





# Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy

## Sustainable Harvest Level

A presentation to the Board of Natural Resources

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# Today's Agenda

## Review of the Upcoming Decisions

### 1. Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy

- HCP Amendment
- Incidental Take Permit



### 2. Setting the Sustainable Harvest Level

- Riparian
- Arrearage



# Marbled Murrelet



# Why do we need this decision now?

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Obligation in the 1997 Habitat Conservation Plan



Long-term certainty for DNR's timber harvest program



Significant contribution to marbled murrelets



# Board's Work Leading to their Direction



## Process that led to the amendment

2012

Need, Purpose, and Objectives developed

2016

Draft Environmental Impact Statement released

2017

Board Retreat, development of the Preferred Alternative

## The amendment was developed by staff based on board direction

2018

Revised Draft Environmental Impact Statement released

2019

Final Environmental Impact Statement released



# Board Direction on Marbled Murrelet

*(November 2017)*

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Develop, analyze, and submit for application a preferred alternative based on staff recommendations to:

- **Minimize impacts to marbled murrelets**
  - Conserve all existing occupied sites
  - Capture existing habitat in conservation areas
  - Meter habitat in strategic locations
- **Offset impacts and address uncertainty**
  - Buffer occupied sites
  - Conservation in strategically important locations
  - Increase interior forest
- **Reduce disproportionate financial impacts**



# How the HCP Amendment meets Board Direction



Minimize impacts to marbled murrelets	
Direction	Result
Conserve all existing occupied sites	388 occupied sites conserved (~59,000 acres)
Capture existing habitat in conservation areas	20 Special Habitat Areas created (~47,000 acres)
Meter habitat in strategic locations	5,000 operable/weighted acres protected for first decade
Offset impacts and address uncertainty	
Direction	Result
Buffer occupied sites	100 meter buffers established for all occupied sites (~33,000 acres)
Conservation in strategically important locations	Focus on three strategic locations – Southwest Washington, OESF and the Straits, and North Puget
Increase interior forest	~34,000 acre projected increase of interior forest by Decade 5 (41% increase)
Reduce disproportionate financial impacts	
	Result
	Reduced conservation commitments in Clallam, Pacific, and Wahkiakum counties; University Trust
	Analyzed and disclosed impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socioeconomic Analysis - impacted counties Clallam, Pacific, and Wahkiakum</li> <li>• Taxing District Analysis (-)impacted: Clallam (15), Pacific (10), Skagit (10), Snohomish (11), Whatcom (8)</li> </ul>



# Incidental Take Permit Under Federal Law



- Allows DNR to proceed with forestry operations that may result in the ‘incidental take’ of listed species



- Acceptance of the permit allows DNR to implement the HCP Amendment to the Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy



- Additional conditions relate to reporting requirements



- The permit is accompanied by a supporting biological opinion, findings, and record of decision

# Why adopt the Amendment?

Meets the Need, Purpose, and Objectives as stated in the Final EIS

In the  
Best  
Interest  
of the  
Trusts



## Trust Mandate

Provide long-term certainty

Maintain productive landscape to generate revenue

## Marbled Murrelet Habitat *(meets ESA criteria)*

Minimize and mitigate impacts

Does not jeopardize the recovery of the species

## Active Management

Maintain management in northern spotted owl areas

## Operational Flexibility

Provides management flexibility on revenue generating lands

## Implementation Certainty

Feasible, practical, and cost-effective actions likely to be successful

Conservation  
Benefits for  
Marbled  
Murrelets



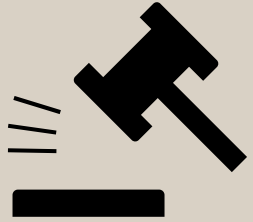
# Proposal for the Board

Establish a Sustainable Harvest Level  
for fiscal years **2015-2024**





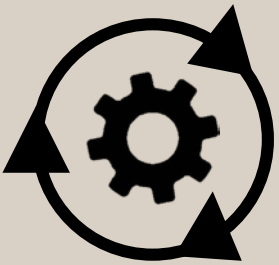
# Why do we need to make a decision for the Sustainable Harvest Level?



