



Solutions Table Meeting Notes

August 9, 2018, 1:00-3:00, conference call

The Solutions Table met by conference call on August 9, 2018. All members were present except Commissioner Franz (DNR). Agenda items included the following.

- Overview of economic study planned to meet HB 2285 requirements
- Overview of marbled murrelet population status and trends

David Chertudi (DNR) provided an overview of the economic analysis planned to satisfy HB 2285 requirements. The analysis will use public and private economic models to estimate the impacts of an amendment to the State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan for the marbled murrelet long-term conservation strategy on:

- the volume and value of timber harvested,
- the volume and value of lumber produced,
- the number of jobs across Washington and in specific counties by impacted sector,
- the state-wide and county-wide economic output, and
- annual revenue to DNR and to trust beneficiaries.

These will be estimated both statewide and at the county level for three particularly timber-dependent counties—those immediately impacted by the marbled murrelet LTCS—and be presented with a range of the likely impacts.

A draft report is due September 1 and a final report is due December 1. The analysis will be complete in time for the December 1 report.

Solutions Table members were generally supportive of the plan for the analysis. Members from the environmental sector expressed concern about counting only adverse economic impacts of the murrelet alternatives and said that HR 2285 requires accounting for both adverse and positive impacts. Economic sector interests asked about whether DNR is making this analysis too complicated, citing that what is needed is a focus on how many acres and board feet of timber are harvested, how many jobs are impacted, and what are the changes to revenue for beneficiaries. Additionally, Solutions Table members asked questions about predicting future timber prices, considerations around the elasticity of supply, how to capture benefits provided by the LTCS, the extent to which the LTCS calls for activity that enhances habitat, and how to address recreation in the study. DNR will consider these comments moving forward.

Kristen Olsen-Kiehn (DNR) provided an update on marbled murrelet population status and trends. She provided an overview of murrelet biology, status, population trends, habitat trends, and causes of population decline.

Public comments included feedback on the draft Solutions Table mission, a question about whether the Solutions Table would see a draft version of the report to the legislature before it was due on September 1 (the answer was yes), concerns expressed on the nature of the problem being solved and whether that was clearly articulated by the Table, a request for a beneficiary-level analysis, and concern over the baseline used to compare to an adopted LTCS in the economic analysis.

Handouts are available on the DNR webpage.