

**Draft Author's Work Draft \*\* Blanchard Forest: A Working Forest in an Urban Setting \*\* Draft Version Date: December 1, 2004**  
**June 30th Blanchard Forest Public Meeting COMMENT SUMMARY\***

What do you consider to be a benefit of the Blanchard Forest? (List benefits in this column)	Why is this benefit important to you?	Does this benefit have any particular location? If yes, please indicate where	Please indicate Low, Medium or High to rate this benefit	Can you suggest any actions or management strategies that DNR should do to maintain, improve or protect the benefit you have described?
Committer #1				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contributes to beauty of the best 10 miles on I-5 in WA State.</li> <li>2. The forest serves to maintain stream flow to manageable levels.</li> <li>3. Quiet rural forest area.</li> </ol>	<p>One of the major attractions of the area-its beauty. Do not want to see it clear cut to look like area east of I-5.</p> <p>I live on Bear Creek and would not want to see it get out of shape.</p> <p>Who wouldn't seek serenity?</p>	<p>As can be seen from I-5 and my property.</p> <p>Any stream.</p> <p>Entire area.</p>	<p align="center">High</p> <p align="center">High</p> <p align="center">High</p>	<p>Harvest 40 trees per acre versus 20.</p> <p>Avoid clear cutting and cutting on severe slopes. Adequate stream buffers.</p> <p>Prohibit shooting and hunting. This is <u>not</u> a huge forest like Mt. Baker. People live all around it. One should not get noise pollution from such an area.</p>
Committer #2				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Low-level 4-season recreational opportunity.</li> <li>2. Important parcel for maintaining landscape scale block of Forest Habitat.</li> <li>3. Scenic qualities.</li> </ol>	<p>Blanchard interfaces directly with Larrabee State Park.</p> <p>Works in tandem with protected lands within Larrabee State Park to create a large Habitat Block.</p> <p>Aesthetics of the Chuckanut Drive experience.</p>	<p>No comment</p> <p>Particularly the N.W. corner - but the whole Block is important.</p> <p>Chuckanut Drive corridor.</p>	<p align="center">High</p> <p align="center">High</p> <p align="center">High</p>	<p>Plan and complete the Lost Lizard Trail. Continue enforcement actions to control illegal motorized use. Improve trailheads and signage.</p> <p>Complete Murrelet inventories. Protect structurally complex stands and unique features. Consider re-evaluating your preferences for larger (20" dbh) snags - some species prefer the smaller snags.</p> <p>Maintain scenic corridor where DNR property intersects or is visible (within reason!) from Chuckanut Drive.</p>

Commenter #3				
1. Preserving this unique land untouched for future generations to enjoy.	Because there are other ways to raise money other than resource extraction in an environmentally fragile area.	The entire forest.	High	<p>Stop logging the mountain not one more tree. Work to implement a progressive state income tax so that revenues can be replaced.</p> <p>The entire structure of this meeting is hard to deal with and poorly thought out. The exhibits are hard to understand and the DNR employees are more concerned with "selling" their viewpoint than in listening.</p>
Commenter #4				
1. Beautiful trails and forested creeks close to an urban center.	People need open green space - this is an important as <u>any</u> economic benefit from harvesting.	All of Blanchard Forest, as it forms a large contiguous stretch of open space with Larrabee State Park.	High	Stop cutting, and especially any old-growth area. There are parcel cuts planned immediately next to the Lost Lake trail within the watershed of Whitehall Creek.
2. Wildlife habitat. Ever shrinking habitat for priority species.	Important as there is no way these species can survive, as habitat is lost.	All of the forest.	High	The real answer is for DNR lands to be managed for sustainable use, and not for school revenues. It isn't that great of a funding source. Sustainable means to have some areas, of lower quality lands not used extensively for recreation, and <u>not</u> priority habitat, to harvest. Regular replanting can provide for protecting these state DNR lands. Some user fees for native harvest.
3. Having lots of open space.	People move here because of the green space!	All of the forest.	High	I understand Legislative action needs to be taken to provide stable school funding. This model doesn't work in 2004.
4. Hiking - these are great trails for kids.	Children need to get outdoors to enjoy wildlife in <u>natural settings</u> - not just parks.	Larrabee and Chuckanut Drive.	High	DNR school funding - may have been a more significant source from forests in the past!
Commenter #5				
1. Forest beauty.	Eye candy.	Visual forest.	High	Practice sustainable harvest activities consistent with DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan to protect wildlife and water quality in order to maintain long-term income.
2. Owned by DNR.	No one can build on it.	Entire forest.	High	Same as above.
3. Wildlife nature.	Gives it a place to thrive.	Entire forest.	High	Same as above.

