



Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: Special Boating Rule (58CSR26)

1 message

Comment

Wed, Jul 23, 2025 at 2:16 PM

To: curtross



Good Afternoon Mr. Ross,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comment in support of the change will be recorded for public record.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF BRETT MCMILLION

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112 California Avenue | Charleston, WV 25305

WVdnr.gov

WEST VIRGINIA



On Sun, Jul 6, 2025 at 7:36 PM curtross



I am in favor of the proposed changes.

Curtis Ross





Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: 58CSR26 Special Boating Rule

1 message

Comments, DNR

Wed, Jul 23, 2025 at 2:23 PM

To: Matt Abruzzino

Good Afternoon Mr. Abruzzino,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comment in opposition of the proposed changes will be reviewed by the agency and recorded for public record.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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WV DNR

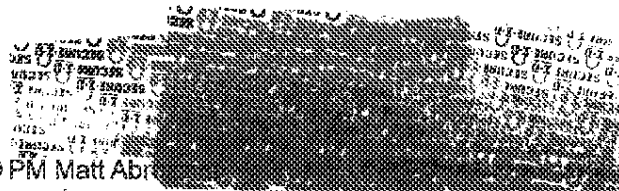


On Sun, Jul 6, 2025 at 8:00 PM Matt Abruzzino

I do not support any changes that are proposed to the b bodies of water.

The proposed updates cannot be supported and enforced by the under staffed dnr officers and people will abuse the hp limit upgrade . These bodies of water are not pleasure boating lakes and provide many people the opportunity to fish and hunt from a boat without the worry of pleasure boaters. These bodies of water are the few places people can go from Memorial Day to Labor Day and not dodge boat traffic for fishing, kayaking, canoeing, bird watching etc.

Sent from my iPhone





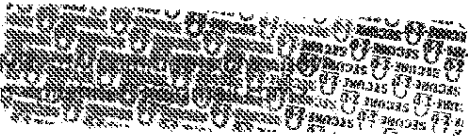
Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: Limited horsepower lakes

1 message

Comments, DNR
To: Tim toolman

Wed, Jul 23, 2025 at 2:25 PM



Good Afternoon Tim,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comment in opposition of the proposed changes will be reviewed by the agency and recorded for public record.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
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On Sun, Jul 6, 2025 at 10:23 PM Tim toolman

I am absolutely against changing the rule on the horsepower limit on the 10 horsepower lakes. Everybody knows there are not enough DNR officers to enforce this law daily(and it will be broken daily) In a perfect world this would be fine but in this day and age if you let them fire up the larger motors they will push the envelope past the law every time.



Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: Stonecoal lake

1 message

Comments, DNR
To: Mitchell Blake



Wed, Jul 23, 2025 at 2:27 PM

Good Afternoon Mr. Blake,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comment in opposition of the proposed changes will be reviewed by the agency and recorded for public record.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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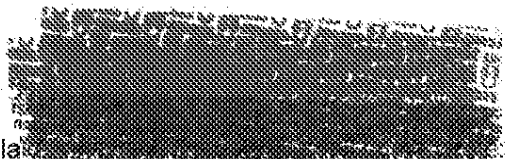
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WEST VIRGINIA



On Mon, Jul 7, 2025 at 7:59 AM Mitchell Blake

Good morning...wanting to voice the opinion for the motor limit on the lake. I am part of stonecoal lake fishing club, have lived and fished it my whole life. Changing the hp restriction will change the lake forever. There is not enough staff to keep bigger hp boats honest....and being part of the club we all want to preserve it as a fisherery. Not recreational. We are working on getting signatures together for a true count for those against the change. Thanks so much ~Mitch



Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: Special Boating Rules

1 message

Comments, DNR
To: "Webb, Eddie"

Wed, Jul 23, 2025 at 2:47 PM

Good Afternoon Mr. Webb,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Beech Fork Lake is an impoundment under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Any horsepower changes on that body of water would have to be approved by that authority prior to the DNR being able to make a change in this rule. The agency is actively working to address this subject with the USACE. Your comment will be recorded for public record.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
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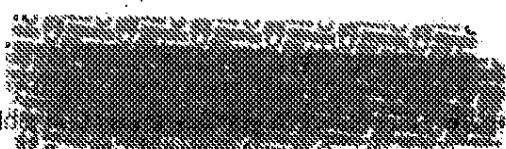
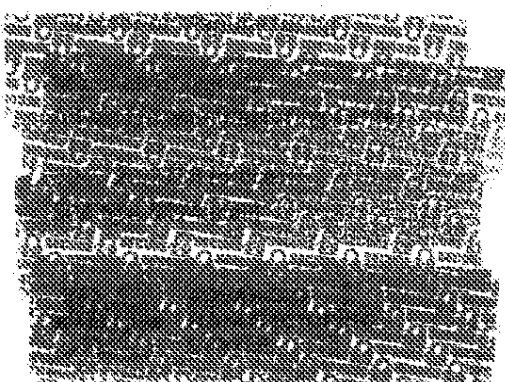
WEST VIRGINIA



On Mon, Jul 7, 2025 at 8:37 AM Webb, Eddie

Why Exclude Beech Fork from the limited HP changes. The idle only works great at Upper Mud and lets everyone enjoy the lake.

Eddie Webb





Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: 10 hp limit

1 message

Comments

Wed, Jul 23, 2025 at 2:48 PM

To: Timothy

Good Afternoon Mr. Rhodes,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comment will be recorded for public record.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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WEST VIRGINIA



On Mon, Jul 7, 2025 at 9:21 AM Timothy

I would like to see the law to change that u could use a motor over 10hp at no wake speed.

Sent from my iPhone



Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: Proposed Rule Change_Stonecoal Lake

1 message

Comments, DNR
To: Adam Simms

Wed, Jul 23, 2025 at 3:09 PM

Good Afternoon Mr. Simms,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comment in opposition of the proposed changes will be reviewed by the agency and recorded for public record.

