

The Ranch at Roaring Fork

Fishing Regulations

2011

Philosophy of Fishing on the Ranch

The Popularity of the sport requires controls to insure enjoyment of fishing by homeowners and guests. Fishing regulations and permit fees at the Ranch have certain objectives:

- ❖ To protect and preserve the fishing amenity for the benefit of the homeowners.
- ❖ To maintain and improve the fish population and their habitat
- ❖ To provide an encouraging and satisfying fishing experience for the novice
- ❖ To provide excellent and challenging fishing for the expert
- ❖ To provide river stabilization.

The large and numerous fish in Ranch waters are a result of many years of carefully managed fishing. There is no other way to maintain this quality experience than with artificial fly, barbless hook, catch and release restrictions. Mortality rates on fish caught on baits and spinners are too high, and it is especially important to protect the larger, mature fish, as they are the most prolific breeders. All fisherpersons must realize their responsibility to revive and release all fish in an appropriate manner to insure their survival.

The size and numbers of wild trout in Ranch waters is unique, and it is a privilege to fish for them. Your adherence to these rules and regulations is required to assure all of us the continued privilege of excellent fishing in future years.

Fishing Permits and Licenses and Requirements

All persons fishing on Ranch property shall be required to visibly display a valid current fishing permit on their person. Permits shall be worn on exterior clothing on the back at shoulder level and plainly visible when in a normal fishing and walking posture. Permits will be valid in the current year for the term commencing March 1 through the last day of February next year. Violations of this rule may result in a fine as set forth in the fine schedule approved by the Fishing Committee and the Board of Directors of the Ranch at Roaring Fork, and, at the discretion of the Board, may result in a larger fine and/or suspension of the offender's recreational privileges at the Ranch. Permits for a residence will be issued only to one of the registered owners, who shall remain responsible for their use in compliance with these regulations. Tenants in units rented on a short or long-term basis may fish only as set forth in these regulations by using a guest permit. A residence is a single-family house or condominium. Each residence on the Ranch shall be entitled to only the number of permits specified in these regulations and only if current in Assessments.

Categories and Cost

Fishing permits shall consist of two categories: Primary and guest (the only permit which will allow a guest to fish when not accompanied by owner.)

Primary Permits

Each residence at the Ranch, if current in assessments, shall be entitled to two primary permits at a fee of **\$250** each. Owners and family members of the household may use a primary permit. Family members are defined as owners, spouses, and their children. All other persons including tenants are considered guests of the owners. Guests of the owner may use a primary permit only when fishing with or accompanied by the owner.

The replacement cost for lost Primary Permits will be **\$100** each. All primary permits will be issued only to the registered owner of the residence. Owners of undeveloped, unoccupied lots will be entitled to purchase only the allocation of permits for one residence unit on the Ranch, regardless of category.

Guest Permits

Each year, in addition to primary permits, each residence unit on the Ranch shall be entitled to two Guest Permits. The first Guest Permit shall cost **\$500.00**, and the second permit shall cost **\$1000.00**. A Guest Permit will allow the guest of owner to fish unaccompanied by the owner.

The replacement cost for a lost Guest Permit will be \$400.00 each.

Day Use Permits

One book of five (5) day use badges at a cost of \$250.00. These “day use” permits are available to any resident who has purchased at least one guest badge. These badges will be valid only for the year that a guest permit is purchased for. The owner must write the date the badge will be used on the badge and call the Ranch office to log the day use permit.

These permits will not be replaceable if lost.

Lost or Damaged Permits

All lost permits, regardless of category, and whether or not they are replaced by the owner, must be reported to the office as soon after loss as practicable. Each permit will be marked with the name and address of the unit owner. Damaged permits returned to the Ranch office will be replaced free of charge.

Unauthorized Use

Any unauthorized sale, reproduction, transfer or distribution between residences and misuse of fishing permits shall result in an automatic fine and/or suspension of recreational privileges, as well as strict enforcement of any criminal laws which have been violated. This includes “No refunds or transfers” for nonuse or if a residence is sold. Permits shall not be loaned or given to any person. Permits shall not be used for commercially guided fishing on Ranch property, or for any other commercial purpose.

Agreement to Purchase and Authority to Suspend Fishing Privileges

Each residential unit owner entitled to purchase Fishing Permits at the Ranch, regardless of category, agrees that he or she will abide by current fishing regulations on the Ranch property and will be responsible for the conduct of any person to whom they have provided a permit.

