

## News release

Aug. 8, 2011

**Media contact:** Christine Stone, Oregon Public Health, 971-673-1282, desk; 503-602-8027, cell; [Christine.I.stone@state.or.us](mailto:Christine.I.stone@state.or.us)

**Technical questions:** Jennifer Ketterman, Oregon Public Health, 971-673-0431; Bonnie Widerburg, Oregon Public Health, 971-673-0976

## Oregon Public Health Division lifts advisory for Willow Creek Reservoir

### *Reduced blue-green algae levels confirmed in Morrow County Willow Creek Reservoir*

A health advisory prompted by high algae levels found in Willow Creek Reservoir, located near Heppner, Ore., was lifted today by Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division and Morrow County Health Department officials.

The advisory went into effect July 11, 2011.

Water monitoring has confirmed reduced levels of blue-green algae that 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.

Oregon health officials advise people who recreate in Oregon water bodies to always 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. Army Corps of Engineers' Willow Creek Natural Resource Management Office at 541-676-9009.

For health information, contact the Harmful Algae Bloom Surveillance program at 971-673-0400 or [www.healthoregon.org/hab](http://www.healthoregon.org/hab); also contact the Oregon Public Health toll-free information line at 1-877-290-6767 or Morrow County Health Department at 541-676-5421.

####

*The Oregon Health Authority is at the forefront of lowering and containing costs, improving quality and increasing access to health care in order to improve the lifelong health of Oregonians.*