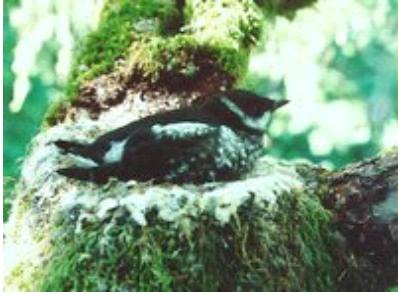


## **Enviros ask: Did the revolving door leave timber industry lawyer confused?**

This is a curious and a little bit of a complicated one, but follow me on this:

There's a timber industry lawyer in Portland named Mark Rutzick. Before that he was a Bush administration official. And before that? A timber industry lawyer in Portland. Got the picture? OK, so far, so good.



Marbled Murrelet

Today environmentalists noted something that's downright bizarre, at least to their legal eagles at [Earthjustice](#): In a suit filed last month seeking to remove Endangered Species Act protections for the marbled murrelet, Rutzick cited draft regulations that the Bush administration *hasn't even released for public review* yet. And when he was working as a special counsel at the National Marine Fisheries Service, he was focused on the Endangered Species Act, as we [reported at the time](#).

Today enviros sent the D.C. court a motion to intervene and a motion to dismiss, the latter based on the fact that, well, this suit is based on regs that for now are just wishful Bush administration thinking. [Here](#) is press release by the Center for Biological Diversity, one of the plaintiffs.

The proposed regulations are the same ones we identified in a [recent blog](#) based on a [Salon.com story](#). They would do serious harm to the act without actually consulting Congress, enviros charge.

Interesting that these revelations should come on the same day that [this database on the government/industry revolving door](#) is being publicized by [opensecrets.org](#). Rutzick's name isn't in the database, though.