A signed application conveys that the regulations have been read, accepted and is a condition of the purchase of any badges.

Badges purchased for future years may be transferred in the event of the sale of their property at the Ranch at Roaring Fork.

Violations by members and owners or their tenants/guests may result in immediate loss of privileges and a recall of all fishing permits. The Fishing Committee will review the violation and recommend to the Board appropriate actions. There shall be no refund for any permit that is revoked.

License Requirement

When fishing on Ranch waters, a current valid Colorado Fishing License is required and all state laws apply except manner of fishing and bag limits. All ranch waters including that portion of the Roaring Fork River on Ranch property are limited to fly fishing only with fly rods, fly reels and artificial flies on single barbless hooks. All waters are catch-and-release only unless otherwise stated herein.

Fishing Hours

Fishing hours will be from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. Night fishing is not allowed.

Restricted Areas

Absolutely no fishing is allowed in Homestead Lake (South of the original Ranch House.) This closed area extends from the Homestead Lake itself upstream through the inlet channels to the north/south fence line.

Waterfront land occupied by single-family homes is private property, although there is a recreational easement to permit access along the banks. When fishing along these banks, please use good judgment, and respect the privacy of the occupants.

Only common land, roads and the easement along the banks of waterways may be used for access to fishing; **DO NOT CROSS PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

Method of Fishing

All waters on the Ranch (including the Roaring Fork River) are restricted to fishing with fly rod, fly reel, using artificial fly with a barbless hook. No spin casting or bait-casting rods are allowed for any kind of use (or are allowed to be carried) on the Ranch. Artificial flies cannot be used on spin casting or bait-casting rods. See Attachment A for more information on barbless hooks.

See Attachment D for more information on Children's Fishing Rules.

All waters of the Ranch are Catch and Release only, and are subject to Colorado Department of Wildlife Regulations, which may supersede certain Ranch at Roaring Fork Regulations. All fisherpersons should be thoroughly familiar with current DOW regulations.

Try to keep the fish in the water at all times. Do not remove them for measuring or hook removal. Treat them tenderly and do not grab them by the belly, as this can cause severe internal injuries. See Attachment B for more information on how to best land and release fish.

All suckers caught should be killed. Whitefish may be harvested subject to DOW bag and possession limits.

Spawning areas may or may not be marked, but all fisherpersons are asked to stay out of any streambed or lake area where spawning is visibly taking place. Walking through spawning beds destroys the eggs, and results in fewer fish.

Violations

Any violation of current fishing rules and regulations is cause for fines and automatic suspension of fishing privileges.

The board approved the following fine schedule for infractions of the fishing rules. The first infraction will require a written warning. The second infraction allows the board to impose a fine of \$250.00. Third and subsequent infractions would empower the board to recall a fishing badge.

Etiquette

The following rules of fishing etiquette should be followed by all fisherpersons at all times:

Return trout promptly to the water with a minimum of handling; if at all possible, do not remove the fish from the water in order to remove the fly. If it is necessary to pick up the fish, wet your hands before doing so. Nets with cotton mesh bags do less damage to the trout than those with nylon bags. Don't ever touch a trout's gills.

Try to minimize wading in the waterways, especially during spawning season.

Minimize disturbance of the aquatic habitat during wading. It goes without saying that the San Juan Shuffle is not appropriate, as well as totally useless on this water.

The most important rule of etiquette is to do unto others, as you would have them do unto you. In that regard, do your best not to crowd other fisherpersons. Let them fish out the hole or run that they are in as well as leave a few more holes for them to fish into. A minimum separation of at least 100 yards ahead or 50 yards behind is appropriate for the waterways. Fish are easily spooked, so fishing any closer to another fisherperson may ruin his/her experience.

Each type of water creates different standards for space to avoid overcrowding. The lakes and the Roaring Fork River provide more holes, and are bigger bodies of water, so that space requirements are not as critical as those to consider on the waterways. It pays to check with other fisherpersons that you encounter and discuss the parts of the stream that you have already fished and the parts you would like to fish next. There is usually plenty of water so that everyone can arrange to fish some undisturbed runs. As well, friendly conversation enhances the fishing experience and can usually uncover helpful information on flies that are working and those that are not. It also tends to discourage poachers and people who may not be fully complying with Ranch fishing regulations.