In case you are unaware, I want to pass along some information about the Upper Mud Lake. The Upper Mud Lake has been under the same regulation - motorboats with motors greater than 10hp being required to operate at no wake speed since 2021 - with positive results.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
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WEST VIRGINIA

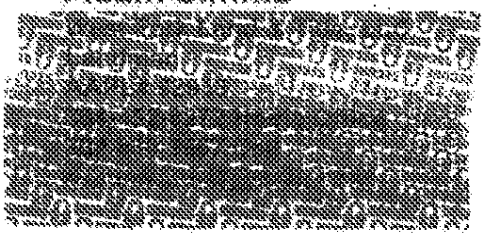


On Mon, Jul 7, 2025 at 12:01 PM Adam Simms

Hello, I am writing this email to oppose the rule change of the horsepower limit on Stonecoal Lake. I believe allowing boats with motors greater than 10HP, even if they are not supposed to create wake, would certainly lead to an abuse of the rules when no game wardens are present. Stonecoal is a wonderful lake for small boats and kayaks and is a great lake to fish when trying to escape from the hustle and bustle of the larger lakes such as Stonewall Jackson and Burnsville. I feel the rule changes would ruin this lake for the majority of people currently using it.

Thank you for your consideration,

Adam Simms





Comments, DNR <dnrc@comments@wv.gov>

Re: Comments on proposed 58csr26

1 message

Comment

To: "J.T. Hatcher"

Wed, Jul 23, 2025 at 3:14 PM

Good Afternoon Mr. Hatcher,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comment in opposition of the proposed changes will be reviewed by the agency and recorded for public record.

I do want to clarify for your information, the agency isn't proposing a removal of all restrictions on motorboats with motors larger than 10hp. The proposed rule change permits motorboats to have motors of larger than 10hp on the lake, however, they may only operate at a no wake speed.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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WEST VIRGINIA



On Wed, Jul 9, 2025 at 4:53 PM J.T. Hatcher

ATTN: Wendy Greene
112 California Avenue
Charleston WV 25305



Ms. Greene

My name is J,T, Hatcher and I live at 1302 Lone Oak Road Cottageville WV 25239. I am concerned with the proposed removal of the maximum horsepower limit on the Jackson County Lakes of O'Brien and Woodrum.

I am a native of Jackson County and remember when these lakes were built, and have fished them for many years. These lakes were built to prevent the possibility of flooding. They were also built with recreation in mind so boat ramps were added to the lake. I know that neither of these lakes have enough open water to safely employ

large power motors and high speed. Removing the 10 horsepower restriction is not a good option.

I am sure that if allowed, most bass fishermen would not abuse the new law and probably would not have an issue. But within a short amount of time others who don't even fish will be utilizing this new open waterway for pleasure boating. These lakes are not big enough to pull tubes and or skiers without someone getting hurt or killed. True fishermen will tell you how they feel when someone doesn't obey a No Wake Zone and as small as these lakes are there will be no way to avoid a massive wave created by a large high power boat.

Please take some time and consider the fishermen you will displace and the liability you will create.

Thank You
J.T. Hatcher



Good Afternoon Mr. Hackworth,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comment in support of the change will be recorded for public record.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF BRETT MCMILLION

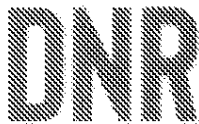
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WVDnr.gov

WEST VIRGINIA



On Thu, Jul 10, 2025 at 7:20 PM K
Hello, Ms. Greene.

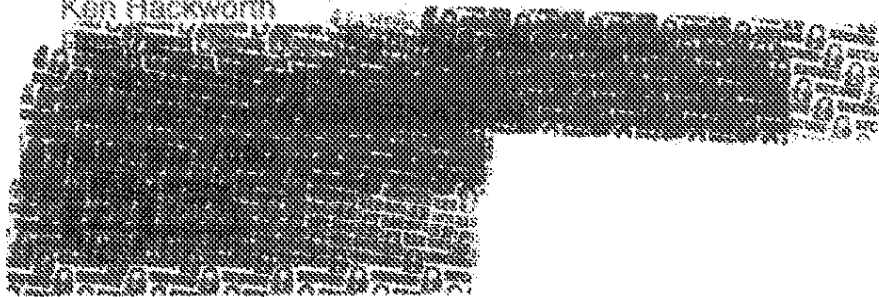
Currently, all boats up to a max of 10hp can run wide open at the 6 impoundments listed in this proposed rule. I'm 100% in favor of eliminating this 10hp-max restriction and adopting a "NO WAKE" rule for all watercraft at these locations. I urge our WVDNR to adopt Special Boating Rule 58CSR26.

Thank you and I appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Ken Hackworth





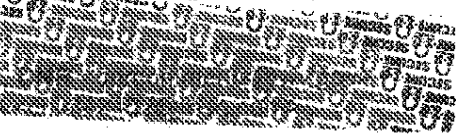
Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: Special Boating Rule (58CSR26)

1 message

Comments

To: K W B



Wed, Jul 23, 2025 at 3:16 PM



Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: Special Boating Rule 58CSR26

1 message

Comment

To: corey

Wed, Jul 23, 2025 at 3:17 PM

Good Afternoon Corey,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Beech Fork Lake is an impoundment under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Any horsepower changes on that body of water would have to be approved by that authority prior to the DNR being able to make a change in this rule. The agency is actively working to address this subject with the USACE. Your comment will be recorded for public record.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF BRETT McMILLION

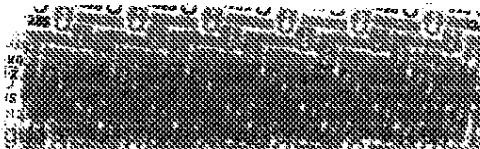
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WEST VIRGINIA



On Fri, Jul 11, 2025 at 11:55 AM corey

I wish this rule would include the biggest 10hp restricted lake in the state. That lake would be Beech Fork just outside Huntington, Wv. The lake is just over 700 acres of water. This restriction keeps majority of the population or out staters from enjoying the lake. Currently, all boats up to a max of 10hp can run wide open at the impoundments mentioned in the bill and also the lake stated above.

