

**RED FEATHER STORAGE AND IRRIGATION COMPANY  
2023 RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING MEMBERS**

**Violations of any of the following rules** will be reviewed by the Red Feather Storage & Irrigation Company Board of Directors and may result **in suspension of fishing privileges, a fine or both.** See the Violations page for penalties and fines.

**FISHING**

1. Each fishing permit (badge) is assigned to a specific person and is non-transferable. **The badge must be prominently displayed while fishing.**
2. Fishing season opens May 13, 2023, the second Saturday of May, and closes October 31. Fishing **hours are from 5:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. MDT.**  
Ramona will be closed from Thursday, June 29, until 2:00 p.m. Saturday, July 1.
4. Possession limits for Apache, Erie, Hiawatha, Letitia, Ramona, and Snake lakes: Adults, **3 fish per day per lake, not to exceed 6 fish total per day.** Child and grandchild, **2 fish per day per lake, not to exceed 3 fish total per day.** Children age 6 or under either must count their fish towards the accompanying adult's possession limit or need to have their own junior permit.
5. Possession limits for Nokomis and Shagwa lakes: Any angler, **1 fish per lake per day.** Fishing restricted to barbless flies or single barbless hook lures. The use of soft plastic worms, scent, "power bait", or any other form of bait is prohibited.
6. Once a possession limit is kept at a lake, the angler must stop fishing that lake for the day. Once a daily possession limit is kept, the angler must stop fishing for the day.
7. Walleye have been stocked in Apache as a method of perch control. Walleye under 17" must be returned to the lake; over 17" may be kept, however, they do count towards your possession limit.
8. Due to the cost and purpose of stocking Grass Carp, do not keep or harm these fish. If caught, carp must be returned to the water immediately using the utmost care.
9. Fishing, trapping, or catching crawdads (crayfish) for consumption is not permitted at any of the lakes. Crawdads caught by any manner must be returned to the water immediately.
10. When transporting fish, members are subject to Colorado Parks & Wildlife possession limits of no more than 8 fish.
11. Each fisherman is required to maintain their catch in their possession at the lake. Catching fish for others is not permitted, i.e., for one's spouse or friend.
12. Do not return injured fish back into the lake. **All fish caught with bait must be kept.**
13. Each fisherman is restricted to the use of one fishing pole or line at any given time.
14. **Fishing with live minnows is prohibited in all lakes.**
15. **Perch must be kept or tossed, do not return to lake.** Perch do not count towards S&I possession limit.
16. Ice fishing on Ramona and Apache Lakes only, subject to ice safety. No unescorted guest fishing allowed.
17. Members and guests are responsible for removing all litter and trash including fishing line, cigarette butts, containers, etc.

**GUEST FISHING**

1. Guest fishing is allowed from the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, May 27, through October 31.
2. **The sponsoring member is responsible for the guest and must ensure the guest observes all rules.**
3. Adult members must accompany escorted adult guests. Junior members can accompany junior guests, but not escort adult guests. Self-escorted guests can accompany junior guests. Refer to Fishing rule #4 for bag limits.
4. **Guest passes must be purchased in advance from the office before guest is allowed to fish.** Passes cannot be sold for any amount above the published price. **Guest passes must be properly filled out and displayed on the guest.** Daily guest passes are good for only one calendar day, for example 5:00 AM to 9:30 PM on Saturday. Weekend guest passes are good for only one weekend, beginning at 4:00 PM on Friday, through 9:30 PM on Sunday.

## BOATING

1. Definitions: Watercraft includes all hard body boats such as oared boats, canoes, kayaks, peddle boats, solid chambered pontoon boats and inflatable watercraft including all single or multi-chambered boats such as float tubes, inflatable chambered pontoon boats and rafts. Standup Paddle Boards are hard body or inflatable flat bottom boats designed to be propelled by one person with the use of an oar. Boaters will refer to anyone in or on a watercraft whether fishing or recreational boating.
2. Watercraft are permitted on Apache, Erie, Hiawatha, Letitia, and Nokomis lakes, but not permitted on Ramona, Shagwa and Snake lakes.
3. **All watercraft users must visibly wear a current fishing membership badge, guest fishing pass, or a current recreational boating badge.** Others in the watercraft only need a badge if they're fishing (member, junior, or guest).
4. **Personal Floatation Devices, PFD (life vests/jackets) are required to be worn by all persons at all times while using any watercraft.**
5. All boaters, recreational or fishing, must respect the space of shore anglers and fishermen in boats by allowing them adequate room for casting.
6. All boaters must obey patrol staff and come to shore when requested. All boaters must be respectful to patrol staff. Failure to obey patrol staff requests could result in loss of privileges.
7. Boaters must leave their name and mobile # on their vehicle dashboard, and if appropriate, include their guest pass number. Boaters who do not leave their name must identify themselves to patrol staff.
8. The use of gas or electric motors by any watercraft is not permitted on our lakes.
9. Sailboats and Sail Boards are not permitted on our lakes.
10. All Watercraft, for example boats, canoes, kayaks, peddle boats; stored at lakes overnight must be registered with RFS&I and have an attached sticker. All watercraft must be removed from the lakes by October 31. Boats left at the lakes over the winter will be charged a storage fee.
11. Boat ramps are for loading and unloading only, parking on boat ramps or blocking access to boat ramps is not permitted.
12. Boaters are subject to Colorado Parks and Wildlife enforcement of the Colorado Boating Statutes.  
<http://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/boat.aspx>

## USE OF RFS&I PROPERTY

1. Swimming, camping, overnight parking, or campfires are not permitted at any of the lakes.
2. Due to environmental damage, all motorized craft, (notably OHVs and snowmobiles), bikes or vehicle use is prohibited on all dams, ditches, lakes, and other RFS&I property, except for the fish biologist or as needed for work on dams and ditches.

