

February 25, 2026

Dear Representative:

The undersigned conservation groups write today to ask your support for the recovery of the federally listed Marbled Murrelet, a rapidly declining critically endangered seabird population which only nests in the inland old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest.

Our coalition supports recovering this species to benefit the other wildlife and local economies that depend on our Northwest Forests. Protection of old-growth forest habitat leads to cleaner air and water and supports tourism, recreation, and commercial fishing industries our communities rely on. Achieving this requires maintaining the protections of the Northwest Forest Plan which will increase the number of old-growth trees over time.

Marbled Murrelets need:

- Old-growth trees for nesting - they do not build nests, so wide, flat branches are imperative.
- Habitat buffers around nesting habitat - forest fragmentation allows nest predators easy access to nests, so larger patches of trees need to be restored as provided for by the Northwest Forest Plan's late-successional reserves.
- Recovery actions support – monitoring to ensure precise population estimates; reducing nest predation around recreation areas where predators thrive off of human food scraps, and educating visitors on federal lands.

Please request an additional \$5 million for ESA recovery of the Marbled Murrelet

The murrelet's recent five-year status review confirmed its threatened status and found that its breeding success rate is so low that future population declines are likely. We recommend an additional \$5 million for implementation of ESA recovery activities. Washington's murrelet population is drastically decreasing. Inadequate funding for the Recovery Plan population monitoring effort prevents accounting for inter-state movements and identifying priority recovery areas.

Nest predation has been found to be a limiting factor in the murrelet's population growth. To reduce forest fragmentation which facilitates nest predation, increased protective buffers are needed around nests.

Nest predation also increases when human visitors leave food scraps behind at recreation sites. In 2024, ABC conducted surveys for corvids (ravens, jays, and crows) in four National Forests in Oregon and Washington. Results showed elevated densities of these nest predators in campgrounds and day-use picnic sites.

Similar results have previously been found in California parks, where implementation of a Crumb Clean Campaign to educate visitors then succeeded in decreasing the amount of food left behind and reducing predator populations. Support is now needed to replicate Crumb Clean activities in Oregon and Washington.

Thank you for considering these recommendations.

Sincerely,

American Bird Conservancy
Alberta Wilderness Association
Bird Alliance of Oregon
BirdsCaribbean
Bozeman Birders
Bronx River-Sound Shore Audubon Society
Buka Environmental
Californians for Western Wilderness
Center for Biological Diversity
Central Lakes College Natural Resources Club
Christians Caring for Creation
Climate Communications Coalition
Coast to Cascades Bird Alliance
Coastal Bend Audubon Society
Conservation Congress
Conservation Northwest
Dakubetede Environmental Education Programs
Delaware Audubon
Denver Audubon
Earthjustice Action
East Cascades Bird Alliance
Eastern Long Island Audubon Society
Endangered Habitats League
Endangered Species Coalition
Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
Fort Worth Audubon Society
Four Harbors Audubon Society
Frankfort Audubon Society
Friends of Ballona Wetlands
Friends of Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Earth
Genesee Valley Audubon Society
Golden Gate Bird Alliance
Grazing Reform Project
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History
John Muir Project
Kalmiopsis Audubon Society
Kettle Range Conservation Group
Klamath Forest Alliance
Lehigh Valley Audubon
Los Angeles Alliance for Survival
Michael Wells Wildlife Habitat Preserve

Mid-Willamette Bird Alliance
Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter
Monroe Science Educational Services
Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center
North Cascades Audubon Society
Northern California Council, Fly Fishers Int'l
Northern Virginia Bird Alliance
Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society
OceanHealth
Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge
Olympic Park Advocates
Peoria Audubon Society
Presque Isle Audubon
Prince George's County Audubon Society
Rainier Audubon Society
Religious Campaign for Forest Conservation
Resource Renewal Institute
Rockbridge Bird Club
Rockbridge Conservation
Rogue Valley Audubon Society
Salem Audubon Society
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
San Diego Bird Alliance
Santa Clara Valley Bird Alliance
Santa Cruz Bird Club
Seatuck Environmental Association
Sierra Club
Society for Conservation Biology North America (SCBNA)
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
SongbirdSaver.org
Spokane Audubon Society
St. Louis Audubon Society
Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary
The Cactus Wren Initiative
Tree Fredericksburg
Tropical Audubon Society
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Umpqua Valley Audubon Society
Umpqua Watersheds
UNL wildlife club
Valley Forge Audubon Society
Western Watersheds Project
Wild Nature Institute
Wildlife for All