



MEMORANDUM

April 20, 2012

File No. 12-042001

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Rochelle Knust, SEPA Center

SUBJECT: **SEPA LEAD AGENCY & REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS – PHASE I**

This is to advise you that pursuant to WAC 197-11-900 (922 through 948), the Department of Natural Resources has determined that it is Lead Agency for the following:

Long-term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet. The proposal is to amend the Department of Natural Resources 1997 State Trust Land Habitat Conservation Plan (State Trust Lands HCP) to include a long-term conservation strategy for the marbled murrelet. This proposal was contemplated at the time of adoption of the State Trust Lands HCP because the plan provided only an interim conservation strategy for the marbled murrelet. The interim strategy was to remain in place until more scientific information could be collected on habitat on state lands and the marbled murrelet's biological needs to make the development of a long-term conservation strategy possible. At this time, a specific conservation strategy has not been identified to define the proposal. Rather, a statement of the proposal's need, purpose and objectives has been developed to guide the creation of the long-term conservation strategy consistent with the commitments in the HCP. The location for this proposal is in the six Westside Planning Units (land in range of the marbled murrelet in Clallam, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom Counties) of DNR's Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan.

Public meetings for the current phase will be held at the following locations and dates:

April 30 – Olympia

Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington Street SE, Room 175
6:00 pm

May 3 – Sedro Woolley

Northwest Region Office, DNR
919 N. Township Street
6:00 pm

May 8 – Cathlamet

Pacific Cascade/River Room
25 River Street
6:00 pm

May 9 – Forks

Olympic Region, DNR
411 Tillicum Lane
6:00 pm

Future public meetings will be announced when the scoping notice for the 2nd phase is issued late summer 2012. Information about this proposal can be viewed on DNR's website at:

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ResearchScience/Topics/SEPA/NonProject/Pages/amp_sepa_nonpro_mm.aspx

Pursuant to WAC 332-41-504, this proposal was filed in the department's SEPA Center at the Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, P.O. Box 47015, Olympia, Washington, on April 20, 2012. Preliminary comments for this phase of scoping should be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on May 21, 2012. **Comments should be submitted to the SEPA Center at, sepacenter@dnr.wa.gov or P.O. Box 47015, Olympia, Washington 98504-7015 for distribution to the responsible official. Please include the file number listed above on all comments.**