Seasonally recurrent harmful algal blooms (HABs), especially of cyanobacteria, are a global problem. Due to the human health risks posed from ingestion and exposure to cyanotoxins, rigorous monitoring for HABs is necessary, but current monitoring approaches are expensive and often inadequate for reliably assessing human health risk from exposure to HAB toxins. Remote sensing is considered capable of offering an inexpensive, real-time tool for monitoring cyanobacteria in lakes and reservoirs, but systems to date have generally been based on complex multiple linear regression algorithms that are difficult to implement by the average lake managing authority. We hypothesized that simpler, yet reliable and robust, classification trees could be constructed using remote sensing data to produce a more practical solution for lake management.

**METHODS:**
- The study system was Lake Texoma, a 303(d) listed reservoir on the border of Texas and Oklahoma (Fig. 1).
- We sampled five sites from 2006-2014 and five additional sites from 2012-2014.
- We determined chlorophyll-a and phycocyanin concentrations through fluorometry as proxies for algal and cyanobacterial biomass.
- We extracted reflectance values from Landsat 7 images within an eight-day window of the sampling time and a 10% cloud-cover threshold.

**MODEL CONSTRUCTION:**
- Classification trees were created in R (R Core Team 2016).
- Predictor variables: Green:Red, Green:Blue, and Red:Blue reflectance ratios, and season
- Response variables:
  - Chlorophyll-a (50 μg/L threshold based on the World Health Organization’s (WHO) guidelines (WHO 1999))
  - Phycocyanin (30 μg/L threshold based on the values of phycocyanin which where similar to 50 μg/L chlorophyll-a in Lake Texoma)
- The study system was Lake Texoma, a 303(d) listed reservoir on the border of Texas and Oklahoma (Fig. 1).
- We sampled five sites from 2006-2014 and five additional sites from 2012-2014.
- We determined chlorophyll-a and phycocyanin concentrations through fluorometry as proxies for algal and cyanobacterial biomass.
- We extracted reflectance values from Landsat 7 images within an eight-day window of the sampling time and a 10% cloud-cover threshold.

**DATA:**

### Chlorophyll-a classification tree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threshold</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>% Correct</th>
<th>% False Positive</th>
<th>% False Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 1.2</td>
<td>No Bloom</td>
<td>94.4</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 1.2</td>
<td>Bloom</td>
<td>91.1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESULTS:**

### Phycocyanin classification tree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threshold</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>% Correct</th>
<th>% False Positive</th>
<th>% False Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 1.3</td>
<td>No Bloom</td>
<td>51/53</td>
<td>28/33</td>
<td>11/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 1.3</td>
<td>Bloom</td>
<td>28/33</td>
<td>50/50</td>
<td>50/50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE GOALS:**

- Classification trees provide a simpler decision mechanism than multiple linear regression algorithms for health risk management; using remote sensing of chlorophyll and phycocyanin, a lake manager could readily predict the presence of algal and cyanobacterial blooms in Lake Texoma with 94 and 91% accuracy.
- Future plans include testing and validating these models using additional lakes in the south central United States.
- Our goal is to create a web portal for lake managers and lake patrons to access real-time remotely-sensed information on harmful algal blooms in reservoirs around the south central US.

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**CITATIONS:**
