



HB 5024

April 17, 2015

Senator Richard Devlin  
Representative Dan Rayfield  
Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon "Statewides" Budget Proposal by the OSU Forestry Research Lab

Dear Co-Chairs Devlin and Rayfield, and Members of the Committee:

As executive director of The Wetlands Conservancy, an Oregon 34 year old non-profit that owns and manages more than 600 acres of estuary and forest land on Oregon's central coast, I enthusiastically encourage support for The OSU College of Forestry proposal to do a research project on predictors of space use and reproductive success of Marbled Murrelet that is included in the pending OSU "Statewides" budget request.

The long-term ecological vision for TWC's landholding in the Yaquina, Beaver Creek and Alsea watersheds (Newport-Waldport) is prioritizing the conservation needs and opportunities for estuary and forest habitats from an ecological perspective and promote restoration projects that address critical watershed restoration issues. These include: a) maintain and enhance the quality of the estuarine and forest habitats, b) maintain and enhance habitat for priority fish and c) provide habitat for estuary, floodplain and forest-dependent species. In evaluating and developing strategies for management of our forest lands which range from mature forest to young to mid seral age stands, we link them to the Siuslaw National Forest management strategy of managing for complex structure and coarse woody debris. Managing the forest for mature and old growth characteristics will support the availability of habitat and use by wildlife species and link to other core mature forest habitats identified by USFS Siuslaw National Forest, USFWS and Oregon Conservation Strategy species.

The research proposed by the OSU College of Forestry will provide critical information on the needs of Marbled Murrelet for our management objective as well as those managing a more active harvest regime. This information will assist in developing more informed guidances and policies that result in more successful conservation of critical Marbled Murrelet habitat, while also supporting a restoration and sustainable timber economy in Oregon. The information likely produced by this research effort will be used as a foundation to bring multiple stakeholders together to discuss and identify mature forest

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conservation and timber extraction needs and opportunities on a watershed scale. Such an outcome would be a win for all involved.

The Wetlands Conservancy looks forward to participating in any process aimed at assisting in the development of the goals and research questions; and, if appropriate, offering our forest lands as research sites.

*Esther Lev*

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