



# Long-term Conservation Strategy *for the* Marbled Murrelet



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**

Estimated total costs associated with developing and producing this document:  
USFWS (co-lead): \$684,000; DNR (applicant, co-lead): \$9,763,000



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September 2018

Dear Interested Party,

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is developing a long-term conservation strategy for the marbled murrelet. DNR intends to amend the 1997 *State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan* (HCP) and apply for an amendment to DNR's incidental take permit for the marbled murrelet under the Endangered Species Act. Once approved by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Board of Natural Resources, the long-term conservation strategy will replace the current, interim strategy for the marbled murrelet, and will be implemented in concert with the other conservation strategies under the HCP.

The marbled murrelet is listed as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act. These small, fast-flying seabirds have an intriguing life history, spending most of their lives in the marine environment while nesting inland on large tree limbs in older forest in western Washington. Marbled murrelet population decline in Washington has been linked to the loss of inland nesting habitat, as well as threats in the marine environment. Uncertainty about DNR's strategy for habitat conservation of the marbled murrelet on state trust lands has created challenges and uncertainties as we conduct forest management activities and implement the HCP. A long-term conservation strategy will better identify strategically important murrelet nesting habitat on DNR-managed lands and therefore contribute to long-term conservation of the species, while providing long-term certainty for timber harvest and other management activities on forested state trust lands.

This revised draft environmental impact statement (RDEIS), which replaces the 2016 draft EIS, evaluates seven alternative long-term conservation strategies and a no action alternative (the current, interim strategy). Each action alternative provides a unique approach to murrelet habitat conservation, designating varying amounts of habitat for conservation and applying conservation measures to ensure long-term protection of forestlands important to the marbled murrelet.

Produced collaboratively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this document is intended to satisfy the environmental review requirements of both the State Environmental Policy Act and National Environmental Policy Act for adopting a long-term conservation strategy and amending the HCP and incidental take permit for the marbled murrelet. We invite you to provide comment on this RDEIS. Further information is posted at <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/long-term-conservation-strategy-marbled-murrelet>.

Thank you for sharing my interest in habitat conservation for the marbled murrelet and the sustainable management of state trust lands. I encourage your engagement in this very important process.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilary Franz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Hilary Franz  
Commissioner of Public Lands

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# REVISED DRAFT

## Environmental Impact Statement

for a

## Long-Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet

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# Cover Sheet/Fact Sheet

**Title:** Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIS) for a Long-term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet

**Description of Proposal:** This document is a joint RDEIS between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to satisfy both the National Environmental Policy Act and the State Environmental Policy Act. This proposal involves amending the DNR *State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan* with a long-term conservation strategy for the marbled murrelet. Eight alternatives, including a no action alternative and DNR's preferred alternative, are analyzed.

**Proponent:** DNR

**Legal Mandate:** Endangered Species Act of 1973; National Environmental Policy Act; State Environmental Policy Act

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**Date of Issue of RDEIS:** September 7, 2018

**Comment Period:**

The comment period for this RDEIS is September 7, 2018 through November 6, 2018. Comments are due to the SEPA center no later than 5:00 pm on November 6, 2018.

**Public Meetings:**

October 9, 2018 (6-8 pm)  
Rainforest Arts Center  
35 North Forks Avenue  
Forks, WA 98331

October 11, 2018 (6-8 pm)  
River Street Meeting Room  
25 River Street  
Cathlamet, WA 98612

October 15, 2018 (5-7 pm)  
Ballard Library Meeting Room  
5614 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW  
Seattle, WA 98107

October 17, 2018 (6:30-8:30 pm)  
Burlington Public Library Rotary Community Meeting Room  
820 East Washington Avenue  
Burlington, WA 98233

**Anticipated Issuance of Final EIS:** Spring 2019

**Notice of Availability:**

This RDEIS is posted online at:  
<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/long-term-conservation-strategy-marbled-murrelet>

Copies will be sent to the Board of Natural Resources, affected local government planning departments (city and county), affected tribes, all state and federal agencies with jurisdiction, academia, Washington newspapers, libraries, and other interested parties.

A limited number of print copies and computer print CDs will be available at no charge upon request. After these are distributed, copies will be available for the cost of printing or CD production. Requests can be sent to the DNR contact address.

**Location of Supporting Documents:**

Supporting documents for this RDEIS including the 1997 *State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan* can be found online at [www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov), and are available for review at the DNR SEPA Center at 1111 Washington Street SE in Olympia, Washington.

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*(These appendices are provided on a CD or at <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/mmltcs>)*

Appendix A: Scoping Report

Appendix B: Analytical Framework Focus Paper

Appendix C: Population Viability Analysis (Peery and Jones 2016)

Appendix D: Occupied Sites Focus Paper

Appendix E: P-Stage Focus Paper

Appendix F: Maps of Marbled Murrelet Conservation Areas by Alternative

Appendix G: Long-Term Forest Cover Focus Paper

Appendix H: Potential Impacts and Mitigation Focus Paper

Appendix I: 2007 and 2009 Concurrence Letters

Appendix J: Fish Distribution in Analysis Area

Appendix K: Rare Plants in Long-Term Forest Cover

Appendix L: Wildlife Species and Associated Habitats in the Analysis Area

Appendix M: Data and Assumptions Used in Socioeconomic Analysis

Appendix N: Distribution List

Appendix O: Data Updates

Appendix P: Financial Analysis

# List of Acronyms

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
DAHP	Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
DEIS	Draft environmental impact statement
DNR	Washington State Department of Natural Resources
EIS	Environmental impact statement
FEIS	Final environmental impact statement
FEMAT	Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team
GIS	Geographic Information System
1997 HCP	State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
MMMA	Marbled Murrelet Management Area
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
OESF	Olympic Experimental State Forest
RCP	Representative concentration pathway
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
RDEIS	Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement
RFRS	Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy
SEPA	Washington State Environmental Policy Act
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WAC	Washington Administrative Code
WDFW	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

## Other Terms

Board	Board of Natural Resources
Federal Services	USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Services
Legislature	Washington State Legislature