



Board of Natural Resources Preferred Alternative for the Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy



PROVIDING LONG-TERM MARBLED MURRELET HABITAT ON STATE LANDS

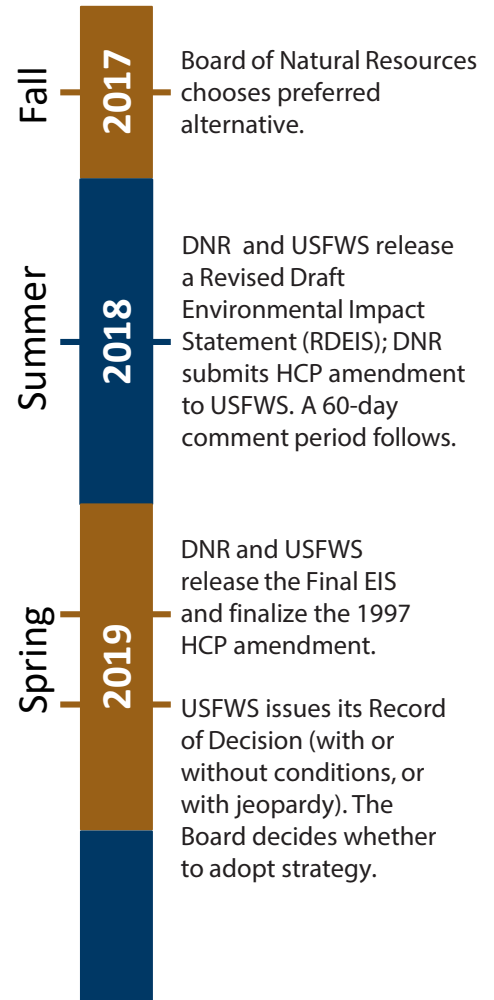
The Board of Natural Resources (the Board) has chosen a preferred alternative for a marbled murrelet long-term conservation strategy to amend the 1997 State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (1997 HCP). The Board selected an alternative based on years of research and collaboration with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), scientists, conservation groups, trust beneficiaries, and stakeholders. The Board focused its preferred alternative on achieving compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

DNR and USFWS have jointly analyzed the preferred alternative, looking at both the environmental and economic impacts. The preferred alternative has been submitted to USFWS as a proposed amendment to the 1997 HCP. Both the amendment and the analysis will be open to the public for a 60-day comment period. USFWS will evaluate the amendment for compliance with the ESA. Before implementation, the Board will consider all input on the preferred alternative and adopt a final long-term conservation strategy.

THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The preferred alternative is designed to minimize and mitigate impacts to marbled murrelets from harvesting, roads, and other disturbances. This plan concentrates conservation to protect and buffer occupied sites and develop 29 special habitat areas that are distributed across strategically important locations for the marbled murrelet. In addition to 567,000 acres of conservation already protected through the 1997 HCP and other policies within the range of the marbled murrelet, the alternative adds 43,000 additional conservation acres specifically for marbled murrelets.

This alternative is designed to create more certainty and predictability for beneficiaries and communities than the current 20-year interim strategy. It will also release timber harvest areas less valuable to conservation and critical to beneficiaries and rural communities.





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PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

As shown in the map above, this alternative concentrates conservation in three strategic locations the Joint Agencies identified as having disproportionately high importance for marbled murrelet conservation: Southwest Washington, Olympia Peninsula and North Puget Sound.

The Alternative Protects:

Occupied sites and buffers: 92,000 total acres – these are sites where marbled murrelet have been identified as nesting or using the forest and 100 meter forest buffers around occupied sites.

Special Habitat Areas: 58,000 total acres – these areas are strategically located and protect current habitat, future habitat, and security forest.

Metered release of timber: harvest of 3,600 adjusted acres of habitat will be delayed until the second decade following adoption of the HCP amendment to allow for additional habitat to develop.

Existing Conservation: of the 567,000 acres currently set aside within the analysis area for all species covered under the 1997 HCP, 155,000 acres has been identified as marbled murrelet habitat. This is expected to increase to 282,000 acres of suitable habitat for the marbled murrelet over the next 50 years.

THE SOLUTIONS TABLE

While the preferred alternative undergoes environmental review and public comment, DNR has convened a Solutions Table of community members, stakeholders, and elected leaders who represent those impacted by this work.

The Solutions Table will look at all aspects of the preferred alternative and receive information from scientists, beneficiaries, stakeholders and economists. They are tasked with producing workable proposals of solutions to address hardships that may occur as a result of compliance with the ESA and to support the resilience of the marbled murrelet outside of the 1997 HCP.

Estimated Financial Impacts

By choosing a preferred alternative, DNR will move towards a long-term conservation strategy that permits revenue generating activities on specified lands throughout the life of the 1997 HCP while meeting ESA requirements. Because of this confidence, the preferred alternative decision represents the best interest of each of the trusts.

Because certain areas of trust lands contain more highly valuable conservation than others, not all trusts are impacted equally.

DNR identified the most heavily impacted trusts, including Pacific, Wahkiakum and Clallam counties, and minimized those impacts through the design of the preferred alternative.

A more thorough assessment of the economic impacts is contained within the RDEIS.

Trusts		Current Revenue	% Impact
Federally Granted Trusts	Agricultural School Grant	\$4	-1%
	Capitol Building Grant	\$7	-1%
	CEP&RI and CEP&RI transferred	\$4	0%
	Common School And Escheat	\$28	-1%
	Normal School	\$2	-4%
	Scientific School Grant	\$6	-1%
	University Grant	\$1	-11%
Other Lands	Community College Forest Reserve	\$0.4	0%
	Water Pollution Control Division Trust Land	\$0.2	0%
	Other	\$0.1	0%
State Forest Trust Transfer Land	Clallam County	\$6	1%
	Clark County	\$6	n/a
	Cowlitz County	\$2	0%
	Grays Harbor County	\$0.4	4%
	Jefferson County	\$2	2%
	King County	\$2	0%
	Kitsap County	\$0.6	0%
	Lewis County	\$6	0%
	Mason County	\$4	0%
	Pacific County	\$1	-2%
	Pierce County	\$0.4	0%
	Skagit County	\$10	-1%
	Snohomish County	\$9	-1%
	Thurston County	\$3	1%
Wahkiakum County	\$1	7%	
Whatcom County	\$3	-1%	