



State Forests Marbled Murrelet Endangered Species Management Plan (ESMP)

November 3, 2022 | FTLAC

Background

July 2021

- Reclassified from threatened to endangered.
- Triggered statutory requirements.

November 2021

- ODF identified as an agency that can play a role in murrelet conservation.
- 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.
- 4% of forest cover in Coast Range and 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 help arrest population declines 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



Steve Ringman/The Seattle Times

Summary of ESMP Content: Management Strategy

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.



Recommendation

The Division recommends the Board approves the ODF State Forests Division Marbled Murrelet Endangered Species Management Plan Division staff developed based on the requirements listed above and detailed in OAR 635-100-0140.





Next Steps

January 2023

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

July 2023 and Beyond

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

Habitat Conservation Plan

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

Questions?

