



Framework for WDFW Steelhead Resource Management Plan (RMP)

August – September 2006

Steelhead Public Meetings

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WDFW History Lesson

- ★ **Early 1990 – WDFW and Puget Sound Tribes Draft Steelhead Management Plan/Co-manager Document**
- ★ **April 1994 - WDFW Draft Steelhead Management Plan and begin State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process**



WDFW History Lesson

- ★ **September 1997 Wild Salmonid Policy finalized through SEPA**
- ★ **1999 – Draft Steelhead Management Combined Plan was resurrected**



WDFW History Lesson

- ★ **2001 – Combined Draft RMP outline resurrected but concluded there were information/data gaps regarding steelhead**
- ★ **2004 – Steelhead Science Paper was developed to address steelhead information/data gaps**
- ★ **March 2005 – Combined draft resurrected to included Science Paper VSP criteria**



NOAA's Proposed Steelhead Listing History

- ★ **On September 13, 2004, NOAA Fisheries received a petition from Mr. Sam Wright to list Puget Sound steelhead as “Threatened” or “Endangered” under ESA (70 FR 17223).**



NOAA's Proposed Steelhead Listing

- ★ **NOAA issued a status review of the species with a decision expected September 2005. Decision was delayed until February 2006.**



NOAA's Proposed Steelhead Listing

- ★ **On March 29, 2006, NOAA Fisheries announced a proposed “Threatened” listing for Puget Sound steelhead (71 FR 15666).**



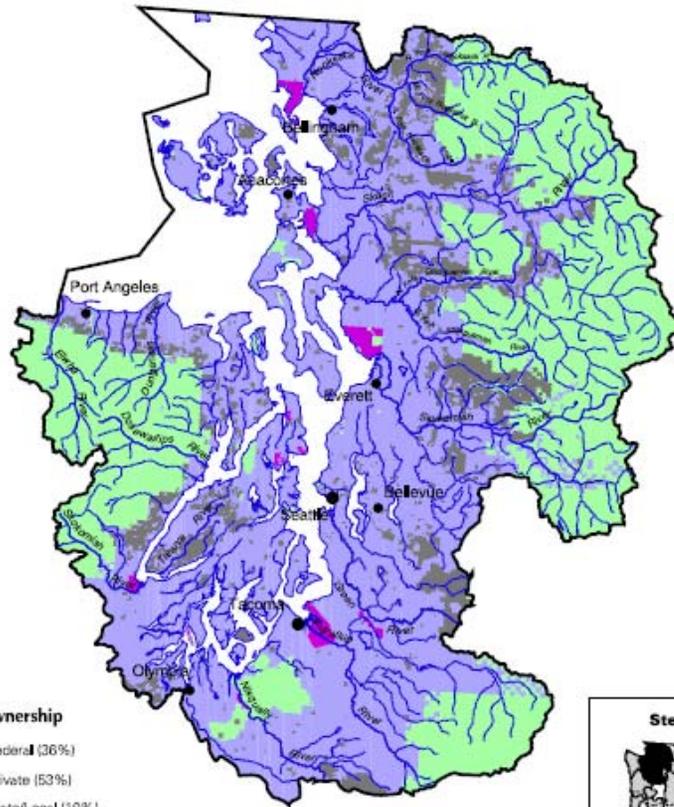
NOAA's Proposed Steelhead Listing Details

- ★ **Distinct Population Segment (DPS)**
includes river basins
from Puget Sound,
Hood Canal and Strait
of Juan de Fuca





PUGET SOUND STEELHEAD ESU

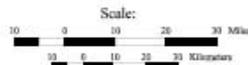


Land Ownership

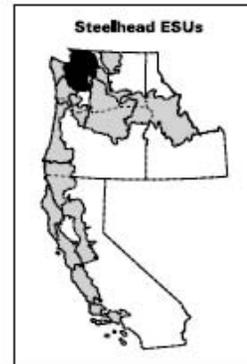
- Federal (36%)
- Private (53%)
- State/Local (10%)
- Tribal (1%)

Note: Map is for general reference only.

