



Oct. 13, 2009

General questions: Jodi Sherwood, DHS, 503-480-4982

Technical questions: Jennifer Ketterman, DHS, 971-673-0431

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Jackson Baures, Jackson County Health Department, 541-774-8206

Public health advisory lifted for Lost Creek Lake

A health advisory prompted by high algae levels found in Lost Creek Lake, located 30 miles northeast of Medford on the Rogue River, was lifted today by the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Jackson County Health Department.

The advisory went into effect Sept. 18.

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 Chad Stuart at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 541-878-2255.

(more)

For health information, contact the DHS Harmful Bloom program at 971-673-0400 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.

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