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Committer #6				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Strictly recreational please.</li> <li>- This land is close to local population centers.</li> <li>- Retain for recreation.</li> <li>- Cut somewhere else where nobody lives.</li> <li>- We live here.</li> </ul>			
Committer #7				
1. Revenue for schools, and other taxing districts.	If this potential revenue is not added to local "revenue-stream" the taxing districts will have to raise TAXES.	No comment	High	<p>Manage to the highest sustainable harvest, protecting water but not managing for 'pretty' land management or feel good social issues.</p> <p>Manage as a moving, working, managed forest, not a park for a few.</p>
Committer #8				
1. Undeveloped green space.	View, ecosystem benefits, drainage/soil stability, wildlife.	Overall area.	High	Thinning rather than clear cuts avoiding sensitive areas that may have difficulty regenerating - riparian and wetlands.
2. Hiking/trail use.	Local and convenient opportunities for outdoor recreation.	Overall area.	High	Restrict motorized access preserve forest cover.
3. Wildlife habitat	Limited urban exposure to wildlife and rapidly shrinking coastal habitat.	Overall area.	High	Limit logging, avoid clear cuts and protect sensitive areas such as riparian, wetlands.
1. 4. Education - public exposure to forest/wildlife.	Local outdoor opportunities that don't require lots of money.	No comment	High	Good trail maintenance and access.
Committer #9				
1. Paragliding launch sites	Very few sites in Skagit and Whatcom counties. Blanchard sites are easy to get to, good safe launches and in a wide range of wind directions.	Samish overlook	High	Maintain clear areas below launch for safe flight. It might not be necessary to clearcut. Maximum safe height of trees depends on grade and location.

Commenter #10				
1. Water Quality	Reside in the watershed	1. Runoff from timber harvest	High	Good timber practices and notification of operations ' impact on streams and lakes at base of Blanchard.
2. Noise reduction	A quiet buffer from urban noise.	2. Inappropriate use by motorized vehicles.	Medium	Restriction on motorized uses of trails and open areas.
		3. Entire Blanchard area	High	Sounds of shooting, motorized vehicles and logging really carry to those of us who reside in the area. Hope to preserve some of the rural quiet for residents (human) and wildlife.
				Other comments: agrees with example #1 statements. Comments on example #2: First column: no ATV!!; fourth column: Low; Fifth column: added at end of paragraph: ". . . or noise. No motorized vehicles except day visitor traffic."
				Evaluation comment: Excellent and well thought out presentations - visuals and DNR staff. Please continue the neighborhood communication. Thanks.
Commenter #11				
	<p>I agree with examples #1 and #2. I work for Taylor Shellfish Company and own a shellfish farm of my own in Samish Bay. A recent Norwalk virus outbreak (November 2003) has us very concerned about any potential human fecal sources. If DNR is going to encourage recreational uses if its Blanchard Mt. property it is crucial to the shellfish growers in Samish Bay that adequate sanitation facilities are provided.</p>			
Commenter #12				
1. Recreation	It is so close to areas where people live that it can be reached in a short time.	The entire forest.	High	This is the only area where the cascades touch the sea and therefore is unique.
2. Bird habitat	There are many endangered species here and need to be protected.	The entire forest.	High	Increase the riparian protected areas.
3. Amphibian habitat protection.	Amphibians are disappearing all over the world. Toad is disappearing here.	Wetlands	High	Amphibians are indicators of the health of our environment. Loss of habitat is an important consideration in their disappearance.
4. Visual	This is one of the most beautiful areas anywhere.	The entire forest.	High	If you must log, log out of site and only thin in the areas visible from the valley floor.

