



Solutions Table Meeting Notes

May 30, 2018, 8:30-2:30, Skamokawa WA

The Solutions Table met for the first time on May 30, 2018 in Skamokawa, WA. All members except for Paul Jewell (Washington Association of Counties) were present and participated.

Agenda items included the following.

- Opening remarks
- Defining convergence
- “Diving in” which included discussion of where the effort is starting from, scope and geography, and areas of interest and potential opportunity

In opening remarks, the Commissioner of Public Lands reiterated her commitment to the Solutions Table and her view that it will play an important role in meeting the goals of supporting rural communities and timber beneficiaries and the marbled murrelet with all the intelligent strategies that can be found. The Commissioner reiterated that regardless of the specific Board of Natural Resources eventual decisions on the murrelet Long Term Conservation Strategy, and because of the competing legal imperatives on the Department, we know those decisions may impact rural jobs, schools, and local government revenues while at the same time necessarily doing less than everything possible as a landowner to ensure the survival of murrelet populations statewide. She expressed her thanks to Solutions Table members for joining into this effort and for working together to find solutions

Solutions Table members discussed their individual views on the issues of timber jobs, beneficiary revenues, and marbled murrelet conservation. Members expressed hope for the process and its outcomes, their intentions to learn from one another, and their acknowledgement that they need one another to be successful individually and collectively. Over discussion, Solutions Table members converged around the ideas that Solutions Table effort be held apart from the Board of Natural Resources (BNR) decisions, and that members would continue to engage, and advocate for their individual interests, in the BNR decision processes. They agreed that the effort of the Solutions Table would be to improve outcomes for timber jobs, beneficiary revenue, and murrelet conservation, regardless of what the BNR decisions provide. That is, the Solutions Table would be oriented towards “more” in all three areas rather than trying to “making up” or “mitigate” the specifics of eventual BNR decisions. Solutions Table members expressed the importance of finding effective solutions to essential county services and the help these services provide to real families; to maintaining the very existence of some rural counties; to schools (and by extension to the prosperity of generations of children); to identity and prosperity through timber jobs; and to halting the deep declining population trends for the murrelet and maintaining its presence in Coastal Washington. Members expressed that they are “all in” and ready to work together.

The Solutions Table discussed types of conflict and how they would like to work together. Members discussed what types of behaviors and interactions make them feel like respected members of a group. The discussion of these issues emphasized the following.

- Participants are respectful of one another and of each other's ideas.
- Each person acknowledges and values each other person's knowledge, experience, and expertise; participants expect to learn from one another.
- Participants welcome openness and the opportunity to hear the old hurts and surface disagreements; they do not take old hurts or disagreements personally, and instead seek to understand.
- The Solutions Table is a safe space for creative ideas to be surfaced and discussed in an atmosphere of trust and exploration as a group and without fear of repercussions.

Solutions Table members discussed the importance of being honest and forthright with one another, committing to surfacing where their comments or ideas are coming from, and to seeking clarification and understanding with one another above all. They acknowledge that they may not always agree – and likely will not always see everything the same way – but they discussed remaining open and ensuring that each person could come to the discussion knowing that their perspectives, experiences, and interests would be acknowledged as valid.

Andrew Hayes (DNR) gave a briefing on the scope and geography at play in Solutions Table discussions and the status of the murrelet LTCS. This include handouts showing the analysis area for the LTCS, describing the context and need for the LTCS, summarizing basic facts about the marbled murrelet and its life history, and summarizing estimated harvest levels under the various alternatives under consideration in the LTCS process. Solutions Table members asked for additional information on the following.

- Anticipated murrelet conservation outcomes associated with each alternative (to round out the impacts analysis).
- Economic analysis including a fuller picture of the supply in millions of board feet.
- The significance of the anticipated revenue is for beneficiaries (e.g., is it 50% of funding for essential services, or 5%).

Solutions Table members also discussed House Bill 2285 and their role in that process. The Solutions Table is the advisory group mandated by HB 2285. Initial required reports in September and December 2018 will summarize the Solution Table status and process to date. Solutions Table members requested additional information on the requirements of HB 2285 and the plan for meeting them. Solution Table members agreed to schedule a conference call in June for DNR to present additional information. (Note: this call occurred on June 26, 2018.)

Public comment was offered. There were two commenters. Commenters reiterated the importance of meaningful progress on murrelet conservation, timber jobs, and beneficiary revenue. One commenter suggested that the Solutions Table needs additional information on how the beneficiary revenue system works, particularly relative to junior taxing districts, to fully consider that information in their deliberations.

Solutions Table members agreed to in-person meetings approximately monthly for the remainder of 2018. They agreed that the next meeting (July 6) would focus on each member presenting information on the set of issues they are closest to, as they see them. So, for example, members

representing conservation interests would present information on marbled murrelet status and trends, and on their hopes and fears for the Solutions Table work. The goal of these presentations is threefold: continue to support participants in getting to know one another in furtherance of their working relationships, help participants get “on the same page” with respect to information to facilitate identification of potential solutions, and provide an opportunity for participants to “walk in one another’s shoes.”

Handouts and flip chart notes from the meeting are available on the DNR webpage.