

Hotchkiss Town NFMAD Notes

2017 has been a challenging season due to weather, including high winds with microbursts, extended high temperatures, and rainstorms. The physical mitigation projects throughout the District have made a huge difference in the numbers of adult mosquitoes flying by decreasing breeding areas, however Hotchkiss is bordered on two sides by the boundaries of the NF District. Mosquitoes blown in from the west and south affect particularly lower Hotchkiss areas, and targeted adulticide spraying was necessary from mid-June through to September.

There are significant issues with several areas of Hotchkiss, and physical mitigation projects are ongoing, as NFMAD has the funds for both heavy equipment and manpower. There are a couple of places NFMAD cannot legally mitigate or treat, including the Union Pacific railroad tracks/culverts, within 50 feet of the North Fork of the Gunnison river, and some roadsides.

**With our limited budget, any help the town of Hotchkiss and Delta County can provide, is greatly appreciated. The most important assistance would be cleaning roadside ditches, burning off cattail areas and roadside ditches, and stepping up the backfilling of the old water treatment plant pond.

Primary cattail areas include: cattail swamp at the top of the hill before the McCracken RV park, the foot of Coal and Wood's rds, and various roadsides. Cattails prevent the crew from visualizing larval presence, and also impedes product application.

Irrigation ditches running from the slope below Bilchak's Duke Hill property, through and across the railroad tracks, and a large seep converge along Lorah Lane. Zach Hotchkiss reported to the NFMAD board earlier this month about a possible plan to improve drainage along this

entire run from lower Hansen Mesa Rd to Carsten's fields. Details to come.

Here is a basic list of ongoing projects:

1. Delta County Fairgrounds: There are many areas that have been mitigated, with the help of town and county. However, the Fairgrounds remain on the frequent fogging list, along with other lower Hotchkiss places (Zack's BBQ, Smith McKnight ditch area, the old water treatment plant, etc) There are projects ongoing on both sides of the river, behind the Maloney house, as well as eastern side of the Fairgrounds, but this area is deeply impacted by mosquitoes blown in along the Leroux creek and river corridors. One third of Delta county does not have inclusion in a mosquito control district, and lower Hotchkiss will remain an issue requiring frequent treatment of all types from larvicide to adulticide, until this is resolved.
2. Old Water Treatment plant: see #1 This is a barometer of the entire lower Hotchkiss area, and absorbs a tremendous amount of payroll and product for the District. The pond areas need quite a bit more fill. This was one of the only West Nile positive tests on RAMP this season.
3. Smith McKnight pond/ John Hickam property: John Hickam is working with the Army Corp of Engineers to mitigate the "wetlands" disaster created by Crane. The crew is assisting with shovels and product whenever possible.
4. Zach Hotchkiss properties: The Hotchkiss family has accomplished many thousands of dollars of mitigation on their properties. The District continues to participate, both financially and with crew. There is a shallow pond that needs to be deepened, and that is next on the list.
5. Railroad track ditches all over town continue to be an issue.
6. Drainage on the south side of Willow Heights park needs to be

improved.