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Commenter #13				
1. Maximize revenue for public education.	See last column	No comment	High	This timberland was allocated to the state for one purpose - <u>revenue</u>  The Fed. manages 5.5 million acres in this state - most of which is set aside for recreation and wildlife.  Timber harvesting and recreation activity are <u>not</u> mutually exclusive - you <u>can</u> have both.
2. Recreation OK if - see comments in last column	See last column	No comment	Low	Recreation activities are O.K. if they do not reduce revenue for public recreation, and as long as recreation clubs maintain rec. areas and <u>pick-up their garbage</u> when they are done.  Other: I will send a more detailed response soon. Thank you
Commenter #14				
I generally support the findings of the "Evaluation of Blanchard Forest" study. I [can't read writing] the point of [can't read] does not [can't read] too much. I also think that the [can't read] complex of Chuckanut and Blanchard should be treated as a unit [can't read].				
Commenter #15				
Example #2 voices my opinion. When logging place sign to alert drivers e.g. horse trailers at beginning of road.				
Commenter #16				
1. Serenity, cogitation, hiking	It can serve as a place for re-evaluating what is important in life.	The entire forest.	High	Don't mess with it, let it grow.
Commenter #17				
1. Hiking/mtn. biking, bird watching, etc.	If there's nowhere to experience nature - people won't value it and it will all be lost.	The entire forest.	High	Leave this area alone. Recreationists spend money on lodging, food, drink and just plain shopping. The state needs [to] get the tax revenue to the appropriate agencies.

Commenter #18				
1. Revenue from harvest.	It is important because the money earned from timber revenue will go towards the B-E school district which could put the money to good use since it suffers from too many budget cuts.	Designated logging areas.	High	That some regions should remain for those to continue hiking and recreation. That harvest should not damage the wildlife and water quality.
Commenter #19				
1. Revenue from harvest.	Benefits Burlington-Edison schools and we already have too many budget cuts. This would make the problem even worse. Too many programs have already been cut and I would hate it if kids 10 years from now didn't have the same opportunities I did.	Entire forest.	Very high	Keep the forest how it is or find another way to obtain the funds for the school.
Commenter #20				
1. Hiking, large open/wild places to get away from urban environment.	To get away from urban environment.	No comment	High	Take care to log in areas with least impact to trails - allow unlogged areas to be large enough to support wildlife habitats.
2. Caves	An interesting destination.	The bat caves.	High	No comment
3. Overlook	"On top of the world" feeling	The overlook.	High	
Commenter #21				
	<p>Example 2 is the reason I came here. I feel it is important to have open space to go experience nature without the hassle of motorized vehicles. I do feel the area needs to have some way to notify (people, horse trailers, hang glider vehicles) when logging or doing work with big truck and equipment. Maybe a sign saying there is work/logging being done or maybe a sign system . . . when the red flag is up . . . beware of big log trucks, gravel trucks, or work trucks. Continue sustainable cutting <u>plant, plant, plant</u> and put revenue back into maintaining the public lands.</p>			
Commenter #22				
	<p>Concur with both above [both examples in first column]. Concur with both statements [in second column]. No clear-cuts anywhere! Except for research if necessary [can't read]. Improve trails for year-long [can't read]. Separate noise (motorized vehicles) from hiking areas.</p>			

