

Marbled Murrelet Board Manual Sections 14 and 15 November 8, 2023

Marc Engel, Senior Policy Advisor
Forest Regulation Division



Board Manual Development

Board Manual Section 14, *Survey protocol for marbled murrelets*

Amended to require “the most current Pacific Seabird Group terrestrial survey protocol shall be used when surveying for marbled murrelets in a stand. Surveys are valid if they were conducted in compliance with the board-recognized Pacific Seabird Group survey protocols in effect at the beginning of the season in which the surveys were conducted.”



Board Manual Section 15

Part 1

- General description for forests which have suitable stand structure for platforms and have documented higher levels of murrelet occupancy
- Forest stand characteristics in which support sufficient potential nesting platforms to require murrelet surveys
- Two scenarios for habitat assessment
 - Suitable marbled murrelet habitat
 - Occupied marbled murrelet habitat



Board Manual Section 15

Part 2 Amends existing protocol platform assessment methods:

2.1 *field sampling methods* specifically

2.1.1 *the sample plot method*

2.1.2 *the 100% cruise method*

2.1.3 *the inventory model method.*



Board Manual Section 15

Part 3 *Harvest Methodology for Occupied Marbled Murrelet Site Buffer*

- Part 3.1 *Additional Preparation and Harvest Requirements* provides guidance when murrelet occupancy has been assumed or confirmed, and requires a 300- foot average buffer zone adjacent to the occupied marbled murrelet site for minimizing harvest edge effects per WAC 222-16-080 (1)(h)(v)).
 - The 300-foot average managed buffer contains a no-harvest inner zone and a managed outer zone
 - Guidance for field layout and conducting harvest within a marbled murrelet outer zone managed buffer; and additional preparation and harvest requirements.



Board Manual Sections 14 and 15

- Stakeholder workgroup developed guidance since August meeting
 - Guidance for new rule
 - Amend existing guidance
 - To provide material for TFW training
 - Rule effective date of January 1st, 2024
- Stakeholders attempted to address all needed guidance, further review has identified additional guidance needs
 - Diameter Breast Height
 - Platform trees
- Staff recommends Board approval of BM Sections 14 and 15 with the ability for staff to make additional edits for clarity, correct grammatical errors and formatting

