# Table of Contents

| Mission Statement & Objectives       | 2 |
| Cooperating Entities                | 3 |
| 2012 Season Perspective             | 4 |
| **West Nile Virus**                 | 6 |
| US Map (2012 Human Cases)           |   |
| Colorado 2012 Human WNV Infections By County |   |
| Colorado Map (2012 Human Cases)     |   |
| **Larval Mosquito Control**         | 10|
| **CMC Surveillance Laboratory**     | 12|
| CDC Trap Data Comparison            |   |
| **Adult Mosquito Control**          | 15|
| Public Relations & Education        | 17|
| Summary                             | 18|
| **Appendix: Graphics and Data Summaries** | 19|
| Area Climate Data 2012              |   |
| Larval Control Data Summary 2012    |   |
| Adult Mosquito Control Report 2012  |   |
| MosquitoLine Data Summary 2012      |   |
| CDC Trap Data Composite Summaries 2012 |   |
THE GARFIELD COUNTY COOPERATIVE
MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM
MISSION STATEMENT

Unincorporated Garfield County completed its 9th year of cost effective Integrated Mosquito Management operations in 2012. Many communities across Colorado recognize the need to control mosquito annoyance and the risk of mosquito-borne disease associated with flood irrigation practices, urban development, and snow-melt runoff. Integrated mosquito management operations that utilize environmentally-sensitive controls and new technologies can greatly enhance the outdoor experience without negatively impacting the environment.

The need to protect residents and visitors from the health risks, severe annoyance and discomfort associated with biting mosquitoes is a chronic annual problem. The primary objective of the Garfield County Cooperative Mosquito Control Program is to suppress populations of larval mosquitoes in aquatic habitats. CMC technicians utilize bacterial larvacides that reduce mosquito populations without harming non-target organisms. Additionally, monitoring of adult mosquito populations is an essential component of an Integrated Mosquito Management (IMM) program. Surveillance trapping performed in the Garfield County provides data used to assess West Nile Virus Infection Rates, as well as the need for adult mosquito control measures. Data driven response with mosquito adulticide ULV technology can reduce the threat of disease transmission and annoyance associated with mosquitoes, while reducing the necessity for large amounts of products to be applied.

CMC OBJECTIVES

With 10 years of experience monitoring West Nile Virus in Colorado, it is clear that limiting exposure to mosquito bites is the best way to reduce the risk of disease. A well-developed mosquito management operation is only part of the picture, and CMC also emphasizes the need for personal action and protection through our educational outreach programs. Culex Tarsalis, the primary WNV vector in the state, is more abundant today than in the past, due to current land use practices. CMC is committed to providing top quality service, via education outreach and data driven management in an effort to minimize West Nile Virus risk and reduce mosquito annoyance in the communities where we operate and also live.

Colorado Mosquito Control, Inc.

Colorado Mosquito Control, Inc. (CMC) is a large-scale contractor specializing in complete integrated mosquito control services. CMC utilizes an aggressive preemptive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to controlling mosquito populations within contracted areas. CMC was established in 1986, is the largest private company specializing in mosquito control in Colorado, and is the only company in Colorado offering complete IPM mosquito control services.
Cooperating Entities

CMC currently has programs across the state of Colorado including: Homeowners Associations, Incorporated Cities and Towns, Mosquito Control Districts, Counties, Indian Reservations, and others. Geographically, CMC reaches from the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation in the southwest corner of the state to Fort Morgan in northeastern Colorado. CMC has programs in several mountain areas including Aspen, the Gunnison Valley, the Roaring Fork Valley, the I-70 corridor through Garfield County and parts of the upper Colorado River valley.

Seven municipalities throughout Garfield County again participated in an extensive cooperative mosquito control effort during 2012. Since the inception of Garfield County Cooperative Mosquito Control Program, efficacy of the established program has been improved with the inclusion of areas adjacent to or surrounded by previously participating areas. CMC has continued to provide top quality mosquito control programs in several Western Slope and Mountain accounts for the past 9 years and for front-range communities for over 16 years. In addition, CMC has rapidly expanded to provide service to other municipalities as new mosquito control programs were initiated. CMC will maintain its commitment to provide top quality service, in an effort to minimize the threat of West Nile Virus to citizens and to reduce mosquito annoyance in the Garfield County and surrounding areas.
2012 Season Perspective

At CMC we have come to expect each Colorado summer to present a unique set of temperature, precipitation, irrigation, and human interactions that combine to create new and different challenges in both mosquito control and mosquito-borne disease proliferation and control; 2012 was typical in that respect.

