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## **Harmful Algal Bloom Detected in Pineview Reservoir**

(Ogden, UT) – Weber-Morgan Health Department has placed a warning on Pineview Reservoir after environmental health staff confirmed the presence of a harmful algal bloom.

At warning level, health officials haven't closed the lake, but people, pets and other animals are warned to avoid contact with scum or ingesting the water.

"The bloom has the potential to shift with the wind and temperatures so we are warning people exercise caution, heed the warning signs and stay away from areas of scum," says Michela Harris, Environmental Health Director for the Weber-Morgan Health Department.

Although blue-green algae are a natural part of many freshwater ecosystems, under the right conditions they can proliferate rapidly. High levels of nutrients in the water, combined with warm temperatures, abundant sunlight, and calm water, can promote growth, resulting in extensive blooms. These blooms consist of cyanobacteria (often referred to as blue-green algae), a type of bacteria that poses risks to humans, wildlife, domestic animals and fish. Symptoms of exposure include headache, fever, diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting, and sometimes allergic-like reactions from skin contact.

Signs posted at the entrance and along the trails and beaches surrounding the lake ask recreationalists to:

- Do not swim or water ski in the area
- Avoid areas of algae scum when boating
- Keep animals away
- Do not ingest the water
- Clean fish well and discard guts

For concerns about possible human exposure, call the Utah Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222.

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