- Statute



- Policy



- Implementation



# Board of Natural Resources

## Work to this Point

2014

Identified two issues to address to set the Sustainable Harvest Level

- Arrearage
- Riparian

2014 -15

Board formed the subcommittee on Arrearage

2015

Board adopted the Purpose, Need, and Objectives

2016

Released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

2017

Board Retreat

Preferred Alternative selected

- 382 MMBF Arrearage
- No level for Riparian

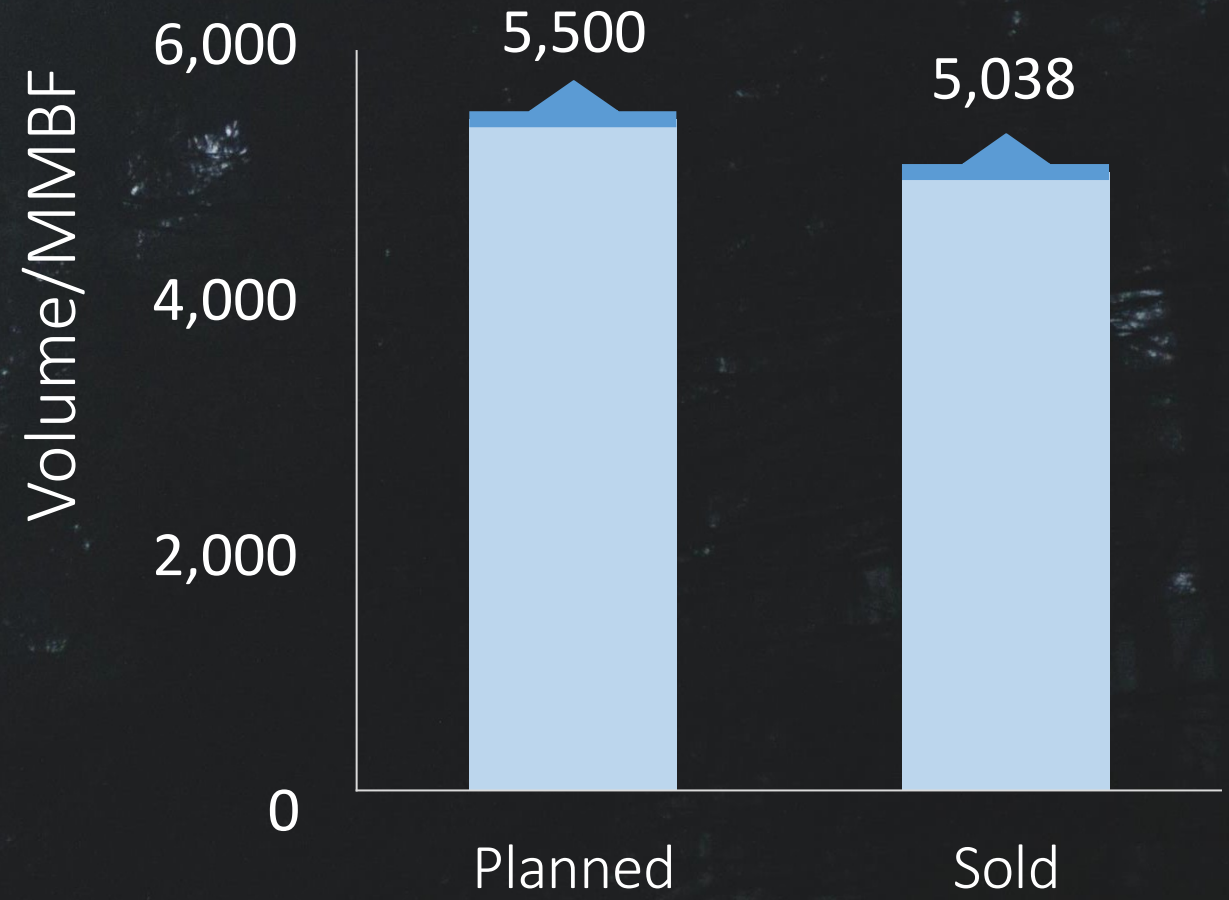


# Arrearage





### Fiscal Years 2005 - 2014



# — What happens if there is an arrearage? —

## RCW 79.10.330

If an arrearage exists at the end of any planning decade, **the department shall conduct an analysis of alternatives to determine the course of action regarding the arrearage** which provides the greatest return to the trusts based upon economic conditions then existing and forecast, as well as impacts on the environment of harvesting the additional timber. The department shall offer for sale the arrearage in addition to the sustainable harvest level adopted by the board of natural resources for the next planning decade if the analysis determined doing so will provide the greatest return to the trusts.





