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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**West Nile Virus Positive Pools Found In Gooding County- Public Health Urges Caution**

GOODING COUNTY-South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) officials and the Twin Falls County Pest Abatement District (TFCPAD) have confirmed a West Nile Virus positive mosquito pool in Gooding County. The mosquitoes were caught in district traps in the Hagerman area. No human or animal cases have been reported at this time.

“West Nile is a potentially serious illness that is usually spread to animals and humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Most people infected with West Nile do not show symptoms,” says Tanis Maxwell, SCPHD Nurse Program Manager. “However, people with symptoms may experience fever, headaches, body aches, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, eye pain, and sometimes swollen lymph glands or a skin rash typically occurring 2 to 14 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. More severe infections may involve the central nervous system.”

“TFCPAD traps mosquitoes throughout the Magic Valley during the summer to test for the virus. Some species are more prone to carrying diseases than others and we try to focus our work on those species. We are increasing the surveillance in the area of the positive pools.” says Kirk Tubbs, TFCPAD Manager.

SCPHD reminds individuals to protect themselves and their families from mosquito bites:

**DRAIN** any standing water on your property that may produce mosquitoes.

**AVOID** the outdoors at dawn and dusk.

**DRESS** appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors.

**DEFEND** yourself by using a mosquito repellent containing an EPA-registered active ingredient, such as DEET (follow label directions).

**MAKE SURE** door and window screens are in good condition to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home.

For more information on West Nile Virus, visit SCPHD’s website at [phd5.idaho.gov](http://phd5.idaho.gov). For more information on positive pools, visit the TFCPAD website at <http://tfcpad.org/>.

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