

RED FEATHER LAKES STORAGE & IRRIGATION CO, INC.

2018 FISHING REPORT

2018 Stocking: Crystal Springs Trout Farm was our supplier again this year providing the usual 12"-15" rainbows as well as our 18"+ trophy rainbows during our spring and summer stocking. Spring stocking included 100 12"-17" palominos in all lakes and 16" – 20" browns stocked in Erie and Ramona. Our fall stocking of 12"-15" rainbows will begin the week of September 17. We stocked our normal quantity of grass carp to help with moss control in June. Walleyes, 7"-9" will be stocked in Apache this fall.

Stocking: We used our revised stocking formula established in 2014, decreasing our number of 12" – 15" catchables and increasing the number of 18" + trophy rainbows. The trophy fish are mostly stocked during the spring and summer, with some stocked in the fall, depending upon availability. The palominos seem to be doing very well in our lakes and popular with our membership, we will continue stocking palominos as supply is available.

Water: Water temperatures did rise in August, which is a normal occurrence, consequently the fishing slowed down. August water temperatures exceeded 70 degrees for the first time in a few years. We are going into the fall and winter with better than average water levels and good water quality.

Ice Fishing: Apache and Ramona will be available again this year for ice fishing but requires the purchase of an annual ice fishing permit. Daily ice fishing permits will also be available.

Fish Surveys: A fish survey began last year and continued this year for Apache and Nokomis in an effort to determine the effect of perch on both lakes. Data will be analyzed for fish growth comparing a regulated lake with a non-regulated lake. Hopefully, we will be able to determine if the perch population affects the food source for trout and the growth rate of the trout. A summary of survey results and a comparison of 2017 & 2018 to date are as follows:

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Trout caught (12"-19")</u>	<u>Trout caught (20"+)</u>	<u>Trout kept</u>	<u>Perch caught</u>
Apache	231	13	71	25
Nokomis	518	19	5	18

There was a 40% increase of 12"-19" trout caught in 2018 compared to 2017. There was a significant drop in the number of perch caught this year at both lakes.

We will continue the fish survey in 2019 to analyze any trends that require adjustments to our stocking program. We will cut back on the number of fish we stock in Nokomis this fall to keep from over populating the fishery.

We're still aiming to stock Shagwa next spring and open it to fishing for the 2019 season. Stocking will be purposely light to begin with as we figure out how the fishery is recovering and what level of fish population it can support. We'll extend our survey to Shagwa so that you can help us learn how the fishery is doing.