

Establishing a Vector Control Program



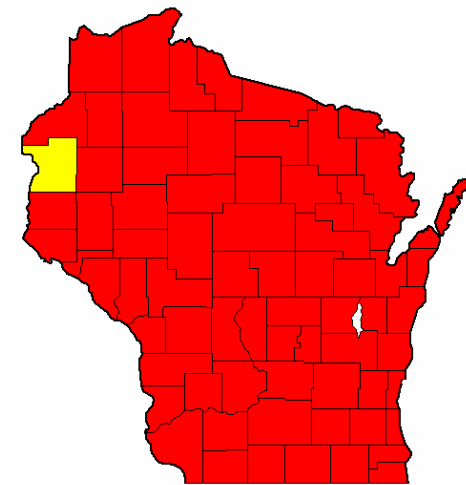
In Polk County Wisconsin

**Brian C. Hobbs, RS, EHS
Polk County Health Dept.
Balsam Lake, Wisconsin**

Introduction



- ☛ **Rural county with open farmland, dense forests, 400 lakes and rivers**
- ☛ **Instances of vector-borne disease increasing (West Nile, EEE)**
- ☛ **First confirmed case of LaCrosse Encephalitis in 2005**
- ☛ **Governed by 23 member County Board**
- ☛ **Currently no vector control program**



Polk County, Wisconsin

Problem

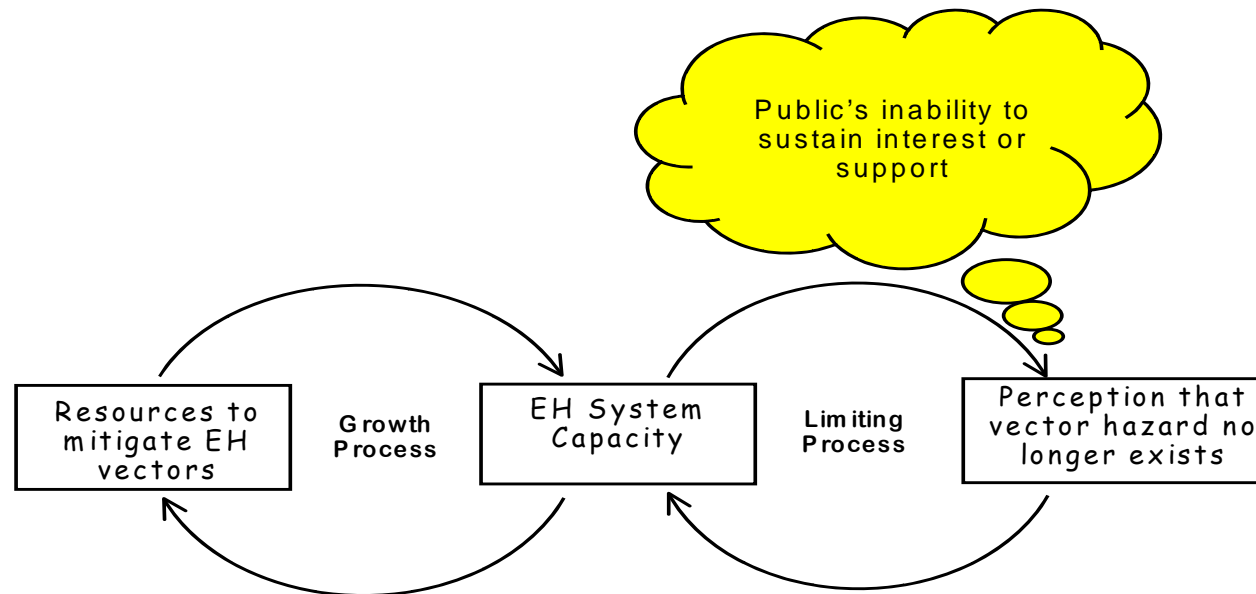


Vector control is linked to human health hazard control. If human health hazard control is important to the well-being of Polk County residents, why isn't there a vector control program in place?

