

**TITLE 300. GRAND RIVER DAM AUTHORITY  
CHAPTER 35. LAKE RULES**

**SUBCHAPTER 1. DEFINITIONS, PURPOSE AND APPLICATION**

**300:35-1-1. Definitions**

The following words and terms, when used in this Chapter, shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"**Authority or GRDA**" means the Grand River Dam Authority.

"**Board**" means the Board of Directors for the Grand River Dam Authority.

"**CEO**" means the Chief Executive Officer of the Grand River Dam Authority.

"**Flowage Easement**" means the perpetual right of one party to overflow, flood, and submerge the lands subject to a flowage easement, reserving unto the fee owner such rights and privileges as may be enjoyed without interference with the rights granted in the flowage easement.

"**GRDA land**" or "**GRDA property**" or "**lands of GRDA**" means the land owned by GRDA. The location and boundaries of GRDA land is determined by a legal description (generally described by metes and bounds). A survey is necessary to determine the boundary of GRDA land. A particular elevation does not determine the boundary of GRDA land. Additionally, GRDA may have flowage easements over land.

"**Habitable Structure**" or "**Dock-o-miniums**" means structures used as living quarters constructed in conjunction with new or existing docks, piers, and floats. These structures generally resemble cabins and/or homes, placed on floating structures such as covered or enclosed docks, over boathouses and other similar structures where a building is or may be occupied by people overnight or for extended periods. Generally, these structures may contain water supply and/or waste disposal facilities such as sinks, showers, toilets, kitchen facilities, food preparation areas, etc.

"**Neosho Bottoms**" means all GRDA lands owned in Ottawa County along the Neosho River that lie West of U.S. Highway 69 not used in the delivery and transmission of electricity.

"**Normal Idle Speed**" means the vessel is in the forward gear with no additional throttle applied.

"**Paddleboard**" means a board or surfboard propelled through the water by an occupant by arms or paddle while lying, kneeling or standing on the board.

"**Restricted Areas**" means any area designated by GRDA where the public is prohibited from engaging in certain activities due to safety concerns or because the activity interferes with the business of GRDA.

"**Rollover Protection System**" or "**ROPS**" means a system or structure which can withstand the weight of the vehicle and is intended to protect a vehicle and passengers from being crushed.

"**Shoreline Management Plan**" or "**SMP**" means the rules relating to management of the shoreline as approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

"**Wake**" means the track of waves left by a vessel or other object moving through the water and such waves are greater than the natural waves in the immediate area of the vessel or

are cresting and showing white water or may cause injury to any person or property. However, a "no wake zone" is not violated when a vessel is safely proceeding with engine(s) engaged at normal idle speed.

**"Water Jet Pack Unit"** means the system propelling a person in the air by water and includes any vessel/PWC used to propel the person into the air. This system may also be known as a jetlev, aquaboard, aquaflyer, or flyboard.

**"Waters of GRDA"** means and refers to the waters of the Grand River and its tributaries, including, but not limited to, Grand Lake O' the Cherokees, Lake Hudson, and the W.R. Holway Reservoir. This Chapter 35 does not apply to the Illinois River in Oklahoma.

**"Wildlife Management Area" or "WMA"** means four designated areas established for public hunting on GRDA land in Ottawa County. Conner's Bridge and Todd Lake hunting areas are located along the Neosho River. West Spring River and Mallard Point hunting areas are located along the Spring River.

### **300:35-1-2. Statutory authority**

The Act (82 O.S.2001, § 861 *et seq.*, as amended) creating the Grand River Dam Authority prescribes the use that may be made of the properties and waters of GRDA and authorizes GRDA to promulgate, prescribe, enforce rules and regulations, and charge a fee for the use, for recreational and commercial purposes, of its lakes and shorelands, including the use of firearms and the inspection of all vessels of every character proposing to operate or operating on said lakes. The travel of vessels on the waters of GRDA shall be in keeping with the following rules of GRDA in the interest of public health, safety and convenience in the use of the waters and the shorelands of GRDA.

### **300:35-1-3. Application of state laws**

The laws of the State of Oklahoma, including the Oklahoma Boating Safety Regulation Act, 63 O.S.2001, § 4200 *et seq.*, as amended, and the Oklahoma Penal Code, 21 O.S.2001 § 1 *et seq.*, as amended, apply to the waters of GRDA, in addition to the rules set out herein. Failure to comply with these laws and Rules may constitute a criminal offense.

### **300:35-1-4. Registration of boats**

Every vessel operating on GRDA waters is subject to the provisions of the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act and must have state registration and a current license by no later than June 30 of the current state fiscal year, and shall properly display their current annual registration decal on the vessel at all times. A vessel's state assigned registration number must be displayed in accordance with state law, unless the vessel is a properly documented Coast Guard Approved vessel, and all documentation is available for any officer to view, upon request.

### **300:35-1-5. GRDA Police Department**

(a) GRDA has created a Police Department for the purpose of enforcing these Rules on the waters and land of GRDA.

(b) The officers of GRDA's Police Department are hereby declared to be the enforcement officers for GRDA. The enforcement officers for GRDA may enforce GRDA rules and regulations and the provisions of Sections 861 *et seq.* of Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The GRDA Police officers may also enforce those rules and regulations as may be issued pursuant to the provisions of Section 4200 *et seq.* of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and all violations of

criminal laws occurring within the boundaries of the counties where real property owned or leased by GRDA is located. The GRDA Police officers shall have the power of peace officers during the performance of their duties, except in the serving and execution of civil process.

(c) The GRDA Police officers shall, in the event of emergency, assist in the rescue of any person who may be in danger and shall assist in the saving of any property that is in danger of being lost or damaged. They may require the operator of any vessel operating on the waters of the lakes in any manner which is not in compliance with these Rules, or any applicable state law, to immediately remove said vessel from the lake until compliance has been had.

(d) The GRDA Police officers will enforce the state and federal laws related to the proper registration of vessels on GRDA waters.

(e) GRDA's Police officers may cooperate with federal, state and local enforcement officers in the enforcement of all federal and state laws upon the waters, lands and properties of GRDA or any other location within their jurisdiction.

**300:35-1-6. Permitted activities**

No person, firm, partnership, corporation or other entity shall perform any activity which requires a permit prior to the issuance of the permit by GRDA. For example, no dock may be placed upon the waters of GRDA until such time as the applicant receives written notice from GRDA that such activity may take place. Insurance may be required for permitted activities. Any person shall be subject to the penalties set forth in these Rules and law that performs any activity which requires a permit prior to the issuance of a permit, or written permission from GRDA. All applicants are required to notify GRDA of any change in address subsequent to their submission of an application.

**SUBCHAPTER 3. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**300:35-3-1. Free access**

The public shall have free access to the waters of the lakes and no charges shall be made to the public for the right to engage in hunting, fishing, swimming or non-commercial boating. The public shall comply with all state hunting and/or fishing laws and rules.

**300:35-3-2. Lake elevations**

Grand Lake, Lake Hudson, and W.R. Holway Reservoir are flood control and hydroelectric power projects, and it is recognized and understood that the elevation of the waters in said lakes will vary from time to time as operations for flood control and hydro electric power generation demand. The water rights granted under these Rules shall be subject to these conditions and all laws governing the Grand River Dam Authority and shall be subject to all federal and state laws and rules governing the control, storage, release, and use of the waters of Grand River, Grand Lake, Lake Hudson, and W.R. Holway Reservoir.

**300:35-3-3. Liability**

(a) GRDA shall never be liable in any manner whatsoever because of the quantity or quality of the water in its lakes, nor shall GRDA ever be liable for any damage that the permittee may sustain to person or property which may be occasioned by or result from the construction, maintenance and operation of GRDA's projects and the Fort Gibson Reservoir.

