



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

**Marbled murrelets won't be listed as endangered in Oregon.**

## Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission reverses course on threatened seabird

### Marbled murrelet not endangered

By Katie Frankowicz  
The Daily Astorian

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on June 7 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.

# An extraordinary ship

## Historic marker the effort of volunteers

By R.J. Marx  
Seaside Signal

ARCH CAPE — The USS Shark was no ordinary ship.

In the mid-19th century, it was a trusted military vessel that fought in combat and navigated the Strait of Magellan and beyond. But it met its match in Oregon with the mighty Columbia River.

“Everything that ship did is so mind-boggling,” Elaine Trucke, director of the Cannon Beach History Center and Museum, said. “It went all over the globe, then it thought it could do the Columbia Bar! And it couldn’t!”

In an effort to get the Shark off the south spit, the crew chopped down the ship’s three masts and jettisoned the cannons. When the ship began to break up, the crew took to lifeboats and all on board were eventually saved.

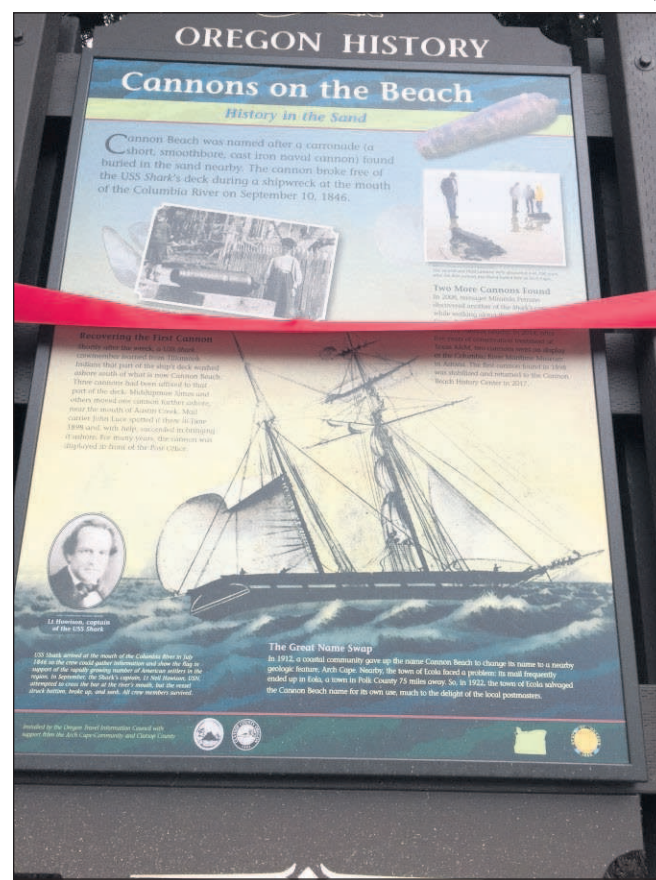
The ship’s captain received information from Native Americans that the three cannons had come ashore south of Tillamook Head. Realizing it would be impossible to retrieve the ship’s remains from such a remote location, they made no effort at recovery.

On June 15, volunteers and state officials converged on U.S. Highway 101 just north of the fire station in Arch Cape to celebrate a new interpretative marker dedicated to the shipwreck.

### Namesake

The Shark was one of hundreds of ships sunk along the coast, but one of the most notable — and the one that gave Cannon Beach its name. The new marker stands just north of Arch Cape firehouse, where an original marker was installed in the 1980s. The new marker, made of a wood resin, includes historical information, photos and illustrations recounting the ship’s story.

Annie Von Domitz, of the Oregon Travel Experience, supervised the renovation of the historic marker, in the style of the state’s historic wooden beaver markers. Arch Cape resident John Piatt



R.J. MARX

**A new historic marker ready to be unveiled along U.S. Highway 101 in Arch Cape.**

played a key role in working on the text and drafts, with historical support from Trucke and Jeff Smith, senior curator of the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

The postmortem is as fascinating as the Shark’s career in the waters. Long after it ran aground, the search for the ship’s three carronades — small, powerful cannons used to fire at ships at near range — became a local obsession.

