

# News Release

*Pacific Region*

## *Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex*



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For Immediate Release

### **Coos County Begins Monitoring Bandon Marsh Refuge for Mosquitoes**

Bandon, Ore.- Monitoring for mosquito larvae on Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge will begin in early April 2015 and will continue until October. As was done last year, if larvae reach a predetermined threshold density they will be treated with the larvicide *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*, or Bti, by hand or backpack spreader. Bti is a naturally derived larvicide that kills mosquito larvae but is non-toxic to bees, moths, butterflies, fish, mammals, and birds when applied. The refuge will also monitor the effectiveness of the 80,000 linear feet of new tidal channels that were excavated in 2014 to drain mosquito breeding pools that had been inadvertently created during a previous marsh restoration project.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service again provided funding to Coos Health and Wellness and its Public Health division, to monitor larvae and apply larvicide as needed on Bandon Marsh Refuge in 2015. The County issued a request for proposals from mosquito control companies and awarded the final contract to Vector Disease Control International, the same company that provided mosquito monitoring and treatment services at Bandon Marsh Refuge in 2014.

“The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is pleased to be working again with the experienced staff of Coos County Health and Wellness and Vector Disease Control International to implement this year’s mosquito control plan,” said Refuge Manager Eric Mruz. “We fully expect an enjoyable summer with little to no salt marsh mosquitoes on the refuge.”

Coos Health and Wellness will work with the Service and VDCI to continue the implementation of the mosquito surveillance and control plan at the Bandon Marsh Refuge and its surroundings.

In addition to monitoring and treatment, channel digging will also be a priority for reducing mosquito production in 2015 and well into the future. Monitoring in 2014 determined that an additional 10,000 linear feet of additional channel excavation was needed to effectively drain breeding pools used by the saltmarsh mosquito. Excavation will be accomplished by several means including hand digging by refuge staff and machine digging using refuge equipment. These additional channels will also improve tidal flow within the marsh, which will reduce mosquito breeding habitat.

In 2014 the USFWS purchased 16 Mosquito Magnet traps and made them available, along with propane tanks necessary to operate the traps, to neighbors of the Bandon Marsh Refuge. These traps are again available on loan and requests should be made to the City of Bandon.

For updates on the Integrated Marsh Management Approach at Bandon Marsh Refuge:  
<http://www.fws.gov/oregoncoast/bandonmarsh/Mosquito.html>

Coos Health and Wellness – Public Health division:  
<http://www.co.coos.or.us/Departments/HealthandHumanServices/PublicHealth/EnvironmentalHealth/Mosquito-Vector.aspx>

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