



## USFWS DECISION MEMORANDUM



**DATE:** September 11, 2024

**TO:** Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**FROM:** Regional Director, Region 1  
Acting  
Bridget Fahey

Digitally signed by  
BRIDGET FAHEY  
Date: 2024.09.17  
13:02:41 -07'00'

**SUBJECT:** BP037344: Requesting Approval to Begin Formal Land Protection Planning for Cape Meares National Wildlife Refuge

Region 1 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to start land protection planning to expand Cape Meares National Wildlife Refuge (NWR, Refuge) to facilitate protection of old growth forest on the Oregon Coast. This project proposes to deliver perpetual protection in the form of fee title acquisition from willing sellers by expanding the approved acquisition boundary of the Refuge by 470 acres contributing to the President's commitment to conserve at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030. The proposed boundary expansion and subsequent acquisitions would support the survival and recovery of the threatened marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl and the refuge's purpose to protect migratory birds.

A boundary expansion would facilitate the protection of old growth coastal forests that are known to sequester a large amount of carbon and would contribute to the Administration's goal to proactively combat the climate crisis by conserving 30% of our lands and waters. Additionally, expansion would directly benefit the local Cape Meares community and Oregon Coast visitors by protecting the community's natural resources such as clean drinking water and providing opportunities for wildlife-dependent recreation. This effort has the support of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, local community, and local elected officials.

We request Director approval to proceed with formal planning and the development of a Land Protection Plan for Cape Meares NWR. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Susan White, Acting Deputy Regional Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System, Region 1, at (808)-372-8898 or [susan\\_white@fws.gov](mailto:susan_white@fws.gov).

### DECISION

Approve       Not Approve

---

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

---

Date

Attachments:

Cape Meares NWR Land Protection Strategy

Cape Meares NWR LPS Briefing Paper