Long-term Conservation Strategy
for the Marbled Murrelet

Estimated total costs associated with developing and producing this document:
USFWS (co-lead): $684,000; DNR (applicant, co-lead): $9,763,000

Marbled murrelet photos courtesy www.HammerEnvironmental.com (upper left) and National Park Service (lower right)
September 2018

Dear Interested Party,

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is developing a long-term conservation strategy for the marbled murrelet. DNR intends to amend the 1997 State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and apply for an amendment to DNR’s incidental take permit for the marbled murrelet under the Endangered Species Act. Once approved by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Board of Natural Resources, the long-term conservation strategy will replace the current, interim strategy for the marbled murrelet, and will be implemented in concert with the other conservation strategies under the HCP.

The marbled murrelet is listed as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act. These small, fast-flying seabirds have an intriguing life history, spending most of their lives in the marine environment while nesting inland on large tree limbs in older forest in western Washington. Marbled murrelet population decline in Washington has been linked to the loss of inland nesting habitat, as well as threats in the marine environment. Uncertainty about DNR’s strategy for habitat conservation of the marbled murrelet on state trust lands has created challenges and uncertainties as we conduct forest management activities and implement the HCP. A long-term conservation strategy will better identify strategically important murrelet nesting habitat on DNR-managed lands and therefore contribute to long-term conservation of the species, while providing long-term certainty for timber harvest and other management activities on forested state trust lands.

This revised draft environmental impact statement (RDEIS), which replaces the 2016 draft EIS, evaluates seven alternative long-term conservation strategies and a no action alternative (the current, interim strategy). Each action alternative provides a unique approach to murrelet habitat conservation, designating varying amounts of habitat for conservation and applying conservation measures to ensure long-term protection of forestlands important to the marbled murrelet.

Produced collaboratively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, this document is intended to satisfy the environmental review requirements of both the State Environmental Policy Act and National Environmental Policy Act for adopting a long-term conservation strategy and amending the HCP and incidental take permit for the marbled murrelet. We invite you to provide comment on this RDEIS. Further information is posted at https://www.dnr.wa.gov/long-term-conservation-strategy-marbled-murrelet.

Thank you for sharing my interest in habitat conservation for the marbled murrelet and the sustainable management of state trust lands. I encourage your engagement in this very important process.

Hilary Franz
Commissioner of Public Lands
REVISED DRAFT

Environmental Impact Statement
for a
Long-Term Conservation Strategy
for the Marbled Murrelet

Lead Agencies:
Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
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Title: Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIS) for a Long-term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet

Description of Proposal: This document is a joint RDEIS between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to satisfy both the National Environmental Policy Act and the State Environmental Policy Act. This proposal involves amending the DNR State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan with a long-term conservation strategy for the marbled murrelet. Eight alternatives, including a no action alternative and DNR’s preferred alternative, are analyzed.

Proponent: DNR

Legal Mandate: Endangered Species Act of 1973; National Environmental Policy Act; State Environmental Policy Act

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Comment Period:
The comment period for this RDEIS is September 7, 2018 through November 6, 2018. Comments are due to the SEPA center no later than 5:00 pm on November 6, 2018.

Public Meetings:
October 9, 2018 (6-8 pm)
Rainforest Arts Center
35 North Forks Avenue
Forks, WA 98331

October 11, 2018 (6-8 pm)
River Street Meeting Room
25 River Street
Cathlamet, WA 98612

October 15, 2018 (5-7 pm)
Ballard Library Meeting Room
5614 22nd Avenue NW
Seattle, WA 98107

October 17, 2018 (6:30-8:30 pm)
Burlington Public Library Rotary Community Meeting Room
820 East Washington Avenue
Burlington, WA 98233

Anticipated Issuance of Final EIS: Spring 2019

Notice of Availability:
This RDEIS is posted online at: https://www.dnr.wa.gov/long-term-conservation-strategy-marbled-murrelet

Copies will be sent to the Board of Natural Resources, affected local government planning departments (city and county), affected tribes, all state and federal agencies with jurisdiction, academia, Washington newspapers, libraries, and other interested parties.

A limited number of print copies and computer print CDs will be available at no charge upon request. After these are distributed, copies will be available for the cost of printing or CD production. Requests can be sent to the DNR contact address.