(b) Neither GRDA nor any representative thereof assumes any responsibility for loss or damage to life or property by theft, storm, accident, or otherwise, in connection with or growing

out of the exercising of the privileges conferred by any permit which may be issued in accordance with these Rules.

(c) Nothing contained in these Rules shall operate to relieve the owners of vessels from complying with, or from the obligation of complying with, the applicable laws of the United States and the State of Oklahoma.

**300:35-3-4. Payment of fees**

No permit or license, private or commercial, shall be issued until the appropriate fee has been paid. Permit fees will not be prorated.

**300:35-3-5. Transfer or assignment of permit prohibited**

Transfer or assignment of permits or licenses issued hereunder (both private and commercial) shall not be made except with written consent and approval of GRDA. The owner of a dock shall be responsible for all fees incurred throughout the time they owned the dock. No person, firm or corporation shall allow his or its name to be used by any other person, firm or corporation to do any work under his or its permit.

**300:35-3-6. Cancellation/termination of permit or license [REVOKED]**

**300:35-3-7. Rights reserved**

These Rules do not cover the taking or using of water for any purpose or use other than those specifically covered herein.

**300:35-3-8. Roads and highways**

The existing public rights-of-way to the waters or shorelands and boat ramps sponsored by GRDA shall remain open as a way of free public passage to and from the waters of GRDA.

**300:35-3-9. Fishing and hunting**

- (a) Fishing or hunting within Restricted Areas will not be permitted.
- (b) Fishing or hunting will not be permitted within two hundred (200) feet of the tailraces below the dams.
- (c) Fishing or hunting, except commercial bait operators, will not be permitted at such other points on or about the lakes where such use will unduly interfere with navigation or proper conduct of the business of GRDA or endanger the public.
- (d) Fishing and hunting in the Neosho Bottoms will only be allowed when properly permitted by GRDA. All permitted individuals shall have a proper hunting license in accordance with Oklahoma law and shall only use shotguns, primitive firearms, or proper archery equipment. No rifles shall be allowed within the Neosho Bottoms. Additionally removal of trees or shrubs of any kind from GRDA land shall not be allowed for use as ground blinds.
- (e) No hunting shall be allowed on GRDA lands used in the generation, delivery or transmission of electricity.
- (f) Hunters shall follow all state and federal rules and regulations when hunting by watercraft.

**300:35-3-10. Firearms**

- (a) Only shotguns, primitive firearms, and legal archery equipment are allowed on GRDA property.

- (b) All hunting on any GRDA property shall be conducted in accordance with Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation regulations and all state and federal firearm laws.
- (c) The discharge of any firearms or archery equipment in, over or across the waters of the lakes is expressly prohibited except as regulated by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. In no event shall the use of firearms or archery equipment be conducted in a manner which interferes with the business of GRDA's projects or endangers the public.
- (d) Persons properly licensed to carry concealed weapons may do so only in accordance with the laws of the State of Oklahoma.
- (e) Hunting on any GRDA lands below Twin Bridges is limited to shotguns with steel shot only and proper archery equipment.

**300:35-3-11. Gas and oil storage**

The keeping or storage of gasoline and other combustible fuels, except for fuel tanks installed in vessels, in, upon or about GRDA lands and waters will not be permitted unless the location and detailed storage plans are first submitted to and approved by GRDA and comply with all applicable state and federal statutes.

**300:35-3-12. Health and sanitation**

- (a) All sanitary rules, regulations, and laws shall be complied with prior to the granting or renewal of any GRDA permit.
  - (b) In the interest of public health, sanitation and safety, there shall be no camping on GRDA's lands except in a designated camping area.
  - (c) Bottles, Styrofoam goods, cans, garbage, rubbish, refuse, debris, wreckage, bilge water containing oil or grease, or materials used in the process of cleaning the outer surfaces of vessels, or any other material of any kind shall not be thrown into or released upon the lakes or deposited or dumped upon the shores of the lakes or upon any land under the jurisdiction of GRDA.
  - (d) No septic tank, lateral line or lagoon shall be placed on GRDA property. No portable toilet shall be used within the flowage easement. No sewage shall be disposed of in the waters or on GRDA property. No person shall operate a vessel equipped with a marine toilet which is not a total retention system in accordance with federal regulations regarding marine toilets.
- The preparation and marking of beaches shall be in such manner as to provide reasonable safety in their use. Commercial beaches shall be provided with adequate and sanitary dressing rooms, toilets, showers and other necessary accessories for public convenience and safety.

**300:35-3-13. Repeal**

All rules and regulations adopted by the Authority which conflict with the provisions of these Rules are hereby revoked, cancelled and repealed.

**300:35-3-14. Permit applications**

- (a) Applications for GRDA permits required by these Rules are available at the permitting office inside the GRDA Ecosystems & Education Center located at the west end of Pensacola Dam in Langley, Oklahoma or visit the website at [www.GRDA.com](http://www.GRDA.com).
- (b) In addition to any other requirement that may be applicable to a permit application, GRDA may, in its sole discretion, forward any application to fish and wildlife resource agencies, environmental agencies, and/or tribes for comment.
- (c) These Rules cover the following types of GRDA permits:

- (1) Private and commercial docks, wharves, landings, anchorages, and boat houses;
  - (2) Buoys;
  - (3) Private and commercial breakwaters;
  - (4) Private and commercial rail-systems and tram systems;
  - (5) Boat ramps;
  - (6) Retaining walls;
  - (7) Dredging (and excavation);
  - (8) Erosion control devices;
  - (9) Shoreline stabilization;
  - (10) Commercial operations (including, but not limited to, a dock installer, dredging contractor, commercial boat operator, vessel rentals, or Water Jet Pack Unit rentals);
  - (11) Taking of raw water;
  - (12) Vegetation management plans; and
  - (13) Sanctioned event.
  - (14) Construction within the Flowage Easement
- (d) Permit applications are subject to change without notice. Permitted activities must comply with all standards, rules and regulations in effect at the time the activity commences.

**300:35-3-15. Penalty**

Any person, firm, partnership, corporation or other entity which violates any Rule in this Chapter (i.e. Chapter 35 Lake Rules), shall be required to pay all costs (including attorneys fees, GRDA staff time, and mitigation) related to the violation including the repair, restoration and reclamation of GRDA lands and waters. Other penalties may include, but are not limited to, suspension or revocation of a permit; and any other fee, penalty or fine as authorized by statute. Also, GRDA may seek an injunction to prevent any violation or unauthorized activity.

**SUBCHAPTER 5. BOATING SAFETY RULES**

**300:35-5-1. Careful operation of a vessel**

No person shall operate or give permission to operate a vessel in a wake zone at a speed which is other than reasonable and prudent and which shows due regard for the existence of actual or potential hazards and obstacles, or in such a manner as to endanger the life, limb or property of any other person, or in such manner as to create a wake. For the purpose of this rule, "no wake zone" means any area posted with buoys or within one hundred fifty (150) feet of any boat ramp, dock, pier, or anchored or moored vessel.