United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
HABITAT CONSERVATION DIVISION
525 N.E. Oregon St., Suite 410
Portland, OR 97232
Tel (503) 231-2223



MAP DATE: 2/1/99
ORR/NOAA/NEF/CO/STP/STL



NOAA's Proposed Steelhead Listing Details

- ★ **Resident *O. mykiss* form is excluded from the listing**



NOAA's Proposed Steelhead Listing Details

- ★ **Two hatchery stocks included in Puget Sound steelhead DPS: Green River & Hamma Hamma winter stocks**



NOAA's Proposed Steelhead Listing Details

- ★ **Two hatchery stocks were not included in the Puget Sound steelhead DPS:
Chambers Creek winter and Skamania summer**



WDFW's Response to Proposed Steelhead Listing

- ★ **Steelhead populations continue to demonstrate declining abundance in many watersheds despite co-management actions**



WDFW's Response to Proposed Steelhead Listing

- ★ **Status quo management of habitat, harvest and hatcheries is no longer an option**



What action did WDFW take?

Began the development of a Statewide Steelhead Resource Management Plan with Phase 1 focusing on the Puget Sound Region



What are the agency goals & objectives?

- ★ Develop a resource management plan for steelhead that will address hatchery, harvest and monitoring. Habitat will be addressed after NOAA Fisheries determination.
- ★ Develop the draft Puget Sound component by December 31, 2006.

