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Public health advisory lifted for Hills Creek Reservoir

A health advisory prompted by high algae levels found in Hills Creek Reservoir, located four miles from Oakridge, was lifted today by the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Lane County Health Department. Hills Creek Reservoir is managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with shoreline recreation sites managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

The advisory went into effect May 21, 2009.

Water monitoring by the U.S. Forest Service has confirmed reduced levels of blue-green algae, which can produce toxins harmful to humans and animals.

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 always to be alert to signs of algae blooms. People and their pets should avoid water contact if there are visible clumps of algae in the water.

For local information contact the U.S. Forest Service (541-782-2283) or www.fs.fed.us/r6/willamette/.

For health information, contact Laura Boswell, DHS Harmful Bloom Surveillance program coordinator, 971-673-0438 or www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/hab/; also, the DHS toll-free information line at 1-877-290-6767.