**RED FEATHER STORAGE & IRRIGATION COMPANY**

**2023 FISHING & PROPERTY USE VIOLATION PENALTIES**

<b>VIOLATION</b>	<b>PENALTY</b>
1. Member not having badge in possession * Contact office for free replacement if lost.	Twenty dollars ( <b>\$20</b> ), but if member takes current badge to the S&I office, assessment will be suspended. Further violations are <b>\$20</b> .
2. Misuse of member's badge (badges are not transferable) *	Two hundred dollars ( <b>\$200</b> ) – Members Fifty dollars ( <b>\$50</b> ) – Juniors & Grandchildren
3. Guest fishing violations: * - before Memorial Day weekend - no guest permit - permit not filled out, not dated, not signed - unescorted guest using escorted permit	Seventy-five dollars ( <b>\$75</b> ) for the guest, and the sponsoring member will also be fined <b>\$75</b> .
4. General policies: * - type of bait - improper lures or flies - bait fisherman returning fish - fishing out of season - fishing before or after legal hours - catching fish for others	Fifty dollars ( <b>\$50</b> )
5. Use of live minnows as bait - Transporting live fish from one lake to another	Five hundred dollars ( <b>\$500</b> ) and forfeiture of membership.
6. Use of more than one (1) fishing pole or line	Fifty dollars ( <b>\$50</b> )
7. Watercraft use on Snake, Ramona, or Shagwa	One Hundred dollars ( <b>\$100</b> )
8. Possession limit: * - more than three (3) fish per day per lake - more than six (6) fish per day - Juniors and Grandchildren, two (2) fish per lake & three (3) fish per day - more than one (1) fish per day at Shagwa or Nokomis - no more fishing is permitted once you have reached the possession limit for that lake	Fifty dollars ( <b>\$50</b> )
9. Watercraft registration, all boats, kayaks, canoes, and inflatables stored at a lake overnight or longer.	Five dollars ( <b>\$5</b> ) for the new registration.
10. Boaters not wearing a PFD while on the water.	Violators will be issued a verbal warning by patrol staff and given 3 days to comply with the rule. Subsequent violations will result in loss of use of boating privileges until a PFD is worn.
11. Violations of boating rules	Violators will be issued a verbal warning. If violator does not comply with patrol's warning, they will be required to get off the water.
* Cost per fish in possession (in addition to the violation penalty)	Twenty-five dollars ( <b>\$25</b> ) per fish.

**Suspension of fishing privileges will be combined with any of the above second or more violations**, except #9-11. Fines not paid will result in membership being revoked until paid. Fines are doubled for repeat offenders.

## **Boating on RFS&I Lakes**

In addition to fishing, a popular activity on our lakes is boating, whether by itself or as part of fishing. Given the increased use of boats on our lakes, we're emphasizing the following:

- Each boat must have at least one valid badge among those in the boat. Valid badges are either a fishing badge, guest fishing badge or a boating recreation badge. Simply stated – “no badge, no boating”.
- All boaters must follow all RFS&I rules. Notable among them are - having a Personal Floatation Device (PFD) with each person on a watercraft, boaters must give a wide berth to any fisherman (on shore or in another boat), and all boaters must comply with patrolman requests. See page 2 of the rules for all the details.
- Recreation (Season) Boating Badges can be purchased (limit 2) as part of a fishing membership. Badges are assigned to the primary named fishing member who is responsible for assuring the boater wearing the badge understands and follows all rules.
- We're also offering an Annual Boating Membership for residents of Red Feather Lakes. Residents are those within our initiated membership area that are either property owners or long-term renters. These boating memberships get two boating recreation badges with their names on them. They do not get any of the other benefits that fishing memberships get. And like fishing memberships, they agree to follow all RFS&I rules.
- Boat storage at the lakes (recreation or fishing) – if you want to leave your boat at a lake overnight, you must buy a \$5 sticker for it. At the end of the season, all boats must be removed from the common areas around all the lakes. Any boats left behind will be considered abandoned and removed at the subsequent cost to the owner.

## **Catching and Releasing Fish**

With more fishermen doing catch-and-release fishing, it is very important when handling and releasing a fish to follow these guidelines:

- Single barbless hooks are required at Shagwa and Nokomis, and encouraged at all the lakes
- Trout have a very delicate protective coating on their skin to defend against diseases, protecting this is key to their health
- Do not play fish until completely fatigued and keep the fish in the water
- If possible, net the fish with a rubber net and remove the hook without touching the fish.

Steps to unhook and release a fish:

- Wet your hands prior to handling the fish so not to remove the protective slime layer
- Do not squeeze the sides of the fish as it will damage internal organs and keep your fingers away from the gills
- Gently remove the hook, if possible, with forceps. The less the fish is handled the better chance the fish will survive
- If necessary, revive the fish by holding it near the tail and moving it back and forth in the water to force water through the gills
- The fish will swim off under its own power when revived
- If you cannot revive the fish, you must keep the fish, do not discard the fish