I'm 100% in favor of eliminating the 10hp-max restriction and adopting a "NO WAKE" rule for all watercraft. I am in favor of Special Boating Rule 58CSR26. Thanks in advance, Corey Gue -Vice President of Mountaineer Bassmasters out of Barboursville, Wv.

Sent from my iPhone



Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: In Favor of Special Boating Rule 58CSR26

1 message

Comments

Wed, Jul 23, 2025 at 3:52 PM

To: Ben Nowalk

Good Afternoon Mr. Nowalk,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Beech Fork Lake is an impoundment under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Any horsepower changes on that body of water would have to be approved by that authority prior to the DNR being able to make a change in this rule. The agency is actively working to address this subject with the USACE. Your comment in support of the proposed rule change will be recorded for public record.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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ph (304) 556-2754 | fax (304) 556-2769

cell (681) 341-9725 | Wendy.L.Greene@wv.gov

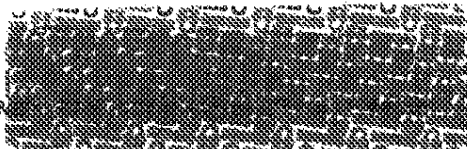
112 California Avenue | Charleston, WV 25305

WVdnr.gov

WEST VIRGINIA



On Fri, Jul 11, 2025 at 12:08 PM Ben Nowalk



I am writing to say that I am in favor this new rule Special Boating Rule 58CSR26! Please let that happen at Beech Fork Lake as well in Wayne County!

Thank You!
Ben



Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: HP limit change

1 message

Comments

To: Rob Somerville

Wed, Jul 23, 2025 at 3:54 PM

Good Afternoon Mr. Somerville,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comment in support of the change will be recorded for public record.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF BRETT McMILLION

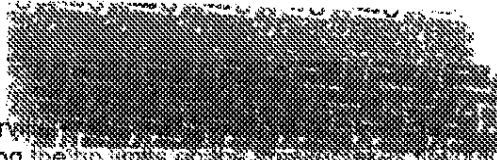
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WVdnr.gov

WEST VIRGINIA



On Sat, Jul 12, 2025 at 4:48 PM Rob Somerville

I would like to say I am in favor of changing the hp limits on boats. It would be much easier to have idle speed and use the trolling motor when needed. It can really drain the battery with a days fishing and making the lakes no wake and idle only would make for a better experience .



Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: Horsepower limits

1 message

Comments

Wed, Jul 23, 2025 at 3:58 PM

To: johntrun

Good Afternoon Mr. Trunk,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comments on the proposed changes will be reviewed by the agency and recorded for public record.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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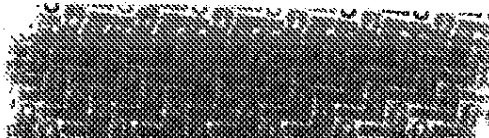
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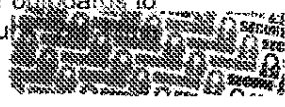
WVdnr.gov

WEST VIRGINIA



On Sun, Jul 13, 2025 at 6:34

As regards the horsepower limit for boats on state managed lakes: I believe it is discriminatory to allow boaters with up to 10 horsepower motors to run full speed and create wakes on these lakes while not allowing boaters with larger motors to use their engines at all. I think a much better option, one that would be fair to all recreational fishermen and boaters, would be to eliminate the horsepower limit altogether and make all these lakes no wake. Then all fishermen could idle around to any place on the lakes to fish and boaters with larger (>10hp) motors could use their outboards to facilitate loading their heavier boats back onto the water. Thank you for considering my request. John Trun





Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: 58CSR26

1 message
Comment
To: Brett Adelman

Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 9:59 AM

Good Morning Mr. Adelman,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comment in opposition of the proposed changes will be reviewed by the agency and recorded for public record.

In case you are unaware, I want to pass along some information about the Upper Mud Lake. The Upper Mud Lake has been under the same regulation - motorboats with motors greater than 10hp being required to operate at no wake speed since 2021 - with positive results.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
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112 California Avenue | Charleston, WV 25305
WVDnr.gov



On Sat, Jul 19, 2025 at 9:09 AM Brett Adelman
To the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed removal of horsepower limits on six bodies of water in West Virginia, particularly Stonecoal Lake. As a regular visitor and supporter of responsible outdoor recreation, I believe that maintaining the current 10-horsepower limit on Stonecoal Lake is essential to preserving its unique character, public safety, and ecological balance.

Stonecoal Lake is a peaceful and serene body of water, valued by anglers, kayakers, canoeists, and others seeking quiet, low-impact recreation. The current 10-horsepower limit helps ensure a tranquil environment, minimizes shoreline erosion, and protects wildlife habitats. Increasing the allowable horsepower would not only disrupt the natural quiet of the lake but also increase the risks of accidents and user conflicts.

It is also important to note that Stonewall Jackson Lake, located just minutes away, is already available for those with higher-powered boats. This makes it unnecessary to alter the longstanding regulations at Stonecoal Lake, which has served as a vital low-impact recreational area for many years.

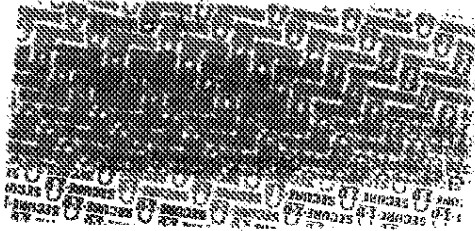
One of the most pressing concerns is the current lack of law enforcement presence on Stonccoal Lake. Even under the current regulations, enforcement of boating laws, including wake restrictions, is minimal. If horsepower limits are lifted, it is highly likely that some users will disregard no-wake zones and speed limits, creating dangerous conditions for paddlers and anglers, as well as increased noise and water pollution.

I urge the Division to maintain the current horsepower restrictions on Stonccoal Lake and to recognize the importance of preserving diverse recreational opportunities across the state. Not every lake should be open to high-speed boating, and Stonccoal Lake is a rare and valuable example of a low-horsepower, peaceful setting that should be protected.

