

Marbled Murrelets and Forestry

Wildlife in Managed Forests:
Reference Series

Marbled murrelets (MAMUs) (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) are protected in Oregon by the state and federal Endangered Species Acts, where they are listed as threatened, and by the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA).

MAMUs are small, chunky seabirds with short necks. They have short, pointed bills and tails, and have sooty brown upperparts and mottled brown underparts during the breeding season. During other portions of the year, they have blackish upperparts and white underparts.

MAMUs spend most of their time at sea, but breed in older coniferous forests up to 50 miles inland. Breeding sites are characterized by large trees, multiple canopy layers and moderate to high canopy closure. Nest trees are generally the largest available in the stand, with appropriate horizontal nest platforms (such as those created by large moss-covered limbs, mistletoe brooms, limb deformities or tree damage).

WHAT ARE SOME THREATS TO MAMUS?

- High rates of predation by corvids, especially common ravens and Steller's jays
- Lack of available suitable nesting habitat due to windfall, fire and timber harvest.
- Oil spills, marine pollution, and entanglement in gill nets.

WHAT DOES THE FPA REQUIRE?

A plan is required if forest operations are planned near a known marbled murrelet location.

HOW DO I PROTECT KNOWN MAMU SITES?

Recommended protection measures include:

- Maintaining site integrity
- Avoiding disturbance during the nesting season
- Submitting plans to ODF before operating within or near a resource site

WHEN DO MARBLED MURRELETS NEST?



Photo provided by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

SOURCES & MORE INFORMATION

Oregon Forest Practices Act:
<http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/lawsrules.aspx>

USFWS Species Profile

Evaluation report for the 5-year status review of the MAMU in Washington, Oregon, and California.

Critical nesting period:
Apr 1 - Sep 15



ABOUT OFRI

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1991 to advance public understanding of forests, forest products and forest management and to encourage sound forestry through landowner education.

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