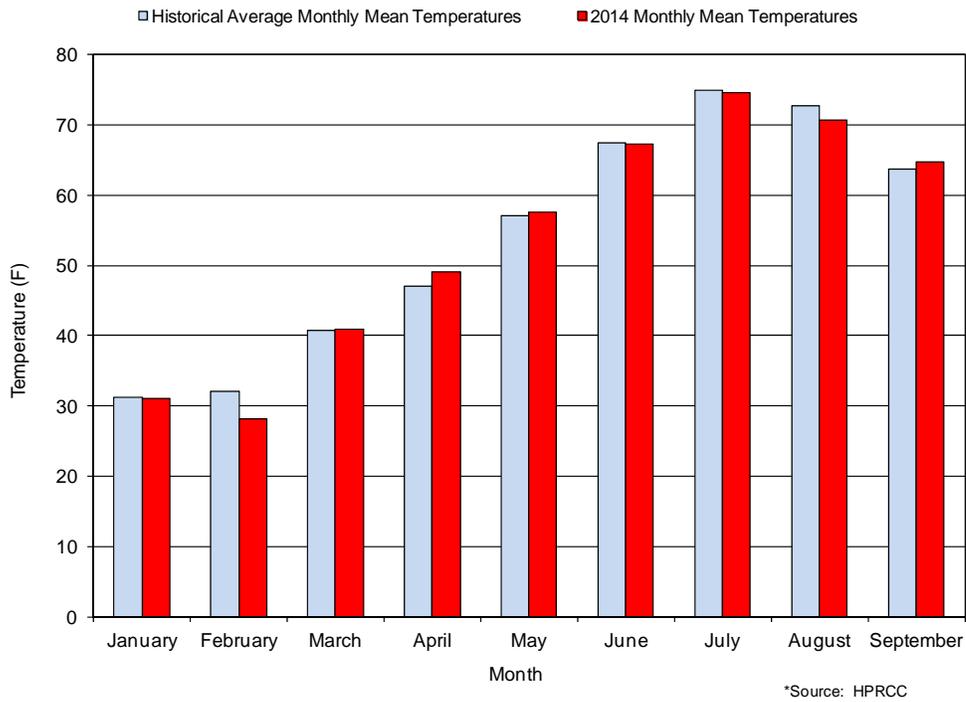
Stapleton is located in a semi-arid environment with an elevation of approximately 5,200 feet above sea level (CDATA). The typical mosquito season for Stapleton MCA's program area is from May to September. Current and historical climate data from the High Plains Regional Climate Center's (HPRCC) Denver International Airport weather station was used for regional temperature and precipitation patterns.

Historical records for the mean monthly temperature at the station suggest that temperatures usually have a steady increase from April to July, making July, on average, the hottest month of the year. Typically there is then a steady temperature decrease into September. In 2014, every month of the mosquito season except May and September had below normal temperatures. The month of August experienced the highest variation from normal during the summer with a monthly mean temperature approximately 2 degrees below normal (**Figure 1**).

