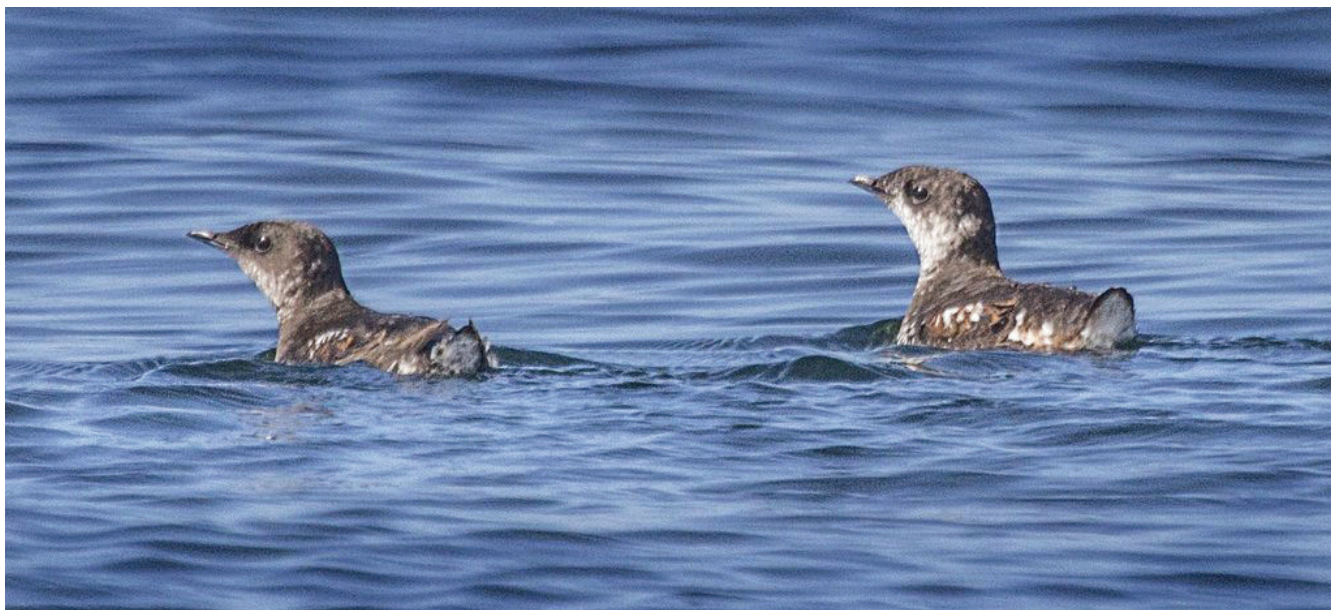


Washington state will protect threatened marbled murrelet

By ROSE LUNDY
The Daily News



Steve Ringman/Seattle Times

The Washington Department of Natural Resources estimates there are about 6,000 marbled murrelets, which spend most of their lives at sea.

than two decades of uncertainty with bold action to protect marbled murrelet habitat while supporting Washington's rural economies," Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz said in a news release. "We are moving forward on a path that safeguards this threatened species while creating jobs and economic

opportunity — a dual investment in the future of the marbled murrelet and our small towns."

The marbled murrelet, which spends most of its life at sea, will travel 55 miles inland to lay one egg per year in old-growth trees. According to the Department of Natural Resources, the marbled murrelet population declined

3.9% annually between 2001 and 2016 largely due to habitat loss. The department estimates that about 6,000 murrelets are left in the state.

Under the newly adopted plan, the department estimates additional protected forestland will become suitable murrelet habitat over the next 50 years, bringing the total protected habitat to

272,000 acres of state lands.

Conservationists previously have said the plan is not protective enough.

"DNR is trying to find a balance between the two sides, and we are not sure that even exists," Kara Whitaker, lead technical scientist for the Marbled Murrelet Coalition, a multiorganization conservation group,

said in September. "The bird needs more habitat than they are proposing, unfortunately, and the beneficiaries need more (revenue) than they are proposing."

The board also set the sustainable-harvest level for timber on state trust lands at 4.65 billion board feet, which the department says will guarantee a more stable flow of income to the schools, colleges and counties that depend on their revenue.

The American Forest Resource Council, however, says the long-term strategy combined with the sustainable-harvest calculation will reduce annual harvest levels on Department of Natural Resources land by 85 million board feet over the next several years.

"This is over 15% below the levels adopted in the previous decade — an across-the-board cut that AFRC estimates will result in the annual loss of almost \$30 million in timber revenues to support public services and agency management costs," according to the organization's news release.