Thank you for considering this input as part of the public comment process.

Respectfully,

Brett Adelman





Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: 58CSR26

1 message

Comments

To: sphan@wv.gov

Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Good Morning Mr. Harlow,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comment in opposition of the proposed changes will be reviewed by the agency and recorded for public record.

In case you are unaware, I want to pass along some information about the Upper Mud Lake. The Upper Mud Lake has been under the same regulation - motorboats with motors greater than 10hp being required to operate at no wake speed since 2021 - with positive results.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
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cell: (888) 341-9725 | Wendy.L.Green@wv.gov

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WVDNR.gov

WEST VIRGINIA



On Sat, Jul 19, 2025 at 10:23 AM Stephen Harlow

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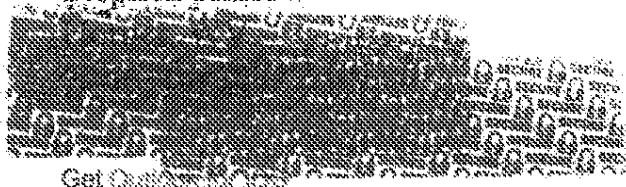
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I urge the Division to maintain the current horsepower restrictions on Stonecoal Lake and to recognize the importance of preserving diverse recreational opportunities across the state. Not every lake should be open to high-speed boating, and Stonecoal Lake is a rare and valuable example of a low-horsepower, peaceful setting that should be protected.

Thank you for considering this input as part of the public comment process.

Respectfully,
Stephen Harlow





Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: Attention Wendy Greene Special Boating Rule (58CSR26)

1 message

Comment

To: Jason Drummond

Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 10:04 AM

Good Morning Jason and Melissa,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comments in opposition of the proposed changes will be reviewed by the agency and recorded for public record.

In case you are unaware, I want to pass along some information about the Upper Mud Lake. The Upper Mud Lake has been under the same regulation - motorboats with motors greater than 10hp being required to operate at no wake speed since 2021 - with positive results.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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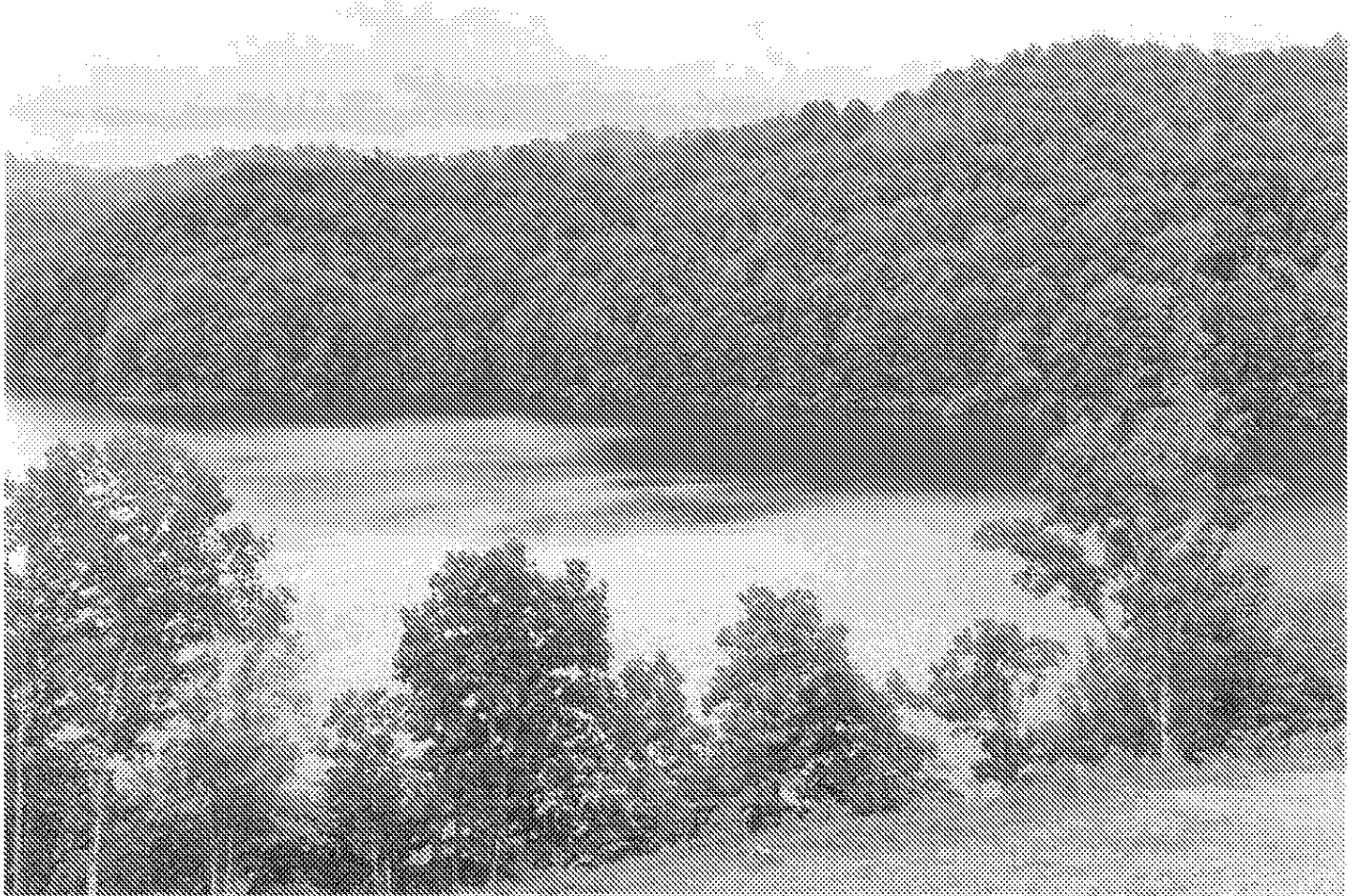
On Sat, Jul 19, 2025 at 12:35 PM Jason Drummond