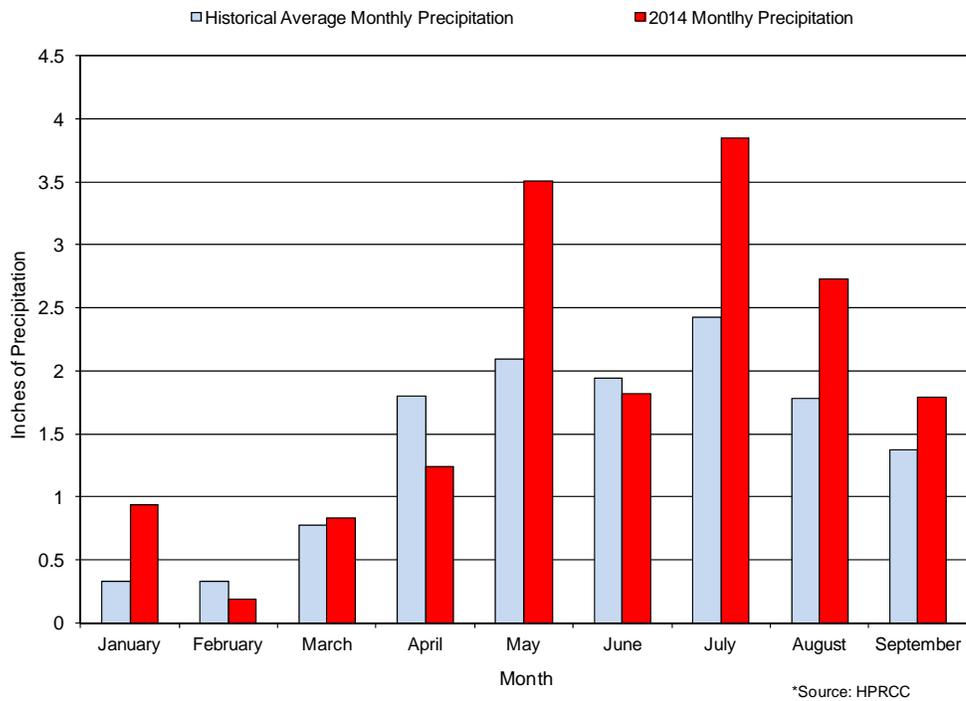
The historical averages for the monthly mean precipitation indicate that May, June and July are usually the wettest months of the year (**Figure 2**). During 2014, the accumulated precipitation from January through September was significantly higher than the historical average for the same period. During this time period in 2014, there was an accumulation of 16.9 inches. This is approximately 30 percent more than the normal amount of accumulation when compared to the historical average, which is 12.8 inches. Six of the nine months received precipitation amounts higher than their normal averages. The most significant variations during the mosquito season were the months of May and June. June received approximately 7 percent less than its normal precipitation, making it the driest month of the 2014 mosquito season, while May received approximately 70 percent more precipitation than average, making it the wettest month of 2014 mosquito season (NOAA 2014).

High precipitation amounts in May led to most mosquito habitats being inundated with water early in the season, but this was followed by a drier than normal June, and temperatures that remained below their normal averages throughout the rest of the mosquito season. The below average temperatures in June led to lower than average nuisance and Culex mosquito production within the region. July was then much wetter and cooler than normal with frequent occurrences of heavy rain falls. These frequent rainstorms helped further reduce Culex mosquitoes by flushing out or refilling those habitats that were beginning to stagnate during the drier month of June. The below normal temperatures throughout the mosquito season, and the July rainstorms with their flushing effect were the likely causes of the lower abundances of nuisance and Culex mosquitoes throughout the majority of the summer in the Front Range region. Stapleton MCA's larval control program also helped further reduce the mosquito populations within the Stapleton area.

**Figure 1 2014 Monthly Mean Air Temperature and Historical Averages\***



**Figure 2 2014 Monthly Total Precipitation Data and Historical Averages\***



## 4.0 LARVAL MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL

### LARVAL SURVEILLANCE METHODOLOGY

Ottertail staff began the season by identifying and inspecting the larval habitat sites within the Stapleton MCA project area. Many of the habitats were those with stagnant water high in nutrients and organic matter including: cattail marshes, small stagnant ponds, and temporary pools. Sites were generally inspected once a week. Habitat sites were added and refined throughout the field season as needed. A detailed explanation of the larval surveillance methodology used during the 2014 season can be found in **Appendix A** and a map of the larval surveillance area can be found in **Appendix C**.



### LARVAL CONTROL METHODOLOGY AND APPLICATION METHODS

The primary focus for OtterTail's IMM program is to control mosquitoes while in the larval stage. Larval mosquito control methods employed by OtterTail were aimed at preventing adult mosquito emergence, which reduces the potential of the mosquito-borne disease, WNV, and minimizes the annoyance level of mosquitoes to local residents. To achieve a high level of effectiveness and efficiency of larval control efforts, OtterTail identified and inspected mosquito larval habitats on a regular basis. The threshold for larval control was presence of any mosquito larvae. Finding and documenting consistent mosquito producing sites was an important component of the program because it created a pattern that is monitored and systematically controlled to help understand mosquito populations and WNV trends.

The application of *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (*Bti*) and BVA-2 mosquito larvicide oil (BVA-2) were the primary methods used for larval mosquito control. Control materials were applied within the labeled rates, thereby minimizing any potential adverse impacts to areas being treated. Routine post-treatment checks were conducted to ensure the larval control was effective. If any larvae were found during the post-check, a second application was conducted.

