

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[Docket No. FWS-R1-ES-2019-N157;
FXES1114010000-201-FF01E00000]

**Record of Decision for the Final
Environmental Impact Statement for
Amending the 1997 Washington State
Trust Lands Habitat Conservation Plan
To Include a Marbled Murrelet Long-
Term Conservation Strategy**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of a record
of decision and habitat conservation
plan.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service (Service), announce the
availability of a record of decision
(ROD) for the proposed issuance of an
Endangered Species Act incidental take
permit (ITP) addressing the Washington
Department of Natural Resources
(WDNR) 1997 State Trust Lands Habitat
Conservation Plan (HCP), as amended to
include a Long-Term Conservation
Strategy for the federally threatened
marbled murrelet. The ROD documents
the Service's decision to select
Alternative H, the Proposed Action
(described below), which includes
approval of the amended HCP, and
issuance of an amended ITP authorizing
incidental take of the marbled murrelet
that is reasonably certain to occur with
implementation of the amended HCP.

ADDRESSES: You may obtain copies of
the documents by any of the following
methods:

- *Internet:* <https://www.fws.gov/wafwo/> or www.dnr.wa.gov/non-project-actions.

- *Upon Request:* You may call Tim
Romanski of the Service at 360-753-
5823 or Heidi Tate of WDNR at 360-
902-1662 to request alternative formats
of the documents, or to make an
appointment to inspect the documents
during normal business hours at the
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
Washington Fish and Wildlife Office,
510 Desmond Dr. SE, Suite 102, Lacey,
WA 98503 or the Washington
Department of Natural Resources, SEPA
Center, 1111 Washington Street,
Olympia, WA 98504-7015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tim
Romanski, by mail at U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service, Washington Fish and
Wildlife Office (see **ADDRESSES**), by
email at Tim_Romanski@fws.gov, or by
phone at 360-753-5823. Hearing or
speech impaired individuals may call
the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-
8339 for TTY assistance.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: We, the
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service),
announce the availability of a record of
decision (ROD) for the proposed
issuance of an amended Endangered
Species Act (ESA) incidental take
permit (ITP) to the Washington
Department of Natural Resources
(WDNR) for the 1997 State Trust Lands
Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) as
amended to include a Long-Term
Conservation Strategy (LTCS) for the
federally listed marbled murrelet
(murrelet). The ROD documents the
Service's decision to select Alternative
H, the Proposed Action (described
below), which includes implementation
of the HCP as amended to include the
LTCS, and issuance of the amended ITP
authorizing incidental take of the
federally threatened marbled murrelet
in conjunction with implementation of
the HCP.

We are advising the public of the
availability of the ROD, developed in
compliance with the National
Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as
amended (NEPA). All alternatives have
been described in detail, evaluated, and
analyzed in our final environmental
impact statement (FEIS). A notice of
availability of the FEIS and HCP
Amendment was published in the
Federal Register on September 27, 2019
(84 FR 51172).

Background

The marbled murrelet, a seabird, was
listed as threatened in 1992 under the
ESA. In 1996, the WDNR released its
draft HCP covering multiple fish and
wildlife species (including the marbled
murrelet), and forest management
activities on 1.9 million acres (ac) of
forested State Trust lands within the
range of the northern spotted owl in
Washington.

On January 30, 1997, the Service
issued an ITP (Permit No. 812521) to
WDNR covering implementation of the
WDNR HCP. The Service's ITP decision
and the availability of related decision
documents were announced in the
Federal Register on February 27, 1997
(62 FR 8980). Among other conservation
strategies, the 1997 WDNR HCP
committed the WDNR to developing a
LTCS for the murrelet. However, at the
time the HCP was being developed, the
Service and WDNR determined that
incorporating a LTCS for the murrelet
into the 1997 HCP was not possible
because of the lack of scientific
information about the murrelet in
relation to State Trust lands. This HCP
Amendment incorporates the LTCS into
the HCP.

Purpose and Need

Under the proposed action, the
Service's purposes are to ensure that
ESA permit issuance criteria are met,
the permit amendment complies with
all other applicable Federal laws and
regulations, the permit amendment is
consistent with the Service's legal
authorities, and the ITP and
implementation of the HCP Amendment
achieve long-term species and
ecosystem conservation objectives at
ecologically appropriate scales. The
need is to fulfill our legal obligations
under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA in
response to WDNR's request to the
Service to amend the ITP.

