

*Jefferson County Democrats and Central Committee*

Resolution Urging Immediate Action  
in Support of the Marbled Murrelet

Whereas, the marbled murrelet is a small seabird that nests in older coniferous forests up to 50 miles from marine waters in western Washington, including in Jefferson County; and

Whereas, the marbled murrelet's forest nesting habitat has been significantly reduced, due mostly to timber harvest practices; and

Whereas, the marbled murrelet population in Washington has been declining by approximately 5% per year for the past 10 years; and

Whereas, the loss of the marbled murrelet's nesting habitat is the primary reason for the decline of the species; and

Whereas, the marbled murrelet is listed as a Threatened Species under the Federal Endangered Species Act and a Washington State Threatened Species; and

Whereas, some of the highest quality marbled murrelet nesting habitat remaining in Washington is located on State Trust Lands in Jefferson County that are administered by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources; and

Whereas, Department of Natural Resources with agreement from the US Fish and Wildlife Service developed a Habitat Conservation Plan (1997) that included interim timber harvest policies to protect marbled murrelet nesting habitat with the understanding that these interim measures would be superseded by a science-based Long-Term Conservation Strategy; and

Whereas, the interim timber harvest policies on State Trust Lands do not provide adequate protection for marbled murrelet nesting habitat and have resulted in the loss of habitat that would have contributed to the survival and recovery of the marbled murrelet; and

Whereas, Department of Natural Resources developed a Science Report (2008) that includes recommendations for a Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy; and

Whereas, the State Board of Natural Resources has not adopted a Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy; and

Whereas, the absence of a Long-Term Conservation Strategy has hindered the Department of Natural Resources from delivering a predictable, sustainable,

stable flow of timber revenue from State Trust Lands that would benefit Jefferson County; and

Whereas, Jefferson County and its residents derive multiple benefits from State Trust Lands and the existence of the marbled murrelet on those Lands; and

Whereas, support from Jefferson County may persuade the Board of Natural Resources to adopt a Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy; and

Whereas, the Board of Natural Resources is currently considering five Draft Alternative Long-Term Conservation Strategies presented by the staff of DNR and the United States Fish and Wildlife Agency on October 15, 2015; and

Whereas, Alternative E is the only alternative that fully takes into account the findings presented in the 2008 Science Report, and best provides for the long term survival of the marbled murrelet in Washington State,

Therefore, be it resolved; that

1. The Jefferson County Democrats and Central Committee urge the Washington State Board of Natural Resources to adopt and implement Long Term Conservation Strategy Alternative E.
2. The Jefferson County Democrats and Central Committee further call on the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners to urge the Washington State Board of Natural Resources to adopt and implement Long-Term Conservation Strategy Alternative E.

Submitted by Connie Gallant, member JCD, June 9, 2015

Approved by the Resolutions Committee of the Jefferson County Democrats and Central Committee: October 20, 2015 with recommendation of "Do Pass."

Adopted: October 27, 2015 by:  
Jefferson County Democrats and Central Committee,

Bruce Cowan, Chair S/ \_\_\_\_\_

John Hamilton, Secretary S/ \_\_\_\_\_