

Wildlife Working Group

Marbled Murrelet Forest Practices Rule Assessment Progress Update to FP Board

February 2021



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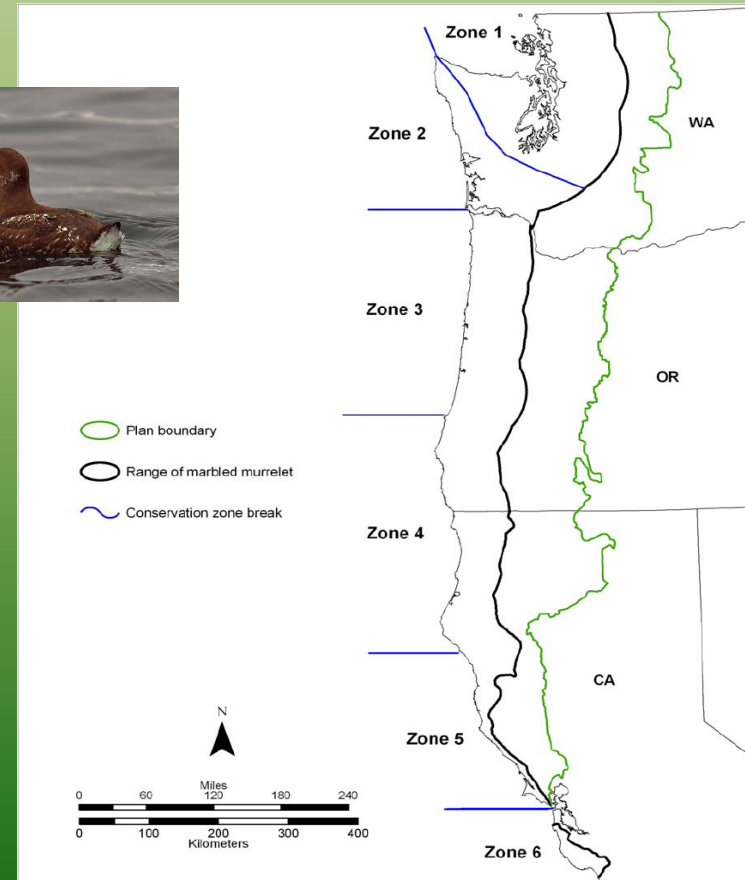


FP Rule Assessment Background

Continued annual decline of $\sim 3.9\%$
from 2001-2018 in WA

2017 - State up-listing to
Endangered status

DNR & WDFW recommendation
to Board = FP Rule Assessment



FP Rule Assessment Background

WDFW initiated Wildlife Working Group (WWG)

