March 7, 2013

TO: Sue Trettevik, Olympic Region Manager

FROM: Julie Sackett, Forest Resources Division Manager

SUBJECT: Marbled Murrelet Management within the Olympic Experimental State Forest

This Memorandum supersedes a November 1999 Procedure titled "Protecting Marbled Murrelet Habitat" as it relates to the Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF). This Memorandum applies to HCP permitted activities within the OESF and directs implementation of the HCP Marbled Murrelet Interim Conservation Strategy (MMICS).

DISCUSSION

Development of the HCP Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy (MMLTCS) is progressing. Until the MMLTCS is completed, DNR's management activities must follow the MMICS. This Memorandum provides detailed information for implementation of the MMICS. When the MMLTCS is completed and approved by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, guidance on implementing the MMLTCS will replace this Memorandum.

In September 2008, a report titled *Recommendations and Supporting Analysis of Conservation Opportunities for the Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy* (Science Team Report) was prepared for DNR. The term and concept, "Science Team Additional Habitat" is derived from this report where marbled murrelet habitat is discussed.

Boundaries of Reclassified Habitat, Old Forest, Science Team Additional Habitat and Occupied Marbled Murrelet Sites (Occupied MM Sites) needed to implement this Memorandum are available spatially in ArcGIS and the State Uplands Viewing Tool under the main heading *"State Lands – Marbled Murrelet – HCP Policy"* with the layer titles; *"Murrelet Habitat- OESF" (Source: SHARED_LM.MM_HABITAT_OESF).*

IMPLEMENTATION

Action By:	Action:
Olympic Region	A. Defer from harvest <u>all</u> occupied MM sites, reclassified habitat, old forest and science team additional habitat within the OESF. These habitat types are delineated spatially in DNR's GIS (see above) and the occupied sites reflect delineation as identified by the Science Team Report.

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	B. Occupied sites and unsurveyed old forest will be evaluated for the application of buffers and timing restrictions from adjacent management activities when appropriate. Survey status of old forest is available spatially on the *Murrelet Habitat - OESF* GIS layer by querying MM_SURVEYED_FLG equals "Y" or "N" ("N" means it has not been surveyed). Evaluate the application of a buffer for any proposed harvest activities within 328' of and timing restrictions for noise disturbing management activities within 0.25 miles of an occupied site or unsurveyed old forest. As an example, buffers may be in the form of a 328' managed buffer (thinned buffer as per WAC 222.16-080 (1)(h)(*v*) residual stand stem density levels) or a 165' no touch buffer. Examples of noise disturbing activities include but are not limited to: felling and bucking, cable and helicopter yarding, operation of heavy equipment and slash disposal or prescribed burning; this does not include log hauling. One factor (but not limited to) that may influence the need for a buffer is the role topography can play and its relation to the proposed management activity and location of the occupied site. All proposed management activities within 0.25 mile of an occupied site and unsurveyed old forest will be evaluated with input from the region biologist. All regeneration harvests within 328' of an occupied site or unsurveyed old forest will be reviewed by the HCP and Scientific Consultation Section of Forest Resources Division. All management activities within 0.25 miles of an occupied site or unsurveyed old forest that doesn't have a timing restriction will be reviewed by the HCP and Scientific Consultation Section. For all management activity proposals within 0.25 miles of an occupied site or unsurveyed old forest it is important to provide adequate information within SEPA to support buffer decisions. C. Within occupied sites, new road construction is not permitted. If road reconstruction or road abandonment is deemed necessary (safety related or to address adverse environmental conditions) and involves felling of trees (i.e. tree >6" dbh), review by the HCP and Scientific Consultation Section of FRCD is required. Provided no tree felling occurs (including day-lighting), road maintenance, road reconstruction or road abandonment may occur without Division review as long as all other aspects of this Memorandum are adhered to. D. Within old forest, reclassified habitat or Science Team Additional Habitat; new road construction, reconstruction or maintenance will be reviewed by the HCP and Scientific Consultation Section of FRCD prior to commencing these activities. Provided no tree (i.e. tree >6" dbh) felling occurs (including day-lighting), road maintenance, road reconstruction or road abandonment may occur without Division review as long as all other aspects of this Memorandum are adhered to.

	E. Reviews by the HCP and Scientific Consultation Section will require documentation by the region describing the proposal including background, the proposal itself, alternatives to the proposal considered; accompanied by maps and photos as appropriate. This documentation will be submitted to the HCP and Scientific Consultation section of the Forest Resources Division for review and concurrence and may involve consultation with the USFWS.
Olympic Region and Asset & Property Management Division	Activities related to non-timber resources (as defined within the HCP) must be compliant with the HCP, including the Interim MM Conservation Strategy and this Memorandum.

cc: Lenny Young, Department Supervisor, State Uplands
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