



Fishes of the Upper Snoqualmie

Snoqualmie Falls with its 268 foot drop is a natural barrier to salmon but other important resident fish still live above the falls contributing to a rich ecosystem.

Rainbow Trout

Oncorhynchus mykiss



Photo courtesy of USDA

Cutthroat Trout

Oncorhynchus clarkii



Photo courtesy of USDA

Rainbow trout live in our rivers and streams and get their name from their beautiful colors that range from brown to dark blue but all have a pinkish band and a light underside. Rainbow trout and steelhead are the same species but rainbow trout never travel to the ocean. Rainbow trout are also related to salmon.

Cutthroat trout are silvery to brassy in color. They are very similar to rainbow trout but have red slashes under their jaw, hence their name. There are many subspecies of cutthroat trout. To help avoid competition, cutthroat often choose to spawn in areas other fish don't use.

Mountain Whitefish

Prosopium williamsoni



Photo courtesy of MT Field Guide; Joseph Tomelleri

Brook Trout

Salvelinus fontinalis



Photo courtesy of USDA

This fish gets its name from its prominent silvery coloration. They have small down turned mouths that are perfect for vacuuming up bugs on the stream bed. Their presence in streams boosts trout populations by providing food.

Brook trout is an introduced species that competes with our local fish. They have olive green bodies with yellow spots and red spots that have blue halos around them. Unlike salmon and their related trout, brook trout have light spots on a dark body.

For more information about our local fish contact:

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