Littering is never acceptable. Do your best to pick up and properly dispose of any man-made trash encountered on the stream.

Respect the property of homeowners and condo owners around the ponds and stay within the public access areas where they are marked. Where there are no markings, keep within a few yards of the water that you are fishing.

Do not fish in the Hunt's Pond or in the inlet that runs to it. This is private property. Hunt's is the lowest pond on the south side of the condos and the inlet run curls around behind the larger pond above it.

It is your responsibility to know the rules and make sure tenants and guests understand the rules.

Attachment A

There are only positive reasons for fishing a barbless hook. There are no disadvantages. More fish, especially big fish, are hooked on a barbless hook because they have a tough, bony mouth, and hooks have difficulty “penetrating” or “sinking in” to the bend of the hook. A barb forms a wedge. Isn’t it quicker and easier to drive a nail than a wedge? How many good fish have you “missed” on the strike, and how many of those would you have hooked if the hook point was sharp and the barb smashed flat? Remember the last time you had a good fish on, and the line suddenly went slack? Chances are the hook never penetrated, and just fell out of its mouth. The fish was never hooked!

Barbless hooks have been tested on all varieties and sizes of fresh water game fish, and findings show twice as many fish are hooked on barbless hooks. Pull a barbed and barbless hook onto a piece of cardboard; you’ll see and feel the difference. When a hook sinks to the bend of the hook, instead of only art-way, you have the fish until you back the hook out exactly the way it went in, or until it breaks through the skin.

Remember the last time you hooked your clothing or skin? Avoid the pain and frustration; smash those barbs! The best way to de-barb a hook is to smash it flat, using a flat-nose pair of pliers. Be careful not to damage the hook point. Fish are most often fatally damaged during handling. A barbless hook allows you to release fish easily and with a minimum amount of handling. Usually you will not even have to touch the fish. Time consumed in handling fish, working out the hook with pliers or forceps, and the time needed to properly revive a fish handled in this manner all drastically reduce the fishing time, and the catch, and also dramatically increase the likelihood of damage to the fish. We are confident you will find barbless hooks a pleasure to fish.

To remove the hook, gently grip the fish by the tail or jaw with one hand, removing the hook with the other. If you are wading, both hands can be freed by slipping the rod into the waders. If a fish is hooked really deeply, the hook can often be removed with the aid of a long-nosed pair of pliers, or forceps. If not, it is best to cut the leader, leaving the fly in the fish. Nature supplies a build-in mechanism, which will dissolve the hook in a matter of days. Often, a friend fishing with you can lend a hand in unhooking and reviving a fish.

A barbless hook will help insure safe handling, and insure a quick release. You seldom have to touch the fish, as barbless hooks can usually be backed out very quickly, using one hand. Under specific conditions, a net, if used properly, can be a tremendous advantage, allowing you to quickly land and release a fish. A net can alleviate the fish flopping and thrashing over rocks in shallow water, and can greatly aid you in landing the fish when you are waist-deep in water. Be careful the fish does not become entangled in the net.

Attachment B

Do not release a tired fish until it has completely recovered. Firmly hold a played-out fish by the tail with one hand, and gently support the fish from underneath, just behind the head with your other hand. Face the fish upstream in an upright position in fairly calm water, but where there is enough oxygen to allow the fish to breathe easily. By moving the fish back and forth in this position, the gills will begin pumping life-giving oxygen into its system, while at the same time, allowing the fish to rest and regain strength lost during the battle. Fish being revived in this manner will often attempt to escape before they are completely recovered. A good rule of thumb is to not let the fish swim away the first time it attempts to. When fish are released prematurely, they will often swim out of sight, lose their equilibrium, turn onto their side, and die. It doesn't hurt to revive fish longer than you feel is necessary. This will insure a complete recovery without complications. This process usually takes a minute or two, but fish that are extremely tired can require several minutes. This is especially true proceeding, during, and after spawning periods. When you do release a fish, do so in clean water, allowing the fish to swim into the current at its leisure.

