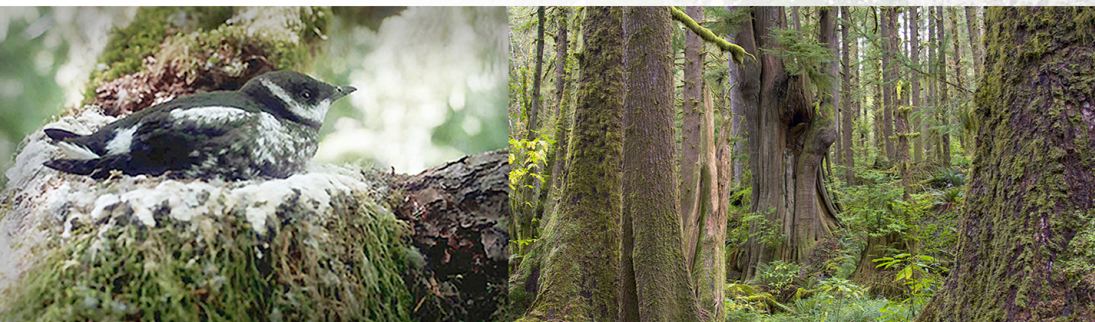




Long-Term Conservation Strategy *for the* Marbled Murrelet



Murrelet photo courtesy www.hamerenvironmental.com

Final Environmental
Impact Statement
September, 2019



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES
HILARY S. FRANZ | COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

Estimated total costs associated with developing this FEIS:
USFWS (co-lead) \$908,000; DNR (applicant, co-lead) \$10,113,000

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September 2019

Dear Interested Party,

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is developing a long-term conservation strategy for the marbled murrelet. DNR will amend the 1997 *State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan* (1997 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. It will be implemented in concert with the other conservation strategies under the 1997 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 and 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. The lack of a marbled murrelet long-term conservation strategy has created challenges and uncertainties as we conduct forest management activities and implement the 1997 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 final draft environmental impact statement (FEIS) 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.

This document was produced collaboratively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is intended to satisfy the environmental review requirements of both the State Environmental Policy Act and National Environmental Policy Act. Further information is posted at dnr.wa.gov/mmltcs.

Thank you for sharing my interest in habitat conservation for the marbled murrelet and the sustainable management of state trust lands.

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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FINAL

Environmental Impact Statement

for a

Long-Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet

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Olympia, Washington
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Cover Sheet/Fact Sheet

Title: Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for a Long-term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet

Description of Proposal: This document is a joint FEIS between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) (the Joint Agencies) 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 the Joint Agencies' 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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This FEIS is posted online at:
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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 FEIS, including the 1997 *State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan*, can be found online at 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>)

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- Appendix B: Analytical Framework Focus Paper
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- Appendix S: Comment Summaries and Responses
- Appendix T: Mitigation for Natural Disturbance
- Appendix U: Changes in Operable Acres Used in the School District 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