The 2012 mosquito season can best be described warm and dry, with minimal snowmelt runoff, few significant precipitation events and record breaking number of 90+ degree days. (See Chart “2012 Garfield County Climate Data”). Area snow pack levels were near record lows with snowmelt runoff not significantly impacting typical larval mosquito breeding sites. River levels were the lowest they have been since 2002 and for the first time since the inception of the Garfield County program more sites were dry than wet this season. August had a record eighteen 90+ degree days in the Aspen area further reducing larval production sites.

The vast majority of the mosquitoes (Aedes/Ochlerotatus) with which we must contend are associated with newly applied floodwater via rain or irrigation or older standing stagnant water (Culex). Thus, mosquito population trends are almost always dependent on either heavy rains (over 0.5in) or the agricultural flooding of fields for irrigation. With a record low snow pack in 2012 snowmelt runoff was not a significant factor in mosquito production. Due to the above average summer temperatures combined with below average precipitation only 281.1 acres required treatment in 2012, see the chart Site Comparison by Year in the Appendix for year to year comparisons.

In the month of July there were a handful of significant rain events triggering small areas of activity. However the water did not last long as there were above average temperatures in both July and August. Anticipating and understanding snowmelt runoff and significant rainfall events and the resulting effect it will have on mosquito populations is one of CMC’s primary objectives to tailor the perfect program for Unincorporated Garfield County.

Below average precipitation and above average temperatures in August resulted in a decrease of all mosquito populations. The season came to a close on September 1st as daytime temperatures dipped into the 60’s and 70’s with night time temperatures dropping into the mid to low 40s throughout the control area.
2012 Field Activities

Field activities began in late March for the 2012 season. The earliest activity of the season involved updating and revising all GIS maps throughout the fall and winter. In addition, new site identification and mapping were the priority in areas that had not previously been included in larval control operations. Mapping larval sites is an ongoing process; every year citizen reports of standing water, new construction and site destruction result in many new sites being added or removed from the existing larval inspection routes.

Hiring of seasonal technicians began in March, and continued into late May. As the CMC service area continues to grow, hiring an adequate number of top quality field technicians has become a challenge. For the Garfield County office, nearly 20 applicants were interviewed with 8 full-time technicians being hired; two of which were returning technicians from last year.

CMC’s Annual Field Technician Classroom Training Day took place on Monday, May 21st with over 75 new and returning field technicians in attendance. Field training by CMC management and veteran employees lasted throughout May, with a few late hires being trained during early June. By the end of May, CMC was fully staffed and had full daytime and evening shift crews fully trained and in the field. During the early June to early September time period, field mosquito control operations were in full swing. The final day for larval inspections and control was Friday, September 14th.

Mosquito trapping was planned through September 9th; however cooler temperatures and an overall decrease in adult populations effectively eliminated the final week of trapping and associated adult spraying operations. There were a few select ‘hot-spots’ in Garfield County that were treated and sprayed for adults through the second week of September. Although small populations of adult mosquitoes remained through the end of September, mosquito annoyance calls declined to zero during the final half of the month.
WEST NILE VIRUS 2012

Background

West Nile Virus (WNV) was first identified in Uganda in 1937. Since that time, activity has been documented throughout Africa, Europe, West and Central Asia, and areas of the Middle East. The virus made its first appearance to North America in 1999 when it was documented in New York City. WNV comes from a family of viruses known as Flaviviridae and is closely related to other viruses which can have severe effects on both humans and animals such as Japanese Encephalitis and St. Louis encephalitis.

WNV has a wide range of symptoms which can range from mild flu like symptoms to death. Of humans affected, nearly 80% will show no symptoms at all. The majority of people who do show symptoms will usually suffer from flu like symptoms. However, approximately 1% of people will develop much more severe symptoms including meningitis (inflammation of the linings surrounding the brain and spinal cord), encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), or very rarely poliomyelitis which can cause paralysis in parts of the body.

Since the introduction of WNV to the United States in New York City in 1999, the virus has made a complete westward expansion to the West Coast. Starting in the Northeastern parts of the United States, the virus steadily progressed through the South, the Midwest, the Rocky Mountain region, and now the Western States. WNV activity has been documented in all US states except Alaska and Hawaii.

