



Date: August 22, 2008

General questions: Patrick O'Neill, DHS, 971-673-1282

Technical questions: Ken Kauffman, DHS, 971-673-0435

Sue Olson, Deschutes National Forest, 541-383-5561

Delbert Bell, Klamath County Health Department, 541-883-1122

Public Health Advisory Lifted For Odell Lake

A health advisory prompted by high algae levels found in Odell Lake, located in northern Klamath County, was lifted today by the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), the U.S. Forest Service and the Klamath County Health Department.

The advisory went into effect on Aug. 7, 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 State 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 Deschutes National Forest office at 541-383-5300

For health information, contact: Ken Kauffman, DHS Environmental Health Specialist at 971-673-0435 or <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/envtox/maadvisories.shtml>.

Or call Klamath County Health Department at 541-883-1122.

###