

1                                   **Resolution Urging Immediate Action**  
2                                   **In Support of the Marbled Murrelet**

3  
4   **WHEREAS** the marbled murrelet is a small seabird that nests in older coniferous forests  
5 up to 50 miles from marine waters in western Washington, including in Jefferson  
6 County;

7  
8   **WHEREAS** the marbled murrelet’s forest nesting habitat has been significantly  
9 reduced, due mostly to timber harvest practices;

10  
11   **WHEREAS** the marbled murrelet population in Washington has been declining by  
12 approximately 7% per year for the past 10 years;

13  
14   **WHEREAS** the loss of the marbled murrelet’s nesting habitat is the primary reason for  
15 the decline of the species;

16  
17   **WHEREAS** the marbled murrelet is listed as a Threatened Species under the Federal  
18 Endangered Species Act and a Washington State Threatened Species;

19  
20   **WHEREAS** some of the highest quality marbled murrelet nesting habitat remaining in  
21 Washington is located on State Trust Lands in Jefferson County that are administered  
22 by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources;

23  
24   **WHEREAS** Department of Natural Resources with agreement from the US Fish and  
25 Wildlife Service developed a Habitat Conservation Plan (1997) that included interim  
26 timber harvest policies to protect marbled murrelet nesting habitat with the  
27 understanding that these interim measures would be superseded by a science-based  
28 Long-Term Conservation Strategy;

29  
30   **WHEREAS** the interim timber harvest policies on State Trust Lands do not provide  
31 adequate protection for marbled murrelet nesting habitat and have resulted in the loss  
32 of habitat that would have contributed to the survival and recovery of the marbled  
33 murrelet;

34  
35   **WHEREAS** Department of Natural Resources developed a Science Report (2008) that  
36 includes recommendations for a Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy;

37  
38   **WHEREAS** the State Board of Natural Resources has not adopted a Marbled Murrelet  
39 Long-Term Conservation Strategy;

40

41 **WHEREAS** the absence of a Long-Term Conservation Strategy has hindered the  
42 Department of Natural Resources from delivering a predictable, sustainable, stable flow  
43 of timber revenue from State Trust Lands that would benefit Jefferson County;

44  
45 **WHEREAS** Jefferson County and its residents derive multiple benefit from State Trust  
46 Lands and the existence of the marbled murrelet on those Lands; and

47  
48 **WHEREAS**, support from Jefferson County may persuade the Board of Natural  
49 Resources to adopt a Marbled Murrelet Long-Term Conservation Strategy;

50  
51 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central  
52 Committee call on the Washington State Board of Natural Resources to immediately  
53 adopt a Long Term Conservation Strategy, based on the Department's 2008 Science  
54 Report recommendations for Jefferson County, which will fully meet the marbled  
55 murrelet protection agreed to in the Department's 1997 Habitat Conservation Plan; and

56  
57 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic  
58 Central Committee further call on the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners to  
59 immediately request that the Washington State Department of Natural Resources  
60 promptly implement the above referenced Long-term Conservation.

61

---

62  
63 Submitted by the Jefferson County Democrats to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted  
64 12/07/2015)

65  
66 The Resolutions Committee amended this resolution and recommended that it be  
67 "PASSED" at its January 30, 2016 meeting in Lynnwood.

68  
69 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its January 30, 2016 meeting in Lynnwood.