Any ITP issued by the Service must
meet all applicable issuance criteria and
implementation should be technically
and economically feasible (see 16 U.S.C.
1539(a)(2)(B); 43 CFR 46.420(b)). ITP
issuance criteria under the ESA include
the requirements that the applicant will
minimize and mitigate the impacts of
the taking on covered species to the
maximum extent practicable, and the
taking will not appreciably reduce the
likelihood of survival and recovery of
the covered species in the wild.

Alternatives

The FEIS analyzed the environmental
impacts of the no action alternative, and
the following seven action alternatives
related to the issuance of an amended
ITP and implementation of the WDNR
HCP, as amended. In general, the
alternatives varied in the amount,
location, and configuration of forest
habitat designated to support long-term
conservation of the murrelet; the
amount of forest habitat that would be
released for harvest over the remaining
term of the amended ITP; and the
amount of authorized marbled murrelet
incidental take. Each alternative uses
habitat as a surrogate to express the
anticipated level of take of the marbled
murrelet.

Under all of the action alternatives
analyzed in the FEIS, the combination
of lands that provide for marbled
murrelet conservation through existing
WDNR policies (for example, protection
of riparian zones), plus marbled
murrelet-specific conservation areas,
provide a network of long-term forest
cover for the marbled murrelet on
WDNR-managed lands. Long-term forest
cover means lands on which WDNR
maintains and grows forest cover for
conservation purposes, including for the
marbled murrelet, through the life of the
1997 HCP. A variety of management and
land use activities occur on DNR-
managed forestlands, including lands
within long-term forest cover. Some of

these activities have the potential to negatively impact the marbled murrelet or its habitat. The effects of these activities, along with impact avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures, are described in the FEIS.

No Action—Alternative A

Inclusion of a No Action alternative in the FEIS is consistent with the regulations implementing NEPA at 40 CFR 1502.14(d). Under the No Action alternative (analyzed as Alternative A in the FEIS), the Service would not amend the existing ITP, would not authorize take above that currently specified on the ITP, and the WDNR would not implement the additional conservation measures proposed for the murrelet under the LTCS. Under the No Action alternative, WDNR would continue operations as authorized under the Interim Strategy and described in the 1997 HCP for all of the west-side planning units.

Alternative B

Under this alternative, WDNR would manage their lands to support approximately 576,000 ac of long-term forest cover. Alternative B focuses exclusively on conserving known murrelet-occupied sites on WDNR-managed lands. This alternative is the only alternative that does not provide buffers around murrelet-occupied sites. Under this alternative, harvest and thinning would be prohibited within murrelet-occupied sites. Alternative B would conserve 59,000 ac of occupied sites. Under this alternative, approximately 39,293 ac of low-quality murrelet habitat and 5,754 ac of high-quality murrelet habitat would be released for harvest.

Alternative C

Under this alternative, WDNR would manage their lands to support approximately 617,000 ac of long-term forest cover. This alternative conserves 59,000 ac of known occupied murrelet sites, murrelet emphasis areas, and other high-quality habitat. This alternative also applies a 328-ft (100-m) buffer around all known murrelet-occupied sites except on the Olympic Experimental State Forest, where the buffer would be 164 feet (50 m) for occupied sites greater than 200 ac. Under this alternative, approximately 32,608 ac of low-quality murrelet habitat would be released for harvest.

Alternative D

Under this alternative, WDNR would manage their lands to support approximately 618,000 ac of long-term forest cover. Alternative D would

protect 59,000 ac of murrelet-occupied sites in addition to occupied site buffers, and special habitat areas. This alternative also applies a 328-ft (100-m) buffer around all known occupied sites. Under this alternative, approximately 33,178 ac of low-quality murrelet habitat and 5,090 ac of high-quality murrelet habitat would be released for harvest.

Alternative E

Under this alternative, WDNR would manage their lands to support approximately 621,000 ac of long-term forest cover. Alternative E combines the conservation approaches described in alternatives C and D. Alternative E would protect 59,000 ac of murrelet-occupied sites in addition to occupied site buffers, emphasis areas, special habitat areas, and high-quality murrelet habitat. Under this alternative, approximately 31,600 ac of low-quality murrelet habitat would be released for harvest.

