

The Moses Lake Watershed Council

Moses Lake Watershed Council is a collaborative group developed to explore alternatives to address the water quality issues affecting the Moses Lake watershed.

The Moses Lake Watershed Council seeks guidance from the public to explore long-term solutions to local water quality issues.

The Watershed Council includes the Washington State Department of Ecology, Grant County Conservation District, Grant County Health District, City of Moses Lake, Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District, as well as members of the Moses Lake Community.

Moses Lake
Watershed Council



Grant County Conservation District

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Carp and Other Factors Impacting Algae on Moses Lake



Algae has significantly impacted Our Community. While algae is important to lake health, harmful algae blooms can be both a hazard to public health and community stability.



Algae in Moses Lake

Similar to other freshwater lakes, Moses Lake has a number of different types of algae. These include green and red algae, which make up the majority of the algal community and a small percentage is blue-green algae, also known as cyanobacteria. This algal community is the base that supports all life within Moses Lake.

What is the problem?

Moses Lake has a history of algae blooms. These blooms have increased in frequency and severity, particularly in recent years. These algae bloom have become hazardous as the proportion of blue green algae increases. Blue-green algae while a part of the larger algae community, can form large mats, diminish water quality and release toxins into the water when they occur in large numbers.

Causes

- Ecological issues
 - Invasive species
- Excessive nutrients
 - Naturally occurring deposits
 - Artificial added nutrients
- Environmental impacts
 - Excessive high temperatures
 - Higher temperatures earlier



Common Carp

Length: 12-32 inches (avg.)

Weight: 5-20 lbs. (avg.) or larger

Reproduction: 300,000 eggs per female (avg.)

Carp and their Impact

Common Carp are an invasive species originally introduced as a food fish. Due to their high adaptability, carp now make up a large portion of fish in Moses Lake. This large number of fish, causes the amount of phosphorus release to be significant. Additionally Carp uproot vegetation and sediment, releasing stored nutrients.

Other Key Factors

Nutrients and Fertilizers

Phosphorus is the key nutrient that determines blue-green algae growth. While natural sources occur locally, artificial sources such as lawn fertilizer and organic waste can contribute to the nutrients available for increased algae growth.

Environmental Factors

Natural environmental changes have resulted in an increase in the intensity and duration of warmer weather. This has increased the growing season for blue-green algae.

How Can the Community Help?

Residents of Moses Lake and the surrounding community can help reduce the frequency of algae blooms by making small and simple changes.

- Use fertilizers specific to areas near waterways if you live on the lake.
- Check your septic system for leakage.
- Prevent the introduction of new species into the lake.
- Remove invasive species such as carp as far from the water as possible.