Wendy Greene,

I am taking time to express my extreme concerns regarding the boating changes which is being proposed on Stonecoal Lake. I live around the lake and witness daily several families fishing, canoeing and paddleboarding on this lake. Probably the best in the state!! Examples on very nice days multiple families are paddleboarding and canoeing all around the lake. Several clubs come to this lake just for that. I am also aware of several small fishing clubs that fish on this lake with their small boats and a 9.9 Horsepower motor. I am sorry for my confusion about this proposal on why this lake needs to have larger motors on it. People chose Stonecoal Lake to do Kayaking, canoeing and fishing because it is so much safer than Stonewall Jackson Lake which is literally 10 minutes down the road and has unlimited horsepower. Also, I want to encourage you to visit both Stonewall Jackson Lake and Stonecoal Lake (The Emerald Lake) and you can clearly see the difference in the lakes as to which has unlimited horsepower and which one does not. The waters come out of the same region and same hills. However, one lake stays milky (muddy) all the time, and the other lake stays Emerald Green, clearly a major difference. Our society cannot even follow the simplest of laws like speeding, texting and driving, or even seatbelt laws. So, no expectations of a boater with a large motor in the water following the rules and with the limited amount of DNR officers, it would not be followed. I am a very big believer in visiting and seeing with your own eyes of what can and probably would happen to the Emerald Lake. You have the ability and power to visit and see to make a clear judgment before making any decisions that could destroy the Emerald Lake of West Virginia! So please take the time and take a 2-hour trip to see the Emerald Lake in our beautiful Lewis County. Then you would clearly understand why this is the area's most peaceful and beautiful lake.

Again, if you would like to see this little lake in all its glory feel free to reach out to me. Attached is a picture of the (Emerald Lake) that we love so much!! With all the respect of the DNR and love for this great state, which I have been born and raised in, please let this lake stay as it is (The Emerald Green

Lake)! Let the families and everyone continue to do canoeing, paddle boarding and small lake fishing in a SAFE, pristine and beautiful environment in which it has been for decades.



Sincerely and all the respect of the DNR,

Jason and Melinda Drummond



Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: 58C5R26

1 message
Comment
To: pamela

Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 11:54 AM

Good Morning Ms. CapoBianco,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comment in opposition of the proposed changes will be reviewed by the agency and recorded for public record.

In case you are unaware, I want to pass along some information about the Upper Mud Lake. The Upper Mud Lake has been under the same regulation - motorboats with motors greater than 10hp being required to operate at no wake speed since 2021 - with positive results.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF BRETT MCMILLION
ph (304) 558-2754 | fax (304) 558-2768
cell (681) 341- 9725 | Wendy.L.Greene@wv.gov
112 California Avenue | Charleston, WV 25305
WVdnr.gov



On Sat, Jul 19, 2025 at 1:33 PM pamela
To West Virginia Division of Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed removal of horsepower limits on six bodies of water in West Virginia, particularly Stonecoal Lake. As a homeowner at Stonecoal lake and supporter of responsible outdoor recreation, I believe that maintaining the current 10-horsepower limit on Stonccoal Lake is essential to preserving its unique character, public safety, and ecological balance.

Stonecoal Lake is a peaceful and serene body of water, valued by anglers, kayakers, canoeists, and others seeking quiet, low-impact recreation. The current 10-horsepower limit helps ensure a tranquil environment, minimizes shoreline erosion, and protects wildlife habitats. Increasing the allowable horsepower would not only disrupt the natural quiet of the lake but also increase the risks of accidents and user conflicts.

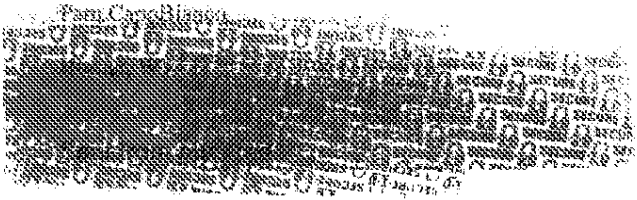
It is also important to note that Stonewall Jackson Lake, located just minutes away, is already available for those with higher-powered boats. This makes it unnecessary to alter the longstanding regulations at Stonecoal Lake, which has served as a vital low-impact recreational area for many years.

One of the most pressing concerns is the current lack of law enforcement presence on Stonecoal Lake. Even under the current regulations, enforcement of boating laws, including wake restrictions, is minimal. If horsepower limits are lifted, it is highly likely that some users will disregard no-wake zones and speed limits, creating dangerous conditions for paddlers and anglers, as well as increased noise and water pollution.

I urge the Division to maintain the current horsepower restrictions on Stonecoal Lake and to recognize the importance of preserving diverse recreational opportunities across the state. Not every lake should be open to high-speed boating, and Stonecoal Lake is a rare and valuable example of a low-horsepower, peaceful setting that should be protected.

Thank you for considering this input as part of the public comment process.

Respectfully,





Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

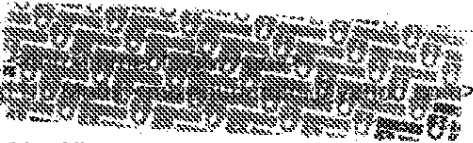
Re: Stonecoal Lake

1 message

Comments, DNR

Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 12:02 PM

To: Sarah at Mixed Up



Good Afternoon Ms. Allstott,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comment in opposition of the proposed changes will be reviewed by the agency and recorded for public record.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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WEST VIRGINIA



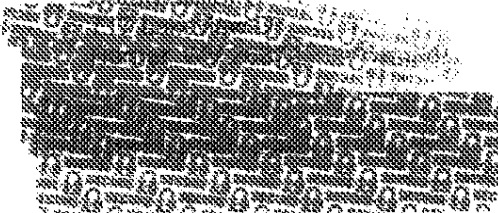
On Sat, Jul 19, 2025 at 4:16 PM Sarah at Mixed Up Mu

The thing that makes the lake so special is its quiet and serenity. It's a very unusual thing these days to find a body of water where there is no loud engine noise and people buzzing around on jet skis or high powered boats. I understand that the proposed change in policy calls for no wake, but if someone has a large motor, there's a chance they will rev it up.

