

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE - SPOTLIGHT SPECIES ACTION PLAN

Common Name: Marbled murrelet

Scientific Name: *Brachyramphus marmoratus*

Lead Region: Region 1

Lead Field Office: Washington Fish and Wildlife Office

Species Information:

Status: Threatened

Recovery Priority Number or Listing Priority Number: 2C

Recovery Plan or Candidate Assessment Form: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1997. Recovery Plan for the Threatened Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) in Washington, Oregon, and California. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon. 202 pages plus Appendices.



Most Recent 5-year Review: June 12, 2009.

Other: Final Designation of Critical Habitat for the Marbled Murrelet, May 24, 1996 (61 FR 26256).

Threats: The primary cause of marbled murrelet population decline is the historic and ongoing loss and modification of nesting habitat through commercial timber harvests, human-induced fires, and land conversions, and to a lesser degree, through natural causes such as wild fires and wind storms. Additional causes of decline include oil spills, gill-net fishing, marine pollution, and predation.

Target: 5-year goal: Maintain and improve species status.

Measure: Increased number of acres of habitat protected, particularly high-quality occupied/nesting habitat. Recovery plan revision approved at the Washington Office level. Significant (important to the species) marine research funded and being implemented, or completed. Coastal redwoods population trends studied for 3 or more years.

Strategic Actions/Tasks Synopsis*:

1. Protect habitat:

Task Synopsis	State	Priority	Implementing Party (see footnote below)	Costs
Where possible, identify and protect marine habitat essential for murrelet survival and recovery.	CA, OR, WA	3	NOAA, USFWS	TBD
Expand Oregon Forest Practices Rules to include habitat and species protection for murrelets on private lands, similar to California and Washington.	OR	2	ODFW, ODF, PLO, USFWS	TBD

2. Decrease or eliminate threats.

Task Synopsis	State	Priority	Implementing Party (see footnote below)	Costs
Manage predators at recreation areas, agricultural areas, landfills, etc., in/near suitable murrelet habitat (e.g., install predator-proof garbage cans, educate the public, use lethal or other types of removal, etc.).	CA, OR, WA	4	CDFG, CDFFP, ODFW, ODF, PLO, BLM, USFS, WDFW, WDNR, USFWS, ODSL, NPS, WSP, OSP, CSP	TBD

3. Conduct research and monitoring:

Task Synopsis	State	Priority	Implementing Party (see footnote below)	Costs
Conduct at-sea surveys for inventory and monitoring of population size and distribution.	CA, OR, WA	1	CDFG, ODFW, USFWS, WDFW	TBD

4. Update and revise recovery objectives/plan. (Priority actions unidentified).

Implementing Party Key

- BLM: Bureau of Land Management
- CDFG: California Department of Fish and Game
- CDFFP: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- CSP: California State Parks
- CTSI: Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- NPS: National Park Service
- OBF: Oregon Board of Forestry
- ODF: Oregon Department of Forestry
- ODFW: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- ODSL: Oregon Department of State Lands
- OSP: Oregon State Parks
- PLO: Private Landowners
- Tgov: Tribal Governments
- WDFW: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- WDNR: Washington Department of Natural Resources
- WSP: Washington State Parks
- USFS: United States Forest Service
- USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service

*NOTE: The Marbled Murrelet Spotlight Action Plan is condensed from a more complete action plan developed by the Marbled Murrelet U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service leads. Attached.

Strategic Action		Tasks Synopsis	State, Province	Priority	Implementing Party	Implementation Schedule (In Thousands or Staff Bio Days)								
Category	Goal / Objective					2010			2011			2012		
						Funding request	Funding secured	Funding needed	Funding request	Funding secured	Funding needed	Funding request	Funding secured	Funding needed
Update and Revise Recovery Objectives	Write Conservation Zone management plans (determine zone-specific conservation needs)	CA, OR, WA		USFWS										

Recovery Objective

(1) Maintain or increase productivity of the population as reflected by changes in total population size, the adult:juvenile ratio, and nesting success by maintaining and/or increasing marine and terrestrial habitat and by (2) removing and/or minimizing threats to survivorship including mortality from gill-net fisheries and oil spills.

Recovery Criteria

- 1) Trends in estimated population size, densities and productivity have been stable or increasing in four of the six zones over a 10-year period. This period of time will encompass at least one to two El Nino events, based on recent frequency of occurrences.
- 2) Management commitments (marine and terrestrial) and monitoring have been implemented that provide for adequate protection of marbled murrelets in the six Conservation Zones for at least the near future (50 years). These commitments include delineating and protecting areas of terrestrial and marine habitat essential for recovery within each Conservation Zone (task 2) and developing and implementing landscape management strategies for each of the six Conservation Zones (task 2.3). Monitoring commitments include accurate and repeatable inventory and monitoring of marbled murrelet populations and trends at-sea and monitoring the amount and condition of terrestrial habitat (task 4.1).

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