**300:35-5-2. Towing activities**

- (a) No person shall operate or give permission to operate a vessel on any waters of this state towing a person or persons using parasails or on water skis, a surfboard, a sailboard or similar device, nor shall any person engage in parasailing, water skiing, surfboarding, sailboarding or similar activity at any time between the hours from sunset to sunrise or at such time visibility due to other existing conditions is obscured so as to endanger life or property. (63 O.S. Supp.2004, § 4212(B)).
- (b) Pursuant to 63 O.S.Supp.2004, § 4212, the following applies to water skiing, wakeboarding, or similar towing activities:

(c) No person shall operate or give permission to operate a vessel on any GRDA waters for towing a person or persons using parasails or on water skis, a surfboard, or similar device unless there is in such vessel:

(1) a person who is at least eight (8) years old, and who, in addition to the operator, is in a position to observe the progress of the person or persons being towed, or

(2) if the vessel is not a personal watercraft, an efficient wide angle convex rear view mirror installed on such vessel in such manner as to permit the person operating said vessel to face the direction of travel and be in a position to observe the progress of the person or persons being towed, or

(3) if the vessel is a personal watercraft, two (2) efficient wide angle convex rear view mirrors installed on such vessel in such manner as to permit the person operating such watercraft to face the direction of travel and be in a position to observe the progress of the person or person being towed.

(d) Water skiing shall be allowed with any watercraft which is designed to accommodate two or more persons.

**300:35-5-3. Flotation device required**

All vessels shall carry a U.S. Coast Guard approved flotation device (life preserver) for each person on board. The operator of a vessel less than twenty-six (26) feet in length, while under way, shall require each passenger twelve (12) years of age or younger to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved flotation device. Any person operating or manipulating, or who is a passenger on a personal watercraft, water skis, a sailboard, surfboard, wakeboard, parasail, paddleboard, kayak, or a similar device shall wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved flotation device.

**300:35-5-4. Sitting and standing in vessel**

No person shall sit or ride on the sides of a vessel, the back of a vessel, a covered bow or the top of any back seat of a vessel or stand in a vessel while under way at any speed greater than idle or trolling speed; unless, the vessel is specifically designed for such use.

**300:35-5-5. Required equipment**

(a) Each vessel which is less than twenty-six (26) feet in length, other than a personal watercraft, shall be equipped with a paddle or set of oars, anchor, bailing device and fire extinguisher. All other vessels shall be equipped in accordance with Oklahoma state law.

(b) All vessels must be equipped with proper and working navigations and anchoring lights as provided by law.

**300:35-5-6. Prohibited areas**

All vessels are prohibited from entering any area within 200 feet below or above Pensacola, Kerr and Chimney Rock Dams. Vessels are prohibited within 500 feet below said dams during periods of hydrogeneration or the spilling of water through floodgates.

**300:35-5-7. Night speed limit**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any vessel upon the waters of GRDA, between the hours of one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise at any speed in excess of twenty-five (25) miles per hour.

**300:35-5-8. Skiing prohibited**

(a) No skiing is allowed upstream of the Strang Bridge on Lake Hudson, upstream of Twin Bridges on Grand Lake, in Elm Creek east of Grove water intake tower, upstream of the Harbors View Marina (a/k/a the turn) on Duck Creek or upstream of the Lakemont Shores Ramp on Drowning Creek.

(b) Wake jumping is prohibited in Cowskin and Elk River and in any arm of Grand Lake that, in its name, ends in Creek, Cove or Hollow. Wake Jumping is defined as the act of repetitively crossing another vessel's wake in such a fashion that the crossing vessel's hull leaves the water.

**300:35-5-9. Persons on personal watercraft**

The number of persons riding on a personal watercraft shall be limited to that number as recommended by the manufacturer. Any person being towed behind a personal watercraft shall count as one (1) person riding on a personal watercraft.

**300:35-5-10. Persons using Water Jet Pack Units**

The following rules shall apply to persons using Water Jet Pack Units:

- (1) A distance of 100 feet shall be maintained from any other person, watercraft, PWC or other fixed object at all times.
- (2) Six feet of water is required to operate the Water Jet Pack Unit.
- (3) The operator of the Water Jet Pack Unit shall wear a life vest at all times. Additionally, if there is an operator of the watercraft/PWC used as part of the Water Jet Pack Unit, such operator shall also wear a life vest at all times.
- (4) The person being propelled into the air shall wear a helmet at all times.
- (5) Any PWC or unit used as part of a Water Jet Pack Unit shall have an orange warning flag when in operation.
- (6) Only one person may be propelled into the air at one time and there shall not be any passengers on a PWC or unit used as part of a Water Jet Pack Unit.
- (7) No person under the age of 18 shall operate a Water Jet Pack Unit without the supervision of a person over the age of 25 years.
- (8) A Water Jet Pack Unit may only be operated during the hours between one-half hour after sunrise and one-half hour before sunset.

**300:35-5-11. Persons using Paddleboards, canoes and kayaks**

Persons using Paddleboards, canoes or kayaks on the waters of GRDA must wear a life jacket at all times. Paddleboards, canoes, and kayaks shall not be used between the hours of one-half hour before sunset and one-half hour after sunrise. Canoes and kayaks under 17 feet long, and all Paddleboards shall stay within one-hundred fifty (150) feet of the shoreline unless in a no wake cove, hollow or creek.



## SUBCHAPTER 7. VESSELS

### **300:35-7-1. Inspection, registration and certificate of safety**

- (a) All vessels and equipment used for transportation of people shall be subject to inspection during each permit year by GRDA.
- (b) All vessels must be licensed under the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act.

### **300:35-7-2. Loose and derelict vessels**

Any loose, derelict or apparently abandoned vessel found on the lakes, or shores of the lakes, may be impounded by GRDA in the manner provided for by state law.

### **300:35-7-3. Anchorages**

Vessel anchorages shall not be allowed off the shore of the waters of GRDA in any one location for a continuous period in excess of forty-eight (48) hours. At the end of a forty-eight (48) hour period, a new anchorage may not be taken up within a distance of one (1) mile of the anchorage previously used. No buoy may be used as an anchorage without the permission of its owner.

### **300:35-7-4. Vessel operating distance**

No person shall operate any vessel, including personal watercraft, within fifty (50) feet of another vessel when running at speeds of over ten (10) miles per hour. Vessels shall stop when directed, or operate at idle speed within five hundred (500) feet from emergency vessels while their emergency lights are activated.

### **300:35-7-5. Water muffling**

Except for a sanctioned event, no person shall operate a vessel or motor which is not equipped with a muffler or muffler system in good working order. The use of cutouts, removal of mufflers or muffler baffles, cutting or punching of holes in mufflers or otherwise modifying the original muffler or muffling system installed by the manufacturer or any subsequent muffler or muffling system so as to increase or modify the noise level is prohibited.

### **300:35-7-6. Noise abatement**

No person shall unlawfully disturb the peace through operation of a vessel or by a person's actions within fifty (50) feet of any public or private dock or at any location between the hours of 9:00 p.m. through 9:00 a.m. C.S.T.

### **300:35-7-7. Wake damage**

All vessel operators shall be held responsible for any damage that their wake might cause to property. No person shall operate or give permission to operate a vessel in a wake zone at a speed which is other than reasonable and prudent and which shows due regard for the existence of actual or potential hazards and obstacles, or in such a manner as to endanger the life, limb or property of any other person, or in such a manner as to create a wake. "No wake zone" means any area posted with buoys or within one hundred fifty (150) feet of any boat ramp, dock, pier or anchored or moored vessel.