“For decades, the cannon played peekaboo,” Trucke said.

One was found in 1896. Two others were discovered a day apart more than a century later, in 2008, revealed by extreme low tides and the natural loss of beach sand due to winter storms.

Piatt recalled: “The sand was way out and a girl and her dad were out walking and she said, ‘This looks like a cannon!’ A couple of days later someone found the third cannon right near there.”

The restoration of the three carronades became a community project, with the assistance of the Garden Club, the Arch Cape Community Club, Historic Markers Committee, the Cannon Beach History

Center and Museum and the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

Funds were raised and the carronades were restored at the marine archaeology department of Texas A&M University before returning to the North Coast. Today, a replica stands at the site of the historic marker. One carronade stands at the history center and two are on exhibit at the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

How did the Shark arrive here? Trucke provided an eloquent recounting of the ship’s creation and its ultimate demise.

### ‘Manifest Destiny’

The secretary of the Navy in early 1846 sent the vessel to the Pacific Northwest to join the Pacific squadron. The ship’s role was to defend U.S. interests in the Northwest and to spread the concept of “Manifest Destiny” in the Oregon territory when there was doubt about whether it would be British or American land?

President James K. Polk sent the Shark to Oregon in August 1846. The ship, 86 feet long, was designed for speed and maneuverability



R.J. MARX

**Annie Von Domitz of the Oregon Travel Experience at the ribbon-cutting of a new historic marker along U.S. Highway 101 in Arch Cape.**

to navigate the waters of the West Indies.

The Shark’s impressive career saw it transport the naturalist James J. Audubon in 1831 to collect research specimens. The Shark was the first U.S. ship to navigate the Strait of Magellan in 1833 en route to Peru.

According to the “Arch Cape Chronicles,” by David and Alma English, in the summer of 1846 Lt. Neil N. Howison received orders to carry supplies from Honolulu in readiness to ascend the Columbia River as far as the Willamette. Their reports would assist in formulating a decision on the location of the boundary between England and the American lands. Americans wanted the board to be 54 degrees, 40 minutes latitude, the reason for Polk’s slogan, “54-40 or fight,” immortalized in history books.

But due to a lag in communications, crew members were unaware that the U.S. Senate had already ratified a treaty with Britain making the U.S. border the 49th parallel, rendering the journey unnecessary. Some of the ship deserted, but the lieutenant in command was “impatient, naive and somewhat impetuous” in seeking his return south. He attempted to cross the Columbia Bar without a bar pilot. With a sparse crew and bad weather, on Sept. 10, 1846, the Shark was pulled directly toward breakers. While the crew survived, the ship was destroyed.

# Author offers a path for stewarding public lands

## Conversation focuses on peoples’ relationship to forests

By Nancy McCarthy  
For Seaside Signal

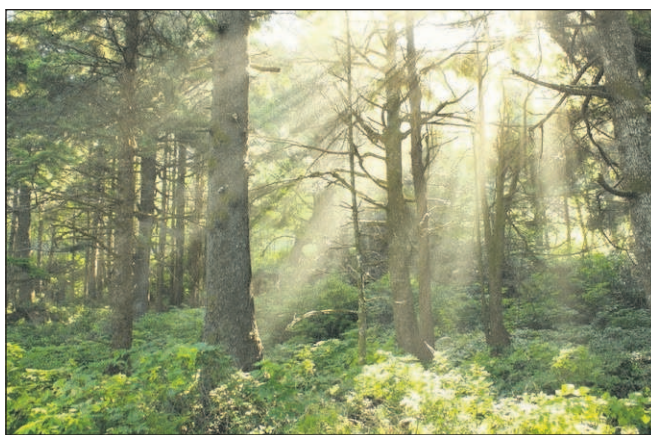
In Oregon, where the issue of forest management is a hot topic, Mariah Acton asks a personal question: What does the forest mean to you?

