

May 18, 2006

To: Ranch Property Owners

From: The Board of Director for the Ranch Property Owners Association

Subject: **Fishing Rules and Regulations**

The ponds at the Ranch have been stocked with approximately 180 fish on May 10, 2006.

Over the past few years there have been a number of violations to the two fish limit per household per day. A major problem has been with unsupervised children who have been seen catching 4 or more fish and throwing them on dry land. *It is the homeowner's responsibility to supervise small children and grandchildren.*

**"Catch and release"** is encouraged by all. If unharmed fish are returned to the water, an individual can catch as many fish as he or she desires. The smaller ponds are stocked with 4 to 12 fish depending upon the size of the pond. So even following the allowed two fish limit, one can catch all of the fish in these ponds in one week or less. Ten fishermen could clear big ponds, like Bear Lake, of its fish in just a few weeks.

"Catch and release" procedures are as follows:

1. Use only artificial flies or lures with a single hook, i.e. no double or triple hooks. Unless you are planning to keep the fish, do not use power bait or worms, as the fish usually swallows them.
2. Crimp the barbs on the individual hooks with a pair of pliers.
3. Wet your hands before handling a fish so you do not damage its protective covering (a thin layer of slim).
4. Carefully remove the hook from the fish using forceps or a similar tool, if necessary.
5. Gently return the fish to the water as quickly as possible. Do not throw the fish back into the water as the exhausted fish may lose consciousness and die.
6. If the fish does not immediately swim away, gently move it back and forth in the water until it regains its strength and swims away.

So enjoy the unique fishing privileges at The Ranch and inform all guests of the two fish limit and that "Catch and Release" is highly encouraged.