In balancing environmental resources, cost effectiveness, and public health needs, *Bti* was selected as the primary treatment product. *Bti* is a naturally occurring protein that is toxic to mosquito larvae upon its ingestion. It provides a residual treatment that lasts for approximately two days. Since new mosquito larvae may hatch after the product dissipates, the sites must be inspected for mosquito larvae every one to two weeks. The presence of mosquito larvae between monitoring periods has the added benefit of allowing these larvae to continue to be part of the aquatic food web. However, larvae are eliminated before they can emerge as adults. This helps protect the public from potential WNV transmission, while still providing a food source for many aquatic animals.

*Bti* is the primary control materials used but it is ineffective if pupae are found at a site. Mosquitoes do not feed during their pupal stage; therefore, the use of *Bti* is ineffective against mosquito pupae since they must ingest the proteins. In these instances of pupae occurrence, BVA-2 is used. BVA-2 is a highly refined mineral oil that creates a thin film on the water surface. The film interrupts the air and water interface during the mosquito's larval and pupal development stages, causing them to drown.

## LARVAL SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

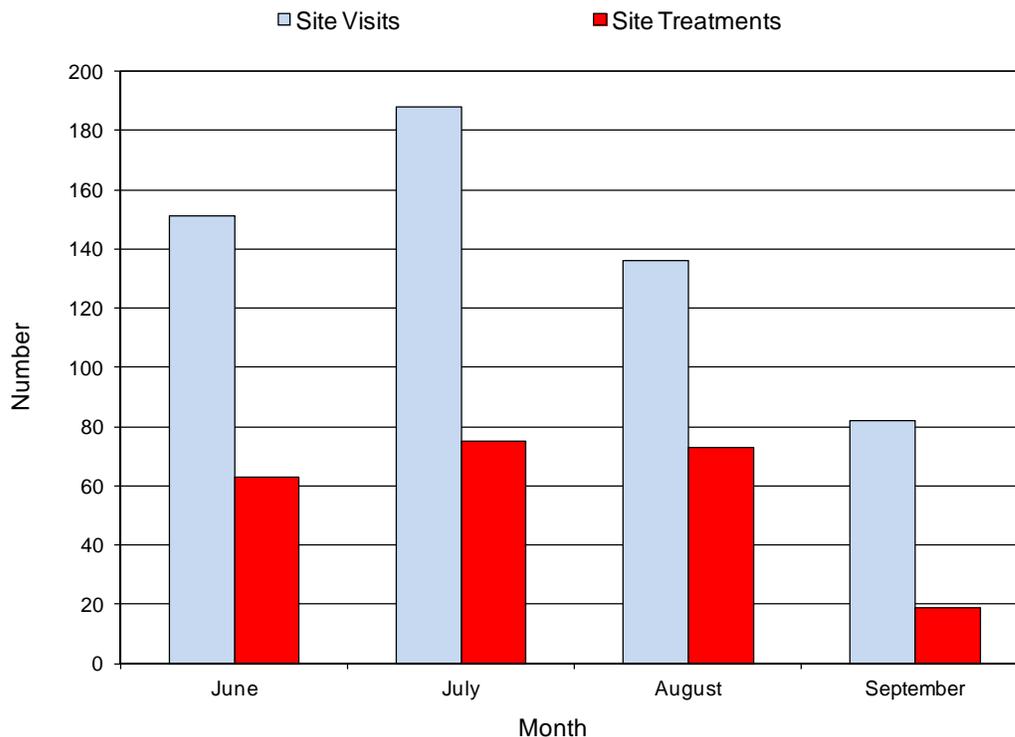
The 2014 larval surveillance season started in June and lasted until late-September. During the season, a total of 557 individual larval site visits were performed within the program area. Approximately 220 pounds of *Bti* and 17 gallons of BVA-2 were used to treat approximately 43 acres of active habitat during 230 treatments (**Table 3**).

**Table 3 Larval Surveillance Summary, 2014**

| Habitat Site Surveillance | 2014 Totals |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| # Site Visits             | 557         |
| # Site Treatments         | 230         |
| Amount of Treated Acreage | 42.9        |

As the season progressed, the sites were categorized according to larval abundance and occurrence. Low priority mosquito sites which were not producing mosquitoes had poor habitat or had the presence of aquatic predators. High priority mosquito sites typically had larvae when sampled and consistently produced mosquitoes every seven to ten days during the peak season. **Figure 3** shows the number of site visits and treatments performed each month during 2014. It is likely that Stapleton MCA's larval control program helped reduce the adult mosquito population levels in the local and surrounding areas during 2014.

