



Date: September 9, 2009

General questions: Jodi Sherwood, 503-480-4982

Technical questions: Laura Boswell, DHS, 971-673-0440
Jackson Baures, Jackson County Health Department, 541-774-8206

Public health advisory lifted for Whetstone Pond

A health advisory prompted by high algae levels found in Whetstone Pond in the Denman Wildlife Area, located six miles north of Central Point, was lifted today by the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Jackson County Health Department.

The advisory went into effect July 23.

Water monitoring 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. Boating is safe as long as speeds do not create excessive water spray, which could lead to inhalation risk.

For local information contact Dan Van Dyke or Clayton Barber at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife: 541-826-8774.

For health information, contact Laura Boswell, DHS Harmful Bloom Surveillance program coordinator, 971-673-0440 or www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/hab/; also, the DHS toll-free information line at 1-877-290-6767, or Jackson Baures, Jackson County Health Department at 541-774-8206.