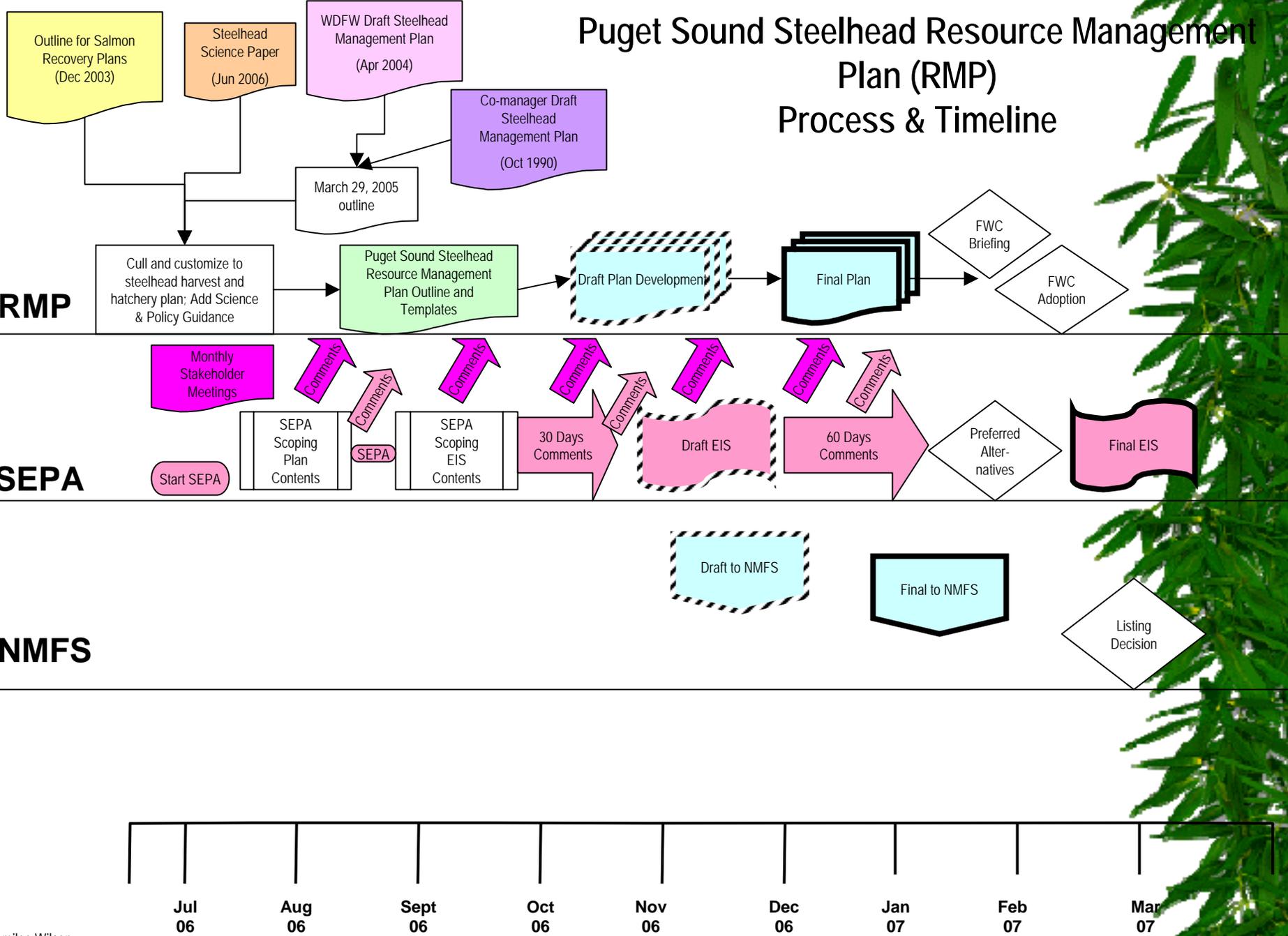


Which watersheds will be included in the RMP?

- ★ Approximately 10 watershed areas
 - Nooksack/Samish
 - Skagit
 - Stillaguamish
 - Snohomish
 - Central Puget Sound
 - Puyallup
 - Nisqually
 - South Puget Sound
 - Hood Canal
 - East Straits



Puget Sound Steelhead Resource Management Plan (RMP) Process & Timeline



What is SEPA?

- ★ **State Environmental Policy Act**
- ★ *A state policy that requires state and local agencies to consider the likely environmental consequences of a proposal before approving or denying the proposal.*



Who must comply with SEPA?

- ★ Government agencies

Two types of review:
project and non-project



WDFW RMP Identified as Non-Project

- ★ Governmental Actions involving decisions on policies, plans, or programs



4 Phases to SEPA

Phase 1:

Notice of intent and preliminary Scoping

The main elements of the proposal are described:

Location

Intent

Purpose or objectives

Notice is circulated and 21 day comment period is posted.



4 Phases to SEPA

Phase 2:

Post-Scoping

Continues the analysis started in Phase 1:

- Environmental issues

- Key players in the process

- Analyzes relationships to other plans

- Records process

Public comment period is not required



4 Phases to SEPA

Phase 3:

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Continues the analysis started in Phase 2:

Impartial discussion of choices & impacts

Opportunity for the public & agency review

Opportunity to improve completeness & accuracy of information

A 30-day public comment period is posted



4 Phases to SEPA

Phase 4:

Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Based on feedback provided in Phase 3, the agency finalizes planning & analysis process.

Final document will present all comments and responses to each.



Who are the key players in the RMP?

- ★ Public stakeholders
- ★ Puget Sound Tribes/Co-managers
- ★ WDFW regional and headquarters staff

