



# Solutions Table

## July 6<sup>th</sup>

Patricia Jones  
Lisa Remlinger  
Paula Swedeen

# Where we come from

## Patricia (OFCO)

Raised in Jefferson County.

Background in social services in low income communities.

Worked on Environmental Justice locally, nationally and internationally, knows change can happen.

## Paula (CNW)

Worked in state government and nonprofits on environment.

Scientist, advocate, can hear and see all sides.

Knows how essential a collaborative approach is to finding lasting solutions.

## Lisa (WEC)

Grew up in rural Snohomish County.

Gave up computer science to work for nonprofit, expert in forestry and environmental law and policy.

Chose to call the city of Seattle home and can see a better future.

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WE ALL COME TO THE TABLE WITH DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS, EXPERIENCES, AND OPINIONS – WHAT UNITES US IS WE ARE ALL WASHINGTONIANS.

# How we see the issue

Most marbled murrelet habitat on private lands has been logged.

Too many areas of protected federal forests are too far for murrelets to thrive. This makes habitat in certain areas of the state, such as Southwest Washington, particularly important.

Based on their location and age, many of DNR's older forests are biologically significant for the survival and recovery of marbled murrelets in Washington.

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THE WASHINGTON STATE POPULATION OF THIS UNIQUE BIRD HAS SHRUNK BY 44% OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS, LEAVING ONLY ABOUT 7,500 BIRDS REMAINING.

# Hopes

That we can have a fair, constructive, creative, unbiased dialogue that is solutions oriented.

That we will be provided with clear information that supports all sides of the issue.

That this work is not limited to just murrelets. Other species/functions/values that depend on sufficient mature forest will benefit from this important conversation and future planning as well.

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THAT WE CAN PREVENT THIS SPECIES FROM EXTINCTION, SUPPORT JOBS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES AND STABILIZE AND DIVERSIFY FUNDING FOR BENEFICIARIES' ESSENTIAL SERVICES.

# Fears

That we asked for a multi stakeholder process and have willingly come to the table for rural communities, but there is begrudging support at the table for murrelets, not enough to find creative solutions.

That another species will go extinct because we couldn't figure out a better way to do things. That we are so dug in against each other that no progress can be made.

That we see rural communities with hope, but others see urban communities with suspicion and contempt rather than as true partners to carry the load of our shared future.

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NOW THAT IT IS OUR TURN TO TRY AND FIND SOLUTIONS WE ARE TOO ENTRENCHED IN SILOS TO REACH BEYOND THE DIVISIONS TO SAVE THE BIRD OR RURAL COMMUNITIES. THAT WE FAIL.

# Why it's important for the murrelet to recover

Species extinction is irreversible, tragic, and unacceptable. We are smarter than that as humans. Today we are aware of the many other benefits that forests provide in addition to harvestable timber, jobs and essential services' funding such as :

- clean water
- clean air
- recreation opportunities
- carbon storage
- climate change mitigation
- habitat for other wildlife

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570,000 ACRES SUPPORTS MANY VALUES, ALL SPECIES HABITAT + REVENUES THROUGH INCIDENTAL TAKE PERMIT. MURRELET SPECIFIC ACRES SUPPORT MURRELETS, REVENUES AND VALUES.

# We hear these concerns:

“They are fine in other states, why care so much about Washington”:

Response: We need to maintain geographic distribution for population resilience and not create a large gap between CA/OR and BC/AK that could weaken the bird in those areas, too. Murrelet habitat also protects watersheds, ecosystem services, other species, habitats in the ecosystem. Also, the wildlife heritage of Washington belongs to all Washingtonians, its not okay to let them go extinct here because they live in other places.

“The problem isn’t the forests, it’s their food source in the water”:

Response: The science report reflects that the loss of nesting habitat is the primary reason for the decline in Marbled Murrelet populations; ocean conditions are a factor, but a significantly less important factor.

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WE HAVE SCIENCE, ECONOMICS, AND MODELS. ARE WE REALLY SAYING THAT THE SACRIFICE OF A SPECIES IN OUR STATE IS ON THE TABLE, THAT IT IS ONLY A ZERO SUM EQUATION? BIRD OR PEOPLE? WE DO NOT NEED TO SACRIFICE A SPECIES NOR A COMMUNITY.

# Why we came to the table / future expectations

We see the Solutions Table as an opportunity to reach across the superficial dichotomy of birds vs. jobs to find solutions we can bring back to our community and support going forward.

Reach beyond the limiting roles as advocates for a constituency and learn, hear, see, shape what may be possible if we work together as Washingtonians.

Unwilling to let any chance to save the bird go by while being able to actually come to the Table and work to support rural communities. Essentially we are optimistic.

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WHAT DO WE LOSE IF WE LOSE THE MURRELET? WHAT DO WE GAIN IF WE SAVE THE MURRELET?

# Possible Solutions to consider together

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- Expand State Encumbered Forests Program
- Expand State Trust Lands Transfer Program or add lands to DNR's overall land base that allows management for timber while keeping identified lands needed for murrelet recovery
- Explore Carbon market and Ecosystem Services contributions to Essential Services Funding
- Explore Unified/Pooled Trust
- Value-added wood production that brings more timber-related revenue to beneficiaries and communities
- Explore additional economic development opportunities that fit with/are desirable to rural communities and figure out what needs to happen to turn them in reality.

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*Thank you.*