After releasing a fish, move slowly, for sudden movement may spook them prematurely. Never toss a fish back into the water. If you wish to take a photo, "set up" everything before you remove the fish from the water. Cradle the fish and lift it just above the water, so if it should happen to fall, it will not crash onto land. Fish can also be laid down on wet grass for a couple of seconds. Do not put undue stress on a fish by lifting them high or in an unnatural position. Do not put your fingers in their gills, for this is like puncturing a lung. Never squeeze a fish, as vital organs are easily damaged. Fish will seldom struggle when handled gently. A quick, harmless way to measure a fish is to tape off measurements on your rod, or buy a "fish tape" which adheres to your rod. Simply slide the rod alongside the fish in the water, and get an accurate measurement. Spring scales are deadly on fish, and should be used only for hoisting a net with fish inside. It is easy to estimate the weight by the length and condition of the fish. The important consideration is to release the fish quickly and unharmed. A fish, which is bleeding slightly, will probably survive just fine. Even a fish that is bleeding profusely can usually be revived if you are patient enough.

Try to land a fish in a reasonable amount of time. The longer some fish are played, the more lactic acid builds up in the bloodstream, and the more difficult it becomes to revive the fish. Most fatal damage occurs to fish through improper handling, not during the actual hooking and playing of a fish. It is best not to handle or remove fish from the water. When a fish is removed from the water, it begins to suffocate immediately, and the risk is great that the fish will flop around on the bank, slip from your grasp, or that you may unknowingly squeeze them to death. If you must handle fish, be certain that your hands are wet, for wet hands will not destroy the protective mucous film on fish, especially trout.

Attachment C

Violations:

The board approved the following fine schedule for infractions of the fishing rules. The first infraction will require a written warning. The second infraction allows the board to impose a fine of \$250.00. Third and subsequent infractions would empower the board to recall a fishing badge.

Badge Violations:

- a. No badge worn by resident, when current season badge was purchased.
- b. No badge worn by resident, when current season badge was not purchased.
- c. No badge worn by guest, when current badge was purchased.
- d. No badge worn by guest, when current badge was not purchased.
- e. No badge worn by child under 12, regardless of whether a resident or guest.
- f. Wrong badge being worn out of season. Reference above.
- g. Improper use of badge, including commercial use or misuse of primary badge privileges.

Equipment Violations

1. Using any rod other than a fly rod, fly reel and line.
2. Not using barbless hooks.

Fish Violations:

1. Killing trout on Ranch premises.
2. Improper handling of fish on Ranch premises.
3. Possession of trout on Ranch premises.

Other Violations:

1. Trespassing on private property.
2. Fishing in unauthorized areas.

Fishing privileges are subject to suspension at any time for violations of the fishing regulations. Suspension is at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Ranch at Roaring Fork. The owner is responsible for payment of all fines.

Attachment D

SPECIAL FISHING EXPERIENCE ONLY FOR CHILDREN 10 YEARS OLD & UNDER

The Ranch provides 3 specially designated locations on the Ranch to allow children an opportunity to experience "the fun of fishing". Those areas are located as follows;

- A. the west end of Lake Colorow at the pier.
- B. the south side of the Condo ponds.
- C. the south side of Rainbow Pond nearest the street.

All three areas are well marked and should provide enough room for 2-4 adults and children without interfering with other fisherpersons. Check with the Ranch Office if in doubt as to those locations.

The following rules apply to these areas;

1. All persons including children must have an attached Permit as specified above, i.e. any child using a rod must be wearing a current Ranch fishing Permit.
2. A spinning rod may be used [at these 3 specially designated areas only] with one barbless fly and a bubble. Only the child may use the spinning rod. No bait or artificial lures are allowed at any time or place on the Ranch. And, no equipment other than a fly rod with barbless hooks can be used anywhere else on the Ranch.
3. Children 10 years old and younger are not required to have a current Colorado State fishing license.
4. Children must be supervised by an adult, i.e. children are not allowed to fish without a supervising adult present.
5. The fishing session for each child shall be limited to one hour.
6. All other fishing rules as outlined in these Ranch Fishing Regulations shall apply; in particular, the proper handling and the releasing of fish.

These "special" rules for children 10 years old and under is not intended to allow the child "spinning rod" usage for an unlimited amount of time. Rather the intent is to introduce small children to the "fun of fishing". Any number of fly shops in the Valley as well as summer programs sponsored by Garfield County can helpful with fly fishing lessons once an interest has been discovered. The Ranch office can be helpful in identifying those shops.