

DNR & USFWS PUBLIC MEETING

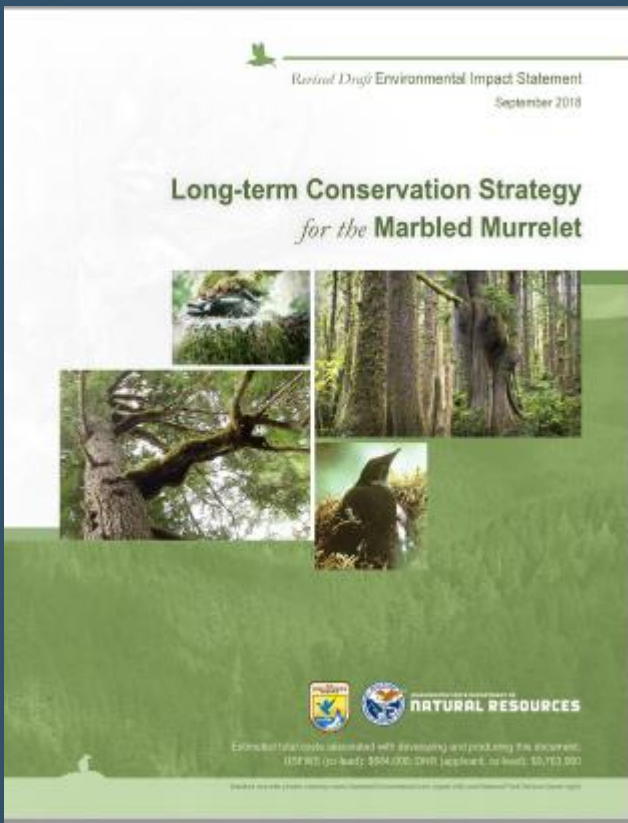
REVISED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (RDEIS)

Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy



Why are we here tonight?

- DNR and USFWS have released a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Long-Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet (*MMLTCS RDEIS*)
- DNR has also submitted a proposed amendment to the 1997 HCP*, which reflects DNR's Preferred Alternative
- 60-day public comment period
 - September 7, 2018 to 5 pm November 6, 2018



(*1997 State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan)



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- and -



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Department of Natural Resources

