

Spokane River/Lake Spokane

Slow / No Wake Zone

A no wake zone is an area where boaters must travel at the minimum speed necessary to maintain steerage, avoiding the creation of any wake. A **Slow / No Wake zone** is enforced on the Spokane River / Long Lake within the Nine Mile Recreational Area under **Spokane County Ordinance 6.03.030**.

All motorized vessels must operate at the **minimum speed necessary to maintain steerage and produce no wake**.

No Wake Upon Launch

When you launch your vessel, you are immediately in a Slow / No Wake zone. Remain at no wake speed until exiting the area.

Exiting the Area

The Slow / No Wake restriction remains in effect **until you have fully passed through the red and green navigational marker buoys on the outer perimeter**. Normal operation may resume **only after clearing the markers and when safe to do so**.

Why No Wake Is Required

- Protects swimmers, paddlers, anglers, and other boaters
- Prevents shoreline erosion and damage to docks and vessels
- Protects **Western Grebes**, a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife species of concern that depend on calm water for nesting and foraging

Please follow all buoy markers and posted signage to help maintain safety, protect wildlife, and preserve recreational access at the Nine Mile Recreation Area.

Know Before You Go

Long Lake is a run of river reservoir with fluctuating water levels, submerged hazards, and heavy recreational use. Safe boating starts with knowing the rules and staying alert.

Know the Rules

- Washington boating laws and Spokane County ordinances apply
- Operators of motorized vessels **15 HP or greater** (born on or after Jan. 1, 1955) must carry a **Washington Boater Education Card**
- **Slow / No Wake zones** are enforced in designated areas—observe buoys and shoreline signage
- Follow U.S. Coast Guard navigation rules and required safety equipment

No Wake Zone at Nine Mile Recreation Area



Dancing on Water



Northeast Washington offers safe nesting areas for a rather elegant, long-necked black and white waterfowl known as the Western Grebe. These birds are well known for their elaborate courtship displays, which include bobbing their neck in a synchronized ritual and “ice dancing” where they run together in perfect alignment across a water surface before diving under at the end.

Western Grebes breed in lakes and ponds across much of Western North America, Canada, and Mexico; however, their numbers have drastically decreased along the Washington coast. They are considered a Species of Concern by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Conservation measures for the Western Grebe are currently taking place on Lake

Spokane near the Nine Mile Recreation Area, where Spokane’s largest breeding colony is located. The project is a cooperative effort by WDFW, Avista, Riverside State Park and the Spokane County Sheriff’s Department. Measures include “No Wake” zones around nesting areas, interpretive signage, and annual monitoring by WDFW. Let the dance begin.

by Jack Nisbet

Be Courteous. Be Predictable. Be Safe.

Your actions help protect people, property, and wildlife on Long Lake.



Slow / No Wake Buoy EASY DOES IT

This bright white and orange buoy marks a Slow / No Wake zone. Lower your speed to the minimum needed for steering to reduce waves and help protect shorelines, docks, swimmers, and wildlife.

Red Navigation Buoy RED, RIGHT, RETURNING

Red buoys mark the starboard (right) side of the navigation channel when returning toward shore or the launch. Keep the red buoy on your right as you head back in.



Green Navigation Buoy GREEN ON THE LEFT

Green buoys mark the port (left) side of the channel when returning toward shore or the launch area. Keep the green buoy on your left as you head back in.



Required Safety Basics

- One U.S. Coast Guard–approved life jacket per person
- Children must wear life jackets as required by Washington law
- Proper navigation lights, a sound producing device, and a fire extinguisher (if applicable)

Additional Resources

- **Washington Boating Laws & Safety:** parks.wa.gov
- **Official WA Boating Portal:** boat.wa.gov
- **Spokane County Code Chapter 6.03:** spokanecounty.gov/2076/County-Code
- **U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety:** uscgboating.org
- **National Weather Service:** weather.gov
- **NOAA:** water.noaa.gov
- **River Flows:** myavista.com/waterflow

For More Information

800-227-9187
myavista.com/safety/safety-around-dams
askavista@avistacorp.com

Если Вы хотели бы получить информацию о правилах безопасности на русском языке, пожалуйста звоните по телефону 800-227-9187.

Si desea recibir información en Español acerca de la seguridad, por favor llamar a: 800-227-9187

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Avista Utilities
1411 E Mission MSC 20
Spokane, WA 99220-3727

Welcome to the Nine Mile Recreation Area

Control your speed.
Respect the wake.



AVISTA

How to Exit the No Wake Zone

Follow yellow arrows to exit the no wake zone.



Stay Safe Around Dams

Know the hazards, follow posted warnings, and keep your distance.