Colorado first saw activity of the virus late in the summer of 2002. In 2003 Colorado was the hardest hit state compiling 2,947 human cases and 63 deaths most of which occurred along the Front Range. By 2004 the majority of the cases shifted to the Western Slope and the state totaled 291 cases with 4 deaths (Mesa County).

Colorado Perspective

Cases of WNV have been seen throughout a large portion of the country. States with the most reported WNV cases thus far in 2012 include: Texas, Oklahoma, Michigan, Mississippi and Louisiana. As of September 19th there were a total of 2,636 total cases in the United States this year, with a large majority of them in Texas.

In Colorado in 2004 and 2005 WNV activity was spread throughout the state with no particular clustering in any one region. This year there was little WNV activity through the end of July, however cases exploded in August with 75 confirmed human cases and two deaths. The weather pattern of this season was similar to that of 2007, with adequate standing water and very warm temperatures. Similar to previous seasons there was a clustering of WNV activity along the Front Range, as well as in Delta, Montrose and Mesa Counties on the Western Slope of Colorado. There have been no positive human or animal cases reported in Garfield, Eagle or Pitkin Counties thus far in 2012. As of September 14 there have been 75 confirmed human cases (most of which were observed in adults between 35 and 70yrs old) and two deaths in Montrose County.
West Nile virus (WNV) activity reported to ArboNET, by state, United States, 2012 (as of September 11, 2012)

- No WNV activity
- Any WNV activity
- WNV human disease case
- WNV presumptive viremic blood donor

Source: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/Mapsactivity/survcontrol11MapsAnybyState.htm
### Human West Nile Virus Infections: Colorado, September 17, 2012

**Updated September 17, 2012**

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**Counties not listed have no verified human cases of WNV**
Colorado West Nile Virus 2012 Human Cases
September 14, 2012

Legend
- WNV Uncomplicated Fever
- WNV Meningitis
- WNV Encephalitis

N = 75 Human Cases

Note: Locations on this map have been randomly assigned within the geocoded census tract or block group boundary, in order to protect the identity and location of individual(s).
This map does not reflect the exact location of exposure.
Larval Mosquito Control

Years of research and practical experience have shown that the most effective way to control mosquito populations is through an aggressive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach. This approach aims at using a variety of concepts, tools, and products to reduce a pest population to tolerable levels. Translating these ideas to mosquito control, CMC has found the most environmentally and economically sound approach is through targeting the aquatic larval stage of the mosquito. Targeting this stage prevents the emergence of the adult mosquito and thus the inevitable result of disease and nuisance. Over 93% of Colorado Mosquito Control, Inc. (CMC) operational efforts are focused on larval control.

Larval mosquito control can be achieved in several ways including biological, biochemical, chemical and mechanical means. Although there are a variety of methods for reducing larval populations, some options may have greater consequences than benefits. Mechanical or habitat modification is a technique which may be used, but the area to be modified and the extent to which the work will affect the surrounding area must be carefully assessed. Permanent ecological damage may occur if extensive habitat change has taken place. True biological controls may also have non-target effects that outweigh the benefits of their control capacity. The biological control agent, if not carefully selected and evaluated may cause an imbalance in the natural ecological community, as well as threaten population levels of other organisms.

This was the case with the introduced mosquito fish (Gambusia affinis), an introduced species, while an effective predator on mosquito larvae it may have much larger dangers to native fish of Colorado waters. Gambusia are very aggressive eaters and rapidly reproduce and often out-compete their native counterparts. For these reasons the Colorado Division of Wildlife (COW) has placed restrictions on the stocking and use of Gambusia. However, CMC has made fathead minnows (Pimephales promelas), a native Colorado species, available to the public to stock in irrigation and retention ponds. In general however, predatory fish and other biological controls such as birds and bats do not provide sufficient control of mosquito populations to be used as the sole mechanism. Other measures need to be used to gain adequate larval mosquito reductions.

CMC’s favored method of larval mosquito control is through bacterial bio-rational products. The main product used by CMC is a variety of bacteria (Bacillus thuringiensis var. israeliensis). Bti as it is known has become the cornerstone of mosquito control programs throughout the world. The benefits include its efficacy and lack of environmental impacts. When used properly successful control without impact to aquatic invertebrates, birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles or humans can be achieved. A broad label allows for the use of the product in the majority of the habitats throughout the service area. Another bacterial product closely related to Bti is Bacillus sphaericus (Bs). In addition to all of the benefits of Bti, Bs is by definition a true biological control agent in that it remains in the system through multiple broods, or generations, of mosquitoes. Unfortunately the residual benefit of the control comes at a cost in price of approximately three times that of Bti.