Location of Supporting Documents:
Supporting documents for this RDEIS including the 1997 State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan can be found online at www.dnr.wa.gov, and are available for review at the DNR SEPA Center at 1111 Washington Street SE in Olympia, Washington.
Table of Contents

Summary .................................................................................................................................. S-1
S.1 Proposed Action: Need, Purpose, and Objectives .............................................................. S-1
S.2 Changes Between the 2016 DEIS and RDEIS .................................................................... S-2
S.3 The Alternatives .................................................................................................................. S-3
S.4 Conservation Measures ....................................................................................................... S-8
S.5 How the Proposed Long-Term Strategy Relates to Other DNR Conservation Commitments ...... S-9
S.6 Summary of Potential Impacts to Elements of the Environment ......................................... S-9

Chapter 1. Introduction ............................................................................................................. 1-1
1.1 Proposed Action: Need, Purpose, and Objectives .............................................................. 1-1
1.2 Regulatory and Policy Framework ....................................................................................... 1-2
1.3 Analysis Area ...................................................................................................................... 1-8
1.4 EIS and Approval Process ................................................................................................... 1-9

Chapter 2: The Alternatives ..................................................................................................... 2-1
2.1 Developing and Screening the Alternatives ....................................................................... 2-1
2.2 Elements Common to All Alternatives .............................................................................. 2-7
2.3 Profiles of the Alternatives ............................................................................................... 2-27
2.4 Comparing the Alternatives .............................................................................................. 2-57

Chapter 3: Affected Environment ............................................................................................. 3-1
Elements of the Environment Included ..................................................................................... 3-1
3.1 Earth: Geology and Soils .................................................................................................... 3-4
3.2 Climate .............................................................................................................................. 3-8
3.3 Vegetation .......................................................................................................................... 3-15
Chapter 4: Environmental Consequences

Identifying Impacts ........................................................................................................... 4-1
Asking the Right Questions ............................................................................................... 4-1
Evaluation Criteria and Measures ..................................................................................... 4-1

4.1 Earth: Geology and Soils ................................................................................................. 4-3
4.2 Climate .......................................................................................................................... 4-6
4.3 Vegetation ...................................................................................................................... 4-15
4.4 Aquatic Resources ......................................................................................................... 4-20
4.5 Wildlife and Biodiversity .............................................................................................. 4-27
4.6 Marbled Murrelet .......................................................................................................... 4-34
4.7 Recreation ...................................................................................................................... 4-85
4.8 Forest Roads .................................................................................................................. 4-91
4.9 Public Services and Utilities ......................................................................................... 4-100
4.10 Environmental Justice ................................................................................................. 4-105
4.11 Socioeconomics .......................................................................................................... 4-109
4.12 Cultural Resources ...................................................................................................... 4-122
4.13 Summary of Potential Impacts to Elements of the Environment ................................. 4-125
Chapter 5: Cumulative Effects ........................................... 5-1
5.1 Guidance on Assessing Cumulative Effects ........................................... 5-1
5.2 Evaluation Criteria ............................................................................. 5-2
5.3 Forest Management in the Activity Area: Past, Present, and Future Trends ........................................... 5-2
5.4 Incremental Impacts of the Alternatives ............................................................................. 5-10

Chapter 6: Literature Cited ............................................................................. 6-1

Chapter 7: Key Definitions ............................................................................. 7-1
List of Figures

