

## **Resolution to Oppose the Radar Ridge Wind Energy Project in order to Protect Marbled Murrelets**

- *Whereas* the Marbled Murrelet, listed as Threatened in 1992 in California, Oregon, and Washington under the Endangered Species Act, continues to decline in numbers in all its range, especially in the last ten years
- *Whereas* the population of Marbled Murrelets in Southwest Washington State, estimated currently to number only 900 to 1200 offshore in breeding season, is key to maintaining genetic links between Oregon/California and northern Washington populations
- *Whereas* the proposed Radar Ridge Wind Energy Project near Naselle, Washington, is predicted by an independent review by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to mortally endanger 87 Marbled Murrelet per year as they fly through the line of wind turbines
- *Whereas* Marbled Murrelets nest on broad branches in the upper canopy of old growth forests near the West Coast and their decline is linked to destruction and fragmentation of this breeding habitat
- *Whereas* a DNR report describes its proposed Nemah Marbled Murrelet Management Area as the best breeding habitat for this species in Southwest Washington but the Radar Ridge project will fragment this breeding habitat by separating three areas of old growth forest, including the Nemah Resource Conservation Area, which is part of the Upper Naselle Important Bird Area and is the largest area of old growth remaining on the Southwest Washington coast
- *Whereas* the Radar Ridge project will prevent proposed long-term enhancement of Marbled Murrelet breeding habitat in the Nemah Marbled Murrelet Management Area, making it impossible to encourage tree growth between and around existing old growth areas, especially on the eastern border of the Nemah Resource Conservation Area
- *Whereas* the Radar Ridge project is the first wind energy project proposed for the Washington coast but current regulatory guidance for siting wind projects in Western Washington is inadequate because Washington's Wind Energy Guidelines were developed for conditions in Eastern Washington and the state's Habitat Conservation Plan does not cover wind energy generation

***Therefore be it resolved that Washington State Audubon and the Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee***

Oppose the permitting and building of the proposed Radar Ridge Wind Energy Project on DNR land near Naselle, Washington

Encourage the enhancement of breeding habitat in the Nemah Marbled Murrelet Management Area and other proposed Marbled Murrelet Management Areas by long-term encouragement of tree cultivation around and connecting old-growth areas

Support the creation of better regulatory guidance for siting wind energy projects in Washington State, particularly in Western Washington, in order to protect all birds and wildlife but especially populations at risk of extinction

And that this position shall be expressed by Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee and Washington State Audubon in communications with elected representatives, discussions with appointed officials, and comments provided, when appropriate, to government agencies.

