

**RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE UPPER OCONEE BASIN WATER
AUTHORITY REGARDING THE BEAR CREEK RESERVOIR**

The Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority ("Authority") has adopted the following rules and regulations regarding the operation of the Bear Creek Reservoir. The rules and regulations may be amended at any time in the sole discretion of the Authority.

I. License Requirements and Regulations

- All persons using the reservoir facilities must comply with all fishing and boating licensing requirements and regulations of the State of Georgia Department of Natural Resources ("DNR"). All freshwater sport-fishing regulations established by the DNR, and rules and regulations established by the Authority are in effect at the Bear Creek Reservoir. To obtain a copy of the regulations, contact the DNR at (404) 656-3524 and the Authority at (770) 725-4339. For further information on fishing and boating rules and regulations, visit www.dnr.state.ga.us.

II. Hours of Operation

- The Bear Creek Reservoir is open for public access on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 7:00 a.m. to sundown from March 1 to the Saturday before Thanksgiving of each year. The Authority reserves the right to change the hours of operation, close the reservoir, or limit public access at any time when deemed necessary or appropriate.

III. Check-In Process and Identification

- Persons other than permitted adjacent landowners using reservoir facilities must check in at the designated site location and present proper identification in the form of a driver's license or any other government issued identification that contains a description of the person, a photograph, and date of birth. Upon checking in, persons using reservoir facilities will receive a permit, which must be maintained while using the facilities. Persons using reservoir facilities must have proper identification at all times and may be required to show identification or their permit upon request from Authority or DNR personnel. Any violation of the rules and regulations may cause the revocation of any permit to use the reservoir facilities.

IV. Access

- The Bear Creek Reservoir may be accessed only by those persons who have paid the appropriate fees and obtained the proper permits. General public access to the reservoir may be made only by the entrance gates adjacent to State Route 330. The total number of boats on the reservoir waters during any period of time shall be determined in the sole discretion of the Authority.

V. Entrance Fees and Permits

- The entrance fee shall be reviewed and adopted annually by the Authority. Said entrance fee may be changed if deemed appropriate without notice by the Authority. Persons entering the reservoir and the reservoir property without first securing the appropriate permit may be prosecuted for trespass. Persons who are bank fishing only from permitted areas of the reservoir shall not be required to pay a daily fee.

Adjacent Landowner Boat Permits

- Adjacent landowners owning property contiguous to the reservoir may obtain a permit from the Authority. The fee for the boat permit shall be reviewed and adopted annually by the Authority. Said fee may be changed if deemed appropriate without notice by the Authority. All permits issued by the Authority are nontransferable. All permits issued by the Authority shall expire by their own terms at the end of the calendar year in which they are issued.

VI. Special Events

- Any use of the reservoir or reservoir property for special events shall be arranged through Authority personnel in compliance with the Reservoir Management Plan.

VII. Parking

- Persons using the reservoir facilities may park vehicles only in designated parking areas. There shall be no public parking for vehicles other than those authorized to park for fishing purposes. Vehicles parked in areas which are not designated parking areas are subject to being towed at the owner's expense.

VIII. Boating

- No boat shall be operated on the Bear Creek Reservoir with a gasoline engine. Boats may be operated on the reservoir waters for fishing purposes only. All non-fishing boats, including but not limited to sailboats, paddle boats, canoes, and kayaks are prohibited on the reservoir waters. All boats operated on the reservoir waters must be of the Class A type (no greater than 16 feet in length). All boat operators are required to comply with the rules and regulations of the DNR regarding boat registration and display of validation decals. The Authority has installed buoys and signage on the reservoir designating restricted areas where boating and fishing are not permitted. All boat operators must refrain from entering restricted or prohibited areas of the reservoir and must obey all warning signs.

IX. Restrictions on the Use of the Reservoir

- All persons using the reservoir facilities shall abide by the laws of the State of Georgia, the rules and regulations of the DNR, and rules and regulations of the Reservoir Management Plan of

the Authority, including, but not limited to the following regulations:

- Garbage, trash, and litter generated on or brought on to the reservoir property must be removed or deposited into receptacles for that purpose.
- The disposal or dumping of household or commercial garbage, trash, rubbish, debris, dead animals, or litter of any kind on to the reservoir and the reservoir property is prohibited.
- The discharge or placing of sewage, galley waste, garbage, refuse, or pollutants into the reservoir waters from any vessel or watercraft is prohibited.
- Swimming, diving, snorkeling, or scuba diving are prohibited.
- Glass or styrofoam containers are prohibited on the reservoir or the reservoir property.
- Pets are not allowed on the reservoir or the reservoir property (with the exception of working animals).
- The possession of loaded firearms, ammunition, loaded projectile firing devices, bows and arrows, crossbows, explosives or explosive devices of any kind, including fireworks or other firearm of any kind, is prohibited unless (1) such devices are in the lawful possession of a federal, state, or local law enforcement officer; or (2) prior written permission has been received from the Reservoir Manager.
- The possession or consumption of drugs, alcohol, or any controlled substance is prohibited on reservoir property.
- The release of amphibians, reptiles, or plants is prohibited.
- The defacement or destruction of the property of the Authority is prohibited.
- All persons under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 21 on the reservoir or reservoir property.
- Bank fishing shall not be permitted on boat ramp property.