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April 21, 2022

VIA HAND-DELIVERY

Town of Preston
Planning and Zoning Commission
389 Route 2
Preston, CT 06365

Attn: Mrs. Kathy B. Warzecha, Director of Planning

Re: RODENT & INSECT CONTROL PLAN
Recreation Campground at Avery Pond
451, 455 & 495 Connecticut Route 2 (Norwich-Westerly Road) Preston, CT
RES Job # 21-2427-PRE3

Dear Mrs. Warzecha:

At the request of the applicant, Blue Camp CT, LLC, REMA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES, LLC (REMA), has prepared the enclosed *Rodent and Insect Control Plan* ("the Plan") for the above-referenced recreation campground. The Plan provides cultural practices to both minimize and control potential rodent and insect pests, while prescribing biological controls and avoiding the use of pesticides that may cause environmental harm and pose risks to human health.

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions on the above.

Respectfully submitted,

REMA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES, LLC

George T. Logan, MS, PWS, CSE
Principal Environmental Scientist
Certified Senior Ecologist (ESA)

Enclosure: Rodent & Insect Control Plan

RODENT AND INSECT CONTROL PLAN

Blue Water Recreation Campground at Avery Pond, Preston, Connecticut

A. Rodents

A control plan is necessary for any facility with dumpsters.

1. Use dumpsters with tight-fitting lids.
 - a. Inspect closure regularly (monthly at least), and if gaps or holes found, contract should require immediate replacement with a secure dumpster.
 - b. Offer recycling options to reduce waste volume/prevent overfilling.
 - c. If overfilling occurs regularly, increase pick-up frequency.
2. Published rules for visitors should include the following dumpster use protocols:
 - a. Never leave lid open
 - b. Do not overfill dumpster, which prevents tight closure.
 - c. Promptly clean up any spillage.
 - d. Staff should be alert for overfilling, poor closure, and spilling, on their rounds. Campers should promptly report overfilling or gaps/holes in closure to management.
3. Flush bottom of dumpster with a high pressure hose and disinfectant.
 - a. Use a benign disinfectant such as a distilled white vinegar solution, or dilute ammonia. Rinse water will soak into the ground, with a gravel surface.
 - b. Make sure drain hole is kept tightly plugged.
 - c. Disinfect twice per month.
4. No shrubbery or other low dense vegetation will be planted close to dumpsters, as rodents can use it as cover.
5. Place dumpster on a concrete pad to discourage nesting beneath it.
6. Only live trapping may be used, followed by freezing, if additional rodent control is necessary. Trap should have a half inch mesh, and be 5" X 5" X 18" in size. Use peanut butter bait at the rear. Handle dead rodents with latex or neoprene gloves. Traps can be ordered from such vendors as: diypestrol.com

B. White-footed mice/ticks

1. Control of white-footed mouse may be necessary, if they become a nuisance, because it is the host for immature, larval black-legged tick (*Ixodes scapularis*) (a.k.a. deer ticks), which may be disease carriers. Tick numbers are closely tied to white-footed mouse abundance. Goal is not to eliminate white-footed mice, a staple food for certain wildlife, but to limit densities in/near areas used by humans.

RODENT AND INSECT CONTROL PLAN

Blue Water Recreation Campground at Avery Pond, Preston, Connecticut

2. Control a shrub with abundant food for this mouse species, namely Japanese barberry (invasive) from the edge of the adjacent natural areas east of the campground.
3. As deemed necessary, Fipronil bait traps, may be used, placed on the perimeter of the campground, to reduce the numbers of ticks carried by white-footed mice. A treated wick applies pesticide as the mouse enters the trap to eat the bait, which kills the ticks carried by the mouse. Traps are placed 30 feet apart twice between April and October. Additional information on the efficacy of the traps for tick control is available at the CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES).
4. A tick information brochure with the packet (off CAES website), should be available at the campground welcome center.

C. Mosquitos

Of the many wetlands on and near the site, only a few are potential breeding areas for significant densities of mosquitos. In most areas natural predators like fish and dragonflies (nymphs and adults), keep them at low levels. Mosquito larvae are an important part of the food chain in the larger, more complex wetlands.

1. Within the recreation campground make sure that water is not left in containers for more than five days (the time it takes as a mosquito larva to mature).
 - a. Do not let water sit in children's' pails, dog bowls etc.
 - b. Staff of the campground should be alert for mosquito breeding areas as they make their rounds.
 - c. The species of mosquito that breed in containers is the one that may carry diseases that affect humans. Note that they do not breed in natural ponds or swamps in nature, only in tree holes, which are similar to containers.
2. Apply pellets or granules of larvicide (BTi, *Bacillus thuringensis israelensis* or *Bacillus sphaericus*) to standing water on the perimeter of the recreation campground, including the ditched watercourse on the west side and seasonally flooded parts of the eastern swamp within 40 feet of the park (i.e., Wetlands A2, F2, and F3). This will prevent the mosquito larvae from maturing. Some other insects in the fly family will also be affected. An alternative larvicide, Methoprene, a juvenile hormone, is not recommended as a larvicide, as it is active against many kinds of insects.