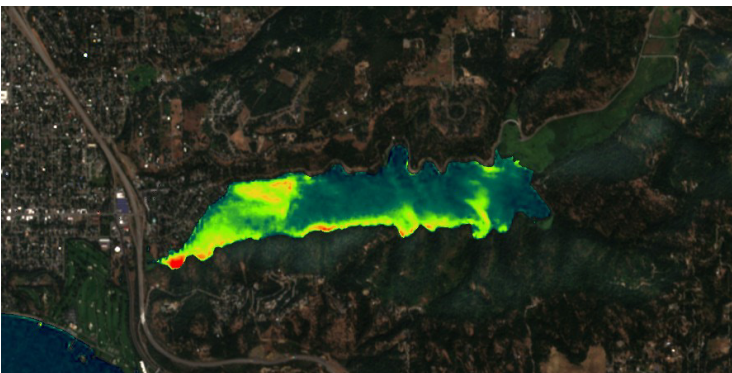


Lake Management Planning for Fernan Lake, ID

Fernan Lake is a 400-acre lake located outside of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The watershed of Fernan Lake is 13,700 acres and comprised of 76% evergreen forests and surrounded by primarily low and medium intensity development. This lake has experienced poor water quality for decades and frequent lake-wide algae blooms comprised of toxic cyanobacteria. Fernan Lake is currently 303(d) listed with waters impaired by total phosphorus, which drives growth of harmful algal blooms (HABs). These blooms further degrade water quality, produce toxins that put humans and wildlife at risk, and have negative impacts on recreation, property values, and the local economy. Fernan Lake is a hotspot for activities such as fishing and boating with some of the highest numbers of recreation users per waterbody acre in the state.



Lake-wide HAB event in September 2022 captured by satellite (top) and corresponding algae bloom heat map (bottom).

Fernan Lake and the watershed have been studied over the past decades to gain an understanding of nutrient sources and potential improvements needed. Although most of the phosphorus enters the lake from Fernan Creek, a data gap exists on the extent that lake sediments recycle phosphorus and maintain HABs. The City of Fernan Lake Village Lake selected EutroPHIX and AquaTechnex to fill this data gap and develop a Lake Management Plan to better identify short- and long-term solutions that can be implemented to restore and maintain the health of Fernan Lake. With a Lake Management Plan, the City of Fernan Lake Village and stakeholders can gain consensus, develop project plans, and go after available funding to implement targeted improvements. It is expected that implementing both in-lake and watershed management approaches will be needed to accelerate water quality restoration at Fernan Lake.

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Throughout the development of the Lake Management Plan there will be opportunities for the public to be engaged in the process. EutroPHIX and AquaTechnex will be reaching out to stakeholder groups of Fernan Lake to gain additional insight and information. They will also review the historical studies and collect additional samples to assess the lake sediments to better inform development of short- and long-term solutions. The Lake Management Plan will be presented publicly and available for public feedback before being finalized in May 2024. Additional information will be found at the City of Fernan Lake Village website, <https://www.fernanvillage.org/>.



Fernan Lake Management Plan Public Feedback

Follow the QR code to leave public feedback.



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