Other larval control products include a growth regulator (methoprene), a mineral oil and an organophosphate (Abate). Methoprene is a synthetic copy of a juvenile growth hormone in larval mosquitoes. The hormone prevents normal development of the adult mosquito in the pupal stage.
eventually causing death. While a good control product, the cost is prohibitive to be the predominant product in a large scale program. Abate, the one chemical larval control product CMC uses, serves as an effective product, but label restrictions limit its use in many areas. CMC limits the use of chemical larvacides to areas with little biodiversity, such as road side ditches, or areas which chronically produce large amounts of mosquitoes and use them only as a last resort when other solutions are not present. The benefits of these products are the availability of 30 and 150 day formulations. Mineral oil is the only product effective on the pupal stage and therefore is an essential tool when pupae are found.

All of the fore mentioned methods and products represent the essential ingredients of Integrated Pest Management. Mosquitoes are very well adapted and can be found in many different habitat types from a cattail marsh to a cup littered on the side of the road. A variety of tools must be used to prevent resistance and ensure the best method will be available for any given situation.

Larval control began the first week of April and continued though the second week of September. With the limited amount of precipitation and abnormally warm summer the number of “wet” sites was significantly reduced the latter part of the season. As a result many more acres were treated throughout June and July. Steady production was seen throughout the summer with significant increases in larval production/treatment coinciding with minor precipitation events and local irrigation practices. During the 2012 season, there were 3,526 site inspections with 85.5% (3,016) of them wet. Of the 3,016 wet sites 41.2% (1,254) of them required treatment totaling 281.1 acres treated in Garfield County.

CMC constantly strives to improve its operations. Most recently CMC has implemented several high tech solutions to what historically has been a particularly low tech operation. CMC’s “CMMS” (Computerized Mosquito Management System) utilizes historical data to analyze and identify areas and sites of particular importance. Additionally, a sample of larvae from sites found to be breeding is collected and brought back to the lab for identification purposes. This allows for a specific knowledge of each site especially in the event of a disease outbreak where a particular species has been found to be the vector. Targeted inspections then allow for resources to be allocated efficiently.
CMC SURVEILLANCE LABORATORY

Information on mosquito abundance and species identity is critical in the operation of a successful mosquito management program. Over the past few years identifying, packaging and sending *Culex* mosquito pool samples to the CDPHE or CSU labs for West Nile Virus testing has also become critically important in the battle against WNV and other mosquito-borne diseases. The Colorado Mosquito Control Surveillance Laboratory, managed by Dr. Michael “Doc” Weissmann, has become the largest single source of adult and larval mosquito surveillance data in the state of Colorado. Specifically, CMC has 4 stereo zoom binocular microscopes, 94 CDC dry-ice baited Light Traps, 21 Reiter Gravid Traps and all associated equipment and hardware.

The CDC light trap uses carbon-dioxide from dry ice as bait to attract female mosquitoes seeking a blood meal from a breathing animal. Once attracted by the CO₂, the mosquitoes are lured by a small light to a fan that pulls them into a net for collection. The Gravid Trap uses a tub of highly-organic water as bait to attract female mosquitoes that are looking for a place to lay their eggs. A fan placed close to the water surface forces mosquitoes that come to the water into a collection net. Once back in the laboratory, the contents of the trap nets are counted and identified by technicians trained to recognize the Colorado mosquito species.

In 2012, Colorado Mosquito Control Inc., monitored a statewide network of CO₂ baited light traps in which all adult mosquitoes were counted and identified to species by the CMC Surveillance Laboratory. While individual traps provide only limited information, trap data is interpreted in the context of historical records for the same trap site, going back in time more than a decade. Individual traps are also compared to other traps from around the region that were set on the same night and therefore exposed to similar weather conditions. Technicians working in the Surveillance Laboratory at Colorado Mosquito Control, Inc. are trained to provide accurate species-level identification of mosquito specimens, for both adults and larvae. More than 50 mosquito species are believed to occur in Colorado, and 35 of those were identified from samples processed during the 2012 season from across the state.

