

Pacific Seabird Group



DEDICATED TO THE STUDY AND CONSERVATION OF PACIFIC SEABIRDS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

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Working Forest Initiative
Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
P.O. Box 9352 Stn Provincial Government
Victoria, BC V8W 9M1
Canada

Re: Comments on Discussion Paper: A Working Forest for British Columbia

Dear Minister Hagen:

On behalf of the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG), we wish to provide our comments on the Discussion Paper: A Working Forest for British Columbia. As you may know, PSG is an international non-profit organization that was founded in 1972 to promote knowledge, study, and conservation of Pacific seabirds. PSG takes a broad international perspective in recognition that the oceans are linked by the wandering of seabirds and the flow of ocean currents. Our membership is drawn from the entire Pacific basin, including Canada, Mexico, Russia, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, and the USA. Among PSG's members are biologists who have research interests in Pacific seabirds, government officials who manage seabird refuges and populations, and individuals who are interested in marine conservation. PSG has long advised and worked cooperatively with government agencies to further these interests, especially with regard to threatened and endangered seabird species.


There is concern and uncertainty over the effects of impending legislation on future prospects for maintaining old-growth habitat for nesting Marbled Murrelets, which are red-listed in British Columbia and "threatened" federally. The Canadian Marbled Murrelet Recovery Team and various provincial government agencies are currently at an early stage in meeting the requirements of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) for down listing this species. Any restrictions on management

options for old-growth forests will decrease the likelihood that the habitat needed for protection and recovery of the Marbled Murrelet will be attained.

We strongly recommend that Marbled Murrelet conservation issues in the forests of British Columbia be addressed by accepting the recommendations of the recent Special Report of the Forest Practices Board (FPB/SR/13, January 2003; www.fpb.gov.bc.ca) and of the Marbled Murrelet Recovery Team's comprehensive Conservation Assessment document.

PSG appreciates your consideration of our comments on this discussion paper, and is always interested in providing our views on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig S. Harrison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Craig S. Harrison
Vice Chair for Conservation

cc: Hon. Joyce Murray, Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection