



ONRC UPDATE

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A Monthly Newsletter from UW Olympic Natural Resources Center

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Budget planning for the next biennium is in full swing at UW College of Forest Resources and at UW Olympic Natural Resources Center (ONRC). At this point, we have been asked to prepare a 10% budget reduction plan. I believe this is very close to the actual reduction we must absorb, so this is more than an exercise.

Fortunately, UW ONRC is well positioned to take the budget reduction in our permanent state budgets and still continue operations and initiatives at about the same level as this year. This is possible because our research program leaders at UW ONRC have been successful in obtaining increased levels of external funding which will cover some of the losses. Other reductions will be made up for as a result of increased financial strength of our conference center cost center. We can

credit Kathy Heuring, Manager of Program Operations, and Theresa Santman, Fiscal Tech and Conference Manager, with this welcome state of affairs. The bottom line is that we should be able to maintain a stable funding picture over the next couple of years as a result of good planning and careful attention to budget management.

In a related matter, I have been asked to take on an additional assignment as interim Manager

of Pack Forest. Pack Forest is the UW College of Forest Resources school forest, a 5000 acre working forest and 110 bed conference center located just outside of Eatonville, WA. The first order of business is - you guessed it - to develop a budget for the forest and conference center which incorporates the new budget realities. Fortunately, the forest is managed well with a predictable revenue stream from timber harvests and supports their activities.

This new assignment will last for an undetermined length of time. Right now, it involves plenty of driving across the state and communication with the staff at Pack Forest. Once the budget issues are settled, I will lead the UW College of Forest Resources in a strategic planning process which will result in defining the future roll of Pack Forest. These are exciting times!



John Calhoun



Pack Forest

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OESF CORNER

Scott Horton

Olympic Region Wildlife Biologist
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This month, I will introduce on-going marbled murrelet research in the Olympic Experimental State Forest (OESF). With approval of the 1997 Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) committed to developing a long-term strategy for marbled murrelet conservation. Listed in September 1992 as Threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, marbled murrelets are a small seabird (related to puffins) that nest on large mossy limbs, often well inland, in older forests. The marbled murrelet strategy for the OESF will be unique within DNR, both because of its unique pattern of land ownership and the unique mission of the OESF.

Between 1994 and 2001, DNR sponsored extensive studies of the marbled murrelet in the OESF: nearly 5,000 surveys at 650 study sites covering over 40,000 acres. While organized to provide a one-time inventory of marbled murrelet use of state forest stands, I believe we can use their findings to learn about marbled murrelet responses

to landscape patterns as well.

A central objective of my research is to develop a GIS model that predicts marbled murrelet use of forest stands based on their broader context of patterns and types of surrounding forests, then link that model with a model developed by Dr. John Marzluff of the UW College of Forest Resources



USGS Digital Image

Marbled Murrelet

that uses similar qualities to predict predation at marbled murrelet nests. I hypothesize that, with this understanding, DNR can develop a conservation strategy that is more efficient at meeting its diverse objectives for forest management and is more effective at marbled murrelet conservation.

I will be wrapping up the first

phase of this project over the next several months: a study of annual, seasonal, and daily marbled murrelet activity patterns that will provide the baseline for the second phase, the GIS modeling. I will begin that work this summer and plan to begin the third and final phase - modeling efficient forest management solutions - in the fall or winter. This research is partially funded by a grant from the USDA Forest Service, awarded and administered by UW ONRC. I will report back later, with news from this and other DNR marbled murrelet research and management efforts.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) is on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species List in the southern portion of its range (Washington, Oregon and California). British Columbia lists them as Threatened. California and Oregon list marbled murrelets as critically imperiled. Washington lists them as rare or uncommon.*



Scott Horton

Best Kept Secret at RainFest 2003

A group of environmental organizations, government agencies, and a private company gathered at RainFest 2003 and displayed valuable information about their work in promoting a healthy, sustainable environment. Unfortunately, it was also the best kept secret at RainFest as only a modest amount of folks looked over the displays. The displays were nestled in the room adjacent to the performances in the Rainforest Arts

Center.

UW ONRC would like to thank each of the organizations for coming to Forks and sharing valuable and timely information with us. The displays included: Mike Gurling, Olympic National Park; James Chandler, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife; Maria Or & Andrea Takash, UW Army Corps of Engineers; Greg McCormack, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary; Patty

Vaughn & Cari Rohrer, QVSD; Bill Peach, Rayonier; Jerry Morris, Streamkeepers of Clallam County; Vern Ferrel, USDA Forest Service; and James Starr & John McMillan, Wild Salmon Center.

The RainFest committee is considering centrally locating all activities next year which will increase the visibility of the environmental displays.