Problem



Limits to Growth



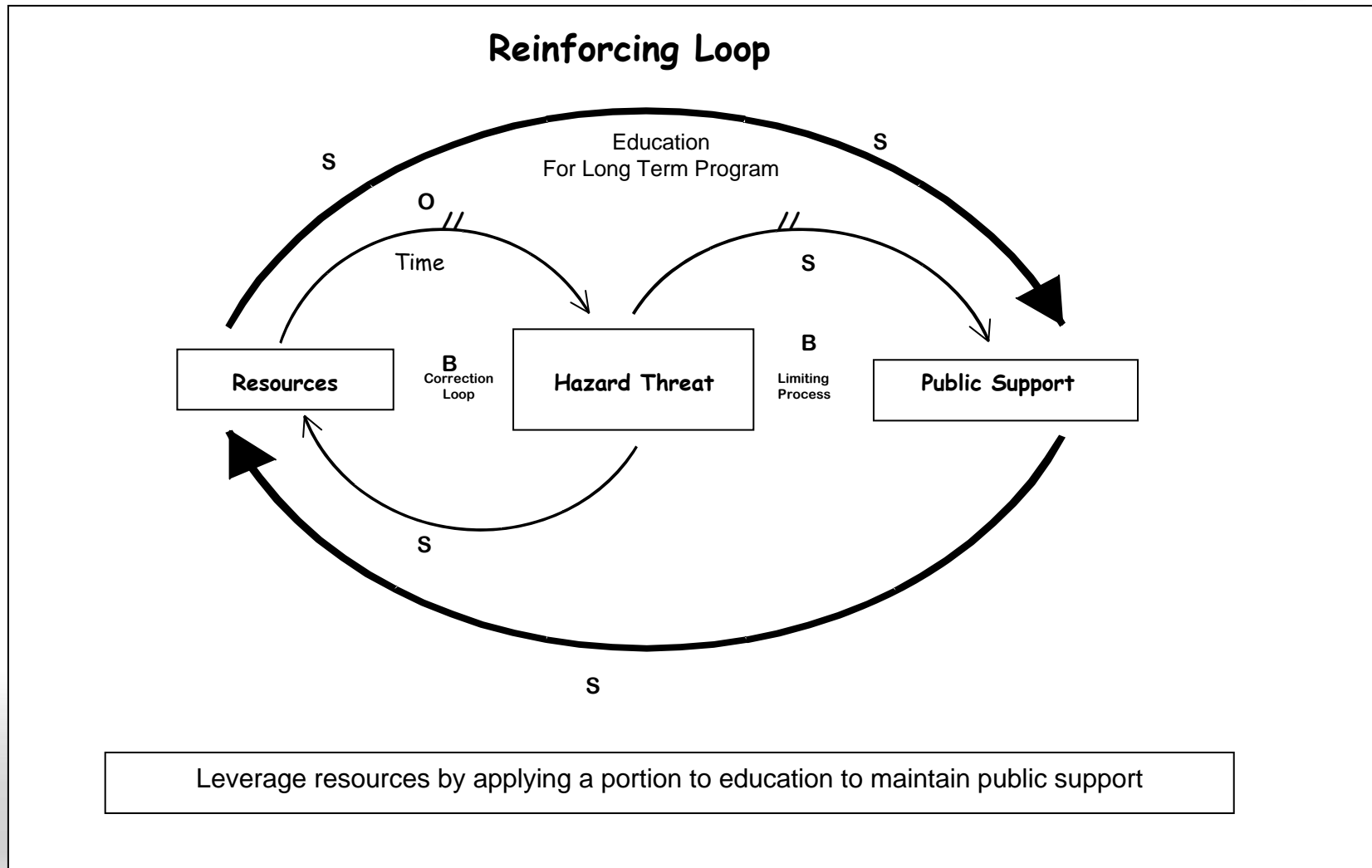
Limits to Growth: Environmental Health program receives resources in response to a hazard threat. As the resources are increased, mitigation and prevention activities are also increased. This causes the hazard to decrease. As the hazard decreases, public's interest and support decreases, resources are withdrawn, and eventually, the hazard reappears. A new reaction to the hazard begins.

Solutions



-
- ☞ Increase public support
 - ☞ Pursue funding sources
 - ☞ Develop task force
 - ☞ Reduce habitat
 - ☞ Broaden partner relationships
 - ☞ Increase awareness

Systems Archetype



Public Awareness



Public Awareness



LaCrosse Encephalitis
Help control LaCrosse mosquitoes

When in doubt, dump it out!

Produced and distributed by:
Metropolitan Mosquito Control District
(651) 645-9149 Fax: (651) 645-3246
Internet: www.mmcld.org

USE Protection
AVOID Infection
mosquito-borne disease
in Wisconsin

Common Mosquito
Larva: Larval Mosquito

WEST NILE VIRUS

Produced and distributed by:
Metropolitan Mosquito Control District
(651) 645-9149 Fax: (651) 645-3246
www.mmcld.org

**Stop
The
Buzz**

How to Keep
Mosquitoes from
moving in...

Habitat Removal



County Board Support



-
- ✔ **Budget and cost/benefit analysis**
 - ✔ **Proposal for expansion of program**
 - ✔ **Education of Board Members to risk of vector-borne disease**
 - ✔ **Public direction to contact regional Supervisors**
 - ✔ **Proactive methods to increase health status of constituents**
 - ✔ **The “Right” thing to do**

Success?



-
- ☞ **Some County Board support**
 - ☞ **Hiring freeze upheld**
 - ☞ **Public pressure not evident**
 - ☞ **Tax levy would incur percentage of cost to expand program**
 - ☞ **Alternative financial support not adequate**

No expansion of program for 2007

What's Next ?



-
- ✔ **Maintain public awareness campaign**
 - ✔ **Solicit alternative financial support**
 - ✔ **Provide habitat removal and involve Townships**
 - ✔ **Reintroduce expansion of program in 2008**
 - ✔ **Increase participation on task force**
 - ✔ **Form partnerships with local interest groups**
 - ✔ **Don't give up !**