



Date: December 23, 2008

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Technical questions: Kenneth Kauffman, DHS, (971) 673-0435

Public health advisory lifted for Willow Creek Reservoir

A health advisory prompted by high algae levels found in Willow Creek, located near Heppner, Or., was lifted today by the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), and the Morrow County Health Department.

The advisory went into effect on Sep. 10, 2008.

Water sampling by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers has confirmed reduced levels of blue-green algae that can produce toxins harmful to humans and animals, said Ken Kauffman, Environmental Health Specialist with the Oregon DHS.

These reduced levels are not likely to be associated with dangerous toxin concentrations in the water, according to World Health Organization guidelines.

DHS advises people who recreate in Oregon water bodies to always be alert of signs of algal blooms DHS. People and their pets should avoid water contact if there are visible clumps of algae in the water.

For local information contact the Corps' Willow Creek Natural Resource Management Office at (541) 676-9009. For health information, contact: Ken Kauffman, DHS Environmental Health Specialist at (971) 673-0435 or <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/envtox/maadvisories.shtml>.

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