



DEIS



Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy & Sustainable Harvest Calculation

The DNR has completed two Draft Environmental Impact Statements (the MMLTCS done jointly with USFWS) in order to update management practices around the MMLTCS and Western Washington SHC. These documents analyze environmental impacts of a range of alternatives. The analyses will be used by the Board of Natural Resources (BNR) to decide which alternative to implement.

A few key messages

- Both DEISs will be released on Friday, **December 2, 2016**
- 90-day public comment periods will go from December 2, 2016 to **March 1, 2017**

Public Meetings

January 2017. Both Projects. 6-8pm.

10

DNR Region Office
919 N Township
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

12

Whitman Middle School
9201 15 Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98117

17

Port Angeles High School
304 E Park Ave
Port Angeles, WA 98362

19

Julius A Wendt Elem. School
265 S 3rd St
Cathlamet, WA 98612



a webinar each
January 2017. 2-3pm.

MMLTCS Presentation
dnr.wa.gov/mmltcs

24

SHC Presentation
dnr.wa.gov/shc

26

6 MM
Alternatives

that
vary
by

Quantity, quality, and location
of conservation areas

5 SHC
Alternatives

Marbled murrelet alternative,
harvest of arrearage volume,
and riparian thinning options

Find out more
by visiting
dnr.wa.gov

- DEISs
- Project Pages
- Maps
- Board Presentations
- Focus Papers
- Appendices

- Because the MMLTCS DEIS is a joint document between DNR and USFWS it has to undergo NEPA as well as SEPA environmental review, whereas the SHC only undergoes SEPA.
- The DNR (and USFWS for the MMLTCS) will consider comments received during the 90-day public comment period.
- The BNR won't make a SHC or MMLTCS final decision until after the final EIS for the respective decision is complete.
- Because the MMLTCS will likely result in an update to the 1997 State Trust Lands HCP and incidental take permit, USFWS review and approval is needed. The BNR must accept any new permit conditions.

Questions or comments? Please contact:
Brian Bailey, Outreach Manager
(360) 902-1715; brian.bailey@dnr.wa.gov
Washington Department of Natural Resources

Frequently Asked Questions

Marbled Murrelet Long-term Conservation Strategy

Why are we coming up with a long-term strategy now?

The 1997 HCP created an interim marbled murrelet strategy and called for development of a long-term strategy when we had the science and data to enable us to do so. We now have that information, including a murrelet habitat model, better information on occupied sites, and more information on murrelet populations and trends.

How will a long-term strategy change the way we currently do business?

Existing protection measures for other species and habitats covered by the HCP will remain unchanged. However, murrelet specific conservation strategies may change as a result of the long-term strategy. This is because the long-term strategy includes conservation measures tailored to protect nesting murrelets from disturbance and habitat removal. Examples of these measures include timing and distance restrictions on noise-generating forest management activities during the nesting season, limitations on road, trail, and recreational facility development in some conservation areas, and limitations on harvest and thinning of marbled murrelet habitat within conservation areas.

How were the conservation areas chosen?

DNR and USFWS staff with expertise in marbled murrelet conservation worked collaboratively to develop alternatives that designated potential marbled murrelet conservation areas throughout the six westside planning units. Staff used DNR's forest inventory, marbled murrelet survey information, and a murrelet habitat model developed specifically for this project to identify key areas for murrelet conservation.

What are the major environmental impacts of the alternatives?

No major adverse impacts to natural resources are identified in the DEIS, primarily because the underlying regulations and policies protecting those resources will be unchanged by the long-term strategy. There could be localized impacts to recreation facilities and limitations on forest management activities in marbled murrelet habitat. Impacts to the murrelet populations themselves were modeled and are explained in detail in the DEIS. They range from a continued (but improved rate of) decline, to an uptick in population by the end of the 50-year planning period. Due to a reduction in land available for harvest, localized economic impacts are possible for some trust revenues particularly in Pacific and Wahkiakum counties. The intensity of these impacts depends on which alternative is chosen.

Western Washington Sustainable Harvest Calculation

Why are we calculating a sustainable harvest level?

State law requires DNR to periodically calculate a sustainable harvest level. The *Policy for Sustainable Forests* states that a new sustainable harvest level will be adopted no less frequently than every ten years. The last sustainable harvest level was calculated in 2004 with an adjustment in 2007. These calculations applied to the fiscal year 2005 to 2014 planning decade. The new sustainable harvest level will apply to the 2015 to 2024 planning decade.

How will a new sustainable harvest level change the way we do business?

The new sustainable harvest level will change volume anticipated for harvest in the 2015 to 2024 planning decade. The new sustainable harvest level will include the Board of Natural Resource's direction for the amount of riparian thinning that should take place and if or how arrearage volume should be harvested. Arrearage is volume that was anticipated to be harvested, but was not, in the last planning decade.

How were the alternatives chosen?

DNR staff worked closely with the Board of Natural Resources (BNR) to develop the range of alternatives. The BNR convened a subcommittee to study the arrearage and make specific recommendations to Board about options that should be analyzed in the EIS. The alternatives result in a first decade harvest volume ranging from 398 MMBF per year to 550 MMBF per year.

What are the major environmental impacts of the alternatives?

No major adverse impacts to natural resources are identified in the DEIS. This is because the underlying regulations and policies protecting those resources will be unchanged by the sustainable harvest level. Financial impacts to the trusts will be analyzed in 2017.