

March 11, 2007

Oregon Department of Forestry  
92219 Hwy. 202  
Astoria, Oregon, 97103

Astoria District

Surveys for Northern Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets have not been completed. We cannot approve of any of these sales without complete surveys. We need population and suitable habitat statistics in order to approve of sales with threatened species.

**Progeny Split;** Accompanying papers say that Marbled Murrelets were present. The prospectus says 1 flyover. Accompanying paper says no Spotted Owl were detected in 2006. The Prospectus says there was one Spotted Owl in 2006. Areas 1 and 2 clearcut anchor habitat for salmon and other fish. We recommend leaving all of these parts of the sale out with 400 foot buffers around them or cancelling the sale altogether.

**Summit Stone;** Marbled Murrelet presence was detected in 2006, though the biologist said there was no suitable habitat in the sale. We must recommend the sale area where the detection took place be cancelled. Migration routes must not be logged. Predator birds could follow the adult to the nest site. The adult might not recognize where they are any more and stop nesting.

**Lion's Lair;** The Deliverance Spotted owl was detected adjacent to the SW border of area 2. We recommend that a 400 foot buffer be placed in the SW corner of area 2 and that seasonal restrictions are in place and at least 2 more years of surveys be done before deciding to proceed.

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## All State Forests:

Please stop clear-cutting everything. Clear-cuts destroy wildlife habitat, watershed protection, damage the climate, and cause water sources to dry up too early in summer. Herbicide from clear-cuts finds its way into drinking water, poisoning children impairing their mental and emotional development, causing Spider Brain Cancer in young adults, Hodgkin's and Parkinson's disease in older adults and neurological damage in everybody including ODF employees.

- ) There is no sustainable forestry in a clear-cut. Economic benefit is gone for a life time. Clear-cuts slide and cause blow down. Clear-cuts cause the rich top soil to wash away in winter rains.

Reforestation is less likely to succeed in a clear-cut. Growth is reduced by evaporation in a clear-cut.

There is nothing good about clear-cuts. Stop clear-cutting our economic future. Stop clear-cutting our health and public safety. Stop clear-cutting our scenic areas. Stop clear-cutting our recreational areas. Stop clear-cutting our watersheds and flood control, please.

Please use partial shade for weed control, not toxic chemicals. ODF was doing so well under James Brown. Why are we headed back into the dark ages?

If pollution of the waters or harm to threatened wildlife might occur as a result of any of the foregoing sales or activities, I would sue under the Endangered Species Act or Clean Water Act.

Thank you,

Marcia K. D



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Department of Forestry

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"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

April 30, 2007

Dear Ms. D:

Thank you for your recent comments on Annual Operations planning for state forests. The district is reviewing your comments pertaining to the Astoria District 2008 Annual Operations Plan (AOP). Below we have itemized responses for the items which you have provided comments.

*"Survey's for Northern Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets have not been completed."*

The Department's policy is to survey for both these species for two consecutive years prior to selling the sale. Surveys will continue this year on a number of operations within the 2008 AOP. If any of these surveys result in a detection, the operation will be reviewed by the Area Biologists and district staff; the affected operation may be modified or dropped based on the results of the review. All sales within the 2008 AOP will meet Department policy. No sales are ever sold without two years of completed surveys. The sales within the 2008 AOP will not sell until the 2008 fiscal year begins, which is July 1, 2007.

### **Progeny Split:**

*"Accompanying papers say that Marbled Murrelets were present. The prospectus says 1 flyover."*

It is true that marbled murrelets were detected during 2006 surveys. There actually were two visual observations above the canopy; these are documented as "fly over's". A fly over detection indicates that marbled murrelets are present in the area, but fly overs alone do not indicate that marbled murrelets are nesting (occupying) the stand or sale area. Per ODF Marbled Murrelet Operational Policy, only sites classified as occupied are subject to protection. Note: the site where the detection took place was not within a sale area of Progeny Split.

*"Accompanying paper says no Spotted Owl were detected in 2006. The Prospectus says there was one Spotted Owl in 2006."*

In 2006, there were two unknown Spotted Owl responses documented by surveyors. An unknown response is documented when the sex of the bird responding is unclear. During a

follow up survey, a pair of Barred Owls was located and the originally documented unknown Spotted Owl response was determined to be the Barred Owls. Many Barred Owls were documented by surveyors in 2006 within the vicinity of the Progeny Split sale. The pre-operations report was in error and will be updated to reflect the correct information regarding the owl responses. Thank you for catching this mistake.

*“Areas 1 and 2 clearcut anchor habitat for salmon and other fish....”*

The Northwest Oregon State Forests Management Plan identifies the anchor habitat approach as a strategy for managing fish species of concern. Areas 1, 2 & 3 of Progeny Split are located within the Upper North Fork of the Nehalem Salmon Anchor Habitat (SAH) area. The limitations on timber harvest for this SAH are found in the Salmon Anchor Habitats Strategy for Northwest Oregon State Forests, which states, “...there is no limit on thinning acreage, however Annual Operations Plans for clearcut harvests will not exceed 7% of the total state forests acreage in the salmon anchor habitat in each basin during the 10 year period.” The Progeny Split timber sale, as well as all of the timber sales in this AOP, comply with the guidance in the Department’s Salmon Anchor Habitat Strategy.

#### **Summit Stone:**

*“Marbled Murrelet presence was detected in 2006, though the biologist said there was no suitable habitat in the sale....”*

Areas seven and eight of this sale were determined to have potential suitable habitat for the marbled murrelet. These two areas were surveyed a total of forty-six times in the 2005 and 2006 survey seasons, with one unknown detection in 2006. An unknown detection is documented when the surveyor does not see the bird at any time, but hears a murrelet call. An unknown detection does not provide an indication of where the nest may be located, so the status and occupancy of the bird remains undetermined. Per ODF Marbled Murrelet Operational Policy, only sites classified as occupied are subject to protection.

#### **Lion’s Lair:**

*“The Deliverance spotted owl was detected adjacent to the SW border of area 2.”*

The Deliverance Spotted Owl was not detected adjacent to the SW border of Area 2. The Deliverance response was over a mile from this sale and is a bird whose home range and activity center is under protection by the District. This was not documented correctly in our pre-operations report for Lion’s Lair and will be corrected. This sale will be surveyed to protocol before being sold.

## **Conclusion**

The District Forester is expected to approve the Astoria District 2008 Annual Operations Plans by June 2007.

Approved annual operations plans will be posted on the department's web site at [http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE\\_FORESTS/Annual\\_Operations\\_Plans.shtml](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODF/STATE_FORESTS/Annual_Operations_Plans.shtml). Your comments and our responses will also be posted on the website. If this causes you any concern, please contact me immediately. Members of the public may visit district offices to see approved plans and changes, or request to have copies sent to them.

We appreciate your input in state forest planning. Active public participation helps us implement our legislative and Constitutional mandates, and the goals, objectives, and strategies in our forest management plans.

Please let us know if you have any questions or additional comments.

Sincerely,

**Tom Savage**

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Tom Savage  
Astoria District Forester  
(503) 325-5451