**Figure 3 Number of Site Visits per Month, 2014**



## 5.0 ADULT MOSQUITO SURVEILLANCE AND CONTROL

### ADULT SURVEILLANCE METHODOLOGY

Adult mosquito population surveillance is a crucial component of any successful IMM program. Adult surveillance provides information on what types of mosquito species are in an area as well as information on their abundance. Mosquitoes collected from the mosquito traps can be tested for a variety of mosquito-borne diseases and are critical for monitoring and forecasting vector threats, particularly WNV.

Most mosquito species prefer to rest during the heat of the day in areas known as harborage areas. A mosquito harborage area is usually a shaded, wind protected and moist area because adult mosquitoes can dehydrate quickly during the daylight hours if they do not have a shady area to rest and escape the heat. Relevant examples are groves of tall trees with a layer of shrubby undergrowth, tree-lined waterways and water bodies, dense bushes, tall live grasses, or in residential areas under roof eaves and inside tires. Adult mosquito trapping efforts target these harborage areas to monitor adult mosquito populations.

OtterTail used the CDC style carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) light trap to monitor the adult mosquito populations within the Stapleton area. The CO<sub>2</sub> light trap is based on the principle that most adult mosquitoes are attracted to light, CO<sub>2</sub> (via respiration), and heat. The CO<sub>2</sub> light trap collects adult female mosquitoes that are seeking a blood meal, so that she may produce eggs. This type of trap is set overnight and on the following morning the nets are collected and returned to OtterTail's lab to be identified and counted. Once identified, the mosquitoes were then sorted and counted by species. A detailed explanation of the CO<sub>2</sub> light trap used during the 2014 season can be found in **Appendix B**.

Beginning in the first week of June, three light traps were set within the Stapleton area to capture adult mosquitoes on a weekly basis. The number of traps was then increased to a total of five during the last week of June to help enable OtterTail and Stapleton MCA to more closely monitor and locate the sources of mosquitoes within the area. Four of the traps were set in locations within the project area and one trap was set at Bluff Lake, an area that was suspected to be a high mosquito producing and harborage area on the outside edge of the Stapleton MCA project area (**Appendix C**). The five traps were then set on a weekly basis until mid-September. OtterTail and Stapleton MCA used the adult mosquito data collected to help determine local areas of concern for public awareness and safety as well as to monitor the local nuisance mosquito populations.

## ADULT SURVEILLANCE RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Over the season, from the four traps within the Stapleton MCA project area, there was an average of 47 total adult mosquitoes per trap per night and an average of 20 adult vector mosquitoes per trap per night. The Bluff Lake trap (set on the outside edge of the project area) had an average of 707 total adult mosquitoes per trap per night and an average of 28 adult vector mosquitoes per trap per night. The total adult mosquitoes collected during the season from all 5 traps resulted in *Aedes/Ochlerotatus species* (87.7 percent) being the most abundant, followed by *Culex species* (10.8 percent) and *Culiseta species* (1.5 percent) as shown in **Table 4**. This results in approximately 89 percent nonvector vs. 11 percent vector adults being collected over the entire season. The season-long trap data shows that the Bluff Lake trap collected more than 3 times the total number of mosquitoes than the other four traps combined, suggesting that this area was a large source and harborage of the local mosquito populations (**Table 4**). The Bluff Lake trap also had significantly higher average mosquitoes per trap per trap night throughout the entire season when compared to the 4 traps within the Stapleton MCA project area (**Figures 4 and 5**).