Figure S.3.1. Growth of Habitat Through Time, by Alternative (Acres Not Adjusted for Habitat Quality)
Figure S.6.1. Estimated Change in Long-term Forest Cover Acres From Alternative A (No Action), by Alternative and Landscape
Figure S.6.2. Acres of Habitat Loss (Impact) and Gain (Mitigation) by the End of the Planning Period, by Alternative and Adjusted for Quality
Figure S.6.3. Distribution of Habitat in the North Puget HCP Planning Unit
Figure 1.3.1. Analysis Area for the RDEIS
Figure 1.4.1. EIS and Approval Process
Figure 1.4.2. DNR’s Planning Process
Figure 2.1.1. Ascending P-stage Classes and Associated Habitat
Figure 2.2.2. Illustration of Different Components of Long-term Forest Cover on a Block of DNR-Managed Land
Figure 2.2.3. Hierarchy of Requirements Applicable to Long-Term Forest Cover
Figure 2.3.1 Landscapes and Strategic Locations for the Marbled Murrelet
Figure 2.3.2. Habitat Growth by Strategic Location and Landscape, Alternative A
Figure 2.3.3. Habitat Location, Alternative A
Figure 2.3.4. Habitat Growth by Strategic Location and Landscape, Alternative B
Figure 2.3.5. Habitat Location, Alternative B
Figure 2.3.6. Habitat Growth by Strategic Location and Landscape, Alternative C
Figure 2.3.7. Habitat Location, Alternative C
Figure 2.3.8. Habitat Growth by Strategic Location and Landscape, Alternative D
Figure 2.3.9. Habitat Location, Alternative D
Figure 2.3.10. Habitat Growth by Strategic Location and Landscape, Alternative E
Figure 2.3.11. Habitat Location, Alternative E
Figure 2.3.12. Habitat Growth by Strategic Location and Landscape, Alternative F
Figure 2.3.13. Habitat Location, Alternative F
Figure 2.3.14. Habitat Growth by Strategic Location and Landscape, Alternative G
Figure 2.3.15. Habitat Location, Alternative G
Figure 2.3.16. Habitat Growth by Strategic Location and Landscape, Alternative H
Figure 2.3.17. Habitat Location—Alternative H
Figure 2.4.1. Estimated Change in Long-Term Forest Cover Acres From Alternative A (No Action), by Alternative and Landscape

Figure 2.4.2. Increases in Habitat Quality in Long-Term Forest Cover Over Time, by Alternative

Figure 2.4.3. Illustration of Long-term Forest Cover and Categories of Edge on a Block of DNR-Managed Land

Figure 2.4.4. Comparison of Long-Term Forest Cover Interior, Edge, and Stringer Acres, by Alternative

Figure 2.4.5. Impacts and Mitigation Summary for all Alternatives, Including Those Considered but Not Analyzed in Detail

Figure 3.3.1. Potential Natural Vegetation Zones of Western Washington (Van Pelt 2007)

Figure 3.3.2. Current Proportional Distribution of Acres in Long-Term Forest Cover by Stand Density Class (Curtis’ Relative Density), by Alternative

Figure 3.6.1. Five of the Marbled Murrelet Conservation Zones (USFWS 1997) That Are Monitored by the Northwest Forest Plan Effectiveness Monitoring Program

Figure 3.6.2. Current Distribution of Marbled Murrelet Habitat by Watershed (Only Watersheds With at Least 50 Adjusted Acres Included)

Figure 3.6.3. Acres of P-stage Within and Beyond 0.5 miles (0.8 kilometer) or 3.1 miles (5 kilometers) From an Occupied Site

Figure 3.6.4. Current Size Distribution of Habitat Patches

Figure 3.11.1. Forest Product Sector Jobs by Category in Counties in the Marbled Murrelet Analysis Area

Figure 3.11.2. Forest Product Sector Jobs and Harvest Volumes from State Trust Lands and all Ownerships in Counties in the Marbled Murrelet Analysis Area

Figure 3.11.3. Forest Product Sector Jobs by Category and Harvest Volumes From All Ownerships in Counties in the Marbled Murrelet Analysis Area

Figure 3.11.4. Forest Product Sector Jobs by Category and DNR Harvest Volumes From Washington and Oregon

Figure 3.11.5. Forest Product Sector Jobs by Category and Export Volumes From State Trust Lands in Counties in the Marbled Murrelet Analysis Area

Figure 4.1.1. Example of Special Habitat Area With Potentially Unstable Areas

Figure 4.4.1. Illustration of Stream Shade

Figure 4.4.2. Timber Harvest Effects on Riparian Microclimate

Figure 4.6.1. Growth of Habitat Through Time, by Alternative

Figure 4.6.2. Estimated Growth of Interior Forest Habitat Among Landscapes

Figure 4.6.3. Current and Ending (Decade 5) Habitat, by Alternative and Edge Position

Figure 4.6.4. Comparing the Influence of P-stage and Edge Effects: Current Murrelet Habitat Across all DNR-Managed Lands (Excluding Stringers) Compared With Estimated Future (Decade 5) Murrelet Habitat, by Alternative
Figure 4.6.5. Adjusted Acres of Habitat Loss (Impact) and Gain (Mitigation) by the End of the Planning Period, by Alternative and Adjusted for Quality

