



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
Southcentral Region – 1701 S. 24<sup>th</sup> Ave., Yakima, WA 98902

July 27, 2016

Contact: John Easterbrooks, 509-457-9330

### **Access to Fiorito lakes closed due to toxic algae bloom**

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has closed access to the Fiorito lakes south of Ellensburg in Kittitas County to protect people and their pets from a toxic algae bloom.

Kittitas County Public Health Department officials this week told WDFW officials they had received reports of sick pets and livestock from owners who live near the lakes and allow their animals to drink from them. Some lakeshore residents also reported seeing dead fish. Health officials said lab tests confirmed that toxins have developed from a blue-green algae bloom on the surface.

[North Fiorito Lake](#) covers about 38 acres, and adjacent [South Fiorito Lake](#) is about 24 acres. They are located about three miles south of Ellensburg along Interstate 82. The lakes are accessed via Thrall Road (I-82 Exit 3), and the gated entrance to the access site is off of the county's "No. 6 Road". The year-round fishing waters are stocked with hatchery rainbow trout and also have bass, crappie, perch, and other fish.

WDFW southcentral region fish program manager John Easterbrooks said access will remain closed until health department testing shows toxins have dissipated and the water is safe for people and animals.

*Persons with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations to participate in the public meeting are invited to contact Dolores Noyes by phone (360-902-2349), TTY (360-902-2207), or email ([dolores.noyes@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:dolores.noyes@dfw.wa.gov)). Reasonable accommodation requests should be received at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting to ensure availability. Please provide two (2) weeks' notice for requests for ASL/ESL interpretation services. For more information, see [http://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/reasonable\\_request.html](http://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/reasonable_request.html)*