Manages & Protects

State Trust Lands



Forests

Agriculture

Aquatic Lands

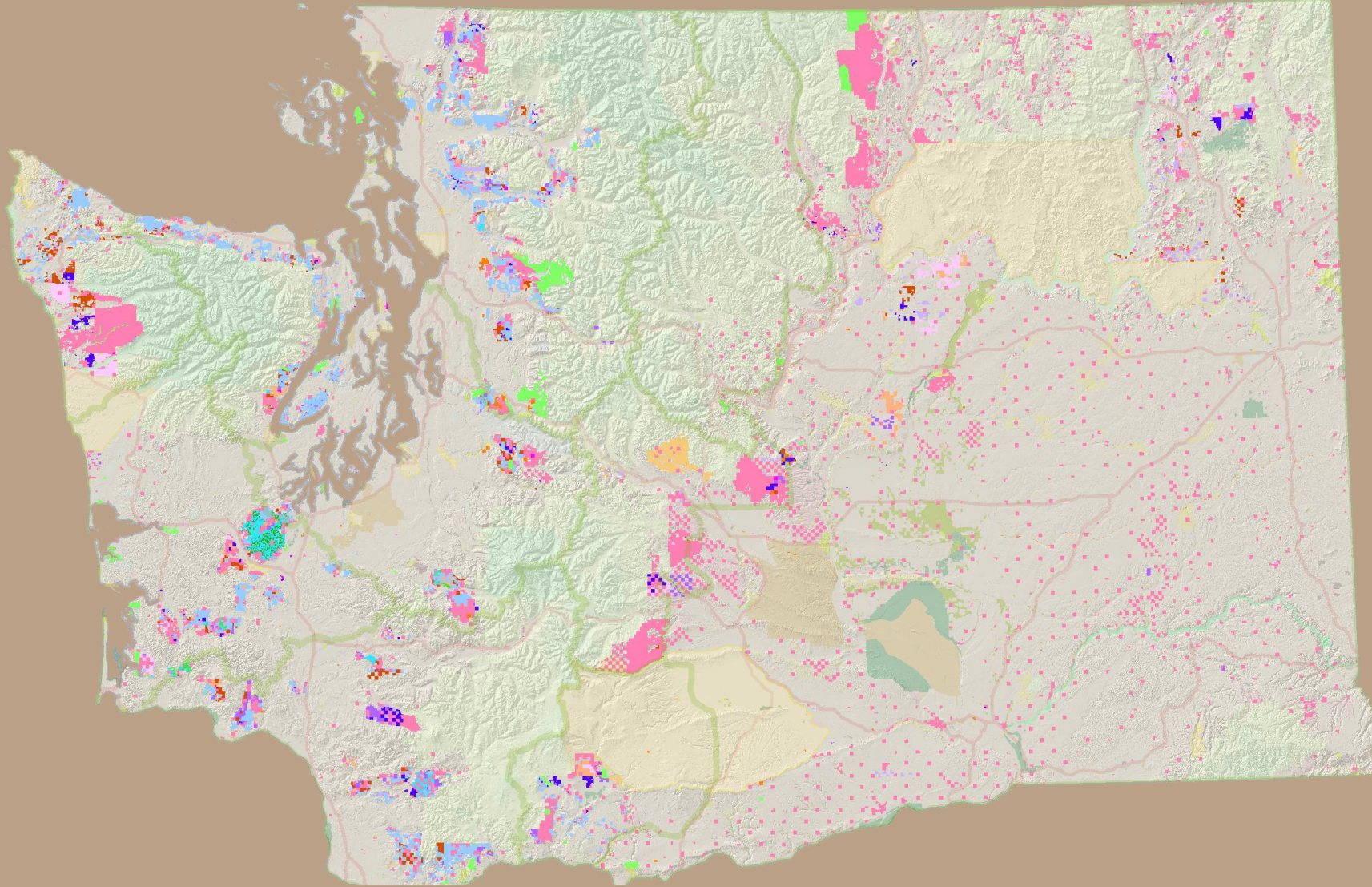
Conservation Lands

Natural Area Preserves












Natural Resources Conservation Areas



State Trust Lands



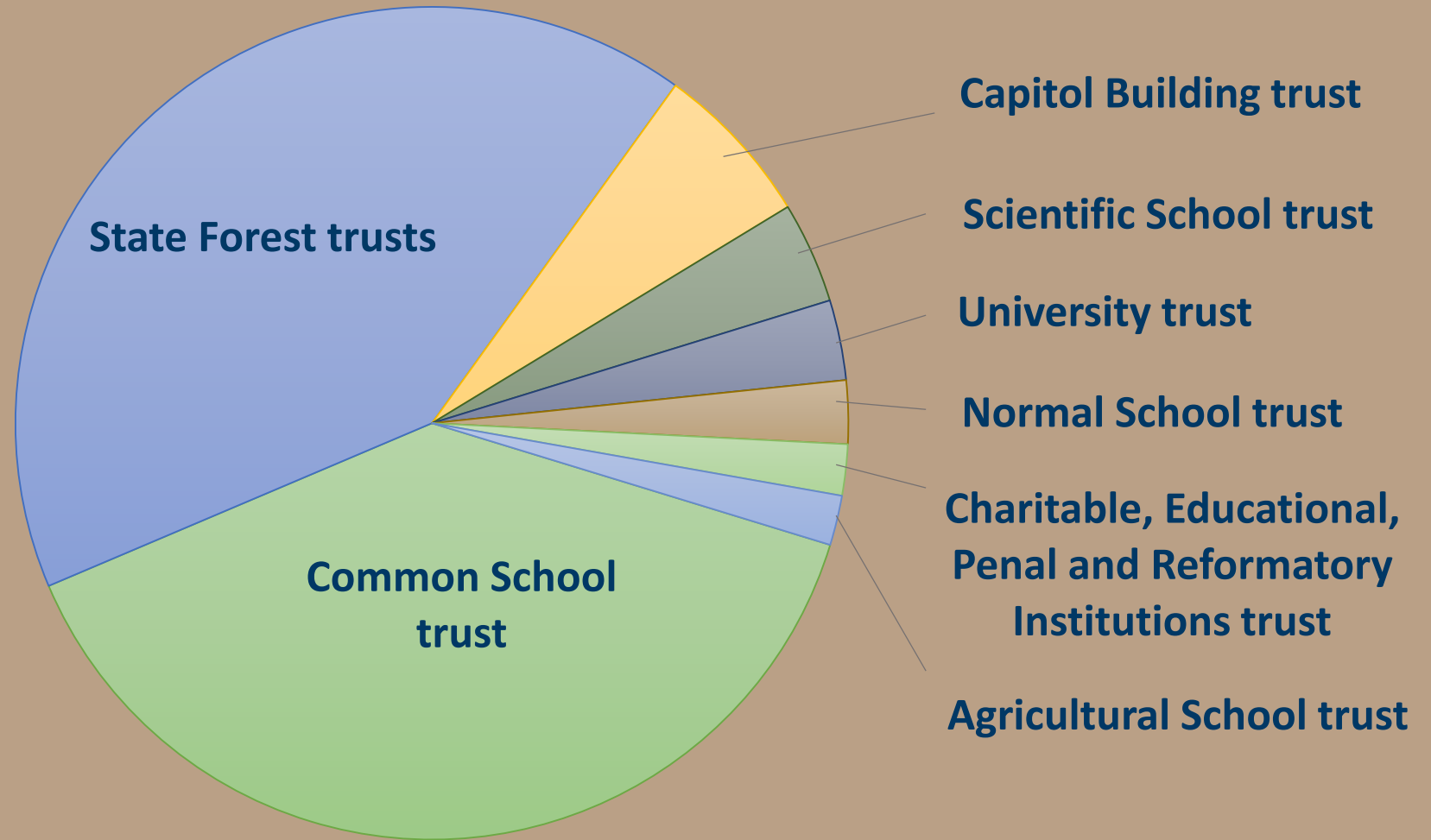
Beneficiaries

-  Common School, Indemnity & Escheat
-  Scientific School
-  University Original
-  University Transferred
-  Normal School
-  Agricultural School
-  Capitol Grant
-  Charitable, Educational, Penal & Reformatory Institutions
-  State Forest Transfer Trust
-  State Forest Purchased Trust
-  Community College Reserve and other DNR-managed lands



