

# Multnomah County Vector\* Control and Enforcement Advisory Committee

*\*Vectors are animals/insects that can transmit disease to humans*  
**Interest Form**

**Purpose:**

Acquire diverse community perspectives and recommendations on the full range of Vector Control and Enforcement activities and liaison to general environmental health advisory committee.

**Please call for information (Ben Duncan, 503-988-3663 x22439#)**

**We are happy to take your application information by mail or email. Send your completed application to:**

Multnomah County Health Department  
Vector Control and Enforcement Advisory Committee  
c/o Ben Duncan  
3653 SE 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97202

[Benjamin.e.duncan@multco.us](mailto:Benjamin.e.duncan@multco.us)

Name John Cowan Date Submitted 3 Nov 11

Address 6687 SW Canyon Dr

City/State/ZIP Code Portland, Oregon, 97225

Home Phone 503-297-5889 Work Phone 503-281-0944  
e-mail: [john.cowan@state.or.us](mailto:john.cowan@state.or.us)

Place of Employment: Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

1. The Multnomah County Vector Control and Enforcement Advisory Committee will provide a community perspective and recommendations to vector planning and response. What interests or activities of yours may pertain to vectors and enforcement of codes that relate to community livability?

As the Ranger in charge of Government Island State Recreation Area, the necessity of mosquito control is very apparent. We manage a 17 mile long perimeter open to the public for recreation, and 2300 acres of interior where we perform invasive species control and habitat restoration. The serious impact on visitor enjoyment of a mosquito outbreak is very concerning to us. We also hear from our neighbors about their concerns. An outbreak also affects our ability to field work crews and volunteers and makes staff activities more difficult.

My 18 years in Parks have given me experience in providing and protecting natural, cultural, scenic and recreational resources to the visiting public, who come from around the world with sometimes competing interests and conduct. We in Parks always strive to balance these interests and conduct in the best interests of the public, the staff and the property.

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Appointments will be staggered for one two and three year terms.

2. What is your preferred time commitment to this committee? \*It may not be possible to assure your preference.

One Year \_\_\_x\_\_\_\_\_ Two Years \_\_\_\_\_ Three Years \_\_\_\_\_

3. How long have you lived in Multnomah County?

Less than a year\_\_\_\_\_ 1-5 Years\_\_\_\_\_ 5-10 Years\_\_\_\_\_ 10+ Years\_ x\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is your occupation? If retired, what was your former occupation?

\_\_\_\_Park Ranger 2, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

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5. Please describe your educational training or background:

\_\_\_\_I hold a Certified Pesticide Applicator License from Oregon Department of Agriculture, I am a Certified Arborist specializing in Tree Risk Assessment, I receive regular training in Verbal Judo methods of conflict resolution, and I am a Medical First Responder.

My academic background includes a BS in Biology and a BS in Philosophy. I have accumulated over 100 hours of post baccalaureate university credits focusing on ecology and evolution and regularly train in those specialties listed above. I have received additional training in Restoration Ecology from University of Washington and Federal Highways.

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6. Are you a member of any groups or organizations? Please list and describe your involvement.\_\_\_\_\_

I have been a member of the Society for Ecological Restoration and the International Society for Arboriculture.

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7. Have you had any previous experience with consensus committees or decision making?

Yes ☒ No ☐ If so, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Being a member of the Port of Portland Wildlife Advisory Committee and the Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area, interagency interaction is quite familiar and useful. I am a member of the ORPD Invasive Species Committee, notably as editor of the Integrated Pest Management manual and Policy and Procedures and re-wrote the in house training module for pesticide application.

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8. What perspectives or special skills do you feel you bring to the Advisory Committee?

My experience in outdoor recreation and invasive species management will bring both the Agency perspective of providing recreation opportunities and the requisite balancing of competing considerations in land use. This would be supported by my background in practical ecology. In invasive species management my perspectives are both Early Detection and Rapid Response and Integrated Pest Management.

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9. What do you feel are the most important Environmental Health issues affecting Multnomah County?

In a populous urban area, the potential for disease transmission is highly important. A brief reflection on world history shows the inherent danger to human life and well-being of vector-borne illness. The natural environment carries the constant potential for new diseases or outbreaks of old enemies. As climate and populations change and adapt we will be continually challenged to prepare and respond.

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10. Membership will entail participating in committee work, usually about 2 hours total per month. Are you able to make the time commitment necessary to participate at this level?

[ x ] Yes [ ] No

11. Please provide personal or professional references:

Mark Stevenson, Manager, Columbia River Gorge, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department,  
503-695-2261

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Nick Atwell, Manager, Airport Wildlife Department, Port of Portland, 503-807-4585

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Jordan Kim, Assistant Manager, Hood River Soil and Water Conservation District, and Co-  
Chair, Columbia Gorge Cooperative Weed Management Area, 541-386-4588

### **Multnomah County Vector Control and Enforcement Mission Statement**

The mission of Multnomah County Vector and Nuisance Control (MCVNC) is to promote community livability by managing vector-borne diseases through surveillance, suppression of vector populations and code enforcement to maintain and support those actions. MCVNC works in cooperation with surrounding communities and other contracting entities to address emerging vector-borne disease issues.