Figure 4.6.6. Change in Adjusted Acres by Watershed Between Current Conditions and Decade 5, by Alternative

Figure 4.6.7. Ending (Decade 5) Size Distribution of Habitat Patches

Figure 4.6.8. Current and Decade 5 Adjusted Acres of Inland Habitat in the Southwest Washington Strategic Location

Figure 4.6.9. Simulated Population Responses, by Alternative, for the Sub-Population on DNR-managed Lands Under the Enhancement Analysis

Figure 4.6.10. Relationship Between Population Viability Analysis Results (Female Murrelet Population on DNR-Managed Lands in Year 50 Under the “Enhancement” Scenario) and Raw Acres of Nesting Habitat Projected for Year 50 by Alternative

Figure 4.6.11. Relationship Between Population Viability Analysis Results (Female Murrelet Population on DNR-Managed Lands in Year 50 Under the “Enhancement” Scenario) and Adjusted Acres of Nesting Habitat Projected for Year 50, by Alternative

Figure 4.6.12. Relationship Between Raw Acres of Habitat and Quasi-Extinction Probability

Figure 4.6.13. Nesting Success (Perry and Jones 2018)

Figure 4.6.14. Decade 5 Habitat Capacity Estimate for Each Alternative Compared with Current Habitat Capacity

Figure 4.13.1. Acres of Habitat Loss (Impact) and Gain (Mitigation) by the End of the Planning Period, by Alternative and Adjusted for Quality

Figure 4.13.2. Distribution of Habitat in the North Puget HCP Planning Unit

Figure 5.1.1. Proportion of State Trust and Other Forestland Ownership Within Analysis Area, by County

Figure 5.1.2. Timber Harvest Levels in the Analysis Area
List of Tables

Table S.3.1. Summary of Conservation Acres Proposed Under Each Alternative
Table S.3.2. Estimated Acres of Marbled Murrelet Habitat Released for Harvest, by Alternative
Table S.3.3. Summary of Marbled Murrelet-Specific Conservation Areas Proposed Under Each Alternative
Table S.6.1. Low and High Quality Habitat Identified by the Maxent Model (Falax and Raphael 2016) on Federal, Private, and Other Government Lands (Not Including DNR-managed Lands) in the North Puget HCP Planning Unit
Table 1.3.1. Land Ownership Within the Washington Inland Range of the Marbled Murrelet
Table 2.2.1. Total Acres of Conservation by Alternative (Rounded to Nearest 1,000)
Table 2.2.2. Acres of Currently Conserved Land Providing Benefit to the Marbled Murrelet (Rounded to Nearest 1,000; Only Non-Overlapping Acres Are Reported)
Table 2.2.3. Acres With P-stage Value on Disposed Lands Carrying 1997 HCP Commitments
Table 2.2.4. Approximate Acres of Marbled Murrelet-Specific Conservation, by Alternative (Rounded to the Nearest 1,000)
Table 2.2.5. Thinning Requirements in Long-Term Forest Cover (LTFC)
Table 2.2.6. Forest Road Conservation Measures for New Road Construction and Existing Road Reconstruction in Conservation Areas
Table 2.2.7. Conservation Measures to Address Blasting Impacts
Table 2.2.8. Conservation Measures to Address Recreation Impacts
Table 2.3.1. Marbled Murrelet-Specific Conservation Acres, Acres in Existing Conservation, and Total Acres by Conservation Area Type in Long-term Forest Cover, Alternative A
Table 2.3.2. Marbled Murrelet-specific Conservation Acres, Acres in Existing Conservation, and Total Acres by Conservation Area Type in Long-term Forest Cover, Alternative B
Table 2.3.3. Marbled Murrelet-Specific Conservation Acres, Acres in Existing Conservation, and Total Acres by Conservation Area Type in Long-term Forest Cover, Alternative C
Table 2.3.4. Marbled Murrelet-Specific Conservation Acres, Acres in Existing Conservation, and Total Acres of Conservation by Conservation Area Type in Long-Term Forest Cover, Alternative D
Table 2.3.5. Marbled Murrelet-Specific Conservation Acres, Acres in Existing Conservation, and Total Acres by Conservation Type in Long-Term Forest Cover, Alternative E
Table 2.3.6. Marbled Murrelet-Specific Conservation Acres, Acres in Existing Conservation, and Total Acres by Conservation Area Type in Long-Term Forest Cover, Alternative F
Table 2.3.7. Marbled Murrelet Specific Conservation Acres, Acres in Existing Conservation, and Total Acres by Conservation Area Type in Long-term Forest Cover, Alternative G