Proportional Acreage of Major Trusts on Westside

**1.4 Million Acres
of Forested Trust
Lands**



Board of Natural Resources

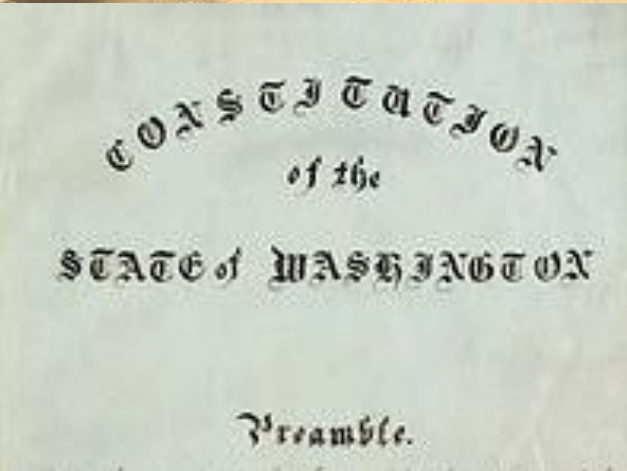
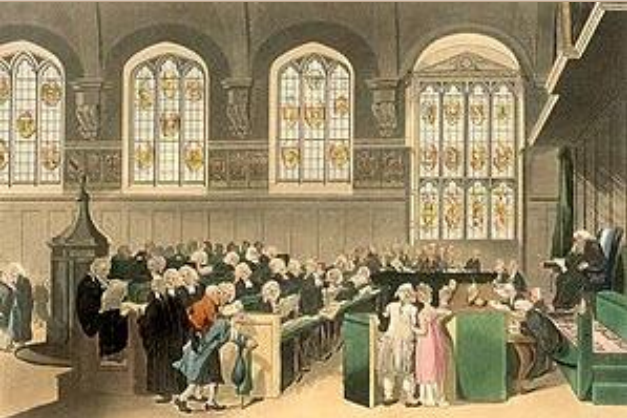
- Sets policies to guide DNR's management of state trust land
- Comprised of Commissioner of Public Lands, as well as representatives of beneficiaries and the public.

The Board is the Decision Maker on the Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy



Trust Mandate

As manager of state trust lands, DNR has legal fiduciary responsibilities under the State Constitution to:



- Generate revenue and other benefits for each trust, in perpetuity
- Preserve the corpus of the trust
- Exercise reasonable care and skill
- Act prudently to reduce the risk of loss for the trusts
- Maintain undivided loyalty to beneficiaries
- Act impartially with respect to current and future beneficiaries





N A T U R A L R E S O U R C E S

FINAL HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN

September 1997



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Jennifer M. Belcher - Commissioner of Public Lands



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Interim Strategy

- Temporary
- Complicated
- Uncertain



Long-Term Strategy

- Certain
- Intentional
- Predictable



US Fish and Wildlife Service



- Collaborates with partners to achieve on-the-ground conservation for species and habitats under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Responsible for implementation of the ESA
- Follow National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation requirements when issuing an incidental take permit under the ESA



US Fish and Wildlife Service



Issued an Incidental Take Permit to DNR in 1997 under the State Trusts Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (1997 HCP)

Incidental Take Permit allows DNR to legally proceed with forest management and timber harvest that may result in “incidental take” of listed wildlife species.

- This process is amending the incidental take permit for the marbled murrelet only
- There is no change to the remaining HCP conservation approaches



Incidental Take Permit Issuance Criteria

- The taking will be incidental
- Minimize and mitigate impacts of taking to maximum extent practicable
- Adequate funding to implement murrelet strategy
- The taking will not appreciably reduce the survival and recovery of the species in the wild
- Other measures the USFWS may require



Marbled Murrelet Biology



- A small marine bird that spends most of its life at sea, but nests in mature and old-growth forests.
- Feeds primarily on small fishes such as herring, sand lance, and anchovies, but will also feed on marine invertebrates such as krill.



