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#### SPECIAL MEETING October 23, 2017, Marbled Murrelet Strategy

Present: Chuck, Gordy, Fred, Al, Dave, Aubrey, Paul and Steve      Guest: Matt Comisky

- I. Meeting called to order: 8:30 a.m.
- II. Discussion: Kendra Smith and Matt Comisky briefed the FAB on discussions and actions taken by the BNR on the Long-Term Conservation Strategy for the Marbled Murrelet. From the start of the State HCP, 42% of the DNR trust land base (583,000 acres) has been taken off-base for harvesting. These lands are primarily habitat that is older in nature and suitable for both the NSO and the MM. BNR must choose a Preferred Alternative – hopefully at their next meeting November 7, 2017.

Besides the 5 alternatives, the DNR staff has brought forth a staff alternative (#6) based on what they heard was being requested from the Board members. The alternative is similar in some respects to alternative D and some C with NO hard numbers given as to the number of acres that will be taken off-base for habitat or the financial impacts to the Trust beneficiaries. DNR staff said it takes a month to run the model and didn't want to do so until they thought this alternative may be chosen. DNR staff presented what they thought were the evaluation criteria that the USFWS would be applying to the review of the chosen Preferred alternative by adding additional criteria. Research into the State 1997 HCP suggests that DNR is only obligated "to the maximum extent practicable, minimize and mitigate the impacts of the take" AND "not appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the species in the wild". It was from these criteria the DNR staff wants to:

1. Protect all occupied sites (not a requirement of the HCP-"the maximum extent practicable");
2. Reduce the risk of degradation over time (alt B does this by protection of identified occupied sites plus the requirement when assigning an occupied site includes acreage around those areas);
3. Provide mitigation through future habitat in strategic locations by a) providing a distribution of interior forest habitat across the range in Wa, and b) bridge gaps in the distribution of habitat around existing occupied sites ("aspirational" goal and the HCP requires protection NOT recovery, ALSO the HCP said the Strategy was to be at a landscape level that would therefore include all land owners and have the DNR trust lands take on the whole burden and this has not been done);
4. Minimize the short-term risks to the population (this was the interim conservation strategy in place today as DNR collected data more was set aside to make sure there was no risk to current habitat). Between continued discussions with a AFRC attorney, Elaine Spencer and DNR staff, as well as re-examining the HCP and the draft LTCS for the MM the additional evaluation criteria (#1 and #3 above) are NOT requirements. They are "aspirational" goals in the HCP.

FAB was asked to review the information and send comments to the BNR letting them know their recommended Preferred Alternative. BNR email addresses will be sent to FAB members. Paul asked Matt if he could get a map of the long term forest cover of available lands after the HCP. Matt will send. Kendra is preparing a brief for the County Commissioners and will ask them how they would like to proceed. FAB make a recommendation at their next scheduled meeting.

Adjourn: 10:30 a.m.