

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL & LEGAL AFFAIRS – SEPA CENTER PO BOX 47015 OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7015

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## MEMORANDUM

September 7, 2018

File No. 12-042001

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Rochelle M. Goss, SEPA Center

## SUBJECT: REVISED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON THE LONG-TERM CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR THE MARBLED MURRELET

This proposal is to amend the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) 1997 State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (State Trust Lands HCP) to include a long-term conservation strategy for the marbled murrelet. This is a joint revised draft environmental impact statement (RDEIS) between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and DNR to satisfy both the National Environmental Policy Act and the State Environmental Policy Act. This proposal was not included at the time of adoption of the State Trust Lands HCP because the plan provided only an interim conservation strategy for the marbled murrelet. The interim strategy was to remain in place until more scientific information could be collected on habitat on DNR-managed lands and the marbled murrelet's biological needs to make the development of a long-term conservation strategy possible. At this stage in planning, the proposal for a long-term conservation strategy is described as a set of seven alternatives, including a no action alternative. The alternatives represent a range of approaches to long-term marbled murrelet habitat conservation on DNR-managed lands within 55 miles of marine waters. The development of these alternatives was guided by a need, purpose and objectives approved by the Board of Natural Resources and USFWS. The no action alternative reflects what would occur if DNR did not adopt a marbled murrelet long-term conservation strategy. The location for this proposal is in the six westside planning units (land in range of the marbled murrelet in Clallam, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom counties) of DNR's State Trust Lands HCP.

## **Notice of Public Meetings:**

**October 9, 2018 – Forks** Rainforest Arts Center 35 North Forks Avenue 6:00 – 8:00 pm

**October 11, 2018 – Cathlamet** River Street Meeting Room 25 River Street 6:00 - 8:00 pm **October 15, 2018 – Seattle** Ballard Library Meeting Room 5614 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW 5:00 – 7:00 pm

**October 17, 2018 – Burlington** Burlington Public Library Rotary Community Meeting Room 820 East Washington Avenue 6:30 - 8:30 pm

To review the RDEIS and additional information, or to submit comments on this proposal, visit DNR's website at:

## http://www.dnr.wa.gov/long-term-conservation-strategy-marbled-murrelet

Comments on this RDEIS should be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on <u>November 6, 2018</u>. A link to the public commenting portal can be found on the webpage above, or send comments to PO Box 47015, Olympia, Washington 98504-7015. Please <u>include the file number</u> listed above on all comments.