

# Key Words

## Student Worksheet

**Adaptation:** adjustment or change in an organism to become suitable to a new situation.

**Alevin:** the yolk-sac stage of salmonids.

**Anadromous:** describes fishes that begin life in fresh water, then go to the ocean to live, and finally return to fresh water to spawn (derived from Greek; means running upward).

**Ecosystem:** a community of interrelated life forms and non-living physical parts.

**Estuary:** the mouth of a river where fresh and salt water mix.

**Fry:** a young, immature salmon or steelhead that has not smolted yet.

**Habitat:** the native environment of a plant or animal; the kind of place that is natural for the life and growth of a plant or animal.

**Migrate:** to physically move from one region to another depending on seasons; salmon hatch in fresh water, migrate to sea, and spawners migrate back again to fresh water.

**Redd:** a nest that a female salmon or steelhead digs with her tail in the gravel and a place where her eggs are deposited.

**Riparian:** a zone that links terrestrial and aquatic systems.

**Salmonid:** of or belonging to the family Salmonidae, which includes salmon, trout, and whitefish.

**Smolt:** a young salmonid adapting to life in the ocean environment.

**Spawn:** to produce young or eggs, especially in large numbers.

**Stewardship:** choices and actions to protect the environment.

**Terrestrial:** living or growing on land, not aquatic.

**Tributary:** a smaller stream or river that flows into another larger stream or river.

**Watershed:** the land that serves as drainage for specific streams or rivers.