**Critical Habitat on the Olympic Peninsula and in the waters that surround it.**

**What is critical habitat?** It is a specific geographic area(s) that contains features essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management and protection.

**Are any areas out of bounds for designating critical habitat?** Yes. Section 4(a)(3) of the ESA precludes the Secretary of the Interior from designating military lands as critical habitat if those lands are subject to an Integrated Natural Resources management Plan (INRMP) under the Sikes Act that the Secretary certifies in writing benefits the listed species. The Navy, however, has not determined the extent of marine waters covered by INRMPs, nor has it set forth a process or timeline to determine this.

**Does the Navy have an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, and what is its purpose?** Yes. The stated purpose is "…to ensure no net loss of military capabilities and meet the goals and objectives established in the Sikes Act Improvement Act." The Sikes Act requires INRMPs but according to the Navy's interpretation is silent on NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) requirements.

**Are the Navy's activities likely to impinge on critical habitat?** Yes. Most of the mobile emitters would be in critical habitat for the northern spotted owl and/or the marbled murrelet. The sea-based activities will occur in critical habitat as well, and are expected to kill, injure or change the behavior of, thousands of marine mammals. The Navy has not documented impacts to species that are not federally listed as endangered or threatened.

**What species have designated critical habitat in each of the Olympic Peninsula's 3 counties?**

**Clallam County:**
Northern spotted owl

Marbled murrelet

Bull trout

Taylor's checkerspot butterfly

Chinook salmon

Chum salmon

Sockeye salmon

Killer whale

**Gray's Harbor County:**
Northern spotted owl

Marbled murrelet

Bull trout

Streaked horned lark

Marbled murrelet

Northern spotted owl

Western snowy plover

**Jefferson County:**
Northern spotted owl

Marbled murrelet

Bull trout

3 species of Rockfish

Chinook salmon

Chum salmon

Killer whale