I think what keeps the lake quiet is the hp limit. I hope that you do not change the policy.

Sincerely,

Sarah Allstott





Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: Stonecoal lake horsepower limit

1 message
Comments
To: David

Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 12:03 PM

Good Afternoon Mr. Riddle,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comment in opposition of the proposed changes will be reviewed by the agency and recorded for public record.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
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WEST VIRGINIA



On Sat, Jul 19, 2025 at 9:39 PM David Riddle
In regards to the horsepower limit at least on stonecoal lake in Lewis county I think it would be in the best interest of the lake to leave it as is.



Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: Special boating rule

1 message

Comments

To: Chris Hughart

Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 12:05 PM

Good Afternoon Mr. Hughart,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comment in opposition of the proposed changes will be reviewed by the agency and recorded for public record.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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WEST VIRGINIA



On Tue, Jul 22, 2025 at 2:11 PM, Chris Hughart <chughart@wv.gov> wrote:

From: Chris Hughart

Date: July 22, 2025 at 1:37:46 PM EDT

I have lived in the Ripley w.v area for over twenty years and I have fished these lakes for just about as long. The last several years the lakes have grown in popularity with most weekends from spring to fall being overcrowded as is with these lakes only being a few hundred acres and even less of that being prime fishing waters. So I believe with this rule change we are going to take already over pressured lake and make it worse. Not to mention the pleasure boaters that live close to these lakes will be there also. These lakes offer a special opportunity for the people with the smaller boats and kayaks to experience what great fishing w.v has to offer without being over powered by the larger boats that already have endless opportunities to fish with the larger lakes and rivers in the state.

So that's my opinion I vote NO! on the Repeal of the existing rule



Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: 5CSR26 Response to Boating Limitations

1 message

Comment
To: CeCe Garrison
Cc: CeCe Garrison

Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 1:30 PM

Good Afternoon Ms. Garrison,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules. Your comments in opposition of the proposed changes will be reviewed by the agency and recorded for public record.

I would like to take a moment to touch base on some of your specific issues, the most relevant being that although the limitation on horsepower on the lake would be lifted, it does not permit the use of those larger motors at higher speeds. Motorboats of greater than 10hp may only operate at no wake speed. Given that restriction, your concerns regarding safety and potential environmental degradation should be mitigated. The earth dam you referenced is subject to the regulation and supervision requirements of the WV Dam Control and Safety Act. As no wake will be created, no additional erosion of the dam is anticipated. I also wanted to let you know that the Upper Mud Lake has been under the same regulation - motorboats with motors greater than 10hp being required to operate at no wake speed since 2021 - with positive results. The Division of Natural Resources Natural Resources Police take their responsibility to promote safe boating practices very seriously, as well as their responsibility to conduct patrols and enforce regulations. That will not change with any change to regulations.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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📧 (681) 341-9725 | Wendy.L.Greene@dnr.gov

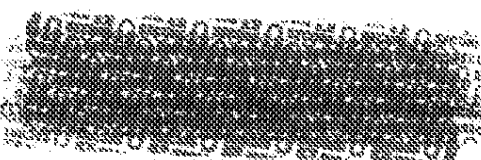
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WEST VIRGINIA



On Wed, Jul 23, 2025 at 11:02 PM CeCe Garrison
Dear Wendy Greene,



This email expresses strong opposition to the proposed increase in boating horsepower limitations to the Stonecoal Lake waterway which narrowly spans across Lewis and Upshur Counties

While acknowledging the desire for higher speeds and performance by some boaters, this proposal carries substantial risks and drawbacks that threaten the safety of all water users, the health of our aquatic ecosystems, the overall enjoyment of our shared waterway, and most importantly the earth dam that supports this waterway in Lewis County. The proposed horsepower regulation mentions the use of no-wake

bouys and posted signs. I would like to go on record making the DNR aware that Stonecoal Lake waterway does not have any postings or buoys regarding safety, wake zones; only no swimming bouys.

In the proposal there is mention of no economical impact or expense, this is false. The cost WV DNR will spend to purchase, install, educate, and increase patrolling efforts, will be a large expense to DNR that is not being recognized.

1. Earth Dam

Stonecoal Lake waterway is contained by an earth dam in Lewis County at the end of Spillway Road. The soil type in this region of West Virginia is well-known for slipping and being unstable. Any damage or erosion to this earth dam would be catastrophic to the town of Weston, WV. Should the earth dam fail, thousands of lives, homes, businesses as well as I-79 will be obliterated.

2. Safety Concerns

- **Increased Risk of Accidents:** Higher speeds reduce a boat operator's reaction time and increase stopping distances, making collisions with other vessels, objects, and swimmers more likely. Excessive speeds can also lead to boats becoming unstable, particularly in congested areas or during turns, increasing the risk of capsizing or passengers being thrown overboard. In fact, speeding is a frequent contributor to boating accidents. Stonecoal Lake waterway is narrow, reducing the space and distance a boater can safely operate at a higher speed.
- **Reduced Maneuverability:** Higher horsepower can compromise a boat's maneuverability, especially at higher speeds, making it harder to navigate busy waterways, avoid obstacles, or respond to sudden changes in conditions. Again, Stonecoal Lake waterway is narrow, reducing the distance for higher speed boating.
- **Challenges for Inexperienced Operators:** Increased horsepower requires greater skill and experience to operate safely. More powerful boats may be attractive to less experienced individuals, who could be more prone to accidents due to lack of training or understanding of safe operation practices. States like Oregon and South Carolina have even implemented mandatory boating safety courses for operating boats exceeding 10 horsepower, recognizing the link between horsepower and accidents. What has WV done?

