

# Statewide Perspectives, Strategies & Actions



Fern Ridge Reservoir 2020

Willamette HABs and  
Drinking Water Sources  
Workshop

April 28, 2021

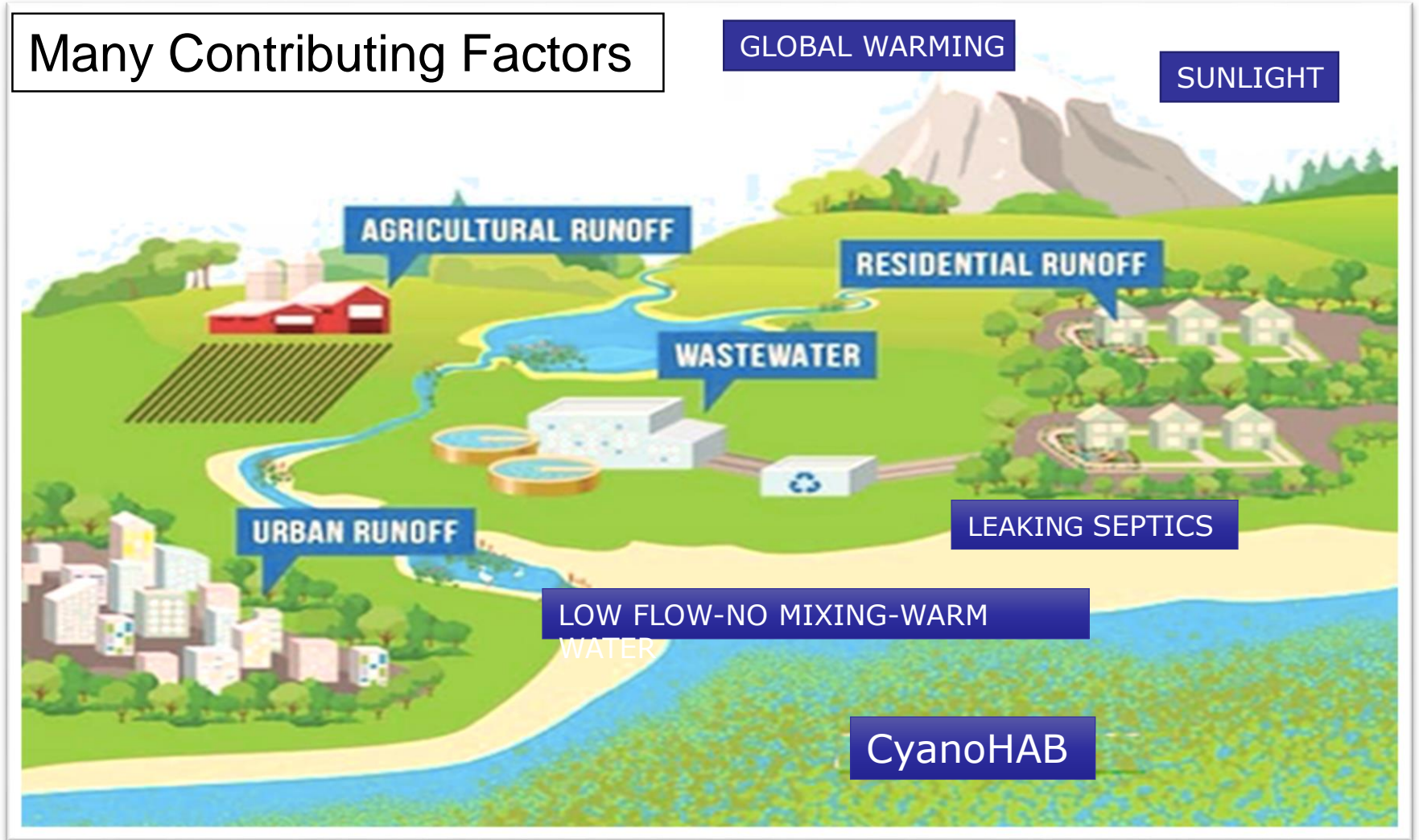
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# Bloom Formation and Persistence

