



**Columbia Basin**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



## Moses Lake Phosphorus Mitigation Project 2024

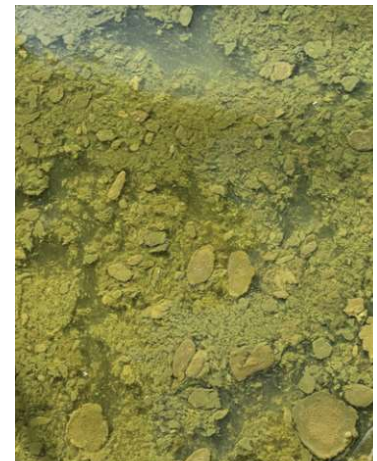
Moses Lake is a 6,800-acre lake and experienced poor water quality and harmful algae blooms (HABs) dating back to the 1960s. In recent years HABs occur across the lake which degrade water quality, produce toxins that are a risk to humans and wildlife, and have negative impacts on recreation, property values, and the local economy. Moses Lake is an important waterbody to the community for recreation, wildlife, and the economy. Regional estimates indicate that tourism and recreation contribute greater than \$300 million per year in economic activity. Legacy nutrients in the lake sediment and concentrated inflows of phosphorus are a key driver to HABs in Moses Lake.

Columbia Basin Conservation District (CBCD) has spearheaded a \$3.1 million phosphorus mitigation project to start addressing these phosphorus issues. EutroPHIX, a division of SePRO Corporation and Aquatechnex LLC have been

selected through a proposal process to undertake this project. This project's goal is to mitigate up to 14,400 lbs. of available phosphorus impacting northern Moses Lake. 2,300 acres of Moses Lake will be treated with EutroSORB® G to mitigate available sediment phosphorus. This treatment will take place during the first 2 weeks of June 2024. Additionally, a treatment system will inject EutroSORB® WC into Rocky Ford Creek to permanently bind soluble phosphorus before entering Moses Lake. This injection will take place across April-October 2024. Overall this project will improve water quality in Moses Lake and help mitigate harmful algae blooms.

### Project Overview

- Total Project Award: 3.1M
- Goal: Mitigate 14,400 lbs. of available phosphorus impacting Moses Lake
- Results: Improved water quality and reduction in HABs
- Implementation Dates: April - October 2024



*Dense HAB accumulated on Moses Lake shoreline*

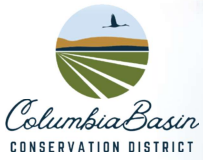


*Overview of project site on Moses Lake*

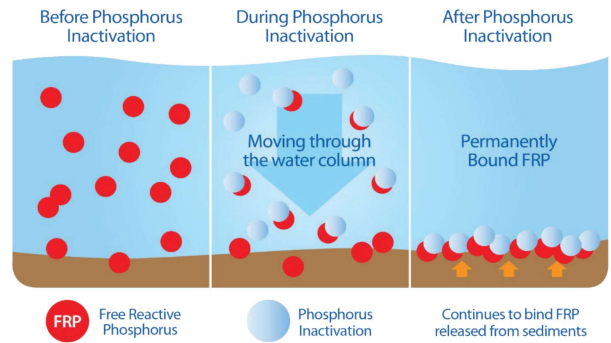
The project's funding was secured through the advocacy and efforts of Rep. Dan Newhouse, who included CBCD's Community Project Funding Request in H.R. 8239, part of the FY2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

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EutroSORB G is a 10% lanthanum modified bentonite and EutroSORB WC is a liquid phosphorus binder. EutroSORB is applied to a waterbody and settles to the lake sediment where it continues binding phosphorus to capacity. Both formulations are effective phosphorus binders with a wide margin of safety for aquatic organisms, fish, birds, mammals, and humans. This treatment will be reviewed and permitted by Washington Department of Ecology. This project will be meticulously monitored to determine the amount of improvement in water quality and effectiveness of these treatments. There will be twice monthly water sampling of Rocky Ford Creek and Moses Lake along with collection of lake sediments. Changes in the algae community will also be monitored through the project with the expectation there will be a reduction in HAB extent and severity. Results from this project will be used to inform future lake management actions taken at Moses Lake.



This project will provide an immediate water quality benefit to northern Moses Lake and a residual impact that will last multiple years after. This project provides a tremendous benefit to the local community from improving recreation, supporting growth of the local economy, and protecting this valuable resource and downstream uses of water. Please visit the Moses Lake Watershed Council website for more information at <http://www.moseslakewatershed.org/lake-improvement-projects>



## Project Partners



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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