Nesting Biology



Photo: USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station



Photo: Peter Halasz

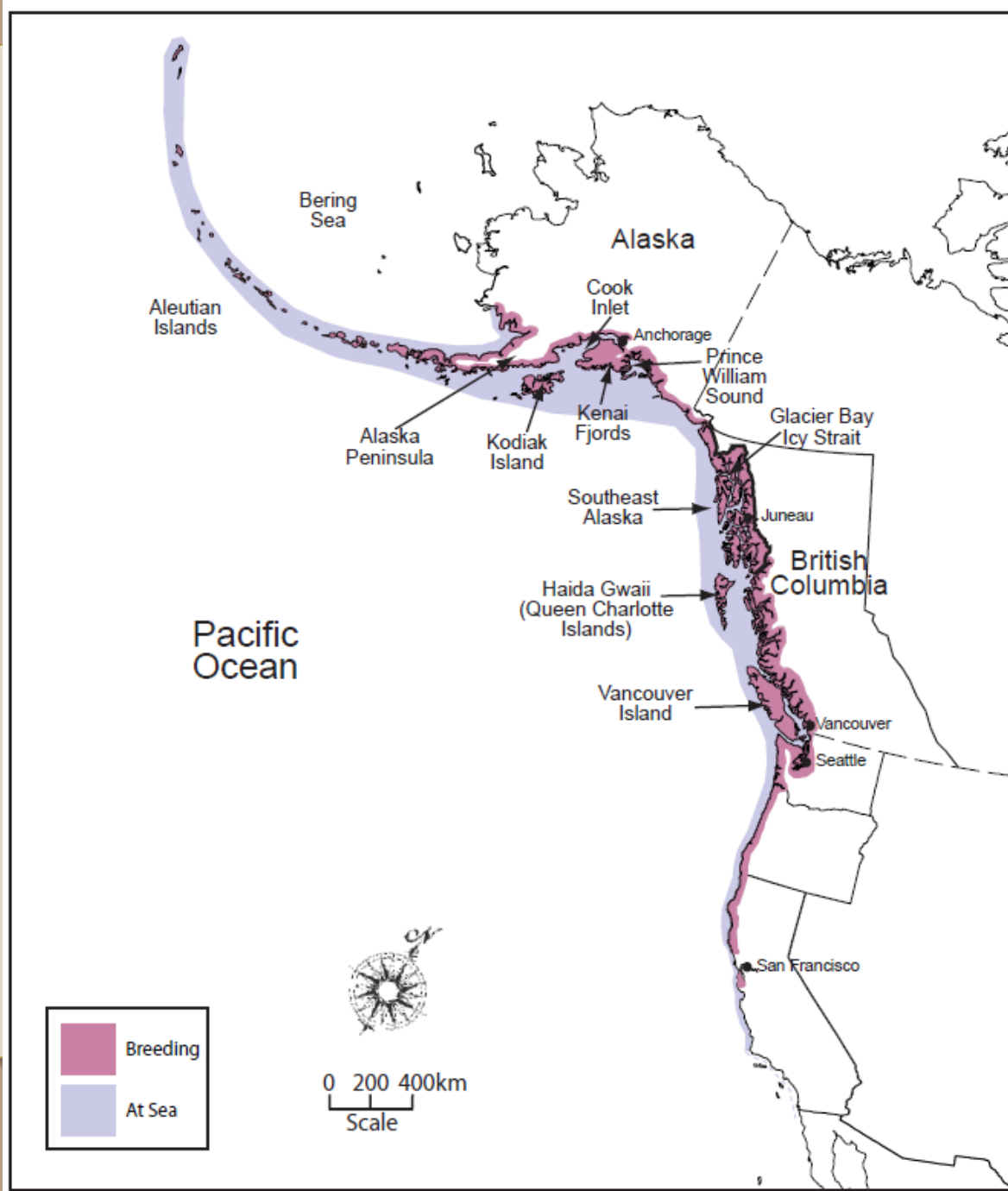
© 2010 Ram Papish
www.rampapish.com

Marbled murrelets do not build a nest, but lay a single egg in moss or debris on a tree branch or other natural platform.



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Range of the Marbled Murrelet

Extends from Alaska to California.

Largest populations occur in Alaska and British Columbia.

Closely associated with coastal forests and nearshore marine waters during the summer nesting season.



Status of Marbled Murrelets

- 1992 - Federally listed under the Endangered Species Act as a *threatened* species in **Washington**, Oregon and California.
- Marbled murrelets in **British Columbia** are listed as *threatened* under Canada's Species At Risk Act.
- **Alaska** populations are not listed as threatened or endangered, but available evidence indicates *populations may have declined by as much as 70 percent over the past 25 years.*



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Key Concepts – RDEIS Analysis Area

- All DNR-managed lands covered under the 1997 HCP
- Approximately 1.4 million acres
- Within 55 miles of all marine waters in western Washington



Key Concepts – Long-Term Forest Cover

Long-Term Forest Cover = Existing + Murrelet Specific

Existing Conservation: Conservation on DNR-managed lands is guided by policies, plans and rules, including:

- 1997 HCP
- Policy for Sustainable Forests
- Natural areas (NRCAs and NAPs)
- Forest practices
- Forest land plans

Each Alternative has the same amount of existing conservation.

Murrelet Specific Conservation: Strategic conservation areas conserved specifically for the marbled murrelet.

Each Alternative has varying amounts of marbled murrelet specific conservation

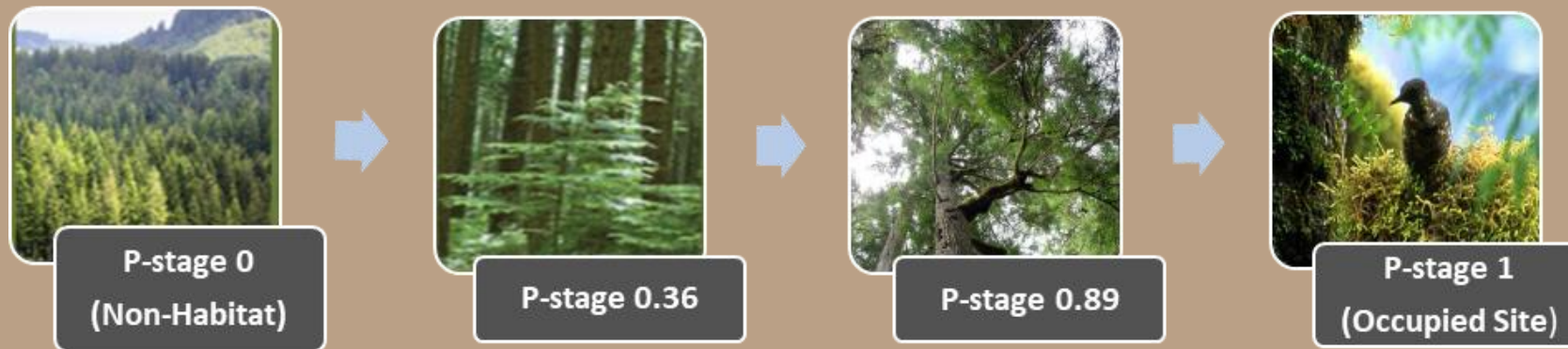


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Key Concepts – Occupied Sites & P-Stage

