

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MARBLED MURRELET CONSERVATION

Whereas the Marbled Murrelet, listed as Threatened in 1992 in California, Oregon, and Washington under the Endangered Species Act, continues to decline in numbers in all its range.

Whereas Marbled Murrelet nest on broad branches in the upper canopy of old growth forests near the West Coast and their decline is linked to destruction and fragmentation of this breeding habitat.

Whereas the Washington State Department of Natural Resources has yet to adopt a science-based Long Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet for State Trust Lands.

Whereas scientific research describing Marbled Murrelet conservation opportunities has been and continues to be developed by independent scientists.

Whereas the 2008 Science Report (Recommendations and Supporting Analysis of Conservation Opportunities for the Marbled Murrelet Long Term Strategy) details strategies that should be implemented for the Marbled Murrelet.

Whereas Washington State has the opportunity to implement science-based conservation planning, policies, and strategies.

Whereas we recognize that some counties, especially those with low population, are dependent for government functions on funds from timbering state trust lands.

Therefore be it resolved that Washington State Audubon and the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee

Supports Marbled Murrelet habitat protection as a key objective land management decision;
Encourages science-based conservation planning, policies and strategies that promote Marbled Murrelet conservation; and

Endorses the 2008 Science Report as an example of science that can and should be used to inform conservation planning, policies and strategies; and

Promotes legislation to fund encumbered land statutes to help reduce the loss of county funds lost to designation of Marbled Murrelet habitat on state trust lands.

And that this position shall be expressed by Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee and Audubon WA in communications with elected representatives, discussions with appointed officials, and comments provided, when appropriate, to government agencies.

Passed at WSACC Meeting on October 4, 2013, in Bellevue, Washington.