**300:35-7-8. Minimum age**

- (a) A person under sixteen (16) years of age shall not operate any vessel powered by a motor or combination of motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower or any sail-powered vessel sixteen (16) feet or greater in length on the waters of this state unless the person has:
  - (1) Successfully completed a boating safety education course or has passed a proctored equivalency examination which tests the knowledge of information included in the curriculum of such a course and received a Boating Safety Education Certificate as evidence of successful completion of a boating safety education course or an equivalency examination; and
  - (2) Is accompanied by a competent adult, eighteen (18) years of age or older, who is in a position on or in the vessel to take immediate control of the vessel being operated.
- (b) A person under sixteen (16) years of age shall not operate a personal watercraft unless the person has:
  - (1) Successfully completed a boating safety education course or has passed a proctored equivalency examination which tests the knowledge of information included in the curriculum of such a course and received a Boating Safety Education Certificate as evidence of successful completion of a boating safety education course or an equivalency examination; and
  - (2) Is under the visual supervision by a competent adult, eighteen (18) years of age or older within a distance of five hundred (500) yards.

**300:35-7-9. Hazardous acts**

- (a) In addition to the rules of travel for operation of vessels upon the lakes, all vessels shall be operated in such a manner as will best safeguard the lives and property of others upon the lakes.
- (b) Any person conducting himself/herself in such a manner as to endanger the health and safety of others upon the lakes or lands of GRDA, or violate any of the statutes of the State of Oklahoma, may be removed from the lakes or lands of GRDA and subject to the fee, penalty or fine as authorized by any applicable law.

**300:35-7-10. W.R. Holway reservoir**

With the exception of the GRDA Police, vessels powered by internal combustion engines are not permitted on W.R. Holway Reservoir. Swimming is prohibited in the W.R. Holway Reservoir.

**300:35-7-11. Penalties**

- (a) GRDA Police officers may verbally order any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or any other entity that is violating any provision found in Title 63 or Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes or in any GRDA rules to immediately exit the waters and/or lands of GRDA. Failure to obey the verbal order may result in the GRDA Police officers enforcing the provisions of 63 O.S.2001, § 4221 which provides that such failure to comply will constitute a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00).
- (b) Additionally, any such person or entity, after notice and an opportunity to be heard as provided in Chapter 45 of this Title, may be banned from the waters and/or lands of GRDA for a period of time up to, and including, ninety (90) days.

**300:35-7-12. Duck Creek, Woodard Hollow, and Courthouse Hollow boating rules**

Due to the unique nature of Duck Creek, Woodard Hollow, and Courthouse Hollow on the Grand Lake O' the Cherokees, GRDA implements, from time to time, special boating rules for the area. Please contact the GRDA Police, located at the GRDA Ecosystems & Education Center in Langley, Oklahoma, or visit the website, [www.GRDA.com](http://www.GRDA.com) for the current applicable Duck Creek, Woodard Hollow, and Courthouse Hollow Boating Rules.

**SUBCHAPTER 9. SANCTIONED EVENTS**

**300:35-9-1. Sanctioned event definition**

A sanctioned event is any organized event that occurs on the waters and lands of GRDA, including, but not limited to, regattas, motorboat or other boat races, marine parades, tournaments, fishing tournaments, "poker" runs, motorized rock-climbing or off-road events, fireworks displays, concerts and other exhibitions.

**300:35-9-2. Permit required**

No sanctioned event shall be held without a written permit issued by GRDA prior to the event.

**300:35-9-3. Public and environmental safety**

- (a) GRDA Police officers shall require that any sanctioned event be held in a safe manner and under safe environmental conditions.
- (b) Any vessel operating in an unsafe manner, or without due regard to other vessels, water skiers, swimmers, sanctioned events, restrictive markers or buoys, existing wind or weather conditions, waves, or wakes, may be immediately removed from the waters of GRDA by GRDA Police officers.
- (c) GRDA may require that any sanctioned event conform to specific environmental requirements for the purpose of protecting fish, wildlife, or habitat. Such requirements shall be specified on the sanctioned event permit. Any sponsor of a sanctioned event, or any participant in such sanctioned event, which fails to follow the environmental requirements may be immediately removed from the waters of GRDA by GRDA Police officers.
- (d) In addition to the penalties specified herein, any person violating this rule may be subject to criminal sanctions as provided by law and any other penalties as provided in 300:35-7-11.

**SUBCHAPTER 11. PERMITS FOR WHARVES, LANDINGS, BUOYS,  
BREAKWATERS AND DOCKING FACILITIES**

**300:35-11-1. Private use**

No person, firm, association, partnership or corporation may construct, modify the footprint, install, relocate, transfer or operate any private wharf, dock, landing, anchorage, boat house or breakwater (or any other type of floating structure) on waters or lands of GRDA until the applicant submits a completed application and written permission has been issued by GRDA. Approval of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) may also be required prior to installation or modification. Upon completion of any modification, installation, or relocation, the private wharf, dock, landing, anchorage, boat house or breakwater shall be subject to a final inspection by GRDA prior to the issuance of a permit. Such inspection will include verification

that the wharf, dock, landing, anchorage, boat house or breakwater was constructed, modified, and/or installed in accordance with the application submitted to GRDA and also in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, rules and building codes.

**300:35-11-2. Commercial use**

No person, firm, association, partnership or corporation may construct, modify the footprint, install, relocate, transfer or operate any wharf, dock, landing, anchorage, boat house or breakwater (or any other type of floating structure) for pecuniary profit or gain, directly or indirectly, on waters or lands of GRDA until the applicant submits a completed application and written permission has been issued by GRDA. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) must also approve all commercial dock applications prior to installation or modification. Upon completion of any modification, installation, or relocation, the commercial wharf, dock, landing, anchorage, boat house or breakwater shall be subject to a final inspection by GRDA prior to the issuance of a permit. Such inspection will include verification that the wharf, dock, landing, anchorage, boat house or breakwater was constructed, modified, and/or installed in accordance with the application submitted to GRDA and also in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, rules and building codes.

**300:35-11-3. Waivers**

(a) Upon written application and hearing, the Board of Directors of GRDA may grant a waiver, exception or modification to the requirements imposed on private and/or commercial permit applicants. Additionally, the Board of Directors may impose additional requirements upon any such applicant. Such waivers, exceptions, modifications, or additional requirements shall be based upon the totality of the circumstances, in consideration of public and environmental concerns.

(b) In approving waivers of these rules, the Board shall consider the SMP and all positive and negative impacts to the following:

- (1) Characteristics of existing permitted and recreational uses within a half-mile radius of the proposed activity;
- (2) Shoreline topography and geometry;
- (3) Safety and navigation;
- (4) Environment;
- (5) Potential economic development and tourism benefits;
- (6) Recreational use; and
- (7) Statutory mandates.

(c) The applicant shall be required to give notice and the Board shall allow for public comment before acting on any request for a waiver of these rules.

(d) Public notice of the waiver request shall be given in accordance with guidelines established by the GRDA staff and shall include:

- (1) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation, in the county in which the property is located; and
- (2) Mailing of written notice, via certified mail, return receipt requested, to all owners of property within one hundred fifty (150) feet from the outer edge of the proposed dock(s). Copies of certified mail receipts must be submitted to GRDA prior to any hearing and before GRDA posts any notice.

- (3) The waiver application shall be posted on GRDA's website for a period of at least thirty (30) days.
- (4) Any other notice as required by GRDA.

**300:35-11-4. Electrical inspections**

- (a) Each commercial and private boat dock (or any other type of floating structure) shall comply with and be maintained in accordance with all laws, regulations and codes regarding electrical systems and wiring.
- (b) All commercial and private boat docks constructed, modified, relocated, or transferred shall provide to GRDA a current certificate signed by an Oklahoma licensed electrical contractor, evidencing compliance with all laws, regulations and codes regarding electrical systems and wiring.
- (c) A dock will not have any permanent electrical supply installed without first obtaining written approval from GRDA. No temporary electric supply shall be used and no new or unpermitted submersible pumps shall be allowed in the water.

