



COUNTIES OF INYO AND MONO



AGRICULTURE • WEIGHTS & MEASURES • OWENS VALLEY MOSQUITO ABATEMENT PROGRAM • MAMMOTH LAKES MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT
EASTERN SIERRA WEED MANAGEMENT AREA • INYO COUNTY COMMERCIAL CANNABIS PERMIT OFFICE

DEPARTMENT REPORT

April 2018

Agriculture

Provisions included in LADWP ranch lease agreements in Mono County continue to be a concern. The most worrisome provision is LADWP's refusal to commit to providing ANY irrigation water to maintain pasturelands countywide. Confusingly, leases still require lessees to maintain these grasslands at levels required when irrigation was provided as a part of the lease agreement. Removing irrigation from these leases would result in millions of dollars in lost economic activity, not to mention negative environmental consequences. Data from the recently completed [economic profile](#) of agriculture in Inyo and Mono Counties shows that irrigated pasture provides nearly **90** times more economic activity than non-irrigated rangeland.



The SpraySafe events held in Coleville and Bishop were a success. We had about 20 attendees in Coleville and about 100 in Bishop. Unfortunately, DPR Director Lechy was ill and could not make our meetings, but we did have several DPR personnel on hand and our meeting was featured on the DPR Facebook page. A slideshow can be found at: https://www.facebook.com/pg/CaPesticideRegulation/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1866190330080888.

Weights and Measures

Weights and measures staff has been working diligently to recertify retail fuel meters for 2018. Ideally, Inyo County gas pumps are checked in the spring or fall to avoid conflicts with the busy summer tourist season. Some Mono County businesses are tested at the same time, such as those in Mammoth Lakes and in valley areas, with others having to wait until summer due to inaccessibility like pumps on boat docks at high elevation lakes.

Aggregate batch plants also begin to come online in the spring. We use our heavy capacity weight truck to test batch plant storage silos that can weigh up to 160,000 lbs. at a time for major road construction projects. As we check these scales, we also try to coordinate to test truck scales that we did not test while checking livestock scales the



Mosquito Abatement

The mosquito season will officially kick off on April 5 when our seasonal staff comes on board. These early weeks of the warm season will be spent learning about equipment, conducting pesticide safety trainings, calibrating equipment to specific employees, and learning where mosquito sources occur. This year's trainings should be easier than last year, as we are lucky to have our entire 2017 staff returning for 2018. Given that last year had record runoff, and this year will be slightly below normal runoff, we expect to have a very successful control season.

The weekly mosquito control updates that were initiated last year will continue this season with a new design that we hope is improved. These will most likely begin when trapping activities commence, which is typically late May to early June. If we are experiencing high levels of activity, weekly reports may begin earlier than trapping.

Invasive Plant Management Program

Our weed crews have been out doing some limited work already this year, in addition to putting the finishing touches on preparing for official weed season opener in May. Limited survey of the area burned along the Owens River north of Bishop shows lots of potential for Perennial pepperweed to take advantage of damaged native plant communities. We are concerned that this weedy invader will become even more established in the fire scarred areas.

Crews also did some weed treatment for Eastern Sierra Land Trust this last month. We have done work on several of their conservation easements and appreciate their proactive approach to removing non-native invasive species. Weed abatement personnel will also conduct some cooperative work with California Department of Fish and Wildlife this month. This work will attempt to remove invasive plants to restore habitat supporting a rare fish, the [Owens Speckled Dace](#).

Inyo County Commercial Cannabis Permit Office

Inyo County released its commercial cannabis business permit [application package](#) as well as a [FAQ](#) sheet on March 27. The permit application window has not yet opened, but having these materials online early should help potential applicants to understand what Inyo will be requiring for permit issuance. The application fee has also been set by the Inyo County Board of Supervisors at \$2,711.89. An agenda item to cover permit fees will be forthcoming.

The window for Inyo commercial cannabis permit application acceptance should occur shortly.

April 2018 Calendar

April 5

Mosquito Control Season Begins

April 9

Inyo/Los Angeles Standing Committee Meeting
(Los Angeles)

April 10

Mono Board of Supervisors - NAISMA Fee Item
(Bridgeport)

April 16

Mosquito and Vector Control Association of California
Southern Regional Meeting
(West Covina)

April 17

Mono Board of Supervisors – Economic Study and Mammoth
Lakes Mosquito Abatement District Presentations
(Mammoth Lakes)

April 19

Southern California Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer's
Association Meeting
(Los Angeles)