Table 2.3.8. Marbled Murrelet Specific Conservation Acres, Acres in Existing Conservation, and Total Acres by Conservation Area Type in Long-term Forest Cover, Alternative H

Table 2.4.1 Comparing the Proposed Alternatives

Table 3.3.1 Sources of Forest Damage in the Analysis Area (Betzen and Others 2017, Dozic and Others 2015)

Table 3.3.2 Common Root Diseases in Western Washington (Dozic and Others 2015)

Table 3.5.1 Stand Development Stages and Associated Wildlife Species Diversity

Table 3.5.2 Terrestrial Wildlife in the Analysis Area Listed as Threatened or Endangered Under the Endangered Species Act

Table 3.6.1 Distribution of Marbled Murrelet Habitat on DNR-Managed Land, by P-Stage Class and Landscape

Table 3.6.2 Edge Condition of Existing Murrelet Habitat on DNR-Managed Land, Decade 0

Table 3.6.3 Current Size Distribution of Habitat Patches

Table 3.8.1 Average Miles of Annual Road Work from 2003 to 2017, by HCP Planning Unit

Table 3.8.2 Average Miles of Annual Road Work from 2013 to 2017, by HCP Planning Unit

Table 3.8.3 Summary of Road Management in Marbled Murrelet Habitat Under the No Action Alternative (Alternative A, Interim Strategy)

Table 3.9.1 Communication and Energy-Related Infrastructure on Lands Managed Under the 1997 HCP

Table 3.10.1 Minority and Low-Income Populations, by County, With Acres of DNR-Managed Land

Table 3.11.1 Acres of DNR-Managed Lands by Management Category in Counties within the Analysis Area (Counties Containing State Trust Lands Only)

Table 3.11.2 Socioeconomic Resiliency and Economic Diversity Rating (Modified From Daniels 2004)

Table 3.11.3 Change in Employment in Marbled Murrelet Analysis Area Counties (OFM 2018a; Washington Employment Security Department 2018)

Table 3.11.4 Average Annual Fund Distribution to Beneficiaries of the Federally Granted Trusts for Fiscal Years 2011–2017 in 2017 Real Dollars (Revenue From State Trust Lands Statewide)

Table 3.11.5 Average Annual Distribution of Funds to Beneficiaries of State Forest Trust Lands (State Forest Transfer and State Forest Purchase Trusts) for Fiscal Years 2011–2017, in 2017 Dollars

Table 3.11.6 Statewide Management Options by Trust or Trust Group Under the No Action Alternative

Table 3.11.7 Management Options on a) State Forest Transfer Trust and b) State Forest Purchase Trust Within the Analysis Area, by County, for Alternative A (Rounded)

Table 3.11.8 Average Sales Tax Distributed to Counties in the Analysis Area in 2011–2016, in 2017 Real Dollars

Table 3.11.9 Jobs Created for Each Million Board Feet of Timber Harvested in Washington State (Reproduced From Mason and Lippke 2007)
Table 3.1. Counties With and Without Mills That Have Purchased Timber From DNR Since 2005


Table 3.12. December 2015 Employment Information for Each County with State Trust Lands in the Analysis Area

Table 3.13. General Distribution Rates, Upland Trust Revenue as of April 2018

Table 4.1. Summary of Potential Impacts to Geology and Soils

Table 4.2. Pools of Carbon Stored in Forest Stands (Adapted From Smith and Others 2006)

Table 4.3. Pools of Carbon Stored in Harvested Wood (Adapted From Smith and Others 2006)

Table 4.4. Sources of Carbon Emissions From Harvested Wood (Adapted From Smith and Others 2006)

Table 4.5. Summary of Potential Impacts Related to Climate Change

Table 4.6. Change in Acres of Stands with High Relative Density (RD>85) in Long-Term Forest Cover from the No Action Alternative (Alternative A; Rounded to Nearest 1,000), Beginning of the Planning Period

Table 4.7. Summary of Potential Impacts to Vegetation

Table 4.8. Summary of Potential Impacts to Aquatic Resources

Table 4.9. Endangered Species Act-Listed Species and Potential for Adverse Impacts

