

Nicola Lake is located in Merritt, BC, and is a popular travel destination for sightseeing, swimming, and fishing. Nicola Lake has incredibly important ecological, socioeconomic, and cultural values for the Upper Nicola Band. However, increasing development pressures threaten the foreshore habitats.

In collaboration with the Upper Nicola Band, Nicola Lake was re-surveyed in the summer of 2023 (following a preliminary survey in 2012) to update the foreshore inventory and assess the development conditions. This comprehensive assessment applied the updated FIMP methodology and the [Local Indigenous Knowledge and Values Framework](#).



Recognizing that the entire Nicola Lake, including its foreshore, is a sacred and culturally significant place, the Cultural Overview Assessment identified 19 Culturally Sensitive Areas (CSAs) along the Nicola Lake foreshore. Ecological survey results of the 2023 re-FIMP indicate that 51.3% of the Nicola Lake shoreline is in natural condition. Most of the degraded shoreline is due to a combination of transportation (Highway 5A and agriculture), recreation, park, and single-family land uses. Since 2011, single family and recreational developments have degraded approximately 517 metres of natural shoreline. This amounts to a rate of change of approximately 0.08% from 2011 to 2023.

You can read the most recent Nicola Lake FIMP Report and Foreshore Development Guidelines [here](#).

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