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## Phosphorous Mitigation Project FAQs

### ***How does this work help Moses Lake and the community?***

This project provides a tremendous benefit to the local community from improving recreation, positive impacts to the local economy, and protecting this valuable resource. Studies have determined that Moses Lake suffers from excessive internal cycling of phosphorus from the lake sediments and watershed phosphorus sources. Phosphorus is a key limiting nutrient to plant production in aquatics systems and supports the development harmful algae blooms. This project will bind a significant amount of excess phosphorus that will provide an immediate water quality benefit to northern Moses Lake and a residual impact that will last multiple years after.

### ***Is the water safe for pets, swimming, and irrigation?***

This project is using phosphorus binding material that when used maintains safety for humans, aquatic organisms, and wildlife. There are no restrictions from this project on pets, swimming, or irrigation uses of the water. Lake users still need to maintain awareness for harmful algae blooms (HABS) and precautions and advisories from Grant County Health Department need to be followed related to those impacts.

### ***Will the lake be closed?***

There will be no closures to Moses Lake related to this project.

### ***Is there an impact to boating?***

There are no closures to boating over the summer, or during application. The boat ramp at Connelly Park will be closed June 3-14th, but all other public accesses are open. We ask the public give the application boats enough space to perform their work on Moses Lake.

### ***What's the impact to fish? Will it affect fishing?***

There are no negative impacts to fish or fishing expected. The material used are also safe for fish and aquatic organisms. This project aims to improve water quality and reduce HABS which will create a more beneficial environment.

### ***What's being used in the lake? Has this been used before?***

Phosphorus binding materials have been used across the country and extensively in Washington for decades to improve water quality. The specific materials used, EutroSORB® G and EutroSORB® WC, have been used in 100's of waterbodies and have extensive documentation and studies on their properties and environmental safety for humans, wildlife, and aquatic organisms.

***Does this project have approval and permits?***

This project has all the necessary approvals and permits for implementation. The application of phosphorus binding materials to Moses Lake is regulated by a review and permitting process through the Washington Department of Ecology.

***When will the project take place?***

This project will occur spring to fall of 2024. A phosphorus treatment system will operate on Rocky Ford Creek from mid-April through October. The northern section of Moses Lake in Rocky Ford Arm will have a phosphorus sequestration application take place the first two weeks of June 3rd-14th. Monitoring activities will occur April - October.

***Who's doing the work?***

Our proposal process selected EutroPHIX and AquaTechnex to implement this project. Their team is comprised of highly qualified water quality professionals and lake managers. EutroPHIX is a technical resource team that works with waterbody stakeholders to accelerate water quality restoration from phosphorus pollution, harmful algae, and dangerous toxins. AquaTechnex is a premier lake management company which has been providing lake and aquatic plant management services in the western U.S. since 1980.

***How will results be tracked and shared?***

This project includes the monitoring of water quality and lake sediments across the year. Results will be presented at the 2024 State of the Lake meeting in September 2024. CBCD will also update the community on social media, radio, and newspaper throughout the year.