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Public Use Restriction Lifted for Lemolo Lake

A public use restriction prompted by high algae levels found in Lemolo Reservoir, also known as Lemolo Lake, located 72 miles east of Roseburg, was lifted today by the Umpqua National Forest, the Douglas County Health Department, and the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS).

The public use restriction went into effect on June 26.

“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

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 Diamond Lake Ranger District office at (541) 498-2531 or (541) 793-3310 weekends, or <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/umpqua/> . For health information, contact Ken Kauffman, DHS Environmental Health Specialist at (971) 673-0435 or <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/envtox/maadvisories.shtml>. For health information, contact Terry Westfall, Douglas County Health and Social Services at (541) 464-3820.

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