



State Forests Marbled Murrelet Endangered Species Management Plan (ESMP)

November 16, 2022 | Board of Forestry Meeting

Background

July 2021

- Marbled murrelet reclassified from threatened to endangered.
- Triggered statutory requirement for state landowning or managing agencies to develop an Endangered Species Management Plan (ESMP).

November 2021

- ODF identified as an agency that can play a role in the conservation of this species.
- ODF must balance:
 - Statutory requirements, rules, and policies
 - Social and economic impacts
 - Conservation needs of the species
 - Purpose of the land
 - The roles of other ownership categories

March 2022

- Board approved ODF's role "contribution to conservation".
- ODF staff initiate development of ESMP.
 - OAR 365-100-140
 - Consultations with Oregon Dept. Fish and Wildlife staff



Endangered Species Management Plan Requirements



1. Covered lands
2. Role of State Forests
3. Management strategy
4. Monitoring and adaptive management
5. Plan review and implementation
6. Other state and federal plans
7. Plan development review and approval process

Summary of ESMP Content: Covered lands

- All ODF-managed lands within inland breeding range of species.
- ODF-managed lands comprise < 4% of forest cover in Coast Range and represent 16% of existing inland habitat.
- Life history stages require both terrestrial and marine habitat.
- ODF has no capacity to influence marine habitat threats.
- ODF can support the population and improve habitat conditions.



Summary of ESMP Content: Role of State Forests

- ODF-managed lands provide “contribution to conservation” of marbled murrelets.
 - Support stable or increasing population and habitat trends
 - Take avoidance policies
 - Survival guidelines
 - Current FMP commitments
- Role remains the same under management strategies detailed in future Habitat Conservation Plan.



Summary of ESMP Content: Management Strategy

Current Management Planning

Internal marbled murrelet polices

- Align with ODFW's survival guidelines.
- Survey potentially suitable habitat for proposed timber sales since 1992.
- Designate protected "Marbled Murrelet Mgt. Areas" or MMMAs.
- Trash management at public use areas.

2010 Forest Management Plan

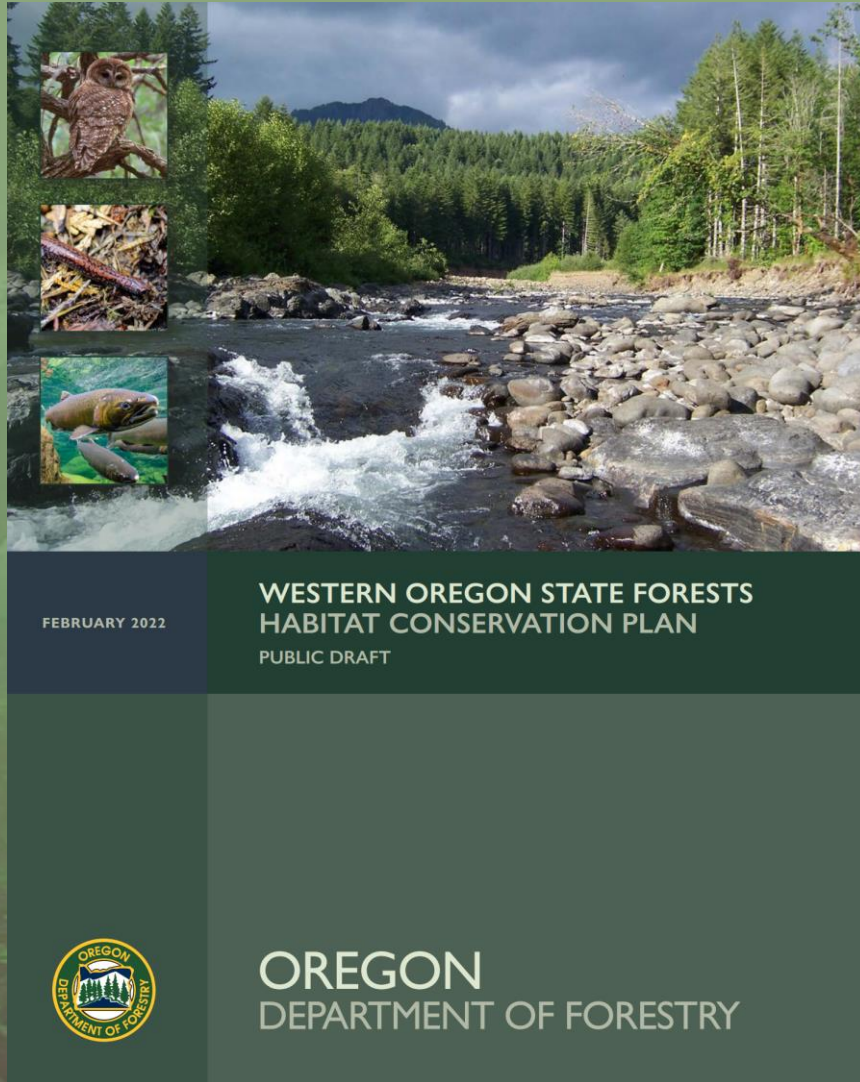
- Structure based management
- Desired Future Condition: 30-50% Complex Forest.
- Retention requirements
- Strategies may not result in murrelet habitat, but represent contributions beyond take avoidance.



