

RED FEATHER LAKES STORAGE & IRRIGATION CO

2024 FISHING REPORT

2024 Stocking: Crystal Springs Trout Farm stocked all lakes except Shagwa with 12-15" rainbows, 15- 18" palominos and 18"+ trophy rainbows during our spring and summer stocking. Aquatics Associates stocked 13-15" Donaldson strain rainbows in Shagwa in June. Aquatic Associates stocked 570 small browns in Erie and small Tiger Trout in Apache this summer. Our fall stocking of 12-15" rainbows will begin later in September in some of our lakes yet to be determined. We stocked our normal quantity of grass carp to help with moss control.

Member Reports: Fishing reports and comments from members have been very encouraging. Members have caught several 19" plus rainbows and palominos this year in most of our lakes. There were also good reports for the browns caught in Erie. There have been a few reports of members catching some of the Tiger Trout in Nokomis recently.

Nokomis: Unfortunately, the perch still remains an issue. There is no quick fix to the perch problem, but we are hopeful the biological mitigation with the stocking of more predator fish will help. On the flip side, if you like to eat perch, there are some decent sized perch in the lake. Please take as many as you like. It took a few years for the predator fish to reduce the inventory of perch in Apache. Hopefully, we will see the same results in Nokomis within the next two to three years. We seemed to have recovered our trout inventory both in numbers and size since the winter kill of 2021. Consequently, we are reducing the amount of fish we stock during the year to keep from exceeding capacity. We won't be stocking any trout in Nokomis this Fall.

Fish Surveys: The board is considering surveys at Nokomis next year to determine the growth rate of the tiger trout and the impact the predatory trout population is having on the perch inventory.

Shagwa: Shagwa continues to be a popular lake for our dry fly-fishing members. Water quality has remained very good, and the Donaldson rainbows are thriving. We are close to capacity with the trout population in Shagwa. We will continue to stock Donaldson's in 2025. The board does not plan on stocking any additional trout species in Shagwa. Grass carp will be stocked as in the past as a biological control for algae.

Moss: Algae growth has seemed to have stabilized the past number of years, resulting in reduced herbicide applications. Grass carp help with controlling the algae but only target specific types of algae. Chemical application was used to control the other types of algae. All chemical mitigation is applied to specific types of algae and only in the area of the lake where the algae is a problem.

Water Temperatures: Water temperatures reached 70 degrees in August which results in the trout's digestive system slowing down. Warmer water temperatures also result in a higher survival rate of anchor worms or gill lice that attach to the trout as a host.

Water Quality: Water quality remained very good throughout the year.