



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

Peter Goldmark - Commissioner of Public Lands

DRAFT POLICY RECOMMENDATION
August 7, 2012

Marbled Murrelet Conservation Strategy



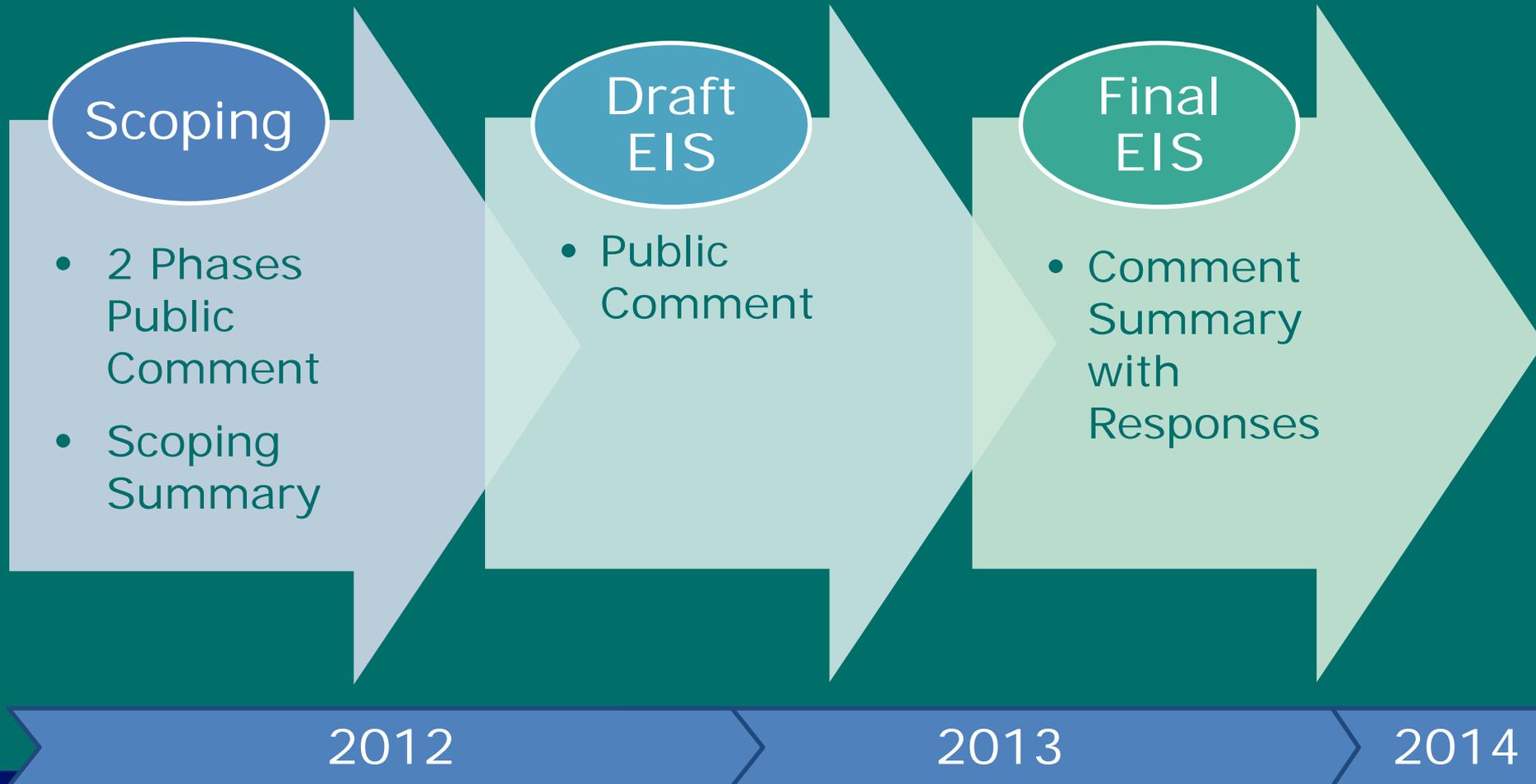
Photo: Nick Hatch, PNWRS

Staff Recommendation for Need, Purpose and Objectives

August 7, 2012

Marbled Murrelet Conservation Strategy

NEPA/SEPA Joint EIS Process



Marbled Murrelet Conservation Strategy

Scoping Phase 1

- Scoping Notice issued on April 20, 2012 opening public comment period until May 21, 2012
- Public meetings
 - April 30, 2012 – Olympia, 17 attendees
 - May 3, 2012 – Sedro Woolley, 13 attendees
 - May 8, 2012 – Cathlamet, 13 attendees
 - May 9, 2012 – Forks, 9 attendees
- Active public participation reflected in comments
 - 2040 comment letters (~2000 form letters)



Marbled Murrelet Conservation Strategy

Scoping Phase 1

Commenters:

- American Forest Resources Council (AFRC)
- Buse Timber & Sales
- Columbia River Alliance for Nurturing the Environment (CRANE)
- City of Forks
- Hampton Affiliates
- Hampton Tree Farms
- International Forest Products Limited (Interfor)
- Murphy Company
- North Olympic Timber Action Company (NOTAC)
- Olympic Forest Coalition (OFCO)
- Pilchuck Audubon
- RSG Forest Products
- Seattle Audubon Society
- Several Individual Citizens
- Sierra Club
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Skagit Audubon Society
- Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
- Tulalip Tribes
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- WA Contract Loggers Association
- WA Forest Law Center
- WA Hardwoods Commission
- WA State Association of Counties



Marbled Murrelet Conservation Strategy

Scoping Phase 1

- A summary of comments related to the Need, Purpose and Objectives is provided in your packet
- Overall, these comments span the range of issues previously considered by the Board
 - December 6, 2012 (BNR endorsement of NPO)
 - March 16, 2012 (BNR & USFWS approval for scoping)
- Staff recommend a single change to clarify the intent that all objectives must be met



Marbled Murrelet Conservation Strategy
Staff Recommendation to the Board of Natural Resources
