



Summary of Public Comments

Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

A report to the Board of Natural Resources

presented by

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March 5, 2019



Revised Draft EIS | Public Comment

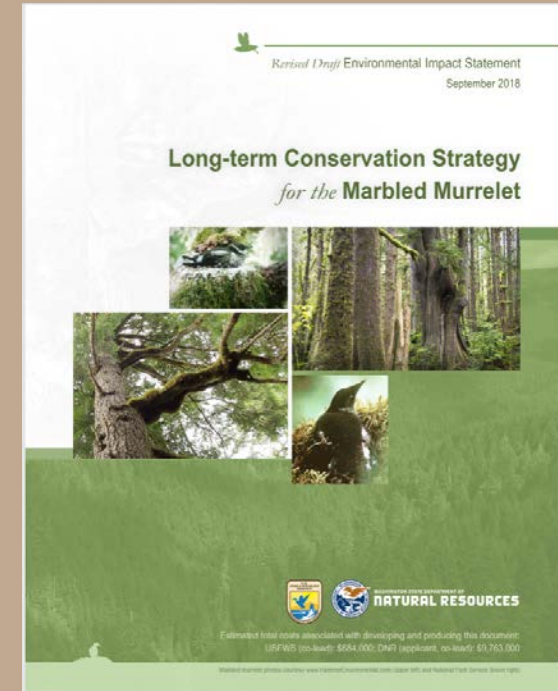
Revised Draft EIS released September 7, 2018

4 Public Meetings were held:

- Forks
- Cathlamet
- Seattle
- Burlington

60-day comment period + 30-day extension

➤ Ended December 6, 2018



DNR submitted to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) the Proposed Amendment to the 1997 State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (1997 HCP)

The Proposed Amendment represented DNR's preferred alternative (Alternative H) for the marbled murrelet long-term conservation strategy

DNR and USFWS invited the public to review and provide comments on both the Revised Draft EIS and the Proposed Amendment





Two additional documents were released during the RDEIS public comment period:

- Financial Analysis, October 2018
- Losses and Gains Analysis (draft), October 2018

A 30-day comment period was offered for both documents





Public Comment Summary

~ 4,300 comment letters received



Who commented

- Beneficiaries (17)
- Environmental organizations (29)
- Industry and industry-related organizations (10)
- State and Federal Agencies (2)
- Individuals (over 4,200; > 3,700 form letters and postcards)



Who Commented

WA State Association of Counties
Mount Baker School District
Burlington-Edison School District
Sedro Woolley School District
Sultan School District
Wahkiakum Board of County Commissioners
Washington State School Director's Association
Pacific County Commissioners
City of Forks
Timberland Regional Library
Board of Clallam County Commissioners
Lewis County
Skamania County
Sequim School District
Skagit County Commissioners
Whidbey Audubon Society
Pacific Seabird Group
Black Hills Audubon Society

Hood Canal Environmental Council
Kitsap Audubon Society
Rainier Audubon Society
Pilchuck Audubon Society
Olympic Park Association
Sea Shepherd Conservation Society
North Cascades Conservation Society
Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society
People and Otters
American Bird Conservancy
Vashon Maury Island Audubon Society
Grays Harbor Audubon Society
Marbled Murrelet Coalition
Washington Environmental Council
Skagit Audubon Society
Conservation Congress
Tahoma Audubon Society
Wild Earth Guardians

Sierra Club
Washington Audubon
Citizens of Ebey's Reserve
Northwest Watershed Institute
Cascade Forest Conservancy
Skagit Land Trust
Willapa Hills Audubon
Port of Port Angeles
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Contract Loggers Association
Roseburg Forest Products
North Olympic Timber Action Committee
Murphy Company
Darrington Area Resources Advocates
Hampton Lumber Mills
American Forest Resources Council
Buse Timber and Sales

Refresher: The Alternatives

	Alt. A (no action)	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E	Alt. F	Alt G	Alt H
Acres of existing conservation	567,000	567,000	567,000	567,000	567,000	567,000	567,000	567,000
Acres of additional, marbled murrelet-specific conservation*	33,000	9,000	50,000	51,000	55,000	176,000	76,000	43,000
Total approximate acres	600,000	576,000	617,000	618,000	622,000	743,000	643,000	610,000

*Acres reported here are those which do not overlap other existing conservation lands.

Major Themes

- Thank you!
- Support for Alternative B
- Support for Alternatives F and/or G
- Support for H
- Support for previously submitted Conservation Alternative
- Concern that none of the alternatives do enough to protect marbled murrelet populations
- Concern for economic impacts



Common Concerns

- Socioeconomic impacts – especially on county services and Jr. Taxing Districts
- Net loss of 1,000 acres in the North Puget strategic location under Alt. H
- Concern over the general decline in the marbled murrelet population
- Not enough mitigation in any of the alternatives to account for habitat loss due to climate change and natural and human disturbance
- There needs to be more effort to develop alternative sources of funding for beneficiaries besides timber harvest – the forests are imperative for the marbled murrelet
- Habitat model - misses habitat; captures non-functional habitat



Common Concerns

- Broader geographic distribution; larger and more connected habitat is needed for the marbled murrelet to recover
- All older forest and old-growth needs to be protected
- The final long-term conservation strategy needs to meet recovery goals
- Concerns about including non-habitat in Special Habitat Areas
- Emphasizing the importance of revenue for beneficiaries
- Concerns about assumptions for habitat development
- Need for better protection of occupied sites and buffers from human disturbance





Next Steps



March April May June July August September October November December

DNR & USFWS: Prepare RDEIS comment responses

DNR & USFWS: Prepare Final EIS

DNR: Finalize HCP Amendment

USFWS: Issuance of Incidental Take Permit

- USFWS:
- ESA Section 10 Findings
 - NEPA Record of Decision
 - Biological Opinion

BNR: Board Resolution

Implementation