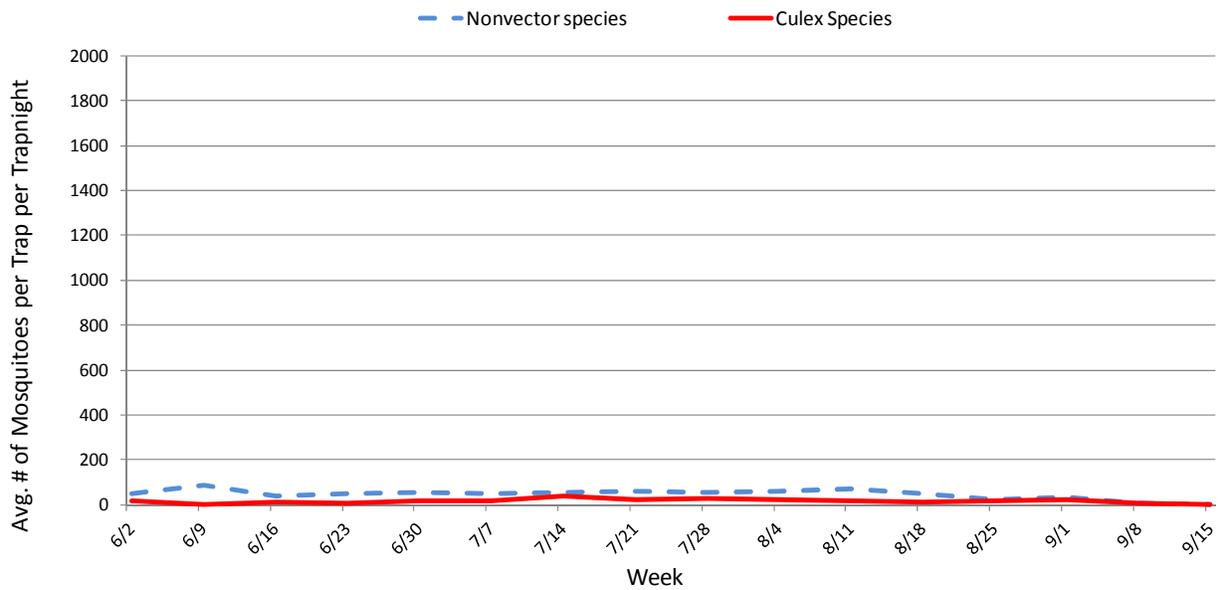
*Culex pipiens* accounted for approximately 54 percent of the vector mosquitoes captured from all 5 traps during the season, making it the most abundant vector species within the area. This species of mosquito is often found breeding in containers and a likely source for the high populations were man-made containers (e.g., pools, tires, buckets, eves, troughs, bird baths, and other similar containers) on private residences in the neighborhoods surrounding the traps.

