$75,000,000 is appropriated to the department of natural resources to support an interim proposal from the marbled murrelet advisory committee as established in RCW 43.30.583 to support the goals of maintaining or increasing family-wage timber and related jobs, no net loss of revenues to the trust beneficiaries including those that support county services, and additional conservation efforts for the marbled murrelet. Funds will be expended to:

1) Support short-term funding of taxing districts impacted by the Board of Natural Resources December 3rd, 2019 decision on the Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy for the 20 taxing districts in 5 counties that have greater than 1% loss of operable State forestlands as identified by DNR’s initial analysis. No more than $600,000 will be distributed to the 20 taxing districts in fiscal year 2021 for the next 5 years of projected impact. The legislature recognizes and supports the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy Economic Impact Study which will verify and expand on the DNR’s analyses by examining the economic impacts of such decisions.

2) Replace revenue to beneficiaries for the estimated value of timber sales postponed from harvest in order to conserve lands identified by the advisory committee as significant to the recovery of the marbled murrelet. Funds will be distributed as trust revenues are distributed per RCW 79.64.110, RCW 76.64.040 and RCW 76.64.050. Timber sales or units of timber sales including conserved marbled murrelet lands will be delayed from sale until December 31stJune 30, 2021, by which time the advisory committee must develop and find funding for solutions to permanently protect those lands such that the main goals of the advisory committee are met, unless new replacement volume can be found prior to this time.

3) To allow the department to prepare commercial thinnings with the equivalent volume of the delayed sales in 2). No more than $500,000 will be spent by department staff to prepare these commercial thinnings. No funds will be expended by the department on commercial thinning sales until an analysis is presented to the Board of Natural Resources that establishes the department’s ability to bring sales with offsetting volumes to auction before December 31, 2021. If thinning volume is created by applying additional resources to DNR’s timber sale layout capacity and that volume is additive to the long-term amount of timber that DNR can currently harvest, then the sales delayed in 2) will be held for up to 105 years in order to find permanent funding to purchase the timber and underlying land for the purposes of long-term murrelet conservation.

4) $150,000 to hire an external consultant to develop recommendations for increasing the long-term sustained timber yield across private, state and federal working forest lands in Washington state, including, but not limited to, examining near-term opportunities by increasing the capacity to do more restoration thinning, to support timber jobs in local communities and keep forestland available for additional benefits to the public. The Scope of the report will be reported to the Legislature by December 31, 2020.

4.5) $50,000 to allow beneficiary counties to begin discussion and a feasibility assessment for development of a rural resiliencemitigation trust that may be utilized to replace revenues that were negatively impacted by the HCP amendment related to the Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy, for the department and the advisory committee to consult with federal land managers to scope the possibility of a land exchange of DNR trust land and federal land that meets the goals of maintaining or increasing family-wage timber and related jobs, no net loss of revenues to the trust beneficiaries including those that support county services, and
additional conservation efforts for the marbled murrelet. The Department must report the scope to the legislature by December 31, 2020.