WWG includes WDFW & Stakeholders

Objective: ID rule improvements & develop recommendations for FP Board



WWG Progress

Late 2018 - WWG began meeting

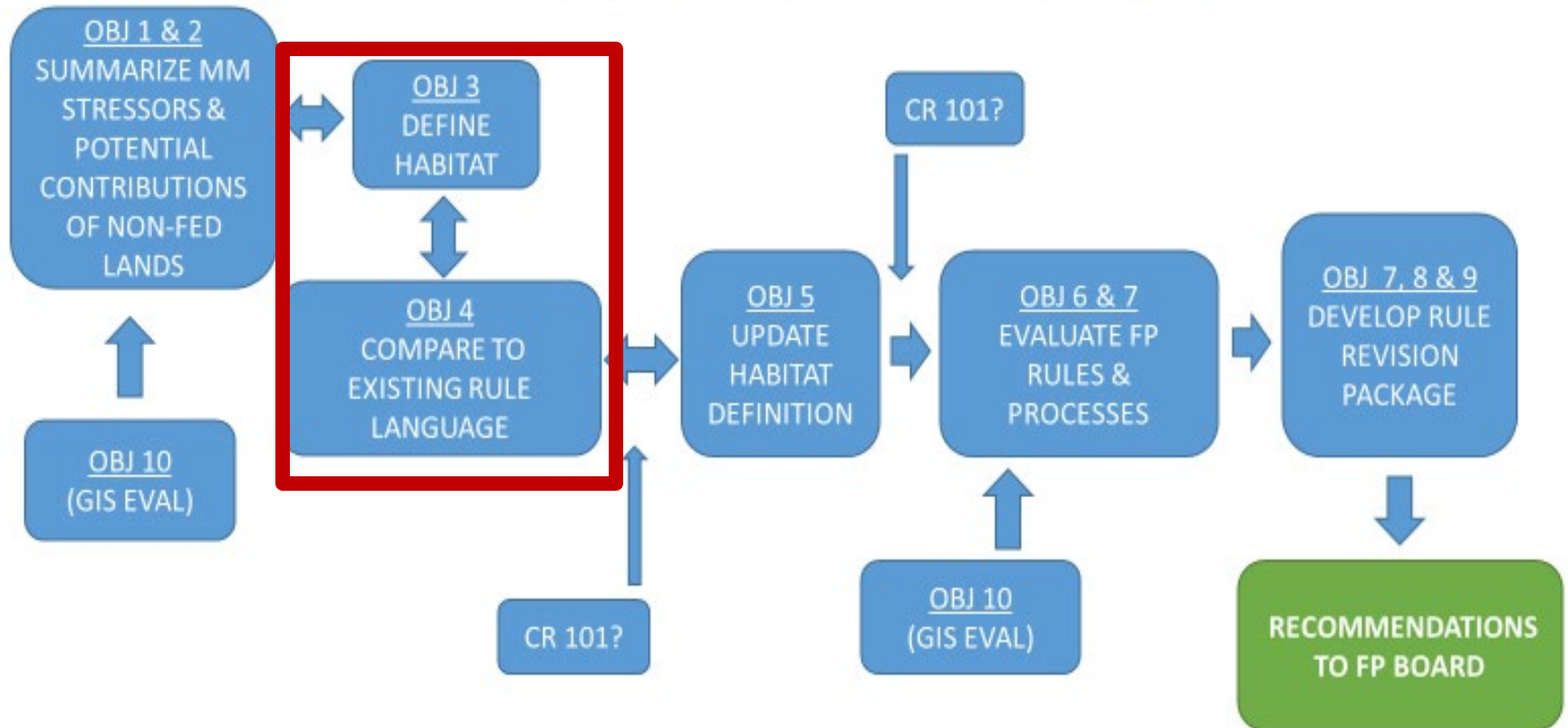
Developed Charter - Ground Rules
for WWG

Created Objectives - Road Map for
FP Rule Assessment



WWG Progress

MM Rule Assessment Work Flow – Wildlife Working Group



WWG Progress

Early 2019, WWG began developing
'Objectives Document'

Assemble Info for Objectives 1, 2 & 3

- Assess MM population stressors
- Assess contributions of Non-Federal lands to MM conservation
- Evaluate Habitat Definition



Objective 1

Objective 1 -Assess MM population stressors

- Nesting habitat loss
- Habitat fragmentation & edge effects
- Prey base & reproductive success
- Marine disturbance & pollution
- Cumulative & interactive effects



Objective 2

Objective 2 - Assess contributions of Non-Federal lands to MM conservation

- Estimates of available habitat
- Private lands contributions
- 50-mile range vs. extended range



Objective 3

Objective 3 - Evaluate suitable MM habitat definition

- Review habitat components in FP rule
- Compare to other definitions
- Consider new science



Objective 3

Evaluating the Science

- Assessing Best Available Science (BAS)
 - WA & OR nest attribute data
 - Additional stand & nest data
- Comparing habitat definitions
 - FP Rule differs from USFWS, Pacific Seabird Group, DNR State Lands HCP
- Evaluating habitat models



Next Step Objective 4

Objective 4 - Confirm Habitat Definition

- Incorporate BAS
- Decide habitat criteria
- Establish recommended definition
- Evaluate rest of FP Rule



Next Steps Objective 5

Characterize processes to address
MM habitat protection under FP
rules

Driven by habitat definition

Affects rule components

- Habitat Criteria & Delineation
- Suitable Habitat ID (Board Manual 15)
- Protocol Surveys



Possible Timeline

WWG – No specific timeline identified

- BAS synthesis & evaluation very time consuming
- Move quicker once establish habitat definition

WWG Goals:

- Spring/Summer 2021-Habitat Definition
- Summer/Fall 2021-FP Rule processes & components evaluated
- Fall/Winter 2021-Recommendations to Board



WWG Progress

HUGE THANKS to the WWG members!

- Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA)
- Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA)
- Washington Forest Law Center (WFCL)
- WA State Association of Counties
- US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

WWG Progress

Questions?

