



Date: September 22, 2009

General questions: Jodi Sherwood, DHS, 503-480-4982

Technical questions: Technical contact: Laura Boswell, 971-673-0438
Jerry Meyer, Douglas County Health Department, 541-440-3578

Public health advisory lifted for Elk Creek

A health advisory prompted by high algae toxin levels found in Elk Creek from the mouth at the Umpqua River to Elk Creek Tunnel on HWY 38, and the Umpqua River from Sawyers Rapids to the mouth of Elk Creek, located in and around Elkton, was lifted today by the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Douglas County Health Department.

The advisory went into effect Sept. 4.

Water monitoring has confirmed reduced levels of blue-green algae toxin, which can be harmful to humans and animals.

DHS advises people who recreate in Oregon water bodies always to 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. Boating is safe as long as speeds do not create excessive water spray, which could lead to inhalation risk.

For health information, contact Laura Boswell, DHS Harmful Bloom Surveillance program coordinator, 971-673-0438 or www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/hab/; also, the DHS toll-free information line at 1-877-290-6767, or Jerry Meyer of the Douglas County Health Department at 541-440-3578 or www.co.douglas.or.us/health/EH/default.asp.