Commenter #23				
1. Scenic backdrop for Skagit Whatcom	Because quality of life matters to all	Entire Forest in "view shed".	High	Do not cut along major view corridors. Cut in irregular shapes and small and leave lots of trees if have to cut at all.
2. Watershed - fresh water source.	Worldwide it has been shown how devastating depleting our watersheds can be.	Entire forest.	High	Leave this forest as a reserve. If need \$\$, sell to others for watershed use/protection.
3. Buffer against sprawl	Who wants to live amongst traffic jams, noise, pollution, escalating crime?	As long as DNR land, OK.	High	Keep 100% as <u>DNR</u> or protected land.
4. Keeps Skagit and Whatcom separate.	Creates a sense of community - keeps communities sense of place.	As long as DNR land, OK.	Medium	Keep 100% as <u>DNR</u> or protected land.
5. Recreation for young people.	<u>Only</u> place in Whatcom/Skagit I see young people doing outdoor things - helps keep them off the street, off drugs, out of trouble.	Most of forest.	Medium	Leave as a preserve - by other forestlands (i.e. Crown-Pacific lands) as a revenue alternative.
Last lowland forest of this type that is left for species. No place for them to go.				
6. Wildlife	Important to all of humankind and future generations.	All of forest.	High	
<p>This whole thing seems crazy - As if we're back in the 1950's thinking we still have time and open space left we can't imagine this will be gobbled up. Puget Sound has boomed and will continue to grow. Sprawl is one of the most serious issues facing these communities' futures. Whatever people say they will pay this year to protect this forest, will quadruple every five years as our population grows. And the older the forest growth, the more people will pay to make sure it is protected. I support sustainable forestry <u>but not on this forest.</u> It is the most accessible forest, the scenic back drops for our major Skagit/Whatcom communities. It is the last place a forest of this type touches saltwater and extends to Cascades - It is a people/wildlife haven. Keep it or sell it <u>intact</u> as a preserve. Take those \$ and buy cheaper Crown-Pacific forestlands to generate timber revenue. It is <u>crazy</u> to destroy this forest particularly when so much industrial forest is coming on the market. <u>Crazy.</u></p>				
Commenter #24				
1. School revenue	Kids education	Entire forest.	High	Meet sustainable harvest targets for Blanchard Mtn. as approved by Board of Nat. Resources.
2. Demonstration Forest	Stewardship leadership	Entire forest.	Medium	Involve forward-thinking stakeholders.

Commenter #25				
1. Hiking opportunities year round!	Because hiking in a forested area is good and it's great to have this treasure locally accessible year round.	Trails.	High	Keep trails heavily forested.
2. Wildlife and rare flora and fauna near population centers.	Individual landholders do not have the available land to create native forest landscapes we must depend on state forestlands and parks.	Wetlands and streams are especially important for wildlife and rare plants. I saw an insect eating plant in a weekend on Blanchard Mountain.	High	Large riparian areas more than 160 ' on fish bearing streams. Remove no trees considered old growth.
3. Beautiful green backdrop of forest seen from many places in Skagit.	Because I see Blanchard Mountain from the Skagit Flats all the way to Anacortes!	No comment	Low	Forest thinning as opposed to clear cutting. . . leaving a diversity of trees and underbrush including hardwoods.
4. Alternative methods of forest practice with emphasis on sustainability and diversity.	Moves away from plantation forestry.	All forested areas except those set aside for recreation/wildlife and riparian areas and those with old growth timber.	High	Large riparian areas. Tree thinning and leaving underbrush. Planting diverse species. Small harvest areas - less than 5 acres. Forest practice with emphasis on recreation and wildlife value for all citizens rather than for financial benefit of a few.
5. Timber harvest	I believe timber harvest should be a viable industry in Washington State for years to come although Blanchard Mountain is probably more valuable to Washington citizens as primarily a recreation/wildlife area.	No comment	Medium	Strategies of management that take into account more than board feet of timber such as recreation, long-term sustainability of forests and diversity within.

