

WATERWAY ORDINANCE FOR BIG PAYETTE LAKE WATERSHED

(***This is just a brief overview of the ordinance)

Basic Standard: It shall be unlawful and considered as negligent behavior for any person to operate any type of vessel or watercraft on the public waters of the Big Payette Lake Watershed in such a manner as to not pay proper attention to the actual and potential hazards then existing; to operate at a rate of speed greater than stated herein as permissible; or to operate in a manner that, given the exercise of reasonable care, will prevent being able to stop said watercraft within the assured clear distance ahead. Specifically prohibited and deemed negligent behavior is engaging any watercraft in wake jumping or having it become fully airborne; weaving at a speed greater than no wake through congested traffic; or using a watercraft to willfully harass another vessel, a swimmer, a diver, or any wildlife.

4.4.1 A No Wake Safe Water Zone shall exist within three hundred feet (300') of any Big Payette Lake shoreline. Provided, however, the following exceptions shall apply:

- 4.4.1.1 Unless otherwise provided by State Law, no No Wake Safe Water Zone shall exist off the shoreline of islands in Big Payette Lake
- 4.4.1.2 Unless otherwise provided by State Law, no No Wake Safe Water Zone shall exist off the shoreline into the waters of The Narrows

4.5 Restricted Areas: The following areas restrict use on the Big Payette Lake Watershed. They are shown on the Big Payette Lake Watershed Watercraft Restricted Areas Map. This map, or series of maps, may be supplemented and amended, after notice, by resolution of the Valley County Board of Commissioners. Those areas are as follows:

- 4.5.1 No Motor Driven Watercraft Area: The North Fork of the Payette River in that reach from Big Payette Lake to Upper Payette Lake shall be a no motor driven watercraft area, except that electric motor driven watercraft may be used.
- 4.5.2 Restricted Swimming Area: Reserved
- 4.5.3 Restricted Water-skiing Area: Waterskiing is prohibited within any No Wake Safe Water Zone; provided, however, that, vessel and swimmer traffic permitting, skiers may start from the shore, dock, or water but must proceed directly to the closest point outside the No Wake Safe Water Zone before altering course but shall not be returned under power to the shore, dock, water within such a No Wake Safe Water Zone.
- 4.5.4 Diver Protection Area: A diver shall deploy a recognized "diver down" warning flag or the international code flag A or Alpha at all times while diving. No vessel shall operate within one hundred feet of the display of any such diver down warning flag, except a vessel servicing a diver, and all vessels approaching such a flag shall do so at a reduced speed.
- 4.5.5 Personal watercraft Operational Zone: Big Payette Lake shall be a no personal watercraft zone during the hours between sunset and sunrise.

4.6 Swimmers Using Waters outside a No Wake Safe Water Zone: Any person swimming in an area that lies outside a No Wake Safe Water Zone shall be accompanied by a watercraft, or tow a visible float, that shall serve as a warning to other motorized vessels and water users that swimming is occurring.

4.7 Age limitations of Operation of Watercraft:

- 4.7.1 It shall be unlawful to operate, or to allow someone to operate, a motor driven watercraft if the operator is a person under the age of twelve (12) years of age, except under direct adult supervision.
- 4.7.2 It shall be unlawful to operate, or to allow someone to operate, a motor driven watercraft powered by a motor rated at greater than fifteen (15) horsepower unless the operator is at least sixteen (16) years of age or under direct adult supervision.

4.10 House Boat Anchoring: House boats, when over-nighting, must tie up to a structure permitted for such use by the State of Idaho Department of Lands and must have written permission from the permittee. In no case shall an over-nighting house boat anchor to the bottom.