

# Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

## Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Update

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March 15, 2023



# Coeur d'Alene Lake Management Updates

- National Academy of Science 3<sup>rd</sup> party review of Coeur d'Alene Lake data
- Leading Idaho Initiative & Coeur d'Alene Lake Advisory Committee



# National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS)

- 3<sup>rd</sup> party review of Coeur d'Alene Lake data
- Sponsors: Idaho DEQ, Kootenai County, EPA
- Scope
  - Evaluate current water quality (nutrients/metals)
  - Impacts of anoxia on nutrients and metals
  - Impacts of zinc levels on algal growth
  - Future implications of current trends
  - Relevance of metals release to human/ecological health risks



# National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NAS)

- Final report issued September 30, 2022
- Our Gem Collaborative hosted NAS:  
Hagadone Event Center, November 15, 2022



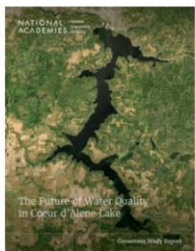
# NAS Report

- Metals, nutrients concentrations from major inputs declined over last decade
- Lower Basin contains large amounts of contaminated sediments (lead reductions from SF CdA River offset by Lower Basin releases)
- Total in lake phosphorus in the last 10 years shifted from a long-term increase to no trend; **still approximately double the level from the 1990's**
- In-lake metals declining
- Monitoring improvements needed
- **Future water quality considerations: climate change, population influx may slow or reverse desirable trends**

# NAS Recommendations

- Science coordination team
- Watershed monitoring (incoming rivers and streams)
- Bays and shallower areas
- Ecological monitoring
- Human health risks
- Wastewater treatment upgrades

## Publications



2022

### The Future of Water Quality in Coeur d'Alene Lake

Coeur d'Alene Lake in northern Idaho is an invaluable natural, recreational, and economic resource for communities in Idaho and eastern Washington. Starting in the late 1880s, mining in the Lake's watershed sent heavy metals and other mining wastes into the Lake, resulting in contamination of lake sediments with lead, cadmium, arsenic, and zinc that persists today. The watershed was designated a Superfund site and cleanup has been ongoing for 30 years. However, the Lake's environmental quality and cleanup is overseen by a Lake Management Plan, originally implemented by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the state of Idaho. A major focus of that plan is whether lakeshore development might promote low-oxygen (anoxic) conditions that could release toxic metals from lake sediments back into the water column.

[Read Full Description](#)

### RESOURCES

[Report Highlights](#)

[Press Release](#)

[View Report](#)

[www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/the-future-of-water-quality-in-coeur-dalene-lake](https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/the-future-of-water-quality-in-coeur-dalene-lake)

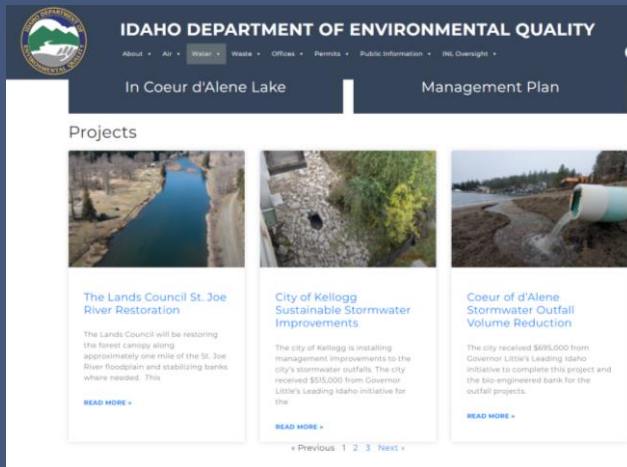
# Leading Idaho

- \$2 million for Coeur d'Alene Lake State FY 2022
  - Stormwater
  - Nonpoint Source
- ARPA Leading Idaho
  - \$20 million (2023-2026)
  - CLAC meeting December 2022
    - Ranked \$3.6 million in project applications
    - Tabled remaining decisions pending more info on
      - Potential wastewater upgrades
      - National Academy of Science CdA Lake report recommendations



# Leading Idaho

- First \$2 million
  - Stormwater
    - City of Coeur d'Alene
    - City of Kellogg
    - East Side Hwy District
  - Nonpoint Source
    - Mica Creek bank stabilization



<https://www.deq.idaho.gov/leading-idaho-and-the-coeur-dalene-lake/>



# Leading Idaho

- ARPA Leading Idaho
  - \$20 million (2023-2026)
  - Additional \$11 million
  - CLAC meeting March 23, 2023
    - Previous applications
    - Wastewater upgrades
    - NAS recommendations



# Thank you

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