- **Occupied sites** – areas previously identified through surveys as showing signs of occupancy by marbled murrelets.
- **P-stage Model** - habitat classification system that estimates the quality and quantity of forest for marbled murrelet habitat



- **Security forest** – closed canopy stands located next to marbled murrelet habitat (*P-stage*) that protect the habitat



Why did the agencies release an RDEIS?



2 New Alternatives

Receive comments:

- new alternatives
- proposed amendment



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What are the differences between the DEIS and the RDEIS?

Considerable portion of DEIS used in RDEIS
Keeps Alternatives A through F

Key changes:

- **2 New Alternatives: G and H**
- New and updated analysis of Alternatives A through F
- Updated DNR's forest inventory data
- Updated population viability analysis



What are the differences between the DEIS and the RDEIS?

Key changes continued:

- Revisions to some of the conservation measures
- Strategic Locations
- Purpose and Need statements separated by Agency



DNR's Updated Forest Inventory Data

- Corrected inaccuracies identified in the data
- Updated forest inventory through 2018 to reflect current conditions
- Included any updates in occupied sites



How did conservation change in the RDEIS?

Marbled Murrelet Specific Conservation in Acres

| | Existing Conservation | Alt A | Alt B | Alt C | Alt D | Alt E | Alt F | Alt G | Alt H |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| DEIS | 583,000 | 37,000 | 10,000 | 53,000 | 51,000 | 57,000 | 151,000 | - | - |
| RDEIS | 567,000 | 33,000 | 9,000 | 50,000 | 51,000 | 55,000 | 176,000 | 76,000 | 43,000 |

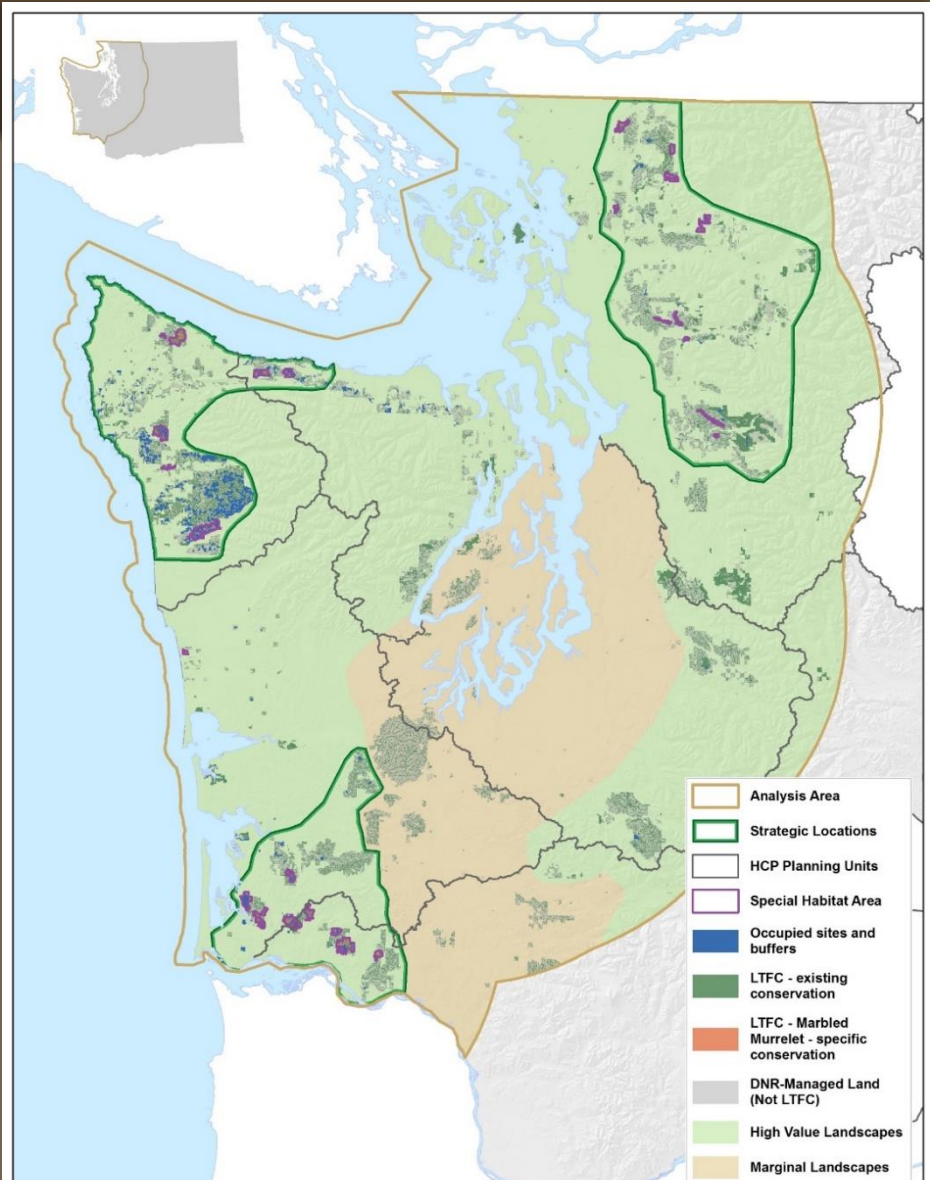
- Data changes = changes in P-stage values
 - Changed the acres of Existing Conservation
- Marbled murrelet specific conservation acres declined in 5 of the 6 original alternatives



