



# Vancouver Natural History Society

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Conservation Section

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May 23, 1998

COPY

The Honourable David Zirnhelt  
Minister of Forests  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria B.C., V8V 1X4

Dear Minister

**Re: Elimination of Marbled Murrelet Habitat in Bunster Range**

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Vancouver Natural History Society. At a recent meeting of our conservation group, we received a briefing about the Marbled Murrelet Recovery Project, through which extensive research is being undertaken by Environment Canada and others to better understand the complex breeding habits of this threatened bird species. In addition to those members of our Society who either have worked on or are working on the Recovery Project, others were present who are very familiar with Marbled Murrelet nesting areas in general and the Bunster Range, which is on the Sunshine Coast adjacent to Desolation Sound, in particular.

As a result of the briefing we received and the discussion which followed, we concluded that the Bunster Range has been identified as one of the Pacific Coast's most important breeding areas for the Marbled Murrelet and that the old growth forest which provides its nesting sites is being progressively eliminated by logging. While logging has occasionally been halted for a few months during the breeding season for this species, it continues relentlessly and there is a very real danger that the habitat in this established nesting location will be completely eliminated. Retention of all the remaining old growth forest on the Bunster Range has become a vital and urgent matter. It is unfortunate that the importance of this area for the Marbled Murrelet was not understood even as recently as 1994, when area nominations for the Protected Areas Strategy were being made. In our view, that is not a reason to turn a blind eye to the potentially devastating effects of present logging operations.

**We respectfully request that you exercise your authority to halt the logging of old growth forest on the Bunster Range at the earliest possible opportunity, before the last stands of trees which are proven nesting habitat for Marbled Murrelets are completely eliminated in this area.**

Yours very truly

  
Jeremy McCall  
Chair, Conservation Section

cc. The Honourable Christine Stewart, Minister, Environment Canada  
The Honourable Cathy McGregor, Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks  
*B.C. Endangered Species Coalition*  
*F.B.C.N. Attn. Anne Murray.*