

**ORDINANCE NO.: 268-25**  
**Public Waters – No Wake Ordinance**  
**Revokes Prior Ordinance No. 240-21**

**AN ORDINANCE PRESCRIBED FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON PUBLIC WATERWAYS INCLUDING PALISADES AND RIRIE (BLACKTAIL) RESERVOIRS AND FOR THE PROTECTION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

*WHEREAS*, the Bonneville County Board of County Commissioners has determined, through reports and consultation with officials at State of Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation that it is in the best interest of Bonneville County citizens to institute these regulations; AND

*WHEREAS*, the Bonneville County Board of County Commissioners, having authority to regulate over the public waterways located in its jurisdiction pursuant to Idaho Code Title 31, has agreed with both federal and state authorities to protect and maintain recreation areas within Bonneville County while seeking also to enhance recreation areas for the public, to promote tourism, and to protect the overall quality of life; AND

*WHEREAS*, improper operation of vessels can pose danger to the health, safety, and welfare of citizens who use the waters or to those who own property or live adjacent to Bonneville County lakes and waterways, and can diminish the quality of natural environment, including the general peace and quiet of the waterways and their watershed, diminish water quality, jeopardize shoreline stability, and affect diverse wildlife habitat suitability in ways that will be mitigated by the terms of this ordinance; AND

*WHEREAS*, in addition to state laws and regulations, regulation of the operation of vessels on the public waters of the State of Idaho in Bonneville County is necessary for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the general public, and for the protection of public and private property:

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Bonneville County, Idaho that the following be and is hereby adopted as an ordinance of Bonneville County:

**A. DEFINITIONS**

- a. **VESSEL:** Includes every description of watercraft, including a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water, but does not include float houses, diver's aids operated and designed primarily to propel a diver below, or objects modified to be used as a means of transportation on the water, such as inflatable air mattress, single innertubes, and beach and water toys. For purposes of defining the term "vessel" a motorboat, motor-driven craft, and watercraft are synonymous.
- b. **EXCESSIVE WAKE:** Excessive wake shall be defined as the operation of a vessel that:

- i. In an artificially bow-high manner to increase or enhance a wake, including wake enhancement by use of ballast, mechanical hydrofoils, uneven loading, or
- ii. To cause water to lap onto or over a dock, pier, or other lawfully permitted Encroachment, or
- iii. To cause water to without due caution and circumspection, and in a manner as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property”.

a. **NO-WAKE-ZONE:** A designated area where no wake shall occur.

b. **NO EXCESSIVE WAKE ZONE:** An area where no excessive wake shall occur.

- iv. **NO WAKE ZONES:** The following no-wake zones are hereby established pertaining to the following public bodies of water in Bonneville County, Idaho:

a. **RIRIE (BLACKTAIL) RESERVOIR.** There shall be no excessive wake:

- i. Within one hundred feet (100’) from any person or vessel in the water;
- ii. Within one hundred feet (100’) from any shoreline or other structure (including boat docks and floating docks);
- iii. Within three hundred feet (300’) from the point where the water meets the unsubmerged portion of the following boat ramp(s):
  - 1. Juniper boat ramp; and
  - 2. Blacktail boat ramp
- iv. Within two hundred feet (200’) from the point where the water meets the shore of the following recreation area(s):
  - 1. Blacktail park;
  - 2. Benchland park; and
  - 3. Willow Point park.

b. **PALISADES RESERVOIR.** There shall be no excessive wake:

- i. Within one hundred feet (100’) from any person or vessel in the water;
- ii. Within one hundred feet (100’) from any shoreline or other structure (including boat docks and floating docks);

- iii. Within three hundred feet (300') from the point where the water meets the unsubmerged portion of the following boat ramp(s):
  - 1. Calamity boat ramp;
  - 2. Blowout boat ramp; and
  - 3. Big Elk boat ramp.
- iv. Within two hundred feet (200') from the point where the water meets the shore of the following recreation area(s):
  - 1. Pine Bay boat mooring park;
  - 2. Snake River boat mooring park; and
  - 3. McCoy Creek campground.

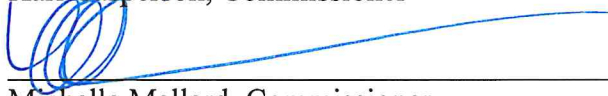
**v. ENFORCEMENT / PENALTIES / PUNISHMENT**

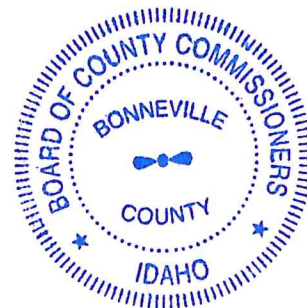
- a. This ordinance may be enforced by any officer or deputy of the Bonneville County Sheriff's Office, Forest Service law enforcement, or Bureau of Land Management law enforcement.
- b. Each violation of this Ordinance shall constitute a separate offense.
- c. Unless otherwise specified herein or by the Idaho Code, a violation of any provision of this Ordinance shall constitute an infraction or misdemeanor as follows:
  - i. A first offense shall constitute an infraction punishable by a fine of fifty dollars (\$50);
  - ii. A second offense shall constitute an infraction punishable by a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100);
  - iii. A third offense shall constitute a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00) and jail time not to exceed six (6) months.

**BOARD OF BONNEVILLE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Jonathan Walker, Chairman

  
Karl Casperson, Commissioner

  
Michelle Mallard, Commissioner



**ATTEST:**

Penny Manning  
Penny Manning  
Bonneville County Clerk

DATED: MAY - 7 2025