Table 4.10. Summary of Potential Impacts to Wildlife

Table 4.11. Comparison of Occupied Site Protection Strategies Among Alternatives

Table 4.12. Estimated Acres of Habitat (Raw Acres) Released for Harvest in the Analysis Area by the End of the Analysis Period

Table 4.13. Estimated Acres of Habitat in the Final Decade of the Planning Period in Long-Term Forest Cover, by Landscape or Strategic Location and Alternative

Table 4.14. Change in Interior Forest Habitat Between Existing Conditions and Decade 5, by Alternative

Table 4.15. Acres of Mitigation Minus Impact, by Landscape or Strategic Location and Alternative

Table 4.16. Acres of Habitat at Decade 0 and Decade 5 in Long-Term Forest Cover Within 3.1 miles (5 Kilometers) of an Existing Occupied Site

Table 4.17. Current and Ending (Decade 5) Habitat in Long-Term Forest Cover Within 0.5 mile (.8 km) of an Existing Occupied Site

Table 4.18. Ending (Decade 5) Habitat Patches

Table 4.19. Enhancement Analysis for Simulated Sub-Population on DNR-Managed Land, by Alternative

Table 4.20. Summary of Changes in Population and Habitat Modeled for Each Alternative, as Compared to Current Estimates

Table 4.21. Summary of the Approach to Reduce Risk to Marbled Murrelets Incorporated Into Each Alternative
Table 4.6.12 Summary of the Approach to Distribution Incorporated Into Each Alternative
Table 4.6.13 Comparison of Alternatives Based on Key Measures
Table 4.6.14 Average Estimated Acreage of Inland Habitat Disturbed Annually During the Nesting Season, by Activity Group
Table 4.6.15 Summary of Resulting Effects of Key Proposed Conservation Measures on Disturbance
Table 4.6.13 Summary of Potential Impacts to Marbled Murrelets
Table 4.7.1 Existing Designated Recreation in Forest Blocks With Marbled Murrelet Conservation Areas
Table 4.7.2 Summary of Potential Impacts to Recreation
Table 4.8.1 Number of Rock Pits Affected by Blasting Conservation Measures
Table 4.8.2 Summary of Potential Impacts to Forest Roads
Table 4.9.1 Approximate Mileage of Bonneville Power Administration Rights-of-Way Potentially Affected by Marbled Murrelet Conservation Measures Described in Chapter 2
Table 4.9.2 Summary of Potential Impacts on Public Services and Utilities
Table 4.10.1 Potential Impacts Related to Environmental Justice
Table 4.11.1 Change in Management and Bare Land Value From Alternative A
Table 4.11.2 Change in Estimated Total Value of Timber Sales, by Action Alternative
Table 4.11.3 Change in Operable Acres Available for Harvest in the Federally Granted Trusts
Table 4.11.4 Change in Operable Acres Available for Harvest in the State Forest Trust Transfer Lands by County
Table 4.11.5 Change in Operable Acres Available for Harvest in the State Forest Purchase Trust Lands, by County
Table 4.11.6 Change in Operable Acres in the Analysis Area, Compared to Alternative A
Table 4.11.7 Summary of Potential Impacts to Socioeconomics
Table 4.12.1 Summary of Potential Impacts to Cultural and Historic Resources
Table 4.13.1 Low and High Quality Habitat Identified by the Maxent Model (Falax and Raphael 2016) on Federal, Private, and Other Government Lands (Not Including DNR-managed Lands) in the North Puget HCP Planning Unit
Table 5.1.1 Incremental Impacts of the Alternatives: Impacts Added to Past Effects and Future Trends Within the Range of the Marbled Murrelet in Washington
List of Text Boxes

Text Box 1.2.1. What Is “Take”?

Text Box 1.2.2. Will the Long-Term Conservation Strategy Amend the Existing HCP Conservation Strategies?

Text Box 2.1.1. What Are the Main Differences Among the Alternatives?

Text Box 2.1.2. What Is the P-stage Model?

Text Box 2.1.3 Marbled Murrelet Habitat

Text Box 2.2.1 Do Currently Conserved Lands Provide Habitat?

Text Box 2.2.2 What Is Security Forest?

Text Box 2.2.3. What Activities Occur on DNR-Managed Lands?