# Board Direction on Arrearage

*(November 2017)*

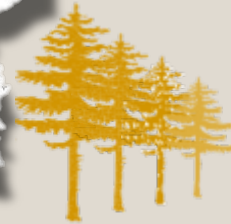
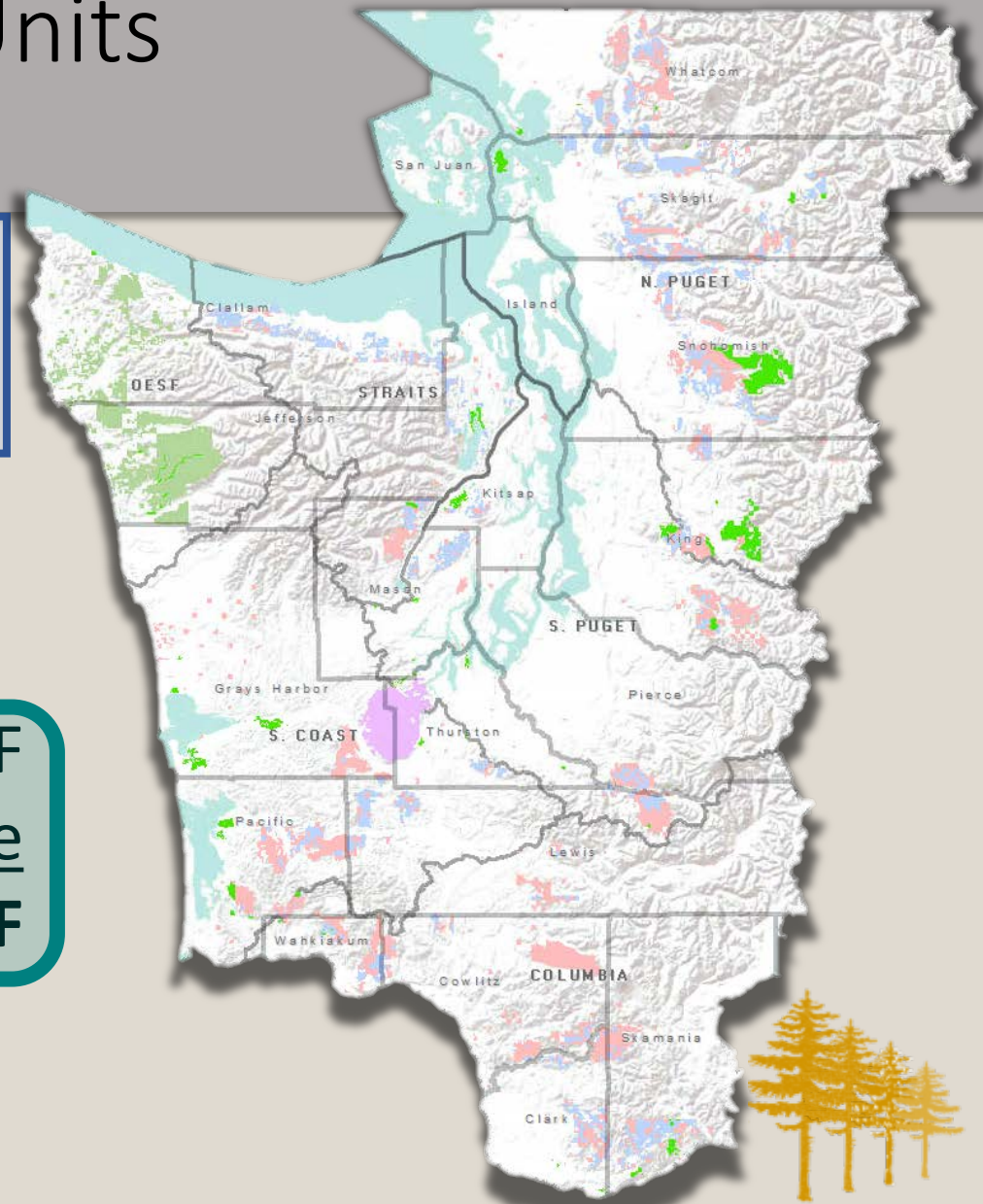
