

## **Olympic Peninsula Steelhead ESA Listing Petition Update**

### **Background**

In 2022, NOAA received a petition to list Olympic Peninsula steelhead under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). To fulfill their statutory obligations, they conducted an initial 90-day review of the petition, which resulted in a finding in February 2023 that a full status review was warranted.

NOAA convened a Biological Review Team (BRT) in early 2023 comprised of federal employees and began a status review of Olympic Peninsula steelhead. The primary purpose of the review is to assess if one or more of five potential listing factors have caused Olympic Peninsula steelhead to be in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range, or are likely to become so within the foreseeable future. Meeting the first criterion would result in an Endangered listing, while the second would result in a Threatened listing.

To conduct this review NOAA requested data and information from the public and the co-managers. The co-managers developed a collaborative process to ensure that accurate and consistent information was provided to the BRT. Information was exchanged with the BRT through multiple methods.

- The co-managers participated in numerous meetings with NOAA and the BRT to identify data needs, discuss and interpret data, and present analyses.
- The co-managers provided information to the BRT in a series of transmittals from May through early July.

The BRT anticipates providing a listing recommendation to the NOAA regional office later this year. The NOAA regional and headquarters offices will review the information and determine whether to propose an ESA listing this fall. If a listing is proposed, NOAA will subsequently provide a one-year comment period.

### **Next Steps**

WDFW and co-managers remain available to field additional questions or data requests from the BRT should they arise. Regardless of NOAA's listing determination, we remain committed to working with the tribal co-managers to improve our management, the status of this resource, and to provide sustainable fishing opportunities.