Text Box 2.2.4. Is All Forestland Outside Long-term Forest Cover Subject to Harvest?

Text Box 2.3.1. Does More Habitat Develop Over Time?

Text Box 2.3.2. Under the Action Alternatives, Could DNR Harvest in Some Areas That Are Currently Protected?

Text Box 2.4.1. What Is “Edge” and How Does It Affect Murrelets?

Text Box 2.4.2. What is New in the Population Viability Analysis for the RDEIS?

Text Box 3.1. What Is Riparian Habitat?

Text Box 3.2. How Are Aquatic Resources Managed?

Text Box 3.3. What Are Biodiversity Pathways?

Text Box 3.4.1. What Is the Difference Between Developed and Dispersed Recreation?

Text Box 3.4.2. Is Marbled Murrelet Habitat a Current Consideration in Recreation Planning?

Text Box 3.5.1. How Many Roads Are Currently Located in Occupied Sites?

Text Box 3.6.1. How Are Transmission Lines Managed?

Text Box 3.7.1. Who Relies on the Forest?

Text Box 3.7.2. How Resilient Are Local Economies to Changes in DNR Forest Management?

Text Box 3.8.1. How Are Cultural Resources Investigated in the Field?

Text Box 3.9.1. Do the Alternatives Influence Carbon Sequestration?

Text Box 4.1. Will Climate Change be Affected by Changes in Carbon Sequestration Under the Alternatives?

Text Box 4.2. Are Older Forests More Resilient to Climate Change?

Text Box 4.3. How do Isolated Riparian Areas Factor Into Aquatic Resource Impacts?

Text Box 4.4.1. How Will the Strategy Affect Elk Habitat?

Text Box 4.6.1. What is New in the Population Viability Analysis for the RDEIS?
List of Appendices

(These appendices are provided on a CD or at https://www.dnr.wa.gov/mmctcs)

Appendix A: Scoping Report
Appendix B: Analytical Framework Focus Paper
Appendix C: Population Viability Analysis (Peery and Jones 2016)
Appendix D: Occupied Sites Focus Paper
Appendix E: P-Stage Focus Paper
Appendix F: Maps of Marbled Murrelet Conservation Areas by Alternative
Appendix G: Long-Term Forest Cover Focus Paper
Appendix H: Potential Impacts and Mitigation Focus Paper
Appendix I: 2007 and 2009 Concurrence Letters
Appendix J: Fish Distribution in Analysis Area
Appendix K: Rare Plants in Long-Term Forest Cover
Appendix L: Wildlife Species and Associated Habitats in the Analysis Area
Appendix M: Data and Assumptions Used in Socioeconomic Analysis
Appendix N: Distribution List
Appendix O: Data Updates
Appendix P: Financial Analysis
# List of Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Abbreviation and Full Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CFR</td>
<td>Code of Federal Regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEQ</td>
<td>Council on Environmental Quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAHP</td>
<td>Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEIS</td>
<td>Draft environmental impact statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNR</td>
<td>Washington State Department of Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIS</td>
<td>Environmental impact statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEIS</td>
<td>Final environmental impact statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMAT</td>
<td>Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIS</td>
<td>Geographic Information System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997 HCP</td>
<td>State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPCC</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LiDAR</td>
<td>Light Detection and Ranging</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMMA</td>
<td>Marbled Murrelet Management Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEPA</td>
<td>National Environmental Policy Act</td>
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<td>NMFS</td>
<td>National Marine Fisheries Service</td>
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<td>OESF</td>
<td>Olympic Experimental State Forest</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCP</td>
<td>Representative concentration pathway</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCW</td>
<td>Revised Code of Washington</td>
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<tr>
<td>RDEIS</td>
<td>Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement</td>
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<tr>
<td>RFRS</td>
<td>Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEPA</td>
<td>Washington State Environmental Policy Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>USEPA</td>
<td>United States Environmental Protection Agency</td>
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<td>USFS</td>
<td>United States Forest Service</td>
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<td>USFWS</td>
<td>United States Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
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<td>WAC</td>
<td>Washington Administrative Code</td>
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<td>WDFW</td>
<td>Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife</td>
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## Other Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Board</td>
<td>Board of Natural Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal Services</td>
<td>USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Services</td>
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<td>Legislature</td>
<td>Washington State Legislature</td>
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