

# Lake Usage Fee FAQ's

Q. Why does the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District need to create a boat user fee?

A. Barnett Reservoir celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2015, and its infrastructure as it relates to boating is aging, and we are often asked about repairs and renovation to our ramps, docks and piers. PRVWSD receives no tax money from the state or counties for operation and maintenance.

Q. When will I need a permit?

A. Permits will be required beginning Oct. 1, 2015. These will be annual permits with an expiration date of Sept. 30, each succeeding year.

Q. Why should I pay this fee after I already pay taxes and boat registration?

A. PRVWSD receives no revenue from taxes and boat registrations.

Q. Why are leaseholders not exempt?

A. The lease payment is for property on which your home or business is located. That payment entitles leaseholders to nothing more than the right to place their home or business on that piece of property. Granting exceptions to leaseholders creates a separate class within the class of boaters, and that is illegal. The 1986 court decisions clearly found that lease payments may not be used for services, therefore to provide an exception for leaseholders is counter to this court order and thus illegal.

Q. What will the penalty be for not having a sticker?

A. A fine of not less than \$50 and no more than \$250.

**BARNETT RESERVOIR**  
PEARL RIVER VALLEY WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT  
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**PEARL RIVER VALLEY  
WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT**

[www.therez.ms.gov](http://www.therez.ms.gov)

**LAKE  
USAGE FEE  
FAQ'S & REGULATIONS**

# Proposed District Regulations

## Part 203:CHAPTER 2 Boats and Boating

Q. What will the money be used for?

A. All revenues from the boat user fee will be placed in a special revenue fund account to be used only for recreational enhancements, such as ramp and pier repair or renovation, navigational aids and shoreline support facilities.

Q. Will the public have any say in how money is spent?

A. PRVWSD will consult its stakeholder groups on work to be done and the priority of such projects. A complete accounting of funds and expenditures will be made available to stakeholder groups. To join one of our groups, including the Upriver Advisory Committee, the Fishing Advisory Group or the Barnett Reservoir Foundation, email to [comments@therez.ms](mailto:comments@therez.ms).

Q. Will tournament fishermen, who already pay a \$2 per tournament day fee, be required to have a permit?

A. Yes. The \$2 per boat fee for tournaments is only for the scheduling of events, and that fee will continue.

Q. How will I obtain a permit?

A. They will be available at the PRVWSD offices and campgrounds, and through an online vendor. The online system will provide instant registration and will be available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Q. How will the permit work?

A. The annual and three-year permits will be a decal that will be placed on the bow of the craft near the state registration number. Boaters registering online will be given a confirmation number to use until the decal is received by mail. If stopped, the boater can give the confirmation number to the officer who will have immediate access to the system. The decals will be numbered and match a specific state registration number (known as the MI number).

### Rule 2.4 Lake Usage Fee

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to operate any water craft or vehicle in any waters within the Reservoir Project Area without having paid a Lake Usage Fee as describe below.

(b) As of October 1st, 2015 the PRVWSD requires all water craft or vessels as described below to have paid a lake usage fee and display the District's lake usage fee permit decal on the boat or vessel.

(c) All watercraft requiring registration by MDWF&P, or federally registered or registered out-of-state, are required to pay a District Lake Usage Permit Fee decal for the use of the District's waterways.

(d) Lake Usage Permit Fee will include all boats, personal water craft, sailing vessels, "Hobie-Cat" type vessels, and Jon boats. Paddle boards, sail boards, kayaks, canoes and approved towables are excluded.

(e) Registrants will affix the District's lake usage permit decals to the bow of the craft. Decals shall be displayed on the bow of the watercraft near the boat registration number (MI number).

(f) Annual Lake User Permit Fees are as follows:

Under 26 feet	\$35.00
26 feet and above	\$50.00
10 day <small>(any size - consecutive days)</small>	\$10.00
Commercial Business <small>(tour boat, rental boats, all sizes)</small>	\$50.00
Dealer/Boat Repair	\$50.00

3 Year Lake User Permit will be available at the following rates:

Under 26 feet	\$90.00
26 feet and above	\$135.00
Commercial Business	\$135.00
Dealer/Boat Repair	\$135.00

(g) The permit period shall run from October 1st to September 30th of each year.

(h) Boats that are permanently docked are required to have a permit.

(i) For new boat purchases: Owners are required by MDWF&P to register boats within 10 days of purchase. The MDWF&P registration process may take up to 30 days. If on the District's waterways during this period the owner must be able to show proof of registration filing and bill of sale dated within the 30 day period.

(j) Law enforcement, fire/rescue, MDWF&P water craft and PRVWSD work boats will be exempt. There are no other exemptions.

