

Marbled Murrelet Morning

By Bea Harrison

It was too foggy and too cold to want to crawl out of
my warm sleeping bag at 5 A.M.

But, he urged me, smiling, to come out of the tent.

We walked a ways from the campground
And watched silently.

Then I remarked that we probably were too late.
We probably should have been up at 4.

But, then I thought I heard *kerr, kerr*
And Jim said "Look is that them?"
I thought it was probably wishful thinking.

But, again, *keer, keer*. Overhead
And a clear view of two birds.
Unmistakable.
We caught them in our binoculars
And followed them as they disappeared into the dark
trees.

We awed and smiled and thought about the exchange.
One parent heading out to sea and the other snuggling
the all-important egg
On a moss-covered branch of an ancient redwood
nearby.

Did they exchange parental data as they switched?
"How did baby sleep last night?"
"How are you feeling?"
"Be safe."
"I'll be back in 12 hours."
"Bye, love ya"

I guess they did and I hope their union is as sweet as
ours.

Kalama Coal: A plan to have a plan

By Darrel Whipple

What's new with the proposed Kalama coal
gasification power plant? It's still alive, thanks to a
recent decision by EFSEC, the state's Energy Facility
Site Evaluation Council.

On August 8th the Council accepted Energy
Northwest's proposal to begin the quasi-judicial
process by which large, new power plants are certified
under state law. Energy Northwest is a consortium of
21 public utility districts, including Wahkiakum and
Cowlitz PUDs.

A pre-hearing conference will probably be scheduled
by EFSEC in October to kick off the process.
Eventually, EFSEC will make a recommendation to
Gov. Gregoire to approve or deny the plant permit.

The Northwest Energy Coalition, in which WHAS is a
participant, argued before EFSEC that the adjudication
process should not proceed until an adequate
greenhouse gas sequestration plan, compliant with the
new state law ESSB 6001, has been prepared. Energy
Northwest, in a feint toward compliance, submitted a
phony greenhouse gas reduction plan that was
described as "wholly insufficient" by Michael Tribble,
the state's assistant attorney general for the
environment.

Tribble, according to The Columbian, wrote to EFSEC
that "this document is not a sequestration plan, it is
merely a plan to have a sequestration plan after the
project is certified." Nevertheless, the Council agreed
to start the adjudication process, making clear that the
first consideration will be whether Energy Northwest's
sequestration plan complies with 6001. My fear is that
EFSEC will devise a way to approve this non-plan and
move the project forward with enough momentum to
sidestep the environmental issues and the spirit – if not
the letter – of the greenhouse gas reduction law.

If you want to help WHAS research and comment on
this project please contact me at
dwhipple@opusnet.com.

Conservation Action at the State Level

by Charlotte Persons

Washington State Audubon Conservation Committee
(WASACC) met on July 6, 2007 in Seattle, and passed
two resolutions. One supports state research on
geoduck aquaculture to learn how to protect shoreline
ecosystems. The second resolution establishes on-
going goals for national policy to diminish global
warming since the prediction is that unchecked global
warming will bring about the extinction of 15--50% of
all species by 2050.

At the state level, there will be a resolution on global
warming for the fall meeting of ACOW which will
include initiatives to diminish greenhouse gases
through forestry management, conservation of
farmland, biofuels, bird-friendly windmill electricity
generation, and education. *(Continued on Page 8)*