

# U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station

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## Federal Scientists Recognized For Marbled Murrelet Research

ARCATA, Calif., February 24, 2009—Forest Service scientists in California have won a national award for their research on the ecology and conservation of the marbled murrelet, a Pacific seabird that is a federally-listed threatened species.

Sherri L. Miller, C. J. Ralph and James Baldwin, researchers with the agency's Pacific Southwest Research Station, were named recipients of the Wings Across the Americas Research and Management Partnership Award. Miller and Ralph are based at the station's Arcata lab and Baldwin works at the Albany headquarters.

The Forest Service's national headquarters presents the award to scientists whose work emphasizes a strong partnership between research and management to improve the status of a bird species or community of species.

The 2009 award ceremony will be held on March 19 in Arlington, Va., at the Wildlife Management Institutes' 74<sup>th</sup> North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.

The three Pacific Southwest Research Station scientists were recognized for participation in a research and management partnership involving several agencies working to understand the ecology and behavior of the marbled murrelet, which nests in coastal old-growth forests from Central California to Southeastern Alaska.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the bird as a threatened species in 1992, partly because of habitat loss related to old-growth timber harvests.

In 1997, the researchers were appointed to a team of scientists and managers to monitor the bird's population and habitat. The effort was part of the Northwest Forest Plan, which the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management initiated in 1993 for management of lands within northern spotted owl habitat.

The team's research efforts are summarized in the publication "The Northwest Forest Plan—The First 10 Years (1994-2003): Status and Trends of Populations and Nesting Habitat for the Marbled Murrelet." It can be viewed on the Pacific Northwest Research Station website at [http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw\\_gtr650.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr650.pdf)

Other scientists on the team who will be recognized at the awards ceremony include Martin Raphael and Thomas Bloxton Jr. of the Pacific Northwest Research Station, Gary Falxa and Deanna Lynch with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Scott Pearson and Monique Lance of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Kim Nelson with Oregon State University, and Craig Strong of Crescent Coastal Research.

The Pacific Southwest Research Station is one of seven Forest Service research stations. Its headquarters is in Albany, with seven labs in California and one in Hawaii. It employs about 390 scientists, technicians and support personnel.

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