

NEWS RELEASE



Date: Dec. 1, 2010

Media contact: Christine Stone, Oregon Public Health, 971-673-1282, desk; 503-602-8027, cell; Christine.I.stone@state.or.us

Technical questions: Jennifer Ketterman, Oregon Public Health, 971-673-0431; Bonnie Widerburg, Oregon Public Health, 971-673-0976

Oregon Public Health lifts advisory for Gerber Reservoir

A health advisory prompted by high algae levels found in Gerber Reservoir, located 42 miles east of Klamath Falls, was lifted today by Oregon Public Health Division and Klamath County Health Department officials.

The advisory went into effect Aug. 19.

Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, can produce toxins that are harmful to humans and animals. Due to the arrival of cold weather, ice is currently covering Gerber Reservoir, preventing exposure to any remaining blue-green algae. Therefore, Oregon Public Health is lifting the advisory.

Oregon Public Health advises people who recreate in Oregon water bodies to always 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.

For local information contact the Bureau of Land Management Klamath Falls field office at 541-883-6916.

For health information, contact the Oregon Public Health Harmful Algae Bloom Surveillance program at 971-673-0400 or www.healthoregon.org/hab; also contact the Oregon Public Health toll-free information line at 1-877-290-6767 or Delbert Bell, Klamath County Health Department, 541-883-1122.

###