Additionally, the CMC Surveillance Laboratory conducts an intensive larval identification program with over 8,000 larval mosquito samples collected by I&L technicians prior to larviciding being identified to species. This information is now invaluable in targeting mosquito control efforts as we gain a greater understanding of the habitat types preferred by Colorado mosquito species and the seasonality of these habitats as sites for mosquito development.
Specimens and data collected from these traps and larval identification are used in:

- **Determining effectiveness of larval control efforts.** Each mosquito species prefers specific kinds of habitats for larval development. If a trap includes large numbers, it could indicate the presence of an unknown larval habitat and, based on the species identification and known habitat preference for that species, direct field technicians as to possible sources of the mosquitoes collected.

- **Determining larval and adult mosquito species** which helps illustrate the threat of mosquito-borne disease amplification and transmission.

- **Determining where adult control efforts were necessary.** While mosquito eradication is impossible, significant population reduction is achievable. In places where larval control was insufficient, especially in neighborhoods where adult mosquitoes migrated in from larval sources outside of the control area, it may be necessary to use adulticide methods such as ULV truck fogging or barrier sprays of nearby harborage areas. Trap counts that were in excess of an acceptable threshold for the area would trigger adult control measures.

- **Surveillance for Mosquito-borne Disease.** Historically, CMC efforts were targeted primarily at controlling mosquito nuisance problems with limited disease surveillance. However, since the arrival of the West Nile Virus in Colorado in August of 2002, the paradigm has shifted toward disease prevention and control. Accurate species identification of the mosquitoes in the traps is important when monitoring species population trends. It also is necessary for evaluating whether a population spike represents an actual increase in disease transmission potential or only an increased nuisance level. Additionally, a majority of the *Culex* specimens collected in the CMC traps during the 2012 season were sent to the CO State Health Department laboratory or one of the regional county laboratories to be tested for West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne diseases. The infection rates of West Nile Virus in *Culex* mosquitoes in 2012 were comparable to WNV infection rates of the 2007 season.
CDC Surveillance Light Trap Data Comparison

In 2012, an average of 2 surveillance light trap locations monitored adult mosquito populations within Unincorporated Garfield County weekly. Weather permitting, CDC battery-operated “light traps” were set in each location to provide adult mosquito population data for seasonal comparisons. Surveillance trapping began June 1st and was concluded on August 31st.

In 2012, 26 surveillance light traps were set within Unincorporated Garfield County, which collected 1,461 total mosquitoes. The average number of mosquitoes collected per trap per night was 56 and the average number of Culex mosquitoes collected per trap per night was 11. The percent composition of mosquitoes collected in 2012 is as follows: 74.9%(1,094) Aedes/Oc. Spp, 20.1%(294) Culex, 4.6%(67) Culiseta. Please refer to the CDC Light Trap Details for species composition and seasonal trends by individual surveillance trap location.
**2012 Adult Control**

The goal of Colorado Mosquito Control, Inc. is to provide all residents of Unincorporated Garfield County with the best options for safe, effective, modern mosquito management. The primary emphasis of the Garfield County mosquito control program is to control mosquitoes in the larval stage, using safe biological control products. This environmentally focused program maintains adulticiding applications as a final resort when mosquito populations surpass nuisance or risk thresholds. Mosquito surveillance trapping results are used to make data-driven decisions regarding areas that need to be sprayed for adult mosquito control. Adult mosquito control spraying is targeted to specific sectors determined by this trap data, thereby reducing the area sprayed and the frequency of spraying in each sector.

The Garfield County Cooperative Mosquito Control Program uses all available data from CDC light traps, gravid traps, Mosquito Hotline annoyance calls and field technician reports to focus adult mosquito control efforts to specific, very limited “targeted” areas. In parts of the community where high numbers of mosquito annoyance calls are received, “floater” CDC light traps are set to evaluate adult population levels and species make-up. In many cases, a direct correlation is evident between areas with high complaint calls and high trap counts. While this correlation allows us to focus adult control in these areas, the emphasis is placed on finding the larval habitat sources of the trapped adults and continued larval control measures.

Colorado Mosquito Control, Inc. uses state of the art technology, calibrated application timing and least-toxic products to minimize non-target insect activity (for example, day-flying pollinators like bees) is greatly reduced. Using this application technique, the overall goal of minimal environmental impact and effective adult control is achieved in the targeted area.