Alternative F

Under this alternative, WDNR would manage their lands to support approximately 743,000 ac of long-term forest cover. This alternative conserves murrelet management areas identified in a Science Team Report, as described further in the FEIS, that would be established in the North and South Puget planning units. Additionally, under this alternative, all northern spotted owl old forest habitat (as defined in the 1997 HCP) in the Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF) planning unit would be subject to a 328-ft (100-m) buffer. Existing, mapped, low-quality northern spotted owl nesting/roosting/foraging, and dispersal habitat in designated spotted owl conservation areas and in the OESF are included as long-term forest cover. Alternative F would also protect 59,000 ac of murrelet-occupied sites in addition to occupied site buffers. Under this alternative, approximately 19,307 ac of low-quality marbled murrelet habitat and 2,697 ac of high-quality marbled murrelet habitat will be released for harvest. Pursuant to NEPA implementing regulations found at 40 CFR 15.2(b), the Service identified Alternative F as the environmentally preferable alternative in the ROD.

Alternative G

Under this alternative, WDNR would manage their lands to support approximately 642,000 ac of long-term forest cover. This alternative applies 328-ft (100-m) buffers around all known murrelet-occupied sites. Alternative G would protect 59,000 ac of murrelet-

occupied sites in addition to occupied site buffers, emphasis areas, special habitat areas, priority areas identified by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and murrelet management areas. Under this alternative, approximately 23,619 ac of low-quality murrelet habitat will be released for harvest.

Alternative H—Proposed Action

Under this alternative, WDNR would manage their lands to support approximately 604,000 ac of long-term forest cover. Alternative H would protect 59,000 ac of murrelet-occupied sites and special habitat areas as well as delay the harvest of 5,000 adjusted ac in order to achieve “no net loss” of adjusted acres of habitat, as described in the FEIS and HCP Amendment. Alternative H also applies 328-ft (100-m) buffers around all known murrelet-occupied sites. Under this alternative, approximately 33,030 ac of low-quality marbled murrelet habitat and 5,017 ac of high-quality marbled murrelet habitat will be released for harvest. The proposed HCP Amendment is best represented by Alternative H. Both the Service and WDNR identified Alternative H as their respective preferred alternative in the FEIS.

Decision and Rationale for Decision

Based on our review of the alternatives and their environmental consequences as described in the FEIS, we have selected the Proposed Action (Alternative H). The Proposed Action includes WDNR’s implementation of the 1997 HCP, as amended to include the LTCS, and the Service’s issuance of an amended ITP authorizing incidental take of the covered species that may occur as a result of WDNR forest land management activities which are undertaken in accordance with the amended HCP and the ITP terms and conditions.

In order to issue an ITP for covered species under the ESA, we must determine that the HCP meets the issuance criteria set forth in Section 10 of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1539(a)(2)(B)). As discussed in the ROD, the Service has made the determination that the WDNR HCP, as amended, meets the ESA section 10 permit issuance criteria.

Authority

We provide this notice in accordance with the requirements of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (40 CFR

1506.6; 40 CFR 1506.10; 43 CFR part 46).

Robyn Thorson,

Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2019–25905 Filed 11–27–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

[201D0102DM/DS6460000/
DLSN00000.000000/DX.64601]

Notice of Senior Executive Service Performance Review Board Appointments

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of appointments.

SUMMARY: This notice provides the names of individuals who are eligible to be appointed to serve on the Department of the Interior Senior Executive Service (SES) Performance Review Board.

DATES: These appointments take effect upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this notice, contact Raymond Limon, Deputy Assistant Secretary—Human Capital and Diversity/Chief Human Capital Officer, by email at Raymond_Limon@ios.doi.gov, or by telephone at (202) 208–3100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The individuals who are eligible to be appointed to serve on the Department of the Interior SES Performance Review Board are as follows:

Ackerman, Jennifer A.
Addington, Charles E.
Anderson, James G.
Anderton, James B.
Angelle, Scott A.
Applegate, James D.R.
Arroyo, Bryan
Austin, Stanley J.
Bathrick, Mark L.
Beall, James W.
Bearpaw, George Watie
Bearquiver, Kevin T.
Benedetto, Kathleen M.F.
Benge, Shawn T.
Berry, David A.
Black, Michael S.
Blackhair, Johnna M.
Blanchard, Mary Josie
Bockmier, John M.
Bowker, Bryan L.
Bowron, Jessica L.
Brandon, Andrea L.
Branum, Lisa A.
Brown, Carter L.
Brown, Laura B.
Brown, Vicki A.
Brown, William Y.