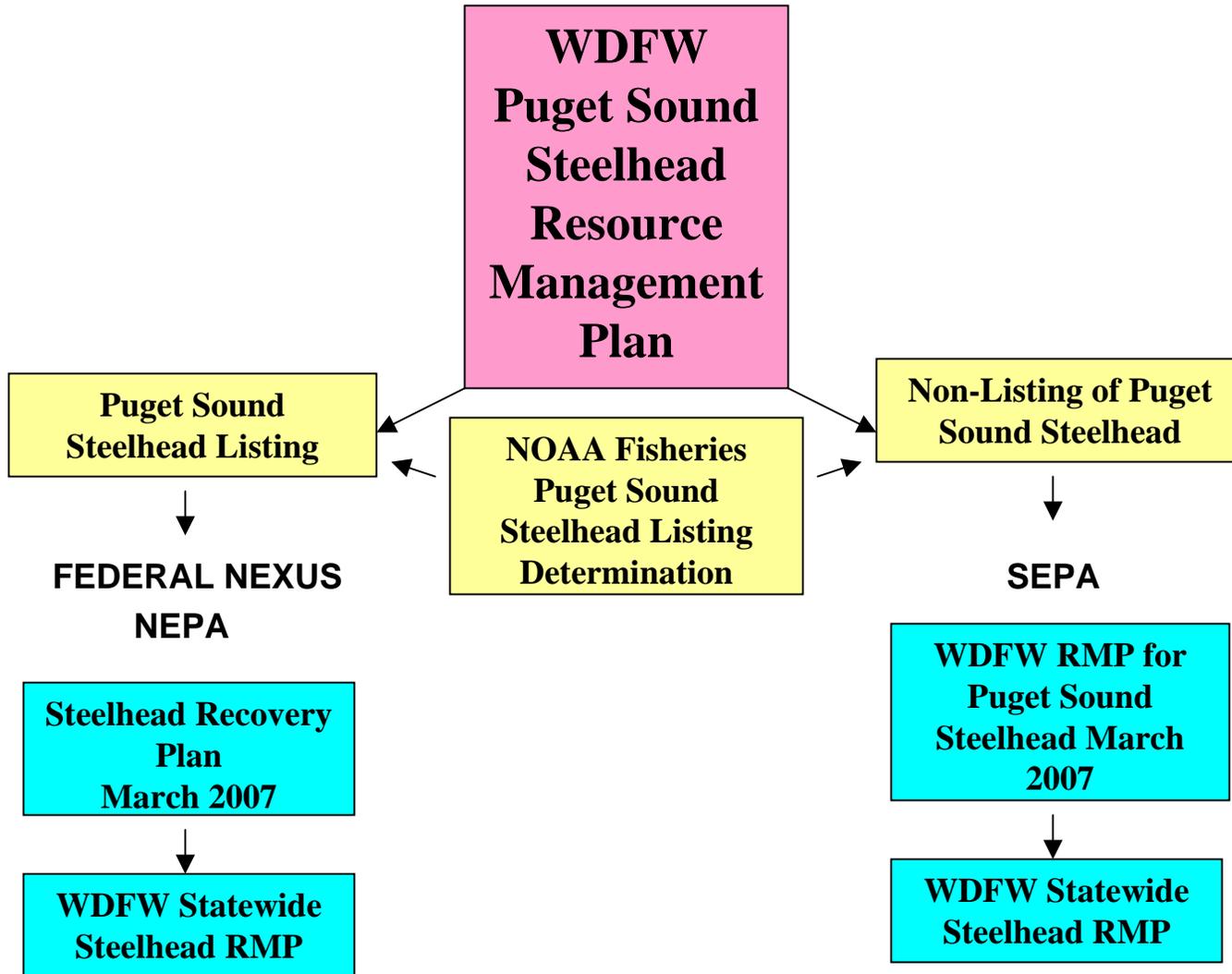


March 2007 NOAA Fisheries Listing Decision Outcomes

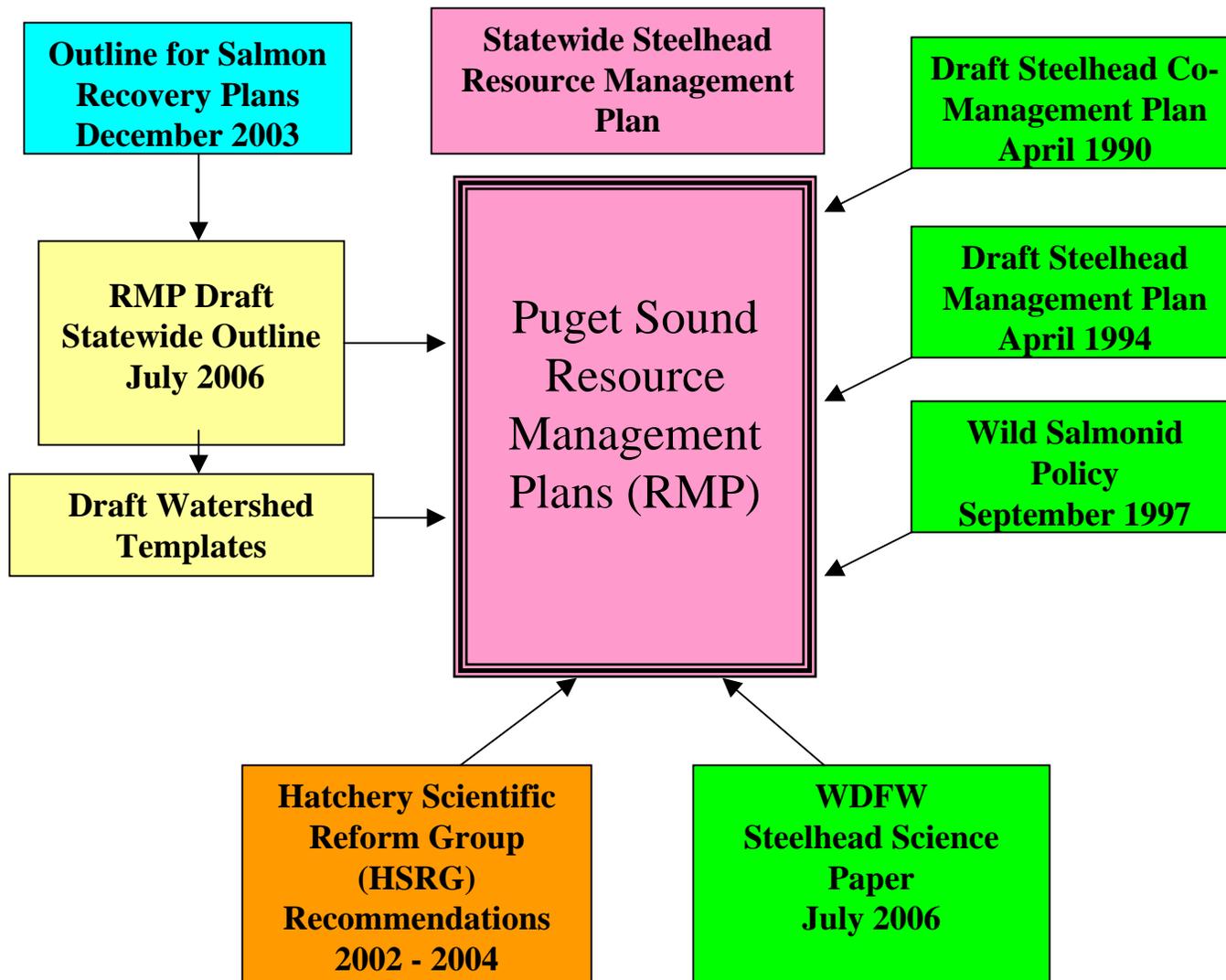
- ★ List Puget Sound Steelhead as “Threatened”
- ★ Identify Puget Sound Steelhead as “Not Warranted” for listing and/or a “Species of Concern” with reassessment after five years
- ★ Delay the listing determination for 6 months to evaluate new information



Agency Direction



What documents will contribute to the RMP?



Where do I send my comments?

- ★ Submit written or oral comments at any of the scheduled public meetings
- ★ Submit written comments at any time up until October 6th to:

SEPA/NEPA Coordinator
Regulatory Services Section
WDFW Habitat Program
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501



Who do I contact if I have questions?

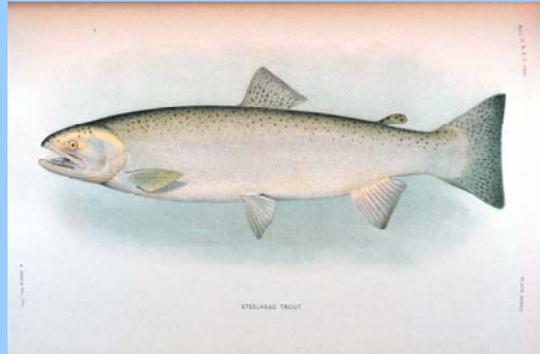
- ★ For questions regarding the steelhead RMP, please contact Amilee Wilson at (360) 902-2856 or email wilsoalw@dfw.wa.gov
- ★ For questions regarding the SEPA scoping process, please contact Teresa Eturaspe at (360) 902-2575 or email habitatSEPA@dfw.wa.gov



Steelhead Science Paper

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/papers/steelhead/>

Prepublication Copy - Not for Distribution



Oncorhynchus mykiss

Assessment of Washington Populations and Programs

Edited by
James B. Scott, Jr.
William T. Gill

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Olympia, Washington

September 7, 2005

