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Public Health Advisory Lifted For Wickiup Reservoir

A health advisory prompted by high algae levels found in Wickiup Reservoir was lifted today by the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), the Deschutes National Forest and the Deschutes County Health Department.

The advisory went into effect on Sept. 11, 2008.

Water sampling by the Deschutes National Forest 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 to 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 at (541) 383-5300, www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon. For health information, contact: Ken Kauffman, DHS Environmental Health Specialist at (971) 673-0435; Dan Peddycord at Deschutes County Health Department at (541) 322-7246; or <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/envtox/maadvisories.shtml>.