**300:35-11-5. Breakwaters**

- (a) A breakwater is a structure used to protect docks, shoreline, or other structures by stopping or slowing waves or wakes.
- (b) No breakwater shall be placed in the waters of GRDA without a permit.
- (c) Breakwaters must be anchored in permanent locations and shall have a minimum of proper solar lighting installed at least every 25 feet across the entire structure. The owner of a breakwater shall be responsible for maintaining it in a safe and environmentally acceptable manner.

**300:35-11-6. Buoys**

- (a) No buoy shall be placed or replaced on the waters of GRDA without a permit from GRDA. All buoys shall be purchased from GRDA at cost and installed at the expense of the requestor. The buoy will be installed to specifications provided by GRDA. The GRDA Police will inspect the installation to ensure compliance with all applicable GRDA rules and Oklahoma law. The requestor will be responsible for continuing maintenance and liability for the buoy.
- (b) All buoys placed on the lakes shall be commercially manufactured units purchased from the GRDA and shall have reflective tape or paint on the top side. Any buoy not maintained in its proper location shall be subject to removal by GRDA. Any buoys, lighthouses or other types of markers placed with the permission of or installed by GRDA are primarily warning devices for the convenience of the public and should not be relied upon solely as navigational aids. GRDA assumes no liability or responsibility for loss or damages to life or property arising out of the public's reliance upon said devices.

**300:35-11-7. Rail-systems, tram systems, and boat ramps**

- (a) No private or commercial rail-systems, tram systems, or boat ramps shall be constructed on GRDA property or waters without first obtaining a permit.
- (b) A rail-system is used to accommodate a watercraft storage facility where standard dock installations are not applicable or desirable.
- (c) A tram-system is a device capable of transporting people to and from a boat dock (or other floating structure) either for private, public or commercial use. Tram-systems are typically

utilized on steep inclines associated with cliffs, bluffs, or to accommodate individuals with physical limitations.

(d) Railways and tram systems shall be maintained in a manner such that all electrical systems are to code, that environmental guidelines are met, and that the structures are safe and pose no risk or threat to the public.

(e) No boat ramp shall be constructed unless the ramp may be accessed by at least twenty-five (25) homeowners in a residential community or the public at large. Approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and/or other state and federal agencies may also be required.

**300:35-11-8. Removal and cancellation for failure to comply**

(a) GRDA may if any structure, private or commercial, is (i) not installed in accordance with the plans and specifications approved by GRDA, (ii) fails to meet current minimum standards adopted by GRDA, (iii) not kept in a good state of repair, (iv) has not been inspected by an Oklahoma licensed electrical contractor as provided herein, (v) does not have a permit in the name of the current owner, or (vi) has delinquent fees assessed against it, GRDA, after notice and opportunity to be heard in accordance with Chapter 45 of this Title, shall have the right to remove or cause to be removed from GRDA's waters and lands such structure and/or cancel any license or permit in the event the owner fails to remedy the violation after being notified by GRDA of the violation.

(b) Any loose, abandoned, or unpermitted structure located on GRDA land or water may be removed by GRDA and the owner shall be responsible for any expense incurred by GRDA.

(c) In the event GRDA removes a dock, wharf, boat house, breakwater, buoy, rail-system, tram system or any other structure, private or commercial, the owner of same shall be required to pay all past due fees and costs of such removal and may be required to pay all costs related to the repair and reclamation of GRDA lands and waters associated with the removal. Any expenses which remain unpaid in excess of 45 days shall accrue interest at the rate of 10% per annum.

**300:35-11-9. Location and site to be returned in good condition**

Within thirty (30) days after expiration or termination of any permit, the holder shall remove all works and facilities from the lakes and lands of GRDA and shall leave the premises in as good condition as they were before the construction of said works and facilities.

**300:35-11-10. GRDA sole judge**

GRDA shall be the sole judge as to whether or not structures are constructed and maintained in accordance with these Rules and Regulations, or kept and operated in a good and safe condition.

**300:35-11-11. Expiration of permit**

(a) The construction, modification, installation, and final GRDA approval of private docks, landings, anchorages, boat houses, breakwaters, rail-systems, and tram-systems must be completed within two (2) years from the date the permission to construct or modify is issued by GRDA.

(b) The construction, modification, installation, and final GRDA approval of commercial docks, landings, anchorages, boat houses, breakwaters, rail-systems, and tram-systems must be completed within seven (7) years from either the date the permission to construct or modify is

issued by GRDA or the date the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issues an order approving the action, whichever occurs later.

(c) Prior to the expiration of the permission to construct or modify, the GRDA Board of Directors may extend the time in which such structure must be completed upon request of the permit holder.

(d) If the permit expires, the permit is null and void.

**300:35-11-12. Dock modification prohibited**

Any person, firm, corporation, business or other entity must obtain permission from GRDA prior to making any modification, change, addition or improvement to an existing private or commercial dock, landing, anchorage, boat house, breakwater, buoy, rail-system or tram system. If any such structure will be reconfigured, modified, or expanded from the plans and specifications originally submitted for the construction of the structure, such change must be approved prior to installation by GRDA and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, if applicable.

**300:35-11-13. One-third cove rule for private and commercial docks**

No dock shall extend more than one-third (1/3) of the cove measured on Grand Lake from 745 feet elevation Pensacola Datum to 745 feet elevation Pensacola Datum. On Lake Hudson, the elevation shall be 622 feet mean sea level in figuring the one-third (1/3) of the cove rule. This rule applies to private docks and commercial docks.

**300:35-11-14. Habitable structures and Dock-o-miniums prohibited**

Habitable Structures or Dock-o-miniums are prohibited on the Waters of GRDA. Any Habitable Structure or Dock-o-miniums existing prior to November 12, 2008 must meet health, safety and construction guidelines approved by the Board to remain on the Waters of GRDA.

**SUBCHAPTER 13. PERMITS FOR DIKES, EXCAVATIONS, DREDGINGS, EROSION CONTROL DEVICES, RETAINING WALLS, AND SHORELINE STABILIZATION**

**300:35-13-1. Permit required**

(a) The contour, elevation or surface of any of GRDA's lands or the reservoir bed shall not be changed in any manner whatsoever by the construction of retaining walls, erosion control devices, dams, dikes, jetties, channels, canals or landings until and unless a permit has been issued by GRDA.

(b) No person, firm, partnership, corporation or other entity may excavate, dredge, stabilize or make any improvement or change upon GRDA land or waters until a permit has been issued by GRDA. Approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and other state and local agencies may also be required. All such activities shall be performed in strict accordance with the plans and specifications approved by GRDA (and, if required, by FERC and the Corps). Additionally, an approved wetland delineation report and metals testing report may be required prior to the commencement of any dredging or excavation activity.

**300:35-13-2. Erosion control devices**

- (a) Erosion control devices may be permitted to protect the existing shoreline. These types of structures must not be for the purpose of landscaping or beautifying the area and will only be permitted if GRDA staff determines that the device is necessary for effective erosion control. In some cases, permission may also be required from the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers.
- (b) During construction activities, GRDA shall require that appropriate erosion and sediment control measures be utilized to prevent pollution of GRDA waters.
- (c) All material which accumulates behind sediment control devices shall be removed from GRDA land and placed at an upland site above the applicable flowage easement.
- (d) Disturbed sites must be promptly stabilized with GRDA approved methods associated with seeding, vegetative planting, erosion control netting, and/or mulch or sediment stabilization material.
- (e) If any vegetation is removed for erosion control projects GRDA may require the applicant to replace the vegetation with GRDA approved species of native vegetation.

