



Public Health

West Nile Virus Detected in Third Umatilla County Bird

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For Immediate Release:

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West Nile Virus has been detected in a magpie in Hermiston, Oregon, Umatilla County officials said today. This is the second positive bird collected in Hermiston within the past month and the third positive bird in Umatilla County this summer. A Red Tail Hawk collected in Umapine tested positive on August 6th and a Robin collected in Hermiston on August 23rd also tested positive.

“The magpie was collected near Hermiston High School this morning and submitted to the West Umatilla Vector Control District as part of the districts routine arbovirus surveillance program”, said Ron Montgomery, Manager of the West Umatilla Vector Control District. Field tests conducted at the district lab yielded positive results. This is the second positive bird collected in Hermiston within the past month. “Additional

surveillance activities will continue in the area as long as mosquitoes are still active”, said Montgomery.

“There have been no human or horse cases of West Nile Virus reported in Umatilla County this year” said Genni Lehnert, Administrator of Umatilla County Public Health Department.

“We continue to encourage the public to reduce their exposure to mosquitoes whenever possible” “The risk of West Nile is low but we do encourage people to take appropriate precautions to protect themselves against mosquito bites,” said Lehnert. She offered the following suggestions to reduce the risk of exposure to West Nile:

- Get rid of old tires and other containers where water can accumulate and serve as a breeding ground for mosquitoes.
- 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, making sure to follow the directions on the container.
- Screen doors and windows.

Because horses are also at risk for West Nile, Montgomery encourages horse owners to check with their veterinarians for vaccination. Veterinarians can arrange for testing of samples from horses suspected of infection with West Nile.

The State of Oregon has set up a West Nile Virus Hotline at 1 (800) 703-INFO. Additional information on West Nile is on the Web at:

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/>

Oregon Department of Human Services -
<http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us/acd/wnile/index.cfm>

Umatilla County

<http://www.co.umatilla.or.us>

West Umatilla Vector Control District

<http://www.wuvcd.org>

Blue Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center

www.bluemountainwildlife.org

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