Strategic Locations

Geographic areas with disproportionately high importance for marbled murrelet conservation

- **Southwest Washington** – close to marine waters, where federal ownership is lacking
- **OESF and Straits** (west of Elwha River) – abundance of high-quality habitat, close to marine waters
- **North Puget** – within commuting distance to marine foraging areas areas with higher than average marbled murrelet density



Alternative G

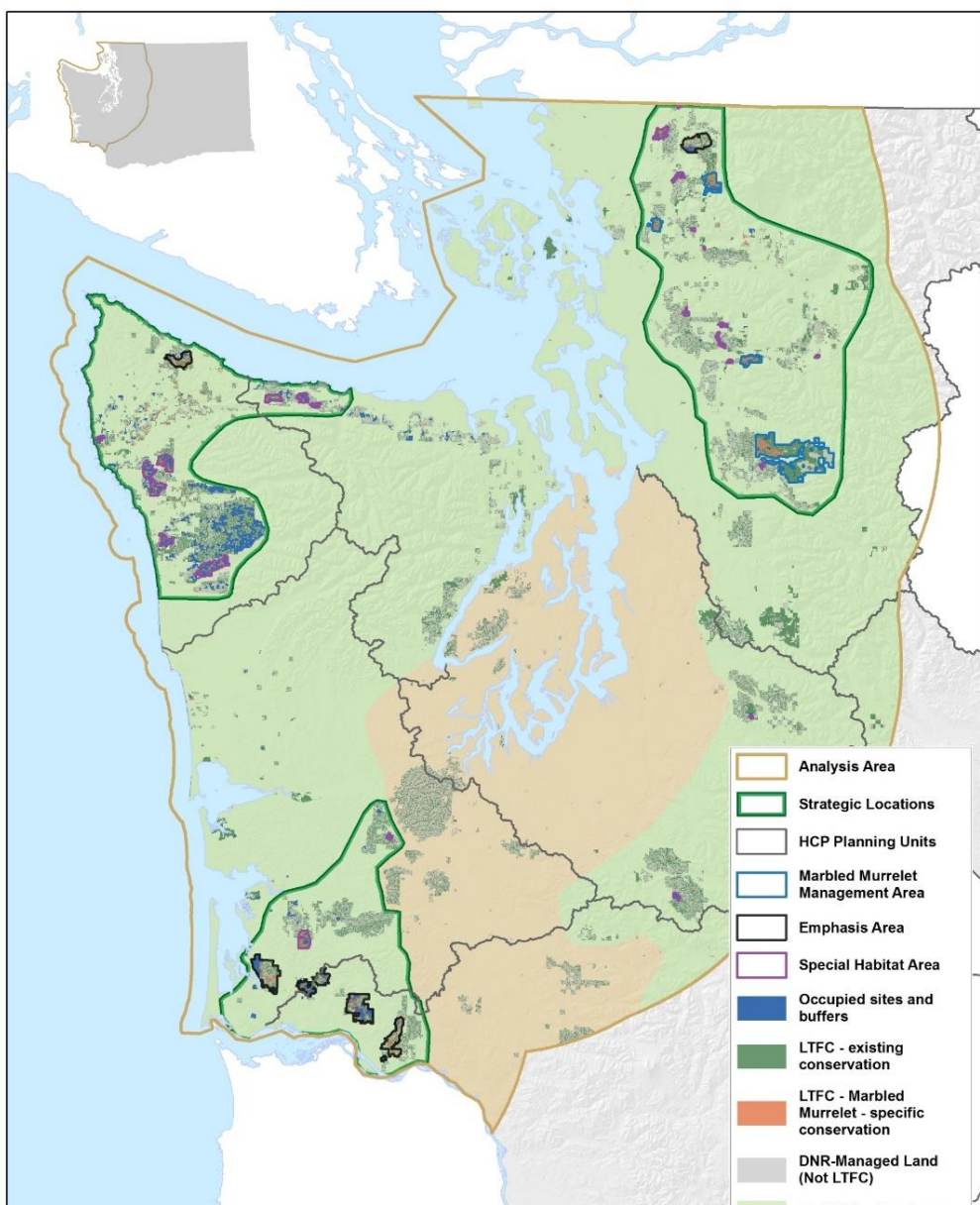
New Alternative in the RDEIS

Based predominately on comments received on the DEIS from:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.