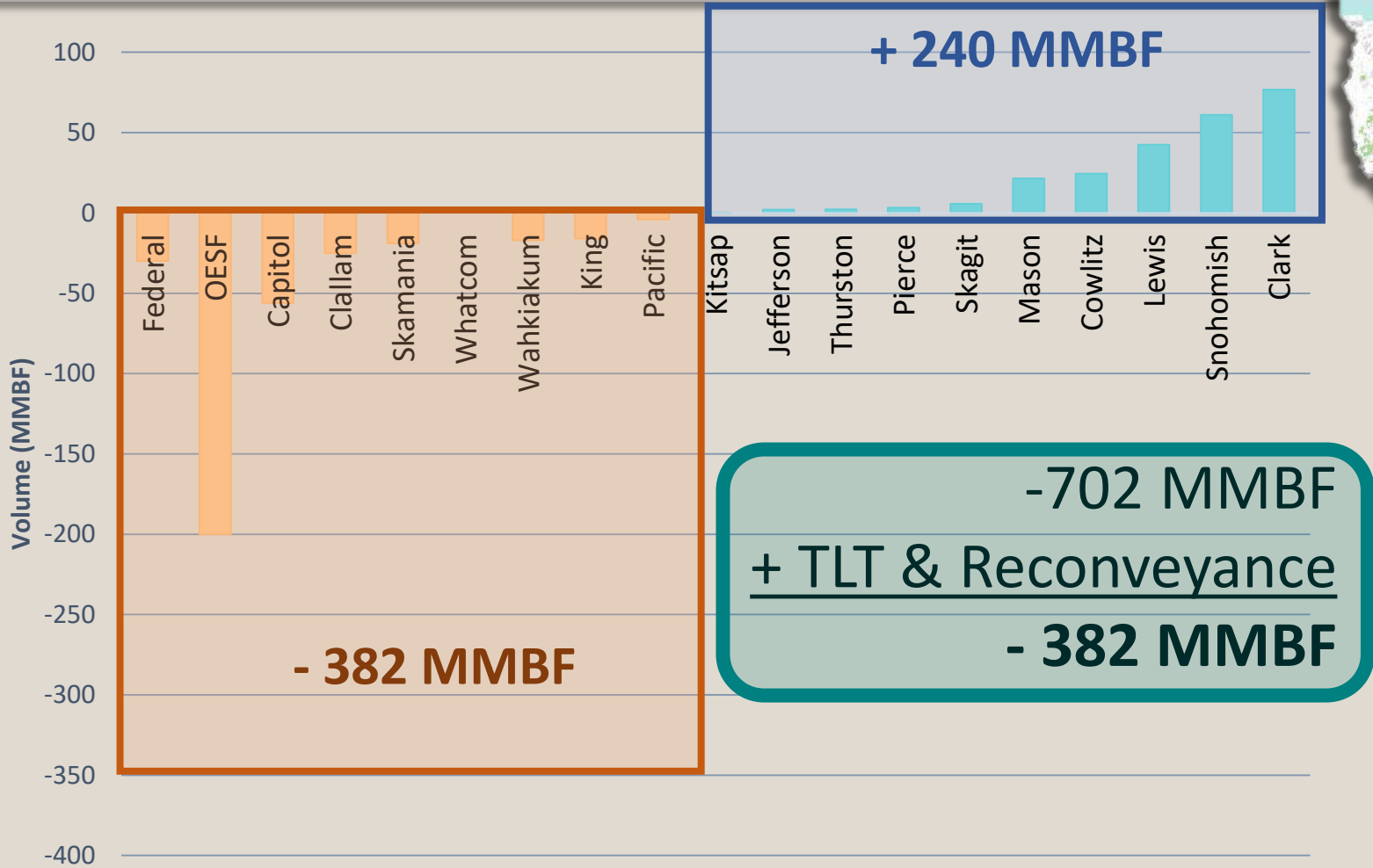
Develop and analyze a preferred alternative that **addresses the arrearage volume of 462 MMBF** and meets the following criteria:

