What to Do When Enjoying Recreational Activities

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We all enjoy the many recreational opportunities found in Nevada. To ensure our natural resources will continue to be enjoyable, follow these suggestions:

- When possible, carpool to events or areas.
- Dispose of all waste properly. Pack it in and pack it out. Learn more at Leave No Trace, http://www.lnt.org.
- Deposit human waste in sanitary facilities or in 6- to 8-inch deep "catholes," 200 feet or more away from a water body.
- Pick up after your pets and don’t let them do their business within 200 feet of a water body.
- When camping, try to keep your campsite at least 200 feet away from the edge of a stream or lake.
- Build fires only in designated areas and only during permitted times.

What to do while boating to prevent pollution

In western Nevada, we have many wonderful lakes and rivers that offer outstanding recreational opportunities. These water bodies also provide drinking water to our communities. It is important to protect the scenic beauty and water quality of our lakes, rivers, wetlands and other water bodies so we can continue to use and enjoy them.

- Avoid producing large wakes within 500 feet of the shore. This will help reduce shoreline erosion and sediment pollution of nearby streams.

Kayak and canoe trips on our rivers and lakes require the same thoughtful concern as the recreational activities mentioned.
**MORE BOATING TIPS:**

- Rinse your boat with a brush and water and avoid the use of soap whenever possible. If you must use soap, select a phosphate-free variety.
- Inspect and remove all aquatic vegetation from your boat when removing it from the water to avoid transferring undesirable weeds from one water body to another.
- Use tarps to catch any boat scrapings, especially toxic paint and antifouling chips or dust.
- Use sanders and other maintenance equipment that is equipped with vacuum attachments when working near the water.
- Don’t use toxic polishes or stain removers.
- Only discharge boat sewage into official pump-out stations. It is against federal law to discharge sewage into navigable U.S. waters. Dumping it in the desert is illegal and poses a health hazard and nuisance.
- Do not dump any trash. Properly dispose of all trash.
- Avoid gas tank overflows during refueling.
- Never pump oil- or fuel-contaminated water overboard.
- Properly dispose of drain oil.
- Keep engines well maintained and free of leaking fuel or lubricants.
- Keep oil- and fuel-absorbing pads on hand for accidental spills. Properly dispose of these pads.

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**What to do during recreational vehicle use**

The use of mechanical devices during recreational activities has significantly increased over the last few years. Many people own motor homes, trailers and campers. Others enjoy motorcycles, all terrain vehicles, dune buggies and other off-highway vehicles (OHVs). All of these vehicles have the potential to pollute our land and water resources if not properly managed.

**WHEN USING RECREATIONAL VEHICLES:**

- Only discharge sewage into official pump-out stations. It is against federal law to discharge sewage into navigable U.S. waters. Dumping it in the desert is illegal and poses a health hazard and nuisance.
- Do not dump any trash. Properly dispose of all trash.
- Avoid gas tank overflows during refueling.
- Never dump oil, fuel, contaminated water or other automotive fluids on the ground or in a water body. Properly dispose of these wastes.
- Keep engines well-maintained and free of leaking fuel or lubricants.
- Keep oil- and fuel-absorbing pads on hand for accidental spills. Properly dispose of these pads.

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Fluids should never leak from your RV onto the ground. If you have a temporary leak, be sure to place a plastic tray or absorbent material under the leak. Properly dispose of the leaking fluid and/or material.

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**For more information:**

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