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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 4 miles from Oakridge, was lifted today by the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), the Willamette National Forest and the Lane County Health Department.

The advisory went into effect on May 14, 2008.

Water sampling by the Forest Service 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 Public Health Division.

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. People and their pets should avoid water contact if there are visible clumps of algae in the water.

For local information contact the Willamette National Forest, (541.782.2283), www.fs.fed.us/r6/willamette/. For health information, contact: Ken Kauffman, DHS Environmental Health Specialist at (971) 673-0435 or <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/envtox/maadvisories.shtml>.