**300:35-13-3. Dredging**

- (a) All dredging activities on GRDA-owned property require a permit from GRDA. Dredging is defined as the activities associated with digging, gathering, removing, or deepening of any channel, depression, or cavity to achieve sufficient navigable water depth (i.e. 8' at 742' PD Grand Lake, or 619' msl Lake Hudson. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may also require a permit for dredging activities. Additionally, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission must approve all dredging activities on GRDA waters requiring the removal of more than 2,000 cubic yards of material or metals test results indicate toxicity levels as outlined in the current dredging management plan. A wetland delineation study must accompany every application and the study must be conducted by a GRDA approved wetland delineation specialist. Dredging activities must be conducted in accordance with the GRDA dredging management plan and the Shoreline Management Plan. These approvals and permits must be obtained prior to commencing any dredging activity.
- (b) Dredging of individual boat channels shall be approved only when GRDA determines there is no other practicable alternative to achieving sufficient navigable water depth and the action would not substantially impact sensitive resources.
  - (1) No more than two thousand (2,000) cubic yards of material shall be removed for any individual boat channel.
  - (2) Materials from dredging activities must be placed in accordance with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations at an upland site above the applicable flowage easement.
  - (3) Dredged shoreline perimeter shall have a slope ratio of at least 3:1 and must allow for the drainage of water.
  - (4) Dredging activities are not authorized during the months of April, May, June and July to avoid potential impact to fish spawning habitat.
  - (5) Dredging within vegetated wetlands is not authorized and will not be permitted.



**300:35-13-4. Shoreline stabilization and retaining walls**

- (a) GRDA may issue permits allowing adjacent residential landowners to stabilize eroding shorelines on GRDA-owned residential access shoreland. GRDA will determine if shoreline erosion is sufficient to approve the proposed stabilization treatment. No shoreline stabilization activities may be conducted until a permit from GRDA is issued. Shoreline stabilization may include i) the use of biostabilization, ii) the use of riprap to stabilize eroded shorelines, or iii) the use of a retaining wall.
- (b) Biostabilization of eroded shorelines.
- (1) Moderate contouring of the bank may be allowed to provide conditions suitable for planting of vegetation.
  - (2) Native vegetation may be planted within the shoreline management zone to help minimize further erosion.
  - (3) Riprap may be allowed along the base of the eroded area to prevent further undercutting of the bank.
- (c) Use of riprap to stabilize eroded shorelines.
- (1) The riprap material must be approved by GRDA.
  - (2) Rubber tires, concrete rubble, or other debris shall not be used to stabilize shorelines.
  - (3) Riprap material must be placed so as to follow the existing contour of the bank.
  - (4) Site preparation must be limited to the work necessary to obtain adequate slope and stability of the riprap material.
- (d) Use of retaining walls for shoreline stabilization.
- (1) Retaining walls shall be allowed only where the erosion process is severe and GRDA determines that a retaining wall is the most effective erosion control option.
  - (2) GRDA shall inspect the site of the proposed construction and consider whether the planting of vegetation or the use of riprap would be adequate to control erosion.
  - (3) GRDA shall determine that the proposed construction is needed and would not change the basic contour of the reservoir shoreline.
  - (4) The retaining wall must be constructed of stone, concrete blocks, poured concrete, or other materials acceptable to GRDA. Railroad ties, rubber tires, broken concrete (unless determined by GRDA to be of adequate size and integrity), brick, creosote timbers, and asphalt are not allowed.
  - (5) Reclamation of GRDA land that has been lost to erosion is not allowed.
  - (6) No existing retaining wall shall be repaired or rebuilt without a permit from GRDA. Repairs must be made with approved and acceptable material by GRDA.

**300:35-13-5. Penalty [REVOKED]**

**300:35-13-6. Expiration of permit**

- (a) Any project permitted pursuant to Subchapter 13 of these rules must be completed within two (2) years from either the date the permission to construct or modify is issued by GRDA or the date the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issues an order approving the action, whichever occurs later.
- (b) Prior to the expiration of the dredging permit, upon written request of the permit holder, the GRDA Board of Directors may extend the time in which such dredging activities must be completed.
- (c) If the permit expires, the permit is null and void.

**300:35-13-7. Activities within the flowage easement**

All individuals performing any activity subject to this subchapter 13 shall comply with the guidelines for flowage easements if the activity is performed within the flowage easement area.

**SUBCHAPTER 15. COMMERCIAL USE OF THE LAKES AND LANDS OF GRDA**

**300:35-15-1. Definition**

The keeping or operation of one (1) or more vessels, surfboards, aquaplanes, skis, personal watercraft or like devices, Water Jet Packs or like devices, docks, landings, anchorages, marine railways, dry docks or any concession, for pecuniary profit or gain on the water of the lakes or upon the property of GRDA, the carriage of any person, or persons, or of any goods, wares, merchandising or other freight, for a valuable consideration whether directly or indirectly flowing to the owner, charterer, operator, agent or any other person, shall be deemed commercial use of the waters and lands of GRDA and will be allowed only after a permit has been issued.

**300:35-15-2. Dock installer's permit**

(a) Any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or any other entity operating for pecuniary gain or profit or any business that, directly or indirectly, is engaged in the building, placing, transfer, demolition or removal, of piers, wharves, landings, anchorages, floating boat houses, docks, barges or other floating structures of a stationary or semi-stationary nature upon the waters of GRDA shall obtain an annual permit. Such person or entity shall not build, place, transfer, demolish or remove a pier, wharf, landing, anchorage, floating boat house, dock, barge or other floating structure of a stationary or semi-stationary nature upon the waters of GRDA until a Dock Installer's permit has been issued by GRDA.

(b) At the time a new or significantly modified dock is installed, a sign shall be prominently displayed stating the installer's name and permit number.

(c) A dock installer shall build, construct, place, transfer, demolish and remove docks in strict compliance with the plans and specifications approved by GRDA and in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, rules and building codes. All Styrofoam, trash and construction materials shall be disposed in an environmentally appropriate fashion and shall not be allowed to remain or float in the waters of GRDA. All Styrofoam, trash and construction materials shall be stored off GRDA property and above the flowage easement. No dock shall be stored on GRDA property for longer than six (6) months. GRDA property shall not be used without prior written permission. GRDA public ramps may be used for the launch of new or refurbished docks if the action does not interfere with the public's access to the water. The building of docks is prohibited on GRDA's public ramps.

(d) A dock installer's permit may be revoked at any time during the permit period for the following reasons:

- (1) Nonpayment of permit fee.
- (2) Failure to comply with current dock standards.
- (3) Installation of a dock not permitted by GRDA.
- (4) Upon three sustained complaints of the public regarding the dock installer's business practices.
- (5) Upon conviction of a felony or fraud misdemeanor crime by a court of competent jurisdiction of the owner of the dock installer business or dock installer related to the dock installer's business.

- (6) Failure to maintain insurance required by GRDA and to provide GRDA with a certificate of insurance.
- (7) Improper disposal or storage of waste and other dock materials upon GRDA property or within the flowage easement.
- (e) An application for a dock installer permit may be denied for the below reasons, including but not limited to:
  - (1) if applicant is a previously permitted dock installer who was issued a notice of violation where the violation was not remedied, and the permit was canceled by GRDA or forfeited by the dock installer.
  - (2) conviction of a felony or fraud misdemeanor crime by a court of competent jurisdiction within the past 10 years.