3. Environmental impact

- **Shoreline Erosion and Habitat Degradation:** Larger wakes generated by higher horsepower boats contribute significantly to shoreline erosion, particularly in narrow or shallow waterways. I must state again, Stonecoal Lake waterway is too narrow for higher speed boating. The waves generated by boat wakes can be around a foot high or more and cause shoreline erosion and loss of vegetation. Research shows that boat wakes are a significant factor in shoreline erosion, even more so than wind waves in some areas, potentially contributing to marsh loss and disrupting faunal communities. Again, the soil in this region slips and unstable. The shoreline of Stonecoal Lake has a community of homes to the East that will be greatly impacted by any

shoreline erosion. And we can't miss an opportunity to express the importance of the earth dam's integrity; disruption to this earth dam is not an concern that the WV DNR should ignore.

- **Water Quality Degradation:** Boat wakes and propeller turbulence can re-suspend bottom sediments, increasing water turbidity and reducing light penetration, impacting submerged aquatic plant growth and aquatic life. This sediment disturbance can also release stored nutrients like phosphorus, fueling algal blooms and further degrading water quality. Studies have shown that turbidity in lakes with motorboat activity increases over the summer months, likely due to sediment disturbance. Stonecoal Lake waterway was once a town with natural gas lines, disturbance to any sediment of these gas lines could pollute the vegetation or enjoyment of this waterway.
- **Impact on Aquatic Ecosystems:** Increased turbidity can smother small fish and invertebrates, while the destruction of aquatic plants negatively affects the ecosystem's food webs and shoreline stabilization. Boat wakes also present a variety of stressors to aquatic organisms, including noise, chemical pollutants, and direct physical harm.

3. Impact on the boating experience

- **Reduced Enjoyment for Other Water Users:** Excessive speeds and large wakes from high-horsepower boats can negatively impact other recreational activities such as kayaking, paddleboarding, fishing, and simply enjoying a quiet day on the water.
- **Noise Pollution:** Higher horsepower engines often generate more noise, disrupting the tranquility of the waterway for all users.

4. Infrastructure and economic consideration

Potential Economic Disruption: While proponents may argue for economic benefits, the potential for increased accidents on a waterway that is not patrolled or monitored, damage to property, and negative impacts on other boating activities could create a negative economic ripple effect on tourism and recreational industries could create a negative economic ripple effect on the tourism and recreational industries on a healthy and safe waterway environment,

In conclusion, the potential for increased accidents, environmental degradation, and reduced enjoyment for all water users outweighs any perceived benefits of increasing boating horsepower limitations. Maintaining or strengthening existing regulations is urged to prioritize the safety and sustainability of Stonecoal Lake waterway. The focus should be on promoting responsible boating practices, ensuring safe speeds, and protecting valuable natural resources for all to enjoy.

Thank you,

Cecelia Garrison

Redacted signature block



Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: 9.9 hp law change

1 message

Comments, DNR
To: Jeremy Quick <jeremyquick@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 1:49 PM

Good Afternoon Mr. Quick,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment on behalf of the Stonecoal Lake Fishing Club for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comments in opposition of the proposed changes will be reviewed by the agency and recorded for public record.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF BRETT McMILLION

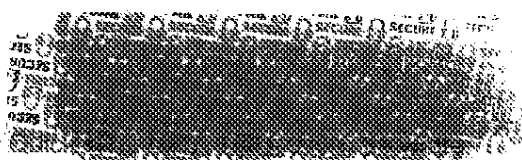
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112 California Avenue | Charleston, WV 25305

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WEST VIRGINIA



On Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 10:11 PM Jeremy Quick

Dear WV DNR,

My name is Jeremy Quick, and I serve as the President of the Stonecoal Lake Fishing Club Inc. I am writing on behalf of our organization in response to the proposal regarding the removal of the 9.9 horsepower limit on Stonecoal Lake, which would allow larger motors to idle.

The Stonecoal Lake Fishing Club Inc. has been an active and dedicated organization since 1980. Over the years, we have contributed significantly to the betterment of the lake and the angling community. Our contributions include years of trout stocking, habitat improvement projects, and the recent construction of new rearing ponds in partnership with the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WV DNR). As a nonprofit, we have independently funded many of these initiatives.

Additionally, we have purchased two 30-foot dock extensions to improve access to the lake. Our club building also houses a hatchery where we assist the WV DNR in collecting and hatching walleye eggs. These walleye fry are then raised until they are large enough to be safely released into the lake.

The Stonecoal Lake Fishing Club Inc. represents a large and invested stakeholder group, and we strongly oppose the proposed change to the current horsepower limit.

Stonecoal Lake is one of the few remaining areas where anglers with smaller boats and kayaks can enjoy safe and peaceful fishing without interference from large boats. Allowing higher horsepower motors—even at idle—creates an enforcement challenge. It is widely understood that some boaters will exceed idle speeds when not monitored, and the current level of law enforcement is insufficient to ensure compliance.

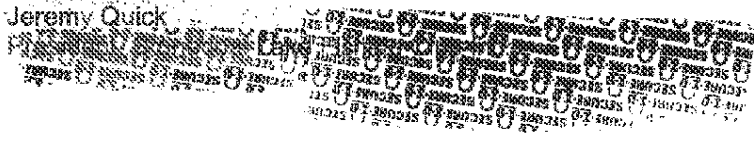
Furthermore, the infrastructure at the lake cannot support increased traffic from larger boats. The Upshur County boat ramp accommodates only about six boats, with a small gravel parking area. The Lewis County ramp provides around 22 parking spots and, per tournament rules, can only support 15 tournament participants at a time due to the 75% parking space limit.

