



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

Media Release

June 14, 2018

For Immediate Release

Spring flooding in Meadow Creek/Lardeau Valley area means busy mosquito control program

Nelson, BC: A mosquito control program operated by the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) in the Meadow Creek/Lardeau Valley area has detected higher than normal mosquito larval activity in the area. The program—which treats floodwaters—has applied treatment to an area more than twice the size of the whole of last year’s treatment.

“The mosquito control program is key to reducing mosquito populations to levels that are manageable for residents and livestock,” said Aimee Watson, Director of Electoral Area D. “We are seeing more mosquito larvae this year because of this spring’s flooding, but the treatment should bring those levels down so residents and visitors can enjoy less mosquito nuisance.”

The RDCK operates two mosquito control programs in Electoral Area D, in the Meadow Creek/Lardeau Valley area and Pine Ridge subdivision south of Kaslo. In both programs, mosquito larvae are regularly monitored throughout the area. Sampling in the Meadow Creek/Lardeau Valley area indicated extensive mosquito larval activity, requiring three widespread applications by helicopter, and a substantial amount of ground treatment.

High temperatures early in the season, combined with a higher than normal snowpack, resulted in extensive flooding in the Meadow Creek/Lardeau Valley area earlier this year—including some areas that have not flooded since 2012. Flooding levels in the area are dependent on the Lardeau River flows and the discharge from the Duncan Dam operated by BC Hydro.

“In a regular year, we can expect mosquito treatment for approximately 1,360 acres of floodwaters,” said Uli Wolf, General Manager of Environmental Services at the RDCK. “This year, by the end of May, the contractor had applied treatment to more than double that—an area larger than 1,000 football fields.”

When larvae counts reach a predetermined threshold, mosquito control is applied through the use of a granular larval control product *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti). Bti is a natural, soil-borne bacterium that specifically targets mosquito larvae.

Residents living within the mosquito control program areas can call the RDCK mosquito hotline at 1-844-313-1913 to report the presence of nuisance mosquitoes. More information on the program can be found at www.rdck.ca.

-30-

Photos available upon request.

For further information, please contact:

Shari Imada
Environmental Services Coordinator
Phone: 250-352-8192
Email: simada@rdck.bc.ca

For media enquiries, please contact:

Maria Hypponen
Communications Coordinator
Phone: 250-352-1531
Email: mhypponen@rdck.bc.ca