As in past seasons, NO adult mosquito control measures were required in the East Aspen Metro District this season; however the product Evoluer 4-4 would have been used if an ULV application was deemed necessary. Its active ingredient permethrin is highly effective against mosquitoes and has proven that this is the right choice for the adulticide portion of the Integrated Mosquito Management Program.

As we look towards the 2013 season, we will continue to evaluate treatment areas and new control products coming to the market. As always we will listen to the goals and needs of our customers so as to continue to provide an effective program that minimizes environmental impacts.

Our adult mosquito spray “notification and shutoff” program was again in place and updated throughout 2012. This service allows residents to request a notification of when adult mosquito control treatments will take place in their area, “shutting off” the sprayer in the vicinity of their address, or both. This service provides residents with up to date information on when and where adult mosquito spraying will take place.
TECHNOLOGY

Colorado Mosquito Control, Inc. has strived to improve the programs offered to its customers with novel and progressive advancements, continually evaluating and implementing new products and new technologies, not only with regard to control efforts but also for data processing and information reporting. CMC shares the belief that timely information should be accessible to customers and residents, so that the people who fund the programs can access the work that is being performed. CMC also believes that the ability to access the data will improve both the resident’s and municipality’s ability to stay informed about West Nile Virus risk in their community.

CMC WEBSITE

Our website, www.comosquitocontrol.com is the leading website in the State of Colorado when it comes to providing up-to-date, factual and comprehensive information on, and links to, mosquito biology and control, mosquito-borne diseases, pesticide toxicology information and a wealth of topics relating to mosquitoes. Our website continues to be an integral tool for the dissemination of operational data to the citizens we serve, minimizing the resource and time required by the city and its employees for answering or fielding public inquiries.
PUBLIC OUTREACH & DATA DISSEMINATION

For 26 years, CMC has demonstrated that strong Public Outreach programs, quality Data Dissemination and outstanding Customer Service standards are the keys to success in providing large-scale municipal mosquito control programs. Citizen feedback, inquiry and satisfaction surveys aid in evaluating the effectiveness of our program. CMC constantly looks for ways to better serve the communities we work with and appreciates the citizen involvement in improving the programs we offer. We have clearly demonstrated this commitment by proactively incorporating numerous innovative programs, activities and services into the Garfield County Mosquito Control Program.

CALL NOTIFICATION & SHUTOFF SYSTEM

CMC maintains a comprehensive Call Notification & Shutoff database, and will notify residents on this list whenever ULV adulticide spray applications will be conducted within 2 blocks of their property or within the effective ULV spray drift distance (300-500 ft depending on wind speed and direction). All Shutoff locations are mapped in ArcView GIS and updated annually. Call & Shutoff forms are available online and may be submitted via the CMC website or by mail.

FLOATER TRAP PLACEMENT

For annoyance reports at resident homes in locations away from standard trapping sites, to determine adult populations and whether threshold levels are met for ULV Adulticide applications.

MONTHLY & ANNUAL REPORTS

Detailed monthly reports are distributed to each municipality participating in the mosquito control program, and a comprehensive annual report detailing the season and with suggestions for program improvements for future years.
SUMMARY

The 2012 Garfield County mosquito control program once again provided challenges and successes. With the significant increase in West Nile Virus activity throughout the country, especially in Texas, it was imperative that sites be inspected and treated on a weekly basis. With WNV infection rates similar to those seen in 2007 and 2003, there were no confirmed cases in Garfield County in 2012. In fact, there were no human or animal cases confirmed in Garfield County during the 2012 season. A lot has been learned a lot since the inception of the Garfield County program, and some great improvements have been made; with both nuisance control and mosquito borne disease information. Work will always continue in the arena of public education, notification and dissemination of information about personal protection and the mosquito control program itself. The Colorado Mosquito Control, Inc. website continues to be successful based on the number of “hits,” favorable e-mails and requests for more information received from program residents.

Colorado Mosquito Control, Inc. continues to effectively serve the residents of Unincorporated Garfield County using Integrated Mosquito Management technology to reduce mosquito nuisance and the related potential for disease transmission including West Nile Virus. CMC continues to promote a responsible IPM approach to mosquito management, fully utilizing all available biological control techniques while minimizing the use of chemical pesticides while maintaining a cost effective and efficient program.

Colorado Mosquito Control, Inc. would like to thank the residents of the Garfield County Cooperative Mosquito Control Program for their support and business over the past nine years; and look forward to working with the district in the future.