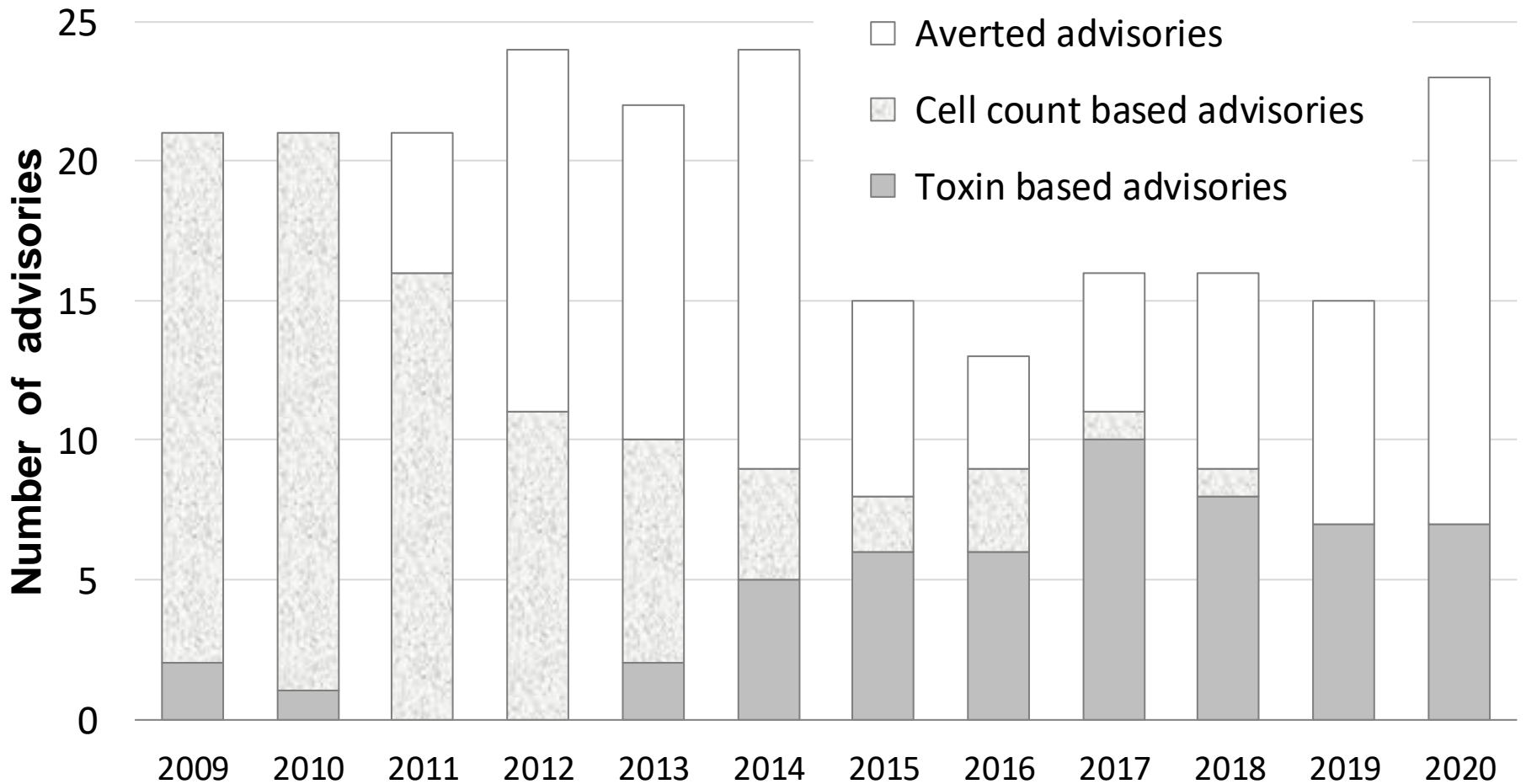
Many Contributing Factors

GLOBAL WARMING

SUNLIGHT



# Perspectives, Data, Trends, and More



Temperature above normal

+2°

+4.7°

+1.5°

+2.2°

+3.2°

+1.2°

+2.5°

Spring rain totals (Normal= 5.10")

4.07"

2.41"

4.33"

9.31"

5.74"

4.32"

2.70"

2021 spring rainfall: -1.64"



# Strategies 4 Addressing/Preventing Blooms

## Recreational use advisory issued for Odell Lake July 22, 2020

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) issued a recreational use advisory for Odell Lake due to the presence of a cyanobacteria bloom that historically produces cyanotoxins (HABs). The advisory is based on the recreational guideline values for human exposure established by the Oregon Health Department.

A sample was collected, and the analysis of toxins becomes available OHA will determine whether the advisory should be lifted. Although toxins are not expected to be present in quantities that would cause illness in people who have skin sensitivities may experience irritation.

Until OHA can lift the advisory, people should avoid water activities, such as water skiing or powerboating, where blooms are identified. Although toxins are not expected to be present in quantities that would cause illness in people who have skin sensitivities may experience irritation.

People are encouraged to visit Odell Lake and camping, hiking, biking, picnicking, and bird watching. However, speeds do not create excessive water spray, which can irritate the eyes.

### Drinking water

Drinking water directly from areas of the lake is not recommended. Toxins cannot be removed by boiling or using camping-style filters. Contact campground managers for more information.

## HARMFUL ALGAE BLOOMS IN OREGON WATERS

### What is this stuff?

Harmful algae blooms (HABs) are not algae at all. They're actually made of cyanobacteria, also called blue-green algae. Many cyanobacteria species create toxins that can make people and pets sick.

**So, what's the problem? HABs can:**

- Create toxins that can cause illness in humans and animals
- Pollute Oregon lakes and other fresh waters with scums
- Limit recreational activities in lakes, reservoirs and rivers
- Cause challenges for public water supplies including taste and odor problems and water filtration difficulties

**Why are HABs a health concern?**

- Water contact can cause skin irritation or rash
- Swallowing water can result in diarrhea, cramps, vomiting and dizziness
- More severe reactions occur when large amounts of water are swallowed
- Children and pets are at the greatest risk

**How can I keep my family and pets safe?**

- Do not wade, swim or water ski in waters that have signs of an algae bloom
- Never drink lake or river water
- If you decide to eat fish from affected waters, remove all fat, skin and organs before cooking
- Never cook with natural water from areas suspected to have a harmful algae bloom
- If you or your pet becomes ill, seek medical or veterinary attention immediately

**When in doubt, stay out!**

Know the signs of an algae bloom. Don't go in water that is foamy, scummy, thick like paint, pea-green, blue-green or brownish red.

Learn more about HABs at [healthoregon.org/hab](http://healthoregon.org/hab) or call 1-877-290-6767.

## Cyanobacteria (Harmful Algae) Bloom Guidance

A resource for local public health authorities

### Oregon Harmful Algae Bloom Surveillance (HABS) Program

#### Recreational Use Public Health Advisory Guidelines Cyanobacterial Blooms in Freshwater Bodies

### Oregon Harmful Algae Bloom Surveillance (HABS) Program

#### Sampling Guidelines: Cyanobacterial Blooms in Recreational Waters

### Prevention, control and mitigation of harmful algal blooms: multiple approaches to HAB management

January 2004

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### Public Health Division

Center for Health Protection  
Environmental Public Health Section

Updated May 2019

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### Cyanotoxin management and human health risk mitigation in recreational waters

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