**300:35-15-3. Penalty for violation of dock installer’s permit [REVOKED]**

**300:35-15-4. Dredging contractor’s permit**

- (a) Any person, firm or corporation operating for pecuniary gain or profit or any business that, directly or indirectly is engaged in the performance of dredging activities or excavation operations upon the lands or waters of GRDA shall obtain an annual permit.
- (b) A dredging contractor shall not perform any activities upon the lands or waters of GRDA until a Dredging Contractor’s permit has been issued. Any such activity shall be performed and completed in accordance with GRDA requirements and in strict compliance with the application and terms and conditions of the permit.

**300:35-15-5. Penalty for violation of dredging contractor’s permit [REVOKED]**

**300:35-15-6. Commercial boat operators permit**

- (a) Any person, firm or corporation operating for pecuniary gain or profit or any business that, directly or indirectly is engaged in the performance of the carriage of any person, or persons, or of any goods, wares, merchandising or other freight, for a valuable consideration, whether directly or indirectly flowing to the owner, charterer, operator, agent or any other person, upon the lands or waters of GRDA shall obtain an annual permit.
- (b) No vessel, while carrying passengers for hire, shall be operated or navigated except in charge of a person covered by a policy of insurance that clearly covers the scope of duties resulting from such commercial enterprise.

**300:35-15-7. Penalty for violation of commercial boat operators permit [REVOKED]**

**SUBCHAPTER 17. RAW WATER PERMITS**

**300:35-17-1. Definition**

- (a) "Domestic and household use" shall mean water that is taken by the permittee in and upon his premises for all usual and ordinary household uses and purposes which shall include sprinkling and watering lawns and gardens of not to exceed three (3) acres. The term "irrigation" shall mean water that is taken in and upon the premises for the purpose of irrigating lands, crops and vegetables growing in and upon said lands by ditches, canals, sprinkling systems and such other usual and ordinary means of irrigation.

- (b) Water rights granted under these Rules and Regulations shall not be construed as the supplying or furnishing of water for domestic purposes to the public; such permits only grant the permittee the right to take and use the water as provided by these Rules and Regulations.
- (c) Commercial and Irrigation use of water requires a written contract with GRDA.

**300:35-17-2. Permit required**

The taking of and using waters of GRDA, including water from Ft. Gibson reservoir for domestic and household use shall be allowed only after an annual permit has been issued by the Grand River Dam Authority. All other uses require a written contract with GRDA.

**300:35-17-3. Irrigation billing [REVOKED]**

**300:35-17-4. Location of diversion**

The granting of such permit to take water from Grand Lake or Lake Hudson shall authorize the permittee to locate upon the lands of GRDA the facilities necessary to take such water covered by the permit; provided, the location and manner of diversion is first approved by GRDA; however, a permit for the use of water from Fort Gibson Lake shall give the permittee no permission or right to take or use any lands for any purpose whatsoever. (The lake bed and shorelands of Fort Gibson Lake are owned by the United States of America and are under the jurisdiction and control of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, District Office, Tulsa, Oklahoma.)

**300:35-17-5. Construction and maintenance**

The permittee, upon being granted a permit, shall construct and maintain all taking and diversion facilities according to plans and specifications and in a proper and safe manner that will prevent waste and loss of water and will not pollute or contaminate the lake water. All such facilities shall be subject to inspection by GRDA.

**SUBCHAPTER 19. RIGHTS OF ABUTTING LANDOWNERS**

**300:35-19-1. Abutting landowner's rights**

- (a) No permit, private or commercial, shall issue for any of the facilities described in these Rules and Regulations which would deprive the owner of land adjacent to the shoreland or lakefront or abutting thereon of any anchorage, wharf, dock, boat dock, houseboat and landing privileges.
- (b) GRDA may designate areas closed to such use where, in its opinion, such use would interfere with the health or safety of the public or with the proper conduct of GRDA's business.

**SUBCHAPTER 21. ADMINISTRATION OF RULES AND HEARINGS [REVOKED]**

**SUBCHAPTER 23. FOUR-WHEEL VEHICLES, OFF-ROAD VEHICLES AND ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES**

**300:35-23-1. Designated areas**

In the interest of public safety, there shall be no four-wheel vehicles, off-road vehicles or all terrain vehicles on GRDA lands except in designated areas. Operators of such vehicles are subject to federal and state laws and GRDA rules.

**300:35-23-2. Passengers prohibited**

Passengers are only allowed on three (3) wheelers, four (4) wheelers, or motorcycles when the manufacturer has equipped the vehicle for such passenger which includes a separate seat and foot support.

**300:35-23-3. Low gear required**

Low gear only except on trails posted at speed limits in excess of five (5) MPH.

**300:35-23-4. Racing prohibited**

No racing on GRDA property is allowed except as permitted by a sanctioned event permit.

**300:35-23-5. Lights required**

All vehicles, including motorcycles, must be equipped with a working dimmable front headlight and working rear lights if operating between one-half hour before sunset and one-half hour after sunrise. Any vehicle utilizing light bars shall turn them off upon the approach of another vehicle.

**300:35-23-6. Roll bar, helmet, and seat belt requirements**

Dune buggies and 4x4 vehicles must have a ROPS sufficient to support the weight of the vehicle and must have a seat belt for each passenger. Helmets shall be required for the driver and passenger of motorcycles, ATVs or bikes.

**300:35-23-7. No liability**

GRDA shall not be liable and hereby disclaims any responsibility for any and all injuries and accidents, up to and including death, which may occur as a result of participating in off-road activities. Each driver and passenger rides at his/her own risk and assumes all risks of the activity.

**300:35-23-8. Alcoholic beverages prohibited**

Oklahoma state law regarding alcoholic beverages shall be applicable to all Waters and Land of GRDA, including areas in which off-road activities occur, but shall not have any effect on the codified rules found in Chapter 40 of Title 300 of the Oklahoma Administrative Code.

**300:35-23-9. Signage**

Drivers shall obey all signs posted on GRDA land including areas that are off limits and speed designations.

**300:35-23-10. Penalty**

- (a) GRDA Police Officers may verbally order any person that is violating these rules to immediately exit the lands of GRDA.
- (b) Additionally, any person, after notice and opportunity to be heard in accordance with Chapter 45 of this Title, may be banned from the lands of GRDA for a period of time up to, and including, ninety (90) days.

**SUBCHAPTER 25. [RESERVED]**

**SUBCHAPTER 27. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**300:35-27-1. Scope and intent**

Shoreline vegetation protects and preserves a healthy vegetative buffer along the shoreline to maintain and enhance the natural and aesthetic resources of the GRDA lakes. Vegetation can help stabilize the shoreline, prevent erosion, and protect water quality. A natural vegetation buffer improves water quality by filtering and trapping organics and chemical pollutants. A vegetative buffer can enhance the natural appearance of the shoreline. These rules provide the objectives for maintaining GRDA Project Land.

**300:35-27-2. Applicability**

(a) This subchapter governs vegetation management activity on GRDA Project Land only, and is not applicable on land not owned by GRDA or GRDA owned land that is not Project Land. "Project Land" means the land and other natural resources owned by GRDA that fall within the project boundary identified in the FERC licenses for the Pensacola Project, the Markham Ferry Project, and the W.R. Holway Project.

(b) Except as otherwise provided for in these rules, no person may engage in any vegetation management activity on GRDA Project Land without first obtaining a permit from GRDA. "Vegetation Management Activity" means any activity that results in or is intended to result in the alteration of the existing physical landscape of Project Land. It includes the trimming, cutting, pruning, mowing, planting or removal of any tree, shrub or other vegetation.

(c) Floating debris, driftwood, downed limbs/branches, litter, and trash may be removed from GRDA Project Land at any time and does not require GRDA approval, provided the method of removal complies with these rules.