**Table 4 Total Number of Adult Mosquitoes per Trap for the 2014 Season<sup>1</sup>**

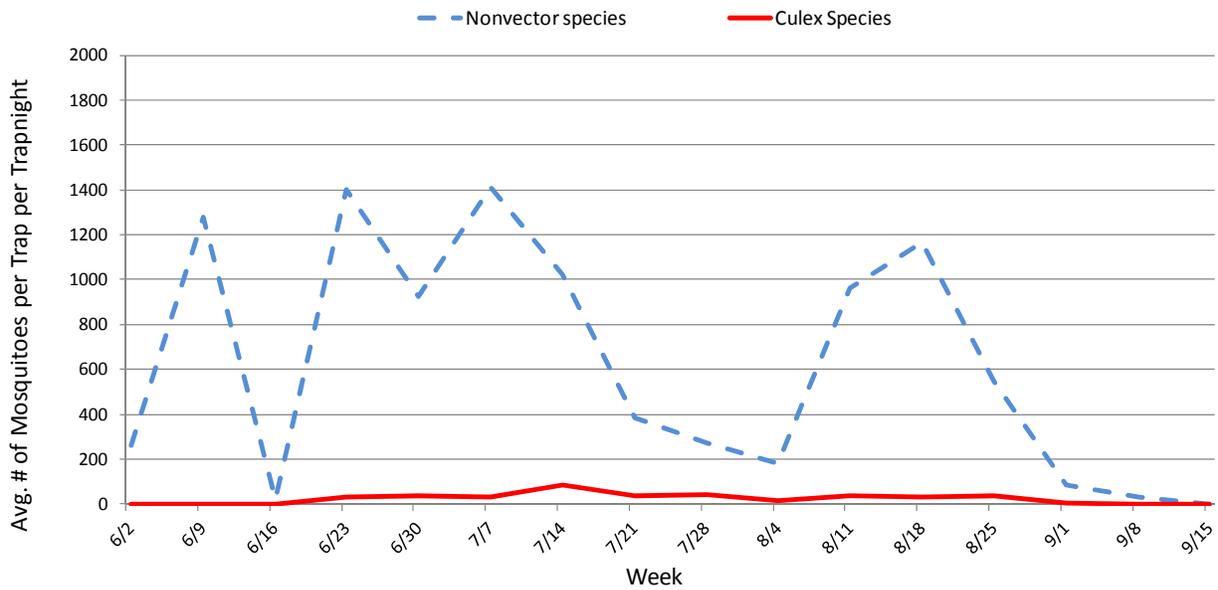
| Trap Name                        | ST-01           | ST-02        | ST-03         | ST-04           | ST-05                 | Total         |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Trap Locations                   | Northfield Park | Bluff Lake   | Greenway Park | Cherry Pie Park | Westerly & Sand Creek |               |
| Trap Type                        | Light Trap      | Light Trap   | Light Trap    | Light Trap      | Light Trap            |               |
| Species                          |                 |              |               |                 |                       |               |
| <i>Culex pipiens</i>             | 115             | 201          | 210           | 8               | 190                   | 724           |
| <i>Culex salinarius</i>          | 1               | 0            | 4             | 0               | 1                     | 6             |
| <i>Culex tarsalis</i>            | 149             | 190          | 123           | 9               | 145                   | 616           |
| <b>Total Culex</b>               | <b>265</b>      | <b>391</b>   | <b>337</b>    | <b>17</b>       | <b>336</b>            | <b>1,346</b>  |
| <b>% RA Culex</b>                | <b>35.1%</b>    | <b>3.9%</b>  | <b>31.0%</b>  | <b>7.3%</b>     | <b>68.2%</b>          | <b>10.8%</b>  |
| <i>Aedes vexans</i>              | 432             | 9004         | 606           | 198             | 141                   | 10381         |
| <i>Oc. dorsalis</i>              | 29              | 0            | 7             | 0               | 3                     | 39            |
| <i>Oc. increpitus</i>            | 4               | 68           | 17            | 0               | 0                     | 89            |
| <i>Oc. melanimon</i>             | 3               | 264          | 24            | 1               | 3                     | 295           |
| <i>Oc. trivittatus</i>           | 5               | 70           | 22            | 4               | 2                     | 103           |
| <b>Total Ae./Oc.</b>             | <b>473</b>      | <b>9,406</b> | <b>717</b>    | <b>203</b>      | <b>149</b>            | <b>10,948</b> |
| <b>% RA Ae./Oc.</b>              | <b>62.6%</b>    | <b>94.8%</b> | <b>66.0%</b>  | <b>87.5%</b>    | <b>30.2%</b>          | <b>87.7%</b>  |
| <i>Anopheles spp.</i>            | 0               | 0            | 0             | 0               | 0                     | 0             |
| <b>Total Anopheles</b>           | <b>0</b>        | <b>0</b>     | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b>        | <b>0</b>              | <b>0</b>      |
| <b>% RA Anopheles</b>            | <b>0.0%</b>     | <b>0.0%</b>  | <b>0.0%</b>   | <b>0.0%</b>     | <b>0.0%</b>           | <b>0.0%</b>   |
| <i>Coquillettidia perturbans</i> | 0               | 0            | 0             | 0               | 0                     | 0             |
| <b>Total Coquillettidia</b>      | <b>0</b>        | <b>0</b>     | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b>        | <b>0</b>              | <b>0</b>      |
| <b>% RA Coquillettidia</b>       | <b>0.0%</b>     | <b>0.0%</b>  | <b>0.0%</b>   | <b>0.0%</b>     | <b>0.0%</b>           | <b>0.0%</b>   |
| <i>Culiseta inornata</i>         | 17              | 127          | 33            | 12              | 8                     | 197           |
| <b>Total Culiseta</b>            | <b>17</b>       | <b>127</b>   | <b>33</b>     | <b>12</b>       | <b>8</b>              | <b>197</b>    |
| <b>% RA Culiseta</b>             | <b>2.3%</b>     | <b>1.3%</b>  | <b>3.0%</b>   | <b>5.2%</b>     | <b>1.6%</b>           | <b>1.5%</b>   |
| <b>Trap Total</b>                | <b>755</b>      | <b>9,924</b> | <b>1,087</b>  | <b>232</b>      | <b>493</b>            | <b>12,491</b> |

Notes: 1. Adult Surveillance season was June 4 to September 10, 2014. RA= Percent Relative Abundance