Commenter #26				
<p>See over . . . and hey, when are we going to rethink how we fund education, how [can't read] and nefarious is it to make our children choose between ignorance and loss of habitat. Blanchard Mountain is a sentinel for the North Skagit Valley. Thousands of us everyday have the opportunity to cringe at the violation of clear cuts. From the eye, the chest and gut tighten a bit (if your paying attention. Blanchard Mtn. along with the Chuckanuts are a unique treasure, the only place in the state where the cascades spill into the water. The whole range from I-5 to the sound could be worthy of park status. But if we can't address the sacred here lets get practical - At the very least leave the forests above the present roads that ring the south, east and north of Blanchard Mtn. Imagine the present trail system as the forest regains old growth characteristics for the inspiration of future generations, <u>what a gift</u>. Your spirit might smile from the grave aglow [can't read] a gesture of good will. Particularly the Green Drake U3 U8 and U9 units seem the most equeious.</p>				
Commenter #27				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Corridor between ocean and cascades.</li> <li>2. Wildlife shelter and habitat.</li> <li>3. H2Oshed quality.</li> <li>4. Scenic beauty.</li> <li>5. Non-motorized recreational use</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Quality of life</li> <li>2. Ecosystem Health</li> <li>3. Physical well-being</li> <li>4. Community integration between Whatcom/Skagit</li> <li>5. Community uniqueness (this Blanchard Mtn. could be like Anacortes forestlands).</li> </ol>	<p>Blanchard Mtn.</p> <p>Blanchard Mtn.</p> <p>Blanchard Mtn.</p> <p>Blanchard Mtn.</p> <p>Blanchard Mtn.</p>	<p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p> <p>High</p>	<p>With development pressures from Whatcom and Skagit Counties - this is a unique place: Close and accessible to population centers; one of the last remaining lowland forests in Washington that connects the ocean to the Cascades, and provides lowland wildlife shelter and habitat.</p> <p>It's important to maintain and build on the public trust the DNR has built up over the years. By managing Blanchard Mountain in ways unique to its situation - in this case preservation is critical - buy cheap Pacific Crown lands for harvest timber - put Blanchard Mtn. in stewardship/trust - ask community for help/funding/ transfer of land.</p>
Commenter #28				
<p>As a property tax payer in this school district I think revenues should by maintained on a sustainable basis. Managing for timber revenues should be considered on the most productive areas. Riparian - unstable areas could be managed more for wildlife needs. Recreation could and does utilize logged areas and road and should realize the benefits of a working forest.</p>				

Commenter #29				
1. Revenue from harvest (direct) indirect revenue to "Region" - processing, equip, sales tax etc. Jobs!	\$ benefit to county. Skagit county has 1000s of US Forest Service land, which creates <u>No</u> revenue. \$ benefit to Region. Make sure we count DNR employees and a portion of other state employees - as the attached pie chart shows the State of WA as recipient of 40%!	Entire forest. Continue to harvest as in past within guidelines of DNR HCP and WA State Forest Practices Rules and Regs.	High	The DNR should have an outside audit of their HCP. It is my opinion that not only is their HCP far beyond Forest Practices Rules; the DNR NW Region is setting aside land and timber beyond their own HCP. To me this is mismanagement costing the taxpayers of Skagit and Whatcom counties countless \$'s. Less levies/more harvest.
Commenter #30				
1. Revenue generation.	It creates jobs locally it lowers my taxes and it provides revenue to better care for the lands, roads, trails, etc.	No comments	High	Timber sales support all of the activities on the Mountain. There should be no interpretation in the current management activities.
Commenter #31				
1. Protect the current terrain and ecosystems.	Commenter also indicated support for both of the examples provided in the comment worksheet using the term "yes" and * * marks and !! !! marks.			
	Because public lands should benefit no hurt other interests.	Entire forest.	High	Continue to practice harvesting that does not damage slopes/habitat.
Commenter #32				
<p>The revenue generated from these harvests is so small why not sell the harvest rights so that all of the benefits of Blanchard Mt. can be maintained. The DNR should trade these trust lands for other forest land to the Skagit Land Trust for timber lands in areas that don't have as much impact when harvested. Any benefit that society gets from Blanchard Mt. will be gone if the DNR get to its goal of 5.1 MBF of annual timber harvest. How is a 5.1 MBF annual harvest sustainable over 75 years?</p> <p>Commenter also circled portions of the examples provided in the worksheet but not enough information provided to determine intent of comments.</p>				