For Need, Purpose and Objectives

Need: To obtain long-term certainty for timber harvest and other management activities on forested state trust lands and to contribute to long-term conservation for the marbled murrelet, consistent with commitments in the 1997 Habitat Conservation Plan.

Purpose: To develop a long-term habitat conservation strategy for marbled murrelets on forested state trust lands in the six west-side planning units, subject to DNR's fiduciary responsibility to the trust beneficiaries as defined by law and USFWS' responsibilities under the ESA, [which achieves the following objectives:](#)

Objective #1 Trust Mandate: Generate revenue and other benefits for each trust by meeting DNR's trust responsibilities, including: making trust property productive; preserving the corpus of the trust; exercising reasonable care and skill in managing the trust; acting prudently with respect to trust property; acting with undivided loyalty to trust beneficiaries; and acting impartially with respect to current and future trust beneficiaries.

Objective #2 Marbled Murrelet Habitat: Provide forest conditions in strategic locations on forested trust lands that minimize and mitigate incidental take of marbled murrelets resulting from DNR's forest management activities. In accomplishing this objective, we expect to make a significant contribution to maintaining and protecting marbled murrelet populations.

Objective #3 Active Management: Promote active, innovative and sustainable management on the forested trust land base.

Objective #4 Operational Flexibility: Provide flexibility to respond to new information and site specific conditions.

Objective #5 Implementation Certainty: Adopt feasible, practical and cost effective actions that are likely to be successful and can be sustained throughout the life of the HCP.

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Next Steps – Scoping Phase 2

- Update on development of conceptual alternatives
- Future opportunities for public participation
 - Public meetings to explain conceptual alternatives
 - Written comment period



Marbled Murrelet Conservation Strategy Questions?





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