

Mosquito Control on Federal Lands: Where Do Things Now Stand? – Dr. Bill Meredith

- a) Federal lands
 - i) USFWS National Wildlife Refuges
 - (1) 42 - some work occurring
 - (2) 48 - control needed
 - ii) NPS
 - (1) National seashore - 8 problematic
 - (2) Everglades
 - (3) Others can be problematic as well
 - (4) Many either don't have issues or are open to control
 - iii) NOAA
 - (1) Varies
 - (2) Some problematic Estuarine Research Reserve systems
 - iv) Other - fewer issues
 - (1) Military bases - usually good
 - (2) National forests
 - (3) Army Corps sites
 - (4) Etc
- b) USFWS proposed national policy for mosquito control
 - i) 11 year effort
 - ii) Abandoned effort on 5/7/13
 - iii) Why?
 - (1) Internal dissent?
 - (2) Other?
 - iv) History
 - (1) 1997 Act
 - (2) Excluded mosquito control from federal sites (passive)
 - (3) AMCA intended to add 3 points
 - (4) Too late to make amendments
 - (5) Asked to work with service administratively after the act was passed
 - v) There was suppose to be a collaborative effort to create a handbook
 - (1) Service hired a coordinator
 - (2) In 2002, the Service decided to create a national policy
 - (3) 2005 - very problematic interim guide
 - (4) 2007 - marginal better draft policy
 - (5) It all fell apart
 - (6) Decision making will continue to be decentralized
- c) Problems
 - i) No emphasis on source control
 - ii) No recognition of quality of life impacts
 - iii) Little importance on non-disease issues
 - iv) Spray thresholds had to include arbovirus measures
 - v) Did not want to follow BMPs and IMM
 - vi) Political boundaries were an issue

- vii) Mosquito control not considered experts in public health
- viii) Mosquito control on refuge use was considered a "refuge use"
- d) AMCA Guidance Document
 - i) Compilation of info helpful in mosquito control decision making on-refuge
 - ii) 11 page document
 - iii) Not a BMP
 - iv) Useful in crafting:
 - (1) Comprehensive conservation plans
 - (2) Mosquito management plans
 - (3) Special use permits
- e) Future fate of 2005 interim guidelines
 - i) Flawed
 - ii) Need to be drastically modified or eliminated
 - iii) Service is possibly looking at integrating all pertinent regulations concerning mosquito control
 - iv) There are a lot of policies, some good and some bad
 - v) No way for AMCA to offer formal input
 - (1) No need for a declared public health emergency in order to adulticide
 - (2) Treatment thresholds should not include a measure of arboviral diseases
- f) Other issues
 - i) Endangered species act issues and non-target impacts
 - ii) Fallout from Bandon Marsh
 - (1) Service restored large wetland areas
 - (2) Caused a horrible mosquito problem
 - (3) No local mosquito control program
 - (4) Service recognized that this mosquito did cause a problem outside of a disease issue
 - (5) Service paid for aerial larviciding
- g) Future
 - i) AMCA will try to continue to meet with USFWS
 - ii) AMCA will help with local issues if asked
 - iii) AMCA wants to hear how local MCDs are faring on this issue
 - iv) Hoping for some improvements
- h) Federal Lands Mosquito Control Accommodation Act
 - i) One page bill
 - ii) Applicable to all types of federal lands
 - iii) Stalled at this point due to dysfunctional state of the federal government
 - iv) AMCA is in a wait-and-see mode at this point