For all of these reasons, the Stonecoal Lake Fishing Club Inc. respectfully requests that the existing 9.9 HP motor limit remain in place. This rule is essential for preserving the safety, accessibility, and ecological balance of the lake.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me at (304) 439-9079.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Quick





Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

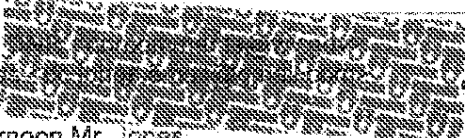
Re: 58CSR26 - Comments

1 message

Comments

Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 4:20 PM

To: Cliff Jones



Good Afternoon Mr. Jones,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

Your comments in opposition of the proposed changes will be reviewed by the agency and recorded for public record. To address your concern regarding DNR officials use of vessels on restricted bodies of water, agency officials are exempt from the provisions of this rule when functioning in an official capacity. Also, I want to pass along some information about the Upper Mud Lake. The Upper Mud Lake has been under the same regulation - motorboats with motors greater than 10hp being required to operate at no wake speed since 2021 - with positive results.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF BRETT McMILLION

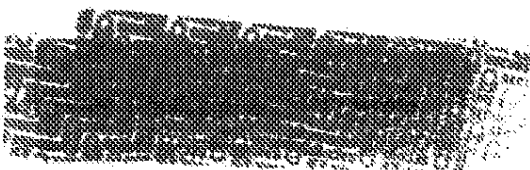
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112 California Avenue | Charleston, WV 25305

WVdnr.gov

WEST VIRGINIA



On Tue, Jul 22, 2025 at 12:59 PM Cliff Jones

Dear Ms. Greene

As an avid WV angler, I would STRONGLY recommend NOT approving the horsepower change as proposed in 58CSR26. I bass fish all across the state; both in tournaments, as well as recreationally. I have two boats, one of which is fiberglass, over 9.9 hp, and setup for fishing tournaments and any larger body of water. My other boat is aluminum, with a 9.9 hp motor, and setup just for our lakes with a 9.9 hp restriction. I have, in the past, taken my fiberglass boat to our smaller impoundments and used the trolling motor only – so I know it can be done; lawfully. I say thing to prove that I understand what each type of boat is capable of.

Any fisherman that spends a decent amount of time on the water will tell you that not everyone plays by the rules, as I'm sure you well know. If you give an inch, a mile will be taken. In fact, even some of the DNR officials have not followed the current rules as written. I can provide elaboration and even pictures of events such as DNR officers entering restricted impoundments with boats having motors greater than 10 hp without, "the propeller removed or have the motor withdrawn to the maximum trailable lime while operating" in such lake. With that, people will not respect the "idle only" aspect of the rule change. They

will create wakes big enough to overturn some smaller vessels -- daily. Additionally, you will see fishing boats with large motors running at full speed and even the smallest of impoundments. I've seen it already, however, if this rule is changed, it will happen all the time. Rural WV counties are not equipped to do as many water rescues and salvage operations as would become necessary with the changes. Taking one's family on these lakes would become unsafe due to this.

I strongly encourage that the rules are not changed regarding hp restrictions. You will not be doing a favor to anyone who "plays by the rules."

Regards,





Comments, DNR <dnrcomments@wv.gov>

Re: Proposed changes to boating regulations at 6 WV lakes

1 message

Comment
To: "th...

Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 4:24 PM

Good Afternoon Mr. Hayes,

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources would like to thank you for submitting your public comment for the proposed rule change to 58CSR26 - Special Boating Rules.

After further consideration our Agency recommendation will not be to limit the thrust or horsepower restrictions on the electric only lakes. Our desire is to protect the safety of those on the lake and the proposal will state that those electric only lakes will be no wake for all vessels with electric motors. To address your second point you will still be allowed to operate the 9.9 hp on those lakes as you have done previously. Only those motors greater than 10 hp will be required to operate at no wake speed in the specific areas mentioned in the rule. Thirdly, we have had a similar rule as proposed on Upper Mud lake and have not experienced any known problems since its inception. The Law Enforcement and Wildlife Sections will continue to monitor these areas and will make rule adjustment proposals as needed to address any concerns.

WENDY L. GREENE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF BRETT MCMILLION

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112 California Avenue | Charleston, WV 25305

WVdnr.gov

WEST VIRGINIA



On Sat, Jul 12, 2025 at 9:09 PM:

I am writing about the proposed boating regulation changes at Elk Fork Lake, O'Brien Lake and Woodrums Lake. I am mentioning those 3 because those are the ones I fish and am familiar with.

I have concerns about the proposals.

1. Electric motors being defined as 70 pounds thrust or less. I have 2 Minn Kota Ultrex trolling motors that both have 80 pounds thrust. I have one on the boat and one spare. They are expensive trolling motors. I paid roughly \$3100.00 for the last one. I had no intention of doing anything illegal. If I am reading the proposal correctly, those would be over the pound thrust limit and therefore, illegal. I sure hope I am wrong with my interpretation as that would mean I would have almost \$6000.00 in trolling motors that would now be illegal. I am retired and on a fixed income and that would be devastating.

2. I have had bass boats for over 25 years and used to fish Sutton and Stonewall Lakes with unlimited horsepower gasoline motors. About 6 years ago, I bought a second boat with a 9.9 horsepower motor specifically for the 3 lakes mentioned above. I am a little confused about the new horsepower limits and the no wake terminology. Would I still be able to run my 9.9 horsepower at full speed (which is only around 8 miles per hour with 2 people onboard) ? Is the no wake section of the proposal only for motors over 10 horsepower? It would also be

devastating if I spent around \$7000.00 a few years ago for a boat specifically for those lakes only to not be allowed any longer to run my 9.9 horsepower motor at above an idle. Hopefully, these regulation proposals won't hurt the people who have done everything in our power to be legal at those lakes. Please do not take away our rights to run our 9.9 horsepower motors at full speed. We have invested lots of money to fish those lakes. I have since sold my boat with the 115 horsepower motor that I used at Sutton and Stonewall lakes.

3. This is the least important of my concerns but still, I believe, a valid point. I fish Woodrums Lake a lot and have seen several people running larger than allowed gas motors at way above no wake speeds. I can't say for sure that they were running full throttle but definitely illegal. I believe allowing motors over 10 horsepower will only lead to more abuse by the people that are already illegal and also tempt more people to run larger motors at illegal speeds.

In summary, the people with larger boats and motors have lakes that they can fish. I think allowing larger gas motors on these small lakes will negatively impact the attraction of those lakes for the people that have bought boats and equipment to be legal on them.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Ron Hayes