Alternative G Summary



- Occupied sites (*from Alt B*) with 328' (100 m) buffers
- Emphasis areas (*from Alt E*)
- Special habitat areas (*from Alt E*)
- MMMAs in the North Puget HCP Planning Unit (*9 MMMAs in 4 areas*)
- Emphasis area in the Elochoman block (*MMMA from Alt F*)
- All high-quality MM habitat (*P-stage 0.47 or better*)
- All current habitat in OESF HCP Planning Unit
- WDFW habitat polygons
- ~643,000 acres of LTFC (*Long Term Forest Cover*)



Alternative H

New Alternative in the RDEIS

**Represents DNR's proposed amendment
to the 1997 HCP**



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Alternative H

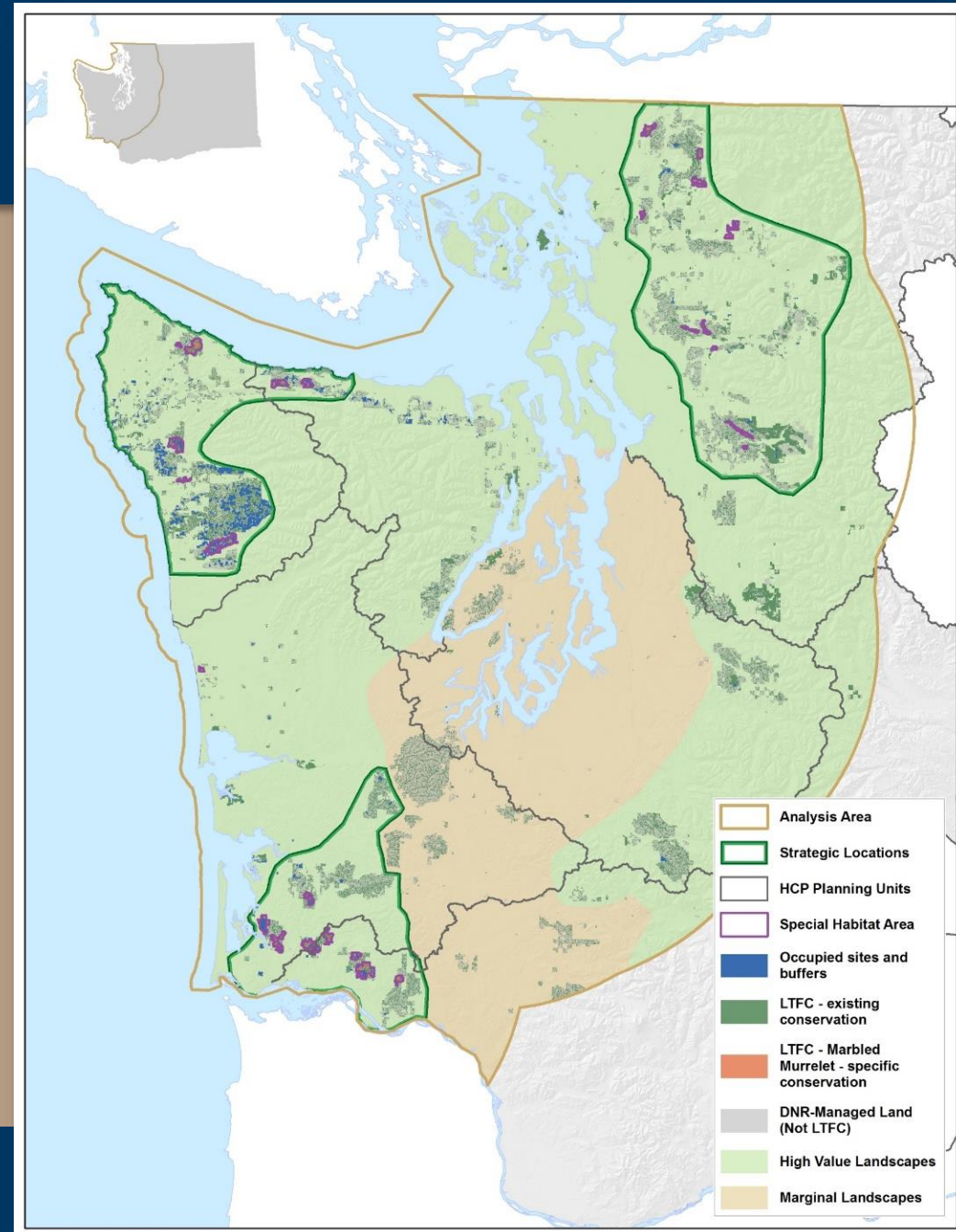
DNR's Preferred Alternative

- Public comments
- Board of Natural Resources direction to:
 - ✓ Minimize impacts to marbled murrelets and address uncertainty
 - ✓ Offsets impacts to beneficiaries
 - ✓ Reduce disproportionate financial impacts to trust beneficiaries



Alternative H Summary

- Occupied sites *(from Alt B)* with 328' (100 m) buffers
- 29 special habitat areas across 'strategic locations'
 - Most special habitat areas have at least one occupied site
 - All special habitat areas include current habitat, future habitat, and security forest
- Meters 3,600 adjusted acres of current habitat *(until the end of the first decade following implementation)*
- Accounts for uncertainties such as natural disturbance
- ~610,000 acres of LTFC



Why is Alternative H DNR's Preferred Alternative?