- Address the trust and beneficiary revenue impacts caused from the shortfall of harvest in the sustainable harvest units with deficits
- **Add the volume that was transacted through Trust Land Transfer or state forest lands reconveyance programs** to the sold volume for each sustainable harvest unit for the previous planning decade
- The resulting total shortfall of volume from sustainable harvest units with deficits would be **382 MMBF**.
- Board requested policy to capture this approach for future decades



# Arrearage in Sustainable Harvest Units

FY 2005-2014



# Arrearage Policy Direction from Board

*(November 2017)*

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“The Board recognizes that it doesn’t have an arrearage policy and therefore directs department staff to develop policies for Board’s consideration on how to consistently calculate and address arrearage.”



# Summary of Arrearage Policy Recommendation

## *Sustainable Harvest Level FEIS - Appendix M*

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The department will:

- Determine if arrearage exists for the prior decade
- Conduct an analysis

The analysis should:

- Determine availability for sale
- Identify shortfall by the sustainable harvest units
- Consider impacts of alternative courses of action

The Board of Natural Resources will adopt a course of action



# Staff Recommendation on Arrearage



Consistent with the Board's 2017 direction:

**Sell the following arrearage volume in 2015-2024**

Sustainable Harvest Unit	Arrearage Volume
Capitol	56
Clallam	25
Federally Granted Lands and State Forest Purchase	45
King	16
OESF	200
Pacific	4
Skamania	19
Wahkiakum	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>382</b>

*2019 Revised Financial Analysis, Table A1*

And adopt...

**Arrearage Policy**



# Riparian





# Riparian



## Why is riparian harvest volume difficult to forecast?

- Riparian harvest is a response to ecological conditions
- Very site specific

## The Policy Question:

Do we include the volume from riparian harvest in the Sustainable Harvest Calculation?



# Board Motion and Direction on Riparian *(November 2017)*

The Board directs the Department staff to develop and analyze a preferred alternative that represents:

- The Board expects riparian harvests to be conducted based on their ecological value as intended as part of the State Lands HCP Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy
- Harvest volume from riparian areas will not be included in the calculation of the sustainable harvest level
- Timber volume obtained from harvests in riparian areas can count towards meeting the sustainable harvest target





# Staff Recommendation on Riparian...



The Board directs the Department staff to develop and analyze a preferred alternative that represents:

- The Board expects riparian harvests to be conducted based on their ecological value as intended as part of the State Lands HCP Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy
- Harvest volume from riparian areas will not be included in the calculation of the sustainable harvest level
- ~~Timber volume obtained from harvests in riparian areas can count towards meeting the sustainable harvest target~~
- Timber volume from riparian areas will be tracked and reported **separately** from the sustainable harvest volume





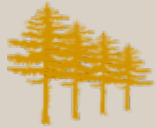
Decision:

# Set a Sustainable Harvest Level

## Assumptions



1. MMLTCS – Adopt the HCP Amendment



2. Arrearage – 382 MMBF



3. Riparian – Not included in setting the level

Sustainable Harvest Level (2015-2024) 4,272 MMBF

Arrearage Volume (2005-2014 ) 382 MMBF

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**2015-2024 Harvest Level 4,654 MMBF**



<b>Sustainable Harvest Unit</b>	<b>2015-2024 Sustainable Harvest Level (mmbf) <i>Alternative 6</i></b>	<b>2005-2014 Arrearage (mmbf)</b>	<b>2015-2024 Harvest Level Decision (mmbf) <i>Alternative 6</i></b>
Capitol	473	56	529
Clallam	185	25	210
Clark	48		48
Cowlitz	23		23
Federal	1,831	45	1,876
Grays Harbor	5		5
Jefferson	65		65
King	64	16	80
Kitsap	12		12
Lewis	191		191
Mason	95		95
OESF	539	200	739
Pacific	37	4	41
Pierce	29		29
Skagit	259		259
Skamania	82	19	101
Snohomish	203		203
Thurston	23		23
Wahkiakum	42	17	59
Whatcom	67		67
<b>Total*</b>	<b>4,272</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>4,654</b>

*\*Values may not sum to decadal harvest level due to rounding*

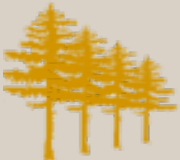


# Sustainable Harvest Decision



Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy

Certainty of management



Arrearage

Addresses harm from previous decade to Sustainable Harvest Units that did not receive volume from previous decade



Riparian

Increases certainty in deliverables

# Next Steps

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December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Staff will recommend decisions



- Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy



- Sustainable Harvest Level



- Arrearage



- Riparian