**Figure 4 Season-Wide Weekly Adult Trap Counts of the 4 Trap Stations within the MCA Project Area, 2014**



**Figure 5 Season-Wide Weekly Adult Trap Counts of the Bluff Lake Trap Station\*, 2014**



\*Note: Bluff Lake trap was not set during the week of 6/16/2014

## **6.0 PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION**

Public education is an important component to any mosquito control program and is vital in combating West Nile Virus. OtterTail and Stapleton MCA provided valuable educational materials to residents and the general public through local media outlets, educational materials and their internet websites. The educational materials stressed the importance of actions that residents could take to aid in the effort to combat WNV; topics included personal protection, property maintenance for source reduction, and general information related to mosquito biology and the WNV disease cycle.

Educating residents on the need for property maintenance, source reduction and the use of personal protection measures was crucial in the fight against WNV in 2014. The resulting actions taken by the public likely helped reduce the mosquito populations and the WNV activity levels and cases in the area during 2014.

## **7.0 REFERENCES**

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## **APPENDIX A - DETAILED LARVAL SURVEILLANCE AND SITE SELECTION METHODOLOGY**

### **Larval Surveillance Methodology**

The following is a summary of the procedures used by OtterTail during larval surveillance. To inspect a mosquito source, a plastic dipper cup with a 3-foot wooden handle was used to collect water from the site. Each sample (dip) was closely examined for mosquito larvae presence. Many of the sites inspected had mosquito-sustaining habitat around the perimeter of the site, but the middle remained mosquito free due to water circulation and/or natural predators. At these sites, the dipping effort was completed using a *linear approach* (walking around the perimeter and sampling the margins).



In sites with widespread mosquito habitat, the entire site was methodically sampled using the *surface area approach*. With this approach, sites were dipped approximately every 10 to 20 square feet. Since each site's characteristics could vary as the season progressed (e.g., become drier, wetter, increased vegetation), there were changes made during the field season to adjust the appropriate number of dips.

### **Larval Surveillance Site Selection/Characterization Methods**

OtterTail used a series of maps, generated with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology, for identifying and monitoring the larval habitat areas within the project area that could support mosquito larvae. Mosquito larvae require stagnant water and will thrive in areas where the water is high in nutrients, organic matter, or other organic pollutants. Common habitats include: wetlands, riparian groundwater sinks, non flowing irrigation ditches, flood irrigated fields, floodwater retention ponds, lake and river shores, and a wide array of man-made habitats including pools, tires, pots, buckets, eves troughs, bird baths and other similar containers. Since habitat sites can change over time, the sites were re-evaluated and classified, based upon their breeding potential, at the beginning of the season.

## **APPENDIX B - ADULT CDC-STYLE MOSQUITO TRAP DESCRIPTION**

For the season, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) baited Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Light Traps were incorporated into Stapleton MCA's adult mosquito surveillance system. The following is a detailed description of the CO<sub>2</sub> light trap.

### **CO<sub>2</sub> Light Trap**

To capture the most representative sample of adult mosquitoes in an area, CDC Light Traps are baited with CO<sub>2</sub> in the form of dry ice and set overnight in adult mosquito harborage areas throughout the mosquito season. The traps are designed with the knowledge that the female mosquito species we target are attracted to light, CO<sub>2</sub>, and heat. The number and types of mosquitoes captured in these traps can provide local officials with a valuable early indication of the threat of WNV.

The traps consist of a plastic insulated thermos filled with enough dry ice (CO<sub>2</sub>) to last throughout the trapping cycle. Units consist of a light, fan unit, and fine mesh net which hang below the thermos. The device is placed on a tree branch with the thermos approximately five to seven feet off the ground and is suspended by a small chain or rope to allow the thermos and net to hang free. Holes at the base of the thermos allow dissipating CO<sub>2</sub> to be emitted as an attractant around the trap. Batteries run the small fan and light positioned above the net. The light provides further attraction and once the mosquitoes are near the light, they are pulled down into the net by the downward force of the fan.

In the morning, the mosquitoes are removed and frozen to prepare for identification. During the identification process, the mosquitoes are sorted by species and sex. Female vector mosquitoes are routinely submitted to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) lab for WNV testing as needed.



# APPENDIX C – PROJECT AREA MAP