State forestry board puts state forester on notice

By TED SICKINGER
The Oregonian

The Oregon Board of Forestry has put Peter Daugherty, the state forester, on a performance improvement plan to address dysfunctional relationships with some board members, poor communication with the board at large and concerns over the agency's financial condition.

In an Oct. 30 letter to Daugherty, board chair Tom Imeson said the plan stemmed from a discussion the board had after its retreat on Oct. 9. He said the recommendations for corrective action were endorsed by the entire board and the governor's office.

Tensions between board members, the department and Daugherty have been evident for some time, particularly those members appointed to bring a conservation voice to the board: retired businessman James Kelly, fish biologist Cindy Williams and retired Oregon State University forestry professor Brenda McComb.

The three have frequently expressed frustration with

the agency's lack of responsiveness to their requests for information and that their concerns on specific issues were ignored. The board's increasing dysfunction spilled into an open and emotional discussion at the Oct. 9 retreat, and Daugherty acknowledged some of the problems there.

Daugherty responded Friday in an emailed statement.

"I take all board feedback seriously, particularly when it has recommendations for improvement," he wrote. "This review is an opportunity to work with the board to improve relationships within the board as well as between the board, the department and our stakeholders."

The agency has remained mired in numerous struggles during Daugherty's tenure, which began in 2016. For the last several months, it has been trying to address an acute cash flow crisis due to

uncollected costs from large wildfires. The issue is significant enough to threaten the agency's solvency, and it has only been able to keep the doors open by borrowing from Treasury, raiding its own reserves and having the Department of Administrative Services cover its payroll costs.

Simultaneously, agency leaders have been striving to develop a new management plan for state forests, one that can stabilize the finances of the division while winning support among both conservation and timber interests. The agency released a draft of that plan this week, and initial feedback from the timber industry, environmental groups and rural counties was not good.

Agency leaders have also been under the gun to respond to two major lawsuits. One just ended with

a \$1.1 billion jury verdict against the agency for failing to maximize logging revenues on state forests. The other remains in the discovery phase, but seeks to stop 68 planned timber sales that environmental groups contend threaten endangered salmon.

Imeson's letter acknowledged that the department was dealing with multiple challenges at once, and called the position of state forester "one of the most difficult jobs in state government." He said Daugherty has effectively led the agency's firefighting efforts, and that his "loyalty to the

department, its people and its programs is unquestioned."

It went on to say, however, that the broad set of perspectives individual board members brought to the job should be a valuable asset to the department.

"It is critical that each board member feel that their contributions are valued, their request for information are heeded and their concerns are addressed," Imeson wrote. "At this moment not all board members feel that way. Individual discussions with each board member are imperative to reset the relationship as necessary."

The Astoria City Council wishes everyone a

JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Enjoy the lights and holiday festivities while shopping Downtown Astoria!
www.astoriadowntown.com

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29th - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1st
Customers can park downtown longer than the posted time limit, except in metered spaces.

WANTED
Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber
Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA
Contact: John Anderson • 360-269-2500



Meet the North Coast's general surgery team!

Eric Friedman, M.D. GENERAL SURGERY

Eric Friedman, M.D., is a board-certified general surgeon. He received his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He completed his residency at Oregon Health and Science University School of Medicine. Dr. Friedman was born and raised in Philadelphia and in his free time enjoys hiking and traveling.

Manfred P. Ritter, M.D. GENERAL SURGERY

Manfred P. Ritter, M.D., received his medical degree from Ludwig-Maximilian-University of Munich, in Germany. He completed his internship and residency at the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. He also completed a fellowship in esophageal/gastric surgery and colorectal surgery at the same school. Dr. Ritter is board certified and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with either provider, please call 503-717-7060.

Providence Seaside Clinic
725 South Wahanna Road, Suite 220
Seaside, OR 97138
(503) 717-7060



BOUTIQUE HOURS

MONDAY - SATURDAY
10:00AM - 7:00PM

SUNDAY
10:00AM - 6:00PM

PORTLAND

GOODWILL ON TENTH

838 SW 10TH AVE.

PORTLAND, OR 97205

503/595.1040

GOODWILL ON HAWTHORNE

3557 SE HAWTHORNE BLVD.

PORTLAND, OR 97214

503/231.3095

LAKE OSWEGO

GOODWILL ON BOONES FERRY

17150 SW LOWER BOONES FERRY RD.

LAKE OSWEGO, OR 97035

971/317.7664

HOOD RIVER

GOODWILL ON OAK

304 OAK ST.

HOOD RIVER, OR 97031

541/308.0514

NEWPORT

GOODWILL ON CAPE

11 SE 2ND ST.

NEWPORT, OR 97365

541/264.3048