Commenter #33				
<p>A unique wildlife and recreation area that is the <u>only</u> extension of the Cascade range into the marine environment.</p>			High	<p>The Blanchard Mtn. area that has not already been developed for tree farming with logging roads built in the last 20 years or so needs to be taken out of the trust forest designation and traded for other revenue producing property. Blanchard is very unique in the region and must be allowed to flourish as a wild area. The value of such a unique place in close proximity to the urban and travel corridor of W. Washington will become more apparent as time passes. But we need to make a commitment <u>now</u> to preserve it.</p>
Commenter #34				
<p>1. Year-round horseback riding.</p>	<p>20-year user of facilities on Blanchard. Come to enjoy my horse and the beauty of the area.</p> <p>Enjoy meeting other users.</p> <p>Find the challenge of maintaining and upgrading trails rewarding.</p> <p>Blanchard's horse trails help promote the legacy of livestock on the trails.</p> <p>Wonderful way to socialize with other members of BCHW.</p> <p>BCHW feels like stewards of the land - our way to contribute to the lasting beauty and benefits of being in nature.</p> <p>Blanchard helps local wildlife with forested areas and lakes for habitat.</p>	<p>Blanchard in all stages of growth and development is of great interest.</p> <p>However, are most especially interested in trail system, trail heads</p> <p>and overlook plus road access to trailheads.</p>	<p>High</p> <p><u>Highest</u></p> <p>High</p>	<p>Very much agree with DNR supporting (referring to example #2) [can't read] use by all groups. Helpful to have our input in the future planning and guidelines for sharing the trails.</p> <p>Concerns with logging operations all safety issues arising from logging trucks and horses and horse rigs - would want to be a part of planning for changes in trails to accommodate tree harvesting.</p> <p>Concerns about vandalism at look out and the dumping of trash - also would like some posting of signage suggesting bikes slow down on upper trails and yielding right of way to horses.</p> <p>Have tried unsuccessfully to maintain hitching posts at lookout - would welcome any suggestions for how to secure horses [can't read] avoid hang gliders.</p> <p>BCH Whatcom continues to feel an obligation to maintenance and upgrading of trails on mountain. We welcome chances to work with DNR - fee free to contact me -</p>

Commenter #35				
	<p>Blanchard Mountain: Hang Gliding (Para Gliding) group use and wishes: - Declare Blanchard Mtn. <b>a Motorless, Footlaunch Aviation Site;</b>          - Preserve the three existing launch sites; - Keep vehicle access; - Improvements (if resources are available): - level and grade launches and "Top Landing Area"; - no structures in flying area; - have input on placement of structures; Horse tie downs, table, outhouse (??) etc.; - All use groups help find a solution for the Garbage and Vandalism problem. Reference: At Tiger Mtn. near Issaquah, a similar popular food launch flying site, DNR established such a site and is managing it in close cooperation with the local flying community. Mr. D. McClellan Unit Spv./Head Ranger is the contact person.</p>			
Commenter #36				
	<p>Note: written on a copy of DNR web page notice of June 30th public meeting: Arrow pointing to paragraph in DNR web page meeting notice under 'DNR as land steward': We're cutting the forest to save the trees? Wouldn't it be cheaper to put taxes towards saving this forest for the future generations? This is Skagit/Whatcom County's "Central Park". Please protect it. I support you 100% logging other lands but <u>not</u> here. Why not sell this to Skagit Land Trust or the Nature Conservancy?</p>			
Commenter #37				
	<p>Letter entitled: A Vision For Blanchard Mountain: The DNR should reassess its previous decision and designate Blanchard Mt., The Chuckanuts and the connecting foothills to the North Cascades and Natural Resource Conservation Area. This area is the only place in the whole state of Washington where the mountains of the Cascades continue directly to the sea. A substantial conservation corridor should be established and the DNR should lead the way. All resource extraction on state lands in this corridor should be halted (stop all logging) and a program should be set up to acquire any privately held forestry lands in this designated area for protection. The following are additional reasons for protection of this area: 1. Blanchard Mt. along with Chuckanut Mt. are an important part of Chuckanut Drive considered by many to be the most scenic drive in Washington. The site of clearcuts as one approaches from the south is shocking and disturbing; 2. Larabee State Park, one of the most scenic state parks in Washington is located in this area. As the demand for more areas to recreate increases, Blanchard Mt. is a logical place to enlarge the park area and extend the trail system; 3. Logging in this area will cause runoff and debris and continue undermine Chuckanut Road, which is already under constant repair. It is financially irresponsible for the DNR to create such risks and financial liabilities for the state; 4. Runoff and debris entering the shoreline during the winter rains will affect shellfish habitat; 5. This area is used for recreation by scores of people and many diverse groups from Skagit and Whatcom counties as well as travelers from other parts of the State and country; 6. The natural beauty is what attracts people to this area and they in turn support the small businesses in the area. The DNR should be designing ways to protect state lands particularly these "unique" areas. Instead the DNR is spearheading the destruction of unique natural systems for short term gain and that is even questionable considering the cost of unintended consequences (road repairs on Chuckanut, shellfish habitat destroyed etc.) Destroying the environment is no way to fund our schools. I urge the DNR to change its ways and become a champion rather than an exploiter of our state lands.</p>			