(d) This subchapter does not apply to utility providers possessing an easement on Project Land. "Utility providers" includes, but is not limited to, public service companies, municipal utilities, electric companies and cooperatives, telecommunication companies, and rural water districts.

**300:35-27-3. Permits**

(a) Individuals or entities wishing to engage in a Vegetation Management Activity are required to apply for and obtain a permit from the GRDA Office of Ecosystems Management before conducting any such activities.

(b) In order to be eligible to apply for a permit, an individual or entity must be the owner of the land adjacent to the GRDA land for which the permit is sought. If an applicant is not the adjacent landowner, the landowner must consent to the application.

(c) GRDA will consider applications to allow the removal of trees, shrubs, and vegetation for certain conditions and purposes including:

- (1) Hazardous trees which pose substantial risk to the public, adjacent property, or properly permitted structures on Project Land.
- (2) Trees, shrubs, and vegetation which are dead, dying, or diseased.
- (3) Trees, shrubs, and vegetation considered to be an invasive or noxious species by the Office of Ecosystems Management.

- (4) Trees, shrubs, and vegetation which may contribute to unsafe conditions by creating visibility problems (sight line) near waterways, roadways, trails, paths, or other access points, provided nothing in this section shall allow removal of vegetation to improve views of docks from land.
  - (5) Trees that are crowded from natural competition or that were overplanted may be selectively removed to maintain spacing for optimal tree growth and function.
  - (6) Trees, shrubs, and vegetation may be selectively removed to create and maintain an access corridor between an adjacent landowner's property and the shoreline. Corridors must consist of natural materials such as native grass, wood chips, or gravel/crushed rock. Placement of such must not involve earth moving or soil disturbance and must minimize ground disturbance and vegetation removal.
  - (7) Trees, shrubs, and vegetation may be selectively removed when necessary to facilitate another permitted use of Project Land.
  - (8) Trees, shrubs, and vegetation may be selectively removed for the creation and/or maintenance of a manicured lawn or for general landscaping purposes.
- (d) GRDA will consider applications to allow the pruning or trimming of trees, shrubs, and vegetation for certain conditions and purposes including:
- (1) Hazardous sections which pose substantial risk to the public, adjacent property, or properly permitted structures on Project Land.
  - (2) Dead, dying, or diseased sections to improve appearance and health.
  - (3) Pruning of trees for crown cleaning, crown thinning, and crown restoration.
  - (4) Pruning of trees, shrubs and vegetation to enhance the view of the lake.
  - (5) Pruning or trimming of trees, shrubs and vegetation for the creation and/or maintenance of a manicured lawn or for general landscaping purposes.
- (e) GRDA will consider applications to allow for other Vegetation Management Activities including:
- (1) Landscape plantings.
  - (2) Removal or pruning for public utility easements.
  - (3) Planting, removal, or pruning for shoreline stabilization purposes.
- (f) In determining whether to grant a permit, the following will be considered and weighed as appropriate:
- (1) Current permitted uses in the surrounding area.
  - (2) The aesthetic and biological impacts of pruning or removal on the vegetation.
  - (3) The potential for replacement with more desirable vegetation.
  - (4) The potential impacts on the aesthetic quality of the surrounding area, with consideration given to the views from the land and from the water.
  - (5) Potential environmental impacts on soils, shoreline/slope stability, water quality, and wildlife habitat.
  - (6) Special consideration for unique varieties, vegetation of great age, rare vegetation, or vegetation of horticultural or historical significance.
  - (7) Special consideration for native vegetation in undeveloped landscapes.
- (g) Permit applications shall be subject to the following actions:
- (1) Approved as submitted.
  - (2) Approved with modifications/conditions. Examples of modifications or conditions that may be placed on a permit include limiting the allowed activities,

requiring activities be performed in a specific manner to minimize impact, and requiring mitigation or other enhancement measures.

(3) Rejected.

(h) Permits shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance and all Vegetation Management Activity authorized must be completed within that period.

(i) No permit shall be required for a utility provider possessing an easement on Project Land to perform Vegetation Management Activities necessary to exercise its rights pursuant to that easement.

### **300:35-27-4. Vegetation management**

(a) The following acts are prohibited on GRDA Project Land:

(1) Herbicides shall not be used for control/removal of vegetation.

(2) Only environmentally approved pesticides labelled for use around water shall be applied on GRDA land.

(3) The sale of any tree or other vegetation that is removed or cut is prohibited.

(4) Fertilizers shall not be applied on GRDA land.

(5) Vegetable gardens are prohibited on GRDA land.

(6) The introduction or planting of invasive plant species is prohibited on GRDA Project Lands.

(7) Any Vegetation Management Activity that results in significant soil disturbance is prohibited.

(b) Machinery or equipment may be used to accomplish a permitted Vegetation Management Activity, subject to the following:

(1) Unless prohibited by GRDA, the following may be used in the performance of permitted activities:

(A) Hand-held tools including chainsaws and brush cutters.

(B) Mechanized equipment with a maximum power output not greater than 30 horsepower (hp), provided the use does not result in the unauthorized movement of soil, rocks, or existing live vegetation.

(2) The use of machinery with a maximum power output greater than 30 hp may be allowed with prior express approval from GRDA.

(3) All mechanized equipment used on GRDA lands shall have rubber wheels or rubber tracks unless previously approved by GRDA.

### **300:35-27-5. Waivers**

Since every possible situation cannot be anticipated, GRDA reserves the absolute discretion to make appropriate exceptions or modifications to the Vegetation Management Plan and the requirements of same. GRDA may impose additional requirements, including the requirements that the permit holder provide a survey to verify the permitted activity was completed in conformance with GRDA requirements.

### **300:35-27-6. FERC approval**

In accordance with its licenses with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), GRDA may only permit incidental vegetation disturbance and removal. Therefore, in certain instances an application for a permit to remove vegetation must be approved by both GRDA and FERC. GRDA reserves the right to request FERC to approve any application for a permit.



**300:35-27-7. Penalties**

After notice and an opportunity to be heard in accordance with Chapter 45 of this Title, a permit issued pursuant to these rules may be suspended or revoked by GRDA upon a finding that the permit holder has violated any rule provided for herein. Additionally, the holder of the permit may be assessed costs which may include expenses necessary for the reclamation, restoration, and/or clean-up of GRDA land and waters and any other fee, penalty or fine as authorized by statute.

**300:35-27-8. General permits for natural disasters and other emergencies**

In the event a natural disaster or other emergency situation causes significant vegetation damage or debris accumulation within the project boundary to the extent that site specific permitting is impractical or would result in undue delay, the Chief Executive Officer may issue a general vegetation permit governing all management activities within an affected area in lieu of requiring site specific permits. A general permit shall clearly identify the scope of allowed activities, the areas in which the permit is applicable, and the period of time for which the permit is valid.

**SUBCHAPTER 29. SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

**300:35-29-1. Enforcement of the Shoreline Management Plan**

Any and all activities occurring upon GRDA land encompassed within GRDA's federal hydropower licenses issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) shall be in accordance with the Shoreline Management Plan. A violation of the Shoreline Management Plan shall be subject to a fee, penalty or fine as authorized by statute.

**SUBCHAPTER 30. FLOWAGE EASEMENTS**

**300:35-30-1. Lands subject to flowage easements**

GRDA owns the flowage easement rights for Grand Lake and Lake Hudson. Prior to initiation of activity to occur on lake property owned by a party other than GRDA, the landowner should consult their abstract of title, or the county land records to determine if their property is subject to a flowage easement. If the property is subject to a flowage easement, the landowner shall consult with GRDA regarding what activities may or may not occur on the land subject to the flowage easement.