

# Fish and Wildlife reverses course on threatened seabird

Marbled murrelet not endangered

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
The Daily Astorian



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
**Marbled murrelets won't be listed as endangered in Oregon.**

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on Thursday reversed a decision to upgrade the status of the marbled murrelet from threatened to endangered, choosing to wait for a 10-year study of the species to end.

There were concerns that increased protections for marbled murrelets — small seabirds that winter at sea but nest in coastal forests — would mean stricter logging limits on state forestland. Several county commissioners from coastal communities testified at a commission meeting in Baker City Thursday that they were concerned about the economic impacts of the decision.

The move toward uplisting nearly ended in a deadlock when commissioners first considered it at a meeting in February. It only passed after Commissioner Bob Webber decided to change his vote.

Staff recommended reclassifying marbled murrelets as an endangered species Thursday, but Curt Melcher, director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said commissioners had the option to reject the listing change, which they did in a 4-2 vote.

The commission intends to wait for results from an ongoing study of marbled murrelets by Oregon State University researchers. The researchers are in the second

year of the 10-year study.

"Let's wait a few years and let scientists update us on how this species is doing," Mike Finley, the commission's chairman, said.

Environmental groups shot back against Thursday's reversal.

Quinn Read, director for Defenders of Wildlife, said the commission "bowed to the interests of the timber industry, abandoning the conservation leadership they demonstrated just four months ago."

"We are extremely disappointed, but we are not done," Read said. "Oregonians won't stand for this failure of leadership. Defenders will continue to work with our conservation partners to challenge this indefensible decision."

Marbled murrelets are considered endangered in Washington state and California. Oregon listed the species as threatened in 1995. Very little is known about them and nests are hard to find and study. The birds appear to favor large, old-growth conifers, a habitat that has dwindled, researchers say.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife assessed the species in response to a petition from multiple conservation organizations.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian  
Astoria School Board members David Oser, left, and Jeanette Sampson, center, on Thursday honored Jeanyse Snow, wife of the late Hal Snow, a lawyer and co-founder of Astoria High School Scholarships Inc.



The Daily Astorian  
The Astoria High School library has been named after the late Michael Foster, right, for his part in creating Astoria High School Scholarships Inc.

# Snow, Foster honored for support of Astoria High School grads

Created scholarships to help students

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

Astoria High School Scholarships Inc. on Thursday honored late co-founders Michael Foster and Hal Snow for their part in creating a scholarship program that has awarded more than \$3.5 million to more than 2,000 students since 1976.

Foster, a teacher and librarian for the school district for more than 30 years, in 1976 held a car wash fundraiser and awarded two scholarships worth \$250 each. The scholarship program has since grown to more than \$8 million, incorporating funds from former students, businesses,

unions, social groups and others. The fund awarded \$264,000 to the Class of 2018 Thursday, part of more than \$1.8 million in scholarships they have collectively secured.

The Astoria School Board and Superintendent Craig Hoppes on Thursday unveiled a plaque that will be placed along with photos and a biography in the high school's newly christened Michael Foster Library.

School board members on Thursday provided a bouquet to Snow's wife Jeanyse, a partner in the Snow & Snow law firm dating back to the 1960s. Snow had served as city attorney for Astoria and Warrenton, while helping with numerous other community efforts.

"Although Michael Foster had the vision to help provide monetary support for students, the person who did work behind the scenes to get things done was Hal Snow,"

Hoppes said. "Hal was a longtime community member who worked in many local endeavors to support our community. He provided the legal guidance and support to make sure over the years that Astoria Scholarship Inc. would continue to grow into a multimillion-dollar scholarship program."

Foster and Snow died in 2016.

Bob Landwehr, president of Astoria High School Scholarships Inc., announced the group would begin giving out alumni scholarships to graduates from 2015 and later. Noting the scholarship funds of past graduating classes, he challenged more recent graduates to also support future generations when they are able.

"Let the spirit and enthusiasm of Hal Snow, Michael Foster and all of the individual donors that you've heard about tonight be your inspiration for the future," he said.

# Anglers get extension on spring Chinook

The Daily Astorian

Anglers have another shot at bagging spring Chinook salmon this month on the Columbia River.

Fishery managers in Oregon and Washington state extended the season after affirming a previous forecast of 116,500 upriver spring Chinook returning to the river mouth, leaving additional fish to harvest.

The extension began Thursday and will continue through June 15 from the Tongue Point/

Rocky Point line up to the boat and bank deadlines near Bonneville Dam. Anglers can catch up to two adult salmon (Chinook, coho or steelhead) per day. Only hatchery fish may be kept.

There will also be a one-day white sturgeon retention season on Saturday. The season will end at 2 p.m. that day. The open area includes the main stem

Columbia River from Buoy 10 at the river mouth to the Wauna power lines and includes Youngs Bay and all adjacent Washington state tributaries.

Anglers have a daily bag limit of one fish and an annual limit of two. Green sturgeon may not be retained.

From Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon and Washington state border, fish-

ery managers modified the spring Chinook season and will allow fishermen to keep two adult hatchery Chinook per day instead of one.

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# CONGRATS!



**Tyler Theodore Ranta**

**Hailey Marie Ranta**

You dreamt, you believed, you strived and you achieved. You are an inspiration to us all.

Congratulations to you both. The sky is the limit and it's your time to soar!

~ Love, Mom & Dad