Best meets DNR's Need, Purpose, and Objectives
for the project by integrating:

ESA obligations for marbled murrelet conservation

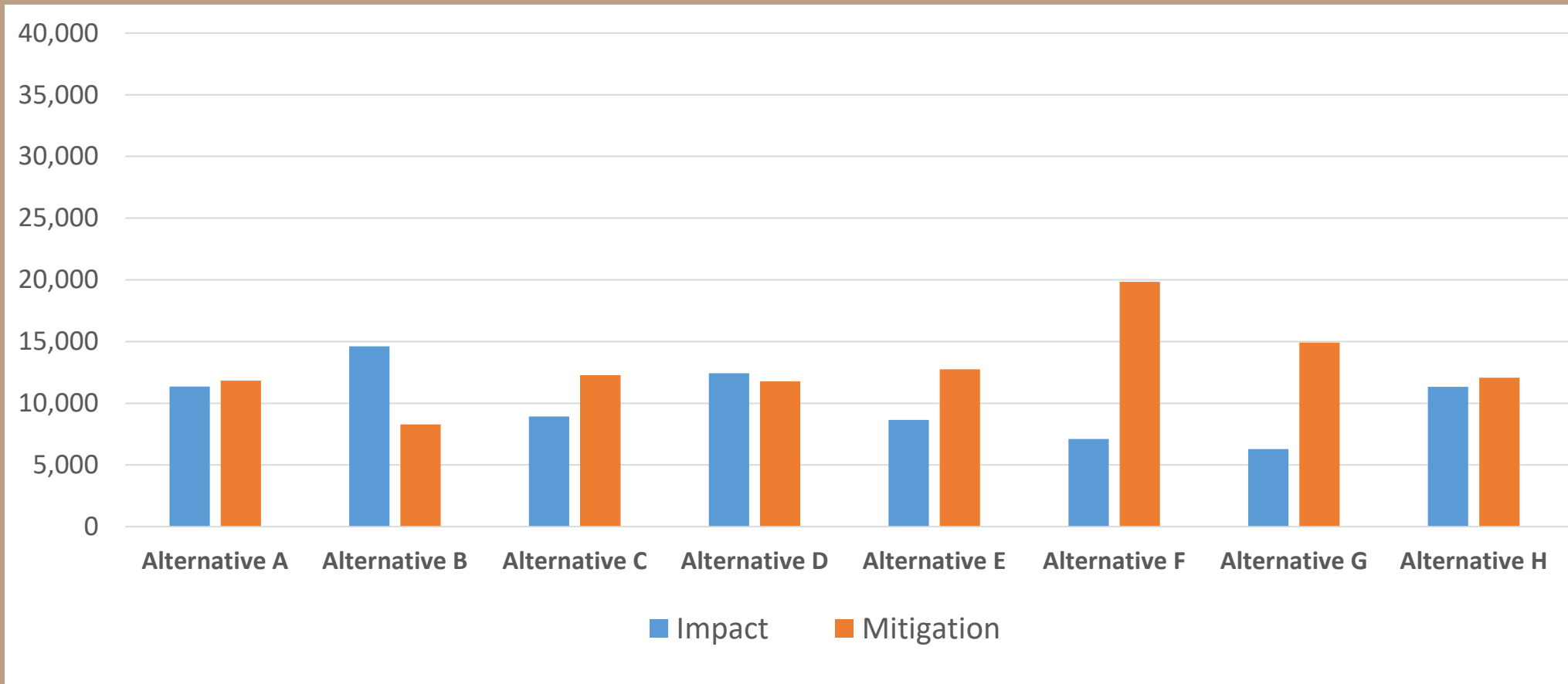
&

Fiduciary obligations to provide revenue to trust beneficiaries



Alternative H – Proposed Amendment

Best Balances the Impacts and Mitigation



Alternative H - Proposed Amendment

- Increases management certainty
- Robust combination of protecting existing nesting areas and strategic, long-term habitat development
- Concentrates long-term habitat development in Strategic Locations
- 3rd highest revenue generating alternative



Alternative H - Proposed Amendment

COMPARED TO ALTERNATIVE A

Alt. B = *Increases* operable acres

Alt. C through Alt. H = *Decreases* operable acres

Increased operable acres = Increased Bare Land Value

| | Alt. B | Alt. C | Alt. D | Alt. E | Alt. F | Alt. G | Alt. H |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Change in Bare Land Value | \$29 million | -\$17 million | -\$20 million | -\$22 million | -\$51 million | -\$42 million | -\$9 million |

Alt.
A



Increasing
Impacts to
Trusts



A photograph of a forest with numerous tree trunks covered in vibrant green moss. The ground is also covered in moss and fallen brown leaves. A large, semi-transparent white circle is centered in the image, containing the text "What's next?".

**What's
next?**

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NEPA/SEPA Joint EIS Process

Scoping

Two phases of public comments, scoping summary



Draft EIS

Public comment



RDEIS

Public comment



Final EIS

Comment summary with responses



What can you comment on?

Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIS)

- Analyzes the eight alternatives – each a unique approach to marbled murrelet conservation on DNR-managed lands

Proposed Amendment to DNR's 1997 HCP

- Represents DNR's preferred alternative (Alternative H)

For more information or to download the RDEIS or the Proposed Amendment, visit:

www.dnr.wa.gov/mmltcs



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HOW TO COMMENT?

TONIGHT! Use our comment cards for brief comments and put in our comment box.

The public commenting portal on DNR's SEPA webpage, or directly at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MMLTCSRDEIS>

By mail:

DNR SEPA Center

P.O. Box 47015

Olympia, WA 98504-7015

**All comments due:
5 p.m.
November 6, 2018**

****Include file number 12-042001****



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Find out more
by visiting
dnr.wa.gov/mmltcs

RDEIS
DEIS
Maps
Appendices



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