



Board of Natural Resources Preferred Alternative for the Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy



PROVIDING LONG-TERM MARBLED MURRELET HABITAT ON STATE LANDS

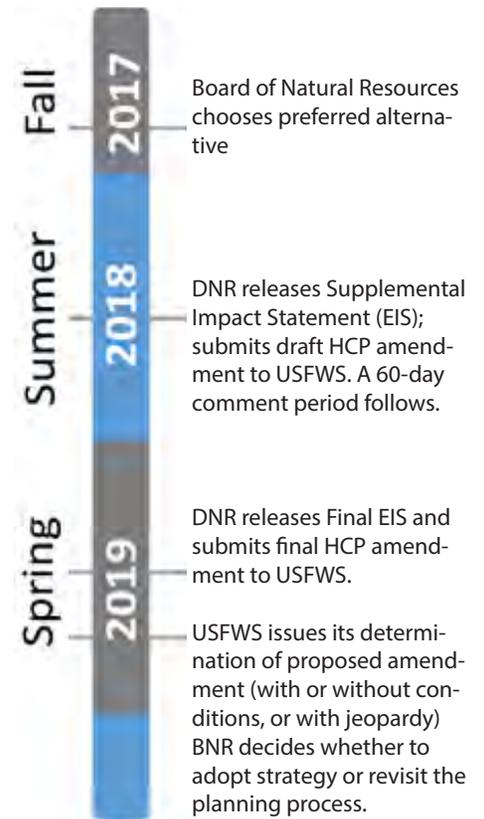
The Board of Natural Resources has recently chosen a preferred alternative for a marbled murrelet long-term conservation strategy (MMLTCS) to amend the State Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The Board selected an alternative based on years of research and collaboration with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), scientists, conservation groups, trust beneficiaries, and stakeholders. The Board focused its alternative on achieving compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The Department of Natural Resources will analyze the preferred alternative, looking at the environmental and economic impacts as well as determining its compliance with the ESA and the 1997 HCP. The preferred alternative will then be submitted to USFWS as a draft amendment to the HCP. Each of these actions will be followed by comment periods open to the public. The USFWS will evaluate the HCP for compliance with the ESA. Before implementation, the Board will consider all input on the preferred alternative and adopt a final proposed long-term strategy.

THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

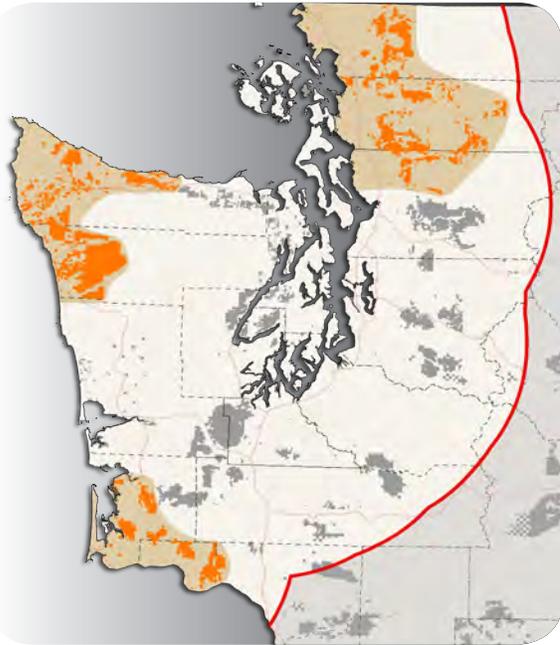
The preferred alternative is designed to minimize and mitigate impacts to marbled murrelets from harvesting, roads and other disturbances. This plan concentrates conservation to protect and buffer occupied sites and develop 20 significant areas of quality habitat. In addition to 583,000 acres of conservation already protected through the HCP and other policies within the range of murrelet territory, the alternative adds additional conservation acres specifically for marbled murrelets.

This alternative is designed to create more certainty and predictability for beneficiaries and communities than the current 20-year interim strategy. It will also release timber harvest areas less valuable to conservation and critical to beneficiaries and rural communities.





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PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

As shown in the map above, this alternative concentrates conservation in three strategic locations identified by USFWS as where DNR conservation can provide the greatest benefit to the marbled murrelet: Southwest Washington, Olympia Peninsula and North Puget Sound.

The Alternative Protects

All occupied sites: 88,000 total acres – these are sites where marbled murrelet have been identified as nesting or using the forest.

Special Habitat Areas: 50,000 total acres – these areas are strategically located blocks of land that will be set aside to maximize forest conditions and provide protection of current and future habitat.

Metered release of timber: To reduce initial impacts on the marbled murrelet population until more habitat becomes available, timber harvests will be intentionally delayed in specific areas over the early decades of this plan.

Existing Conservation: 154,000 acres have been identified as murrelet habitat within the 583,000 acres currently set aside. The work of the preferred alternative is projected to increase this habitat to over 306,000 acres of suitable murrelet habitat over the next 50 years.

THE SOLUTIONS TABLE

While the preferred alternative undergoes environmental review and public comment, DNR will convene a Solutions Table of community members, stakeholders and elected leaders who represent those impacted by this work.

The Solutions Table will look at all aspects of the preferred alternative and receive information from scientists, beneficiaries, stakeholders and economists. They are tasked with producing workable proposals of solutions to address hardships that may occur as a result of compliance with the ESA and to support the resilience of the murrelet outside of the HCP.

Estimated Financial Impacts

By choosing a preferred alternative, DNR will move towards a long-term conservation strategy that permits revenue-generating activities on specified lands throughout the life of the HCP while meeting ESA requirements. Because of this certainty, the preferred alternative decision represents the best interest of each of the trusts.

But because certain areas of trust lands contain more highly valuable conservation than others, not all trusts are impacted equally.

DNR identified the most heavily impacted trusts, including Pacific, Wahkiakum and Clallam counties, and minimized those impacts through the design of the preferred alternative. A more thorough examination of the economic impact of the preferred alternative will be conducted in coming months.

Trusts		Current Revenue	% Impact
Federally Granted Trusts	Agricultural School Grant	3,000,000	0%
	Capitol Building Grant	7,000,000	0%
	CEP&RI and CEP&RI transferred	4,000,000	0%
	Common School and Escheat	28,000,000	0%
	Normal School	1,000,000	-2%
	Scientific School Grant	6,000,000	1%
	University Grant	1,000,000	-7%
Other Lands	Community College Forest Reserve	500,000	0%
	Water Pollution Control Division Trust Land	200,000	0%
	Other	<100,000	0%
State Forest Trust Land	Clallam County	6,000,000	2%
	Cowlitz County	2,000,000	0%
	Grays Harbor County	200,000	2%
	Jefferson County	2,000,000	3%
	King County	2,000,000	1%
	Kitsap County	400,000	0%
	Lewis County	7,000,000	0%
	Mason County	3,000,000	0%
	Pacific County	1,000,000	-8%
	Pierce County	300,000	0%
	Skagit County	10,000,000	1%
	Snohomish County	11,000,000	0%
	Thurston County	3,000,000	1%
	Wahkiakum County	1,000,000	8%
Whatcom County	3,000,000	0%	