Buckner, Shawn M.
Budd-Falen, Karen Jean
Cameron, Scott J.
Cantor, Howard M.
Cardinale, Richard T.
Carlson, Jeffrey O.
Cash, Cassius M.
Cason, James E.
Celata, Michael A.
Clayborne, Alfred L.
Cline, Donald Walter
Compton, Jeffrey S.
Conant, Ernest A.
Connell, Jamie E.
Cordova-Harrison, Elizabeth
Costello, Matthew J.
Craff, Robert C.
Cribley, Bud C.
Cruikshank, Walter D.
Cruz, Mark A.
Danko, Carol Lynn
Davis, Kimbra G.
De La Vega, Scott Anthony
Dearman, Tony L.
Devaris, Aimee Marie
Donnelly, John F.
Douglas, Nicholas E.
Downs, Bruce M.
Dumontier, Debra L.
Dutschke, Amy L.
Eggers, Barbara L.
Erdos, Lanny E.
Esplin, Brent C.
Everson, Margaret Emma
Flanagan, Denise A.
Ford, Jerome E.
Frazer, Gary D.
Freeman, Michael T.
Freeman, Sharee M.
Freihage, Jason E.
Frost, Herbert C.
Fulp, Terrance J.
Gallagher, Kevin T.
Gelber, Adam R.
Gibson, Paul Raymond
Gidner, Jerold L.
Glomb, Stephen J.
Goessling, Shannon Lee
Goklany, Indur M.
Gonzales-Schreiner, Roseann
Goodro, Margaret Loretta
Gordon, Robert E. Jr.
Gould, Gregory J.
Grace, Edward J.
Gray, Lorri J.
Guertin, Stephen D.
Hagenauer, Shelby L.
Hambleton, Ryan M.
Hamley, Jeffrey L.
Hammond, Casey B.
Hanna, Jeanette D.
Hart, Paula L.
Hawbecker, Karen S.
Herbst, Lars T.
Hildebrandt, Betsy J.
Hill, Jason Alan
Hoskins, David William
James, James D. Jr.
Johnson, Tonya R.
Jones, Jacqueline M.
Jorgenson, Sarah T.
Jorjani, Daniel H.
Joss, Laura.
Keable, Edward T.
Kendall, James J. Jr.
Kindred, Joshua Michael

Kinsinger, Anne E.
Knight, Karen A.
La Counte, Darryl D. II
Laird, Joshua Radbill
Lapointe, Timothy L.
Lawkowski, Gary Michael
Limon, Raymond A.
Lockwood-Shabat, Eugene N.
Lodge, Cynthia Louise
Lords, Douglas A.
Loria, Christopher Joseph
Luebke, Thomas A.
Lueders, Amy L.
Mabry, Scott L.
Macgregor, Katharine S.
Maclean, Robert D.
Martinez, Cynthia T.
Mashburn, Lori K.
Mattingly, Patricia L.
May, Rick A.
Maytubby, Bruce W.
McCulloch, Katherine M.
McDowall, Lena E.
McKeown, Matthew J.
Mehlhoff, John J.
Mercier, Bryan K.
Middleton, Brandon Murray
Mikkelsen, Alan Wayne
Miranda-Castro, Leopoldo
Morris, Douglas W.
Moss, Adrienne L.
Mouritsen, Karen E.
Myers, Richard G.
Neal, Kerry K.
Nedd, Michael D.
Nguyen, Nhien Tony
Noble, Michaela E.
Olsen, Megan C.
Oneill, Keith James
Orr, L. Renee
Ortiz, Hankie P.
Owens, Glenda Hudson
Padgett, Chad B.
Palumbo, David M.
Payne, Grayford F.
Peltola, Eugene R. Jr.
Pendley, William Perry
Peterson, Penny Lynn
Pfeiffer, Tamarah
Pierre-Louis, Alesia J.
Pinto, Sharon Ann
Poitra, Tammie J.
Prandoni, Christopher D.
Pula, Nikolao Iuli
Quinlan, Martin J.
Raby, Jon K.
Ramos, Pedro M.
Rauch, Paul A.
Reinbold, Jeffrey P.
Relat, Hubbel Robert
Renkes, Gregg D.
Reynolds, Michael T.
Reynolds, Thomas G.
Rideout, Sterling J. Jr.
Riggs, Helen
Roberson, Edwin L.
Rojewski, Cole J.
Romanik, Peg A.
Ross, John W.
Ruhs, John F.
Rupert, Jeffery R.
Rusten, Michael W.
Ryker, Sarah J.
Salotti, Christopher P.
Sauvajot, Raymond Marc
Scherer, Kyle E.