Acton, a former social science researcher for the U.S. Forest Service, recently led a conversation about the future of forest management with a group at the Cannon Beach History Center. She is studying for her master’s degree in conflict resolution at the University of Oregon and works as a mediator for the state Housing and Community Services Department.

“I noticed no one was talking about their own identities as people living in the forest, as third-generation timber families, or as environmentalists or just speaking from their own values. I just felt this was a big part of the conversation that was missing,” Acton said.

As part of a program sponsored by Oregon Humanities, Acton has traveled throughout the state to talk about what public forests mean to Oregonians.

“Every community has a different relationship to the land that surrounds them,” she said. “This is a chance to explore those values and perspectives, the chance to be heard, to hear others and to



CANNON BEACH MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

**“Seeing the Forest for the Trees: Stewarding Our Public Lands,” a lecture by Mariah Acton, at the Cannon Beach Museum and History Center.**

reflect.”

While most of the 15 participants lived in Cannon Beach, others were visiting from surrounding communities.

When Acton asked what forests meant to them, they cited the forests’ importance for recreation, sustaining watersheds and their connection to the eco-system. Some participants talked about the beauty, solitude and peace forests gave to them and the need to protect them for future generations.

“When I look at a forest, I think of life,” said Jan Siebert-Wahrmund.

Clatsop County Commissioner Lianne Thompson, who also was among the participants, noted that she lived in a forest clearing in Falcon Cove.

“Forests mean to me a place that I love, that I’m devoted to,” Thompson said. “But as a public figure, my job is to create a moderate middle where there’s a balance between what John Muir

called economic development and conservation; they go hand-in-hand.”

“In Oregon, our forests mean a lot of different things,” Acton said. “We have a timber industry that is the economic driver of our state settling; there’s no way around that. The economics part of it continues to fuel a lot of our communities across the state.”

Forests also draw visitors, Acton noted. “People come here for nature, for finding the peace, the tranquility and the beauty of those trees when they’re standing upright.”

Half of the 63 million acres in Oregon is in forests, Acton said. “We have lots of different forests across our state, so when we talk about different types of forest policies, we’re talking about lots of different types of trees,” she added.

In eastern Oregon, conversations about forest management are different, she said. “They have to cut down a lot more trees to get the board

footage to fuel their schools (economically) than over here. It’s different environmentalism, it’s different economics.”

In addition, the type of ownership varies from region to region in Oregon. While federal ownership predominates on the east side, state forests are more common on the west side, she said. With the variations of ownership — city, state, federal, Bureau of Land Management, private holdings — come variations in management policies.

“We can’t talk about forest policy as a monolithic; there’s a lot of different nuance there,” she said.

Policies also change with time. Acton talked about the influence of two early conservationists: John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, who

sought preservation of forest land, and Gifford Pinchot, founder of the U.S. Forest Service, who promoted sustainable use of the forest.

Acton asked participants to consider where they place themselves along the spectrum of conservationism and utilitarianism.

Thompson said she kept moving between “loving the planet” and taking care of “disenfranchised people who don’t have any way of earning a living.”

“I see people with adequate and stable incomes saying I want to have only park land and we shouldn’t cut any trees and the money should magically come from somewhere. Tourism creates air pollution and traffic and the load on fresh water and wastewater,” Thompson said.

But Betsy Ayres, of Cannon Beach, noted that automation is taking away timber-related jobs. She said government’s priority should be to conserve natural resources.

“I personally don’t feel like we are managing those in perpetuity. I think we’re still stealing from our children’s children for a profit,” said Ayres, who would like to see more of the corporation-owned forests owned by families.

At the end of the gathering, Acton challenged the group to continue the discussion.

“Anyone can start these conversations,” she said. “In this world of hyper polarization, we’re afraid to talk to our neighbor these days. Be willing to start these conversations.”

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