



MEMORANDUM

November 18, 2016

File No. 12-042001

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Rochelle M. Goss, SEPA Center

SUBJECT: **DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON THE LONG-TERM CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR THE MARBLED MURRELET**

The proposal is to amend the Department of Natural Resources 1997 State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (State Trust Lands HCP) to include a long-term conservation strategy for the marbled murrelet. This is a joint draft environmental impact statement between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Department of Natural Resources to satisfy both the National Environmental Policy Act and the State Environmental Policy Act. This proposal was not included 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 stage in planning, the proposal for a long-term conservation strategy is described as a set of six alternatives, including a no action alternative. The alternatives represent a range of approaches to long-term marbled murrelet habitat conservation on DNR-managed lands within 55 miles of marine waters. The development of these alternatives was guided by a need, purpose and objectives approved by the Board of Natural Resources (the Board) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The no action alternative reflects what would occur if DNR did not adopt a long-term marbled murrelet conservation strategy. 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.

Notice of Public Meetings:

January 10, 2017 – Sedro Woolley
NW Region Office – NW Conference Center
919 N. Township Street
6:00 – 8:00 pm

January 17, 2017 – Port Angeles
Port Angeles High School – Commons/Lunch Room
304 E. Park Avenue
6:00 – 8:00 pm

January 12, 2017 – Seattle
Whitman Middle School - Auditorium
9201 15th Avenue NW
6:00 – 8:00 pm

January 19, 2017 – Cathlamet
Julius A. Wendt Elementary School Multipurpose Room
265 S. 3rd Street
6:00 – 8:00 pm

Marbled Murrelet Webinar:

January 24, 2017, 2:00 – 3:00 pm. Link will be available at: www.dnr.wa.gov/mmltcs

The Draft EIS and additional information about this proposal can be viewed on DNR's website at:

<http://www.dnr.wa.gov/long-term-conservation-strategy-marbled-murrelet>

Comments on this proposed Draft Environmental Impact Statement should be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on March 9, 2017. Comments should be submitted to the SEPA Center at sepacenter@dnr.wa.gov or PO Box 47015, Olympia, Washington 98504-7015. Please include the file number listed above on all comments. The subject line of email comments should include SEPA File No. 12-042001.