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Summary of ESMP Content: Management Strategy



Future Management Planning

Habitat Conservation Plan

- Goal: support the persistence of marbled murrelets in permit area and an increase habitat quantity and quality over time.
- Objective: Conserve, maintain, and enhance murrelet habitat in designated Habitat Conservation Areas.

Companion Forest Management Plan

- Complement HCP implementation.
- Retention policy emulates existing FMP (2010).

Summary of ESMP Content: Monitoring and Adaptive Mgt./Plan Review and Implementation

Current Management Planning

Internal marbled murrelet polices

- Identification and protection of occupied habitat.

2010 Forest Management Plan

- Implemented and reviewed in 10-year planning cycles
- Stand condition evaluations incorporated into annual operations plans



Ian Vorster, Oregon State University

Summary of ESMP Content: Monitoring and Adaptive Mgt./Plan Review and Implementation

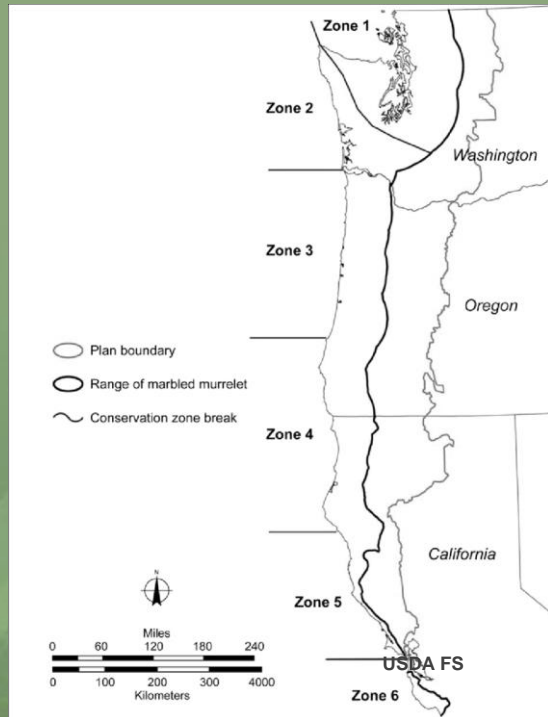
Future Management Planning



Habitat conservation Plan

- Compliance and effectiveness monitoring requirements
- Annual murrelet habitat and species monitoring
 - Occupancy status across permit area
 - Responses to management activities
- Results reported at 5-year check ins and 10-year comprehensive review.
- Complements companion FMP 10-year planning cycle

Summary of ESMP Content: Other state and federal plans



- Coordinated ESMP development with other Commission identified state agencies.
 - ODFW, DSL, DOA, and OPRD
- ODF-managed lands represent largest proportion of terrestrial murrelet habitat among state agencies.
- ODF policies align with ODFW mandatory survival guidelines.
- ODF's policies support recovery actions described in the *USFWS Recovery Plan for the Threatened Marbled Murrelet* for zones 3 and 4.
 - Take avoidance while protecting occupied habitat.
 - Produce and maintain older forest stand structures.



Summary of ESMP Content: Plan development review and approval process



James P. Blair

- Statutory requirement to develop ESMP
- Developed in consultation with ODFW
- Periodic review and approval by Board of Forestry
 - Public meetings with engagement and input



Next Steps

January 2023

- ESMP submitted to Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission for review and approval.

July 2023

- Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission final decision is required.
- Commission approved ESMP will supersede survival guidelines.

Future Habitat Conservation Plan

- Incidental Take Permit issued under federal ESA will supersede ESMP requirements.

Questions?

