

What can you do?

- **Don't run boats, jet boats, or jet skis in shallow waters prior to or during spawning seasons**
- **Drop anchor away from spawning areas**
- **Avoid stirring up spawning gravel or silt that could smother fish eggs**
- **Avoid driving on gravel bars**
- **Cross streams only at established crossings**
- **Don't use streams as travel routes and don't remove woody material from stream channels or gravel bars**
- **Don't dam streams**
- **Don't trample spawning beds when wading or fishing**



More information

For more information on how to prevent or reduce the potential impacts of recreational activities, look on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife website at:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/spawningbed_protection/

The website provides information on when salmon and steelhead spawn in various waters of the state and when to use extra caution while recreating.

Information on low-impact recreation can be found at the Tread Lightly website at:

www.treadlightly.org

It is up to us to recreate responsibly and to protect Washington's valuable natural resources.

Recreational Activities May Harm Salmon and Steelhead Spawning Beds



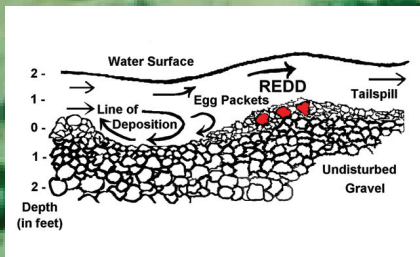
Salmon, steelhead and recreation

Fishing and hunting are only two of the recreational activities that people enjoy in the state of Washington. Others include boating, riding off-road vehicles, and wading and swimming in streams and lakes.



Salmon and steelhead use streams and lakes for spawning and rearing at the same time people use them for recreational activities.

Salmon and steelhead lay their eggs in spawning nests called “redds”. A redd is a spawning site where eggs are buried in the gravel of a stream or lake shoreline.



To survive and develop, the eggs need clean, loose gravel. If silt fills in the spaces between the gravel, clean water cannot circulate and the eggs may die from lack of oxygen or from accumulated waste products.

Recreational activities

Even seemingly casual recreational activities may decrease the spawning success of the very fish that we enjoy. Many recreational activities can cause impacts that we don't even consider.

Boating, jet boats and jet skis

When boats, jet boats or jet skis speed across salmon or steelhead nests they often create turbulence that may churn up gravel, dispersing or crushing eggs.



Stirred up sediment can cover redds, causing the eggs to suffocate or die from exposure to their own wastes. When boaters drop and retrieve anchor in spawning gravel the anchor can also damage or destroy redds.

Off-road vehicles (ORV)

Off-road vehicles, such as mountain bikes, motorcycles, three-wheelers, quads, and four-wheel drive trucks and cars are capable of being driven into aquatic zones where they can impact redds.

When driven through vegetated areas along streams and lakes ORVs can cause erosion or destroy vegetation that benefits fish.



When driven through streams ORVs can cause siltation, gravel compaction, and disruption of eggs. Even seemingly dry gravel bars may contain redds. Salmon and steelhead may have spawned in those areas during high water flows.

Wading and Fishing

It's fun to wade and play in streams. Temporary dams sometimes are created to provide wading pools. These can block fish trying to get to spawning areas and the pools can strand young fish. Walking on spawning beds while wading or fishing can disrupt incubating eggs, compact gravel, or stir up silt.

