**Do not introduce non-native fish or plant species**

These species can be aggressive and can wreak havoc on native species and habitat. Even discarding live bait in the water may introduce new parasites and diseases to the system.

**Don’t ignore a problem**

If you get tangled in discarded fishing line or see a pile of litter, pick it up and dispose of it properly. Just because you didn’t make the mess doesn’t mean it doesn’t exist.

**Become a volunteer**

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and other organizations such as Trout Unlimited offer plenty of ways to volunteer your time to help our aquatic habitat. Arkansas Stream Team is an excellent program devoted to cleaning up waterways and stabilizing shorelines from erosion. For more information, contact the AGFC, (501) 223-6428.

**Pass it on**

Share the joy of responsible fishing with friends and family. Pass on what you’ve learned and your positive impact will grow proportionally.
Arkansas is blessed with thousands of acres of clean, fertile waters that are teeming with life. While game fish are the target for many anglers, many other fish, reptiles, amphibians and crustaceans share the water and play important roles in the environment. The impact of fishing can be underestimated, especially if anglers don’t pay attention to what they’re doing. It’s every angler’s responsibility to respect each other, to protect the resource and to promote the sport of angling to the next generation.

“Common sense and a few guidelines will go a long way toward keeping Arkansas beautiful.”

Know creel and length limits for the area you’re fishing
These limits are set to increase everyone’s enjoyment of the water. Breaking these laws not only hurts your future enjoyment of the fishery, it’s against the law and can carry stiff penalties.

Properly dispose of used fishing line
Fishing line can last for years before breaking down. Many fish and other animals die each year after becoming entangled in carelessly discarded line. Boaters and anglers also become the victims of this menace when it wraps around propellers and snags their lures.

Properly dispose of all litter
Plastic six-pack rings, bottle caps, old fishing lures and cigarette butts are not only unsightly, they can be hazardous to fish and other wildlife.

Avoid spilling fuel and oil when filling your motor
Gasoline and oil are deadly to aquatic life. When possible, fill your boat’s gas tank while it is still on the trailer.

Remove fishing equipment when you leave
If you fish with jugs, trotlines, limb lines, nets or yo-yos, take them with you when your fishing trip is over.

Disturb streambeds as little as possible
Be careful when wading to protect the delicate stream habitat. In areas with heavy current, don’t drop drag chains to slow your drift. They not only destroy the habitat, they can catch obstructions and swamp the boat.

Recycle fish
Practicing catch-and-release can help maintain the fishery in areas that receive intense fishing pressure. There’s nothing wrong with keeping an occasional fish for the fryer or grill, but a little moderation goes a long way.