

News release

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Health advisory lifted for water contact at Mill Beach

Testing shows fecal bacteria levels have subsided

A public health advisory for contact with marine water at Mill Beach in Curry County was lifted today by the Oregon Health Authority. The advisory was issued July 24 after water samples showed higher-than-normal levels of fecal bacteria at Macklyn Creek.

Results from subsequent samples taken by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality showed contamination had subsided, and the water no longer poses a higher-than-normal risk associated with water contact activities. However, officials recommend staying out of large pools and runoff water, because animals and upstream activities in these areas can contribute to increased bacteria at the beach due to fecal matter.

State officials continue to encourage other recreational activities at all Oregon beaches, suggesting only that water contact be avoided when advisories are in effect.

(more)

Since 2003, state officials have used a federal Environmental Protection Agency grant to monitor popular Oregon beaches and make timely reports to the public about elevated levels of fecal bacteria. Oregon state agencies participating in this program are the Oregon Health Authority Public Health Division, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information, contact the Beach Monitoring Program at 971-673-0400 or www.healthoregon.org/beach; or the Oregon Public Health toll-free information line at 1-877-290-6767.

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