Commenter #38				
1. Paragliding - hangliding site.	Recreation	Convergence air.	High	Stop fires - leave and maintain open launch area - improve launch sites.
Commenter #39				
<p>To DNR - July 6, 2004: With regard to your Blanchard Forest Management Strategies, no mention is made regarding hunting. Your representative stated the DNR does not control deer hunting. My concern is the people doing your studies are anti-hunting so do not let your guard down. Hunting should be listed as an allowed recreational opportunity on your list.</p>				
1. Hunting deer, grouse, etc. in season	Because it is important to have a local area to go to enjoy the hunting experience.	The entire Blanchard Forest	High	Continue logging to provide new areas for feed and cover for deer, grouse, etc.
Commenter #40				
<p>Letter submitted November 10, 2003. Added to comments by DNR. Re: Blanchard Mountain - I am writing to ask that you consider a management plan for the Washington State Trust Lands on Blanchard Mountain that places great weight on the scenic and recreational value of Blanchard Mountain yet still allows forestry that supports diverse habitat for wildlife. In the past it's been fair to say that these lands have been managed with timber revenue as their highest priority. Today, with Washington's rapidly growing population, these lands can't begin to provide the money necessary for institutions such as schools and prisons for which the State Trust Lands have provided funding. I feel that today, there needs to be a fresh look at the State's constitutional language which states that - "All the public lands granted to the state are held in trust for all the people". Today, Blanchard Mountain with its forest, lakes, streams and rocky outcrops is recognized as one of the most popular recreational spots in northwest Washington. I, along with thousands of other outdoor enthusiasts, have set out each year into these biologically diverse mountains to engage in such activities as hiking, bird watching, mountain biking, fishing, camping, horseback riding and photography. This area provides countless people with a refuge from the hustle and bustle of daily life and is a wonderful environment to appreciate some of the Pacific Northwest's most awe-inspiring lands. Blanchard Mountain seems to me to be a place where we can have it all: these lands can be successfully managed for clean water, wildlife habitat and for their stellar recreational activities as well as for logging. Please work towards a multiple use management plan for Blanchard Mountain, which allows these incredible public lands to be administered for the long term with all uses carefully considered and intertwined. I look forward to working with the DNR to find a way to carry out this goal.</p>				

Commenter #41				
	<p>Gentlemen: Unfortunately, members of Pearson Properties I, L.L.C. are unable to attend the subject open house. However, we are concerned about the potential for increased traffic (due to expanded uses of the DNR acreage) on Blanchard Hill Road that connects the DNR land to Barrel Springs Road. Blanchard Hill Road appears to be the sole approach to this area. This road passes through the timberland acreage of the L.L.C. When William O. Pearson purchased these parcels in 1951, he had visions of developing home sites on the property following a timber harvest. Now, more than 50 years later, the timber harvest has been completed. With the trees removed, the desirability of this land for future home sites becomes very evident. Our concern is the potential for significantly increased use of Blanchard Hill Road for recreational access to the DNR land on Blanchard Mountain and its affect on property values along this corridor. Is there an element in your strategy for development of Blanchard Forest that addresses this concern?</p>			
Commenter #42				
	<p>No Logging - Blanchard Mountain is accessible almost year round, and is used by many people for hiking, hang gliding and other recreations. 70 out of 80 people who attended a meeting in the logging town of Alger supported protection of Blanchard Mountain in 2001. In the town of Blanchard, at the foot of the mountain, 55 people met to talk about the history of logging, and then spoke about the need to protect Blanchard Mountain from logging forever.</p> <p>As a home for wildlife, a source of clean water for oyster beds and for people, as a geological wonder, Blanchard Mountain is worth more to the citizens of Skagit County than it would be if clear-cut, with the attendant run-off and loss of recreational value. Please do not log Blanchard Mountain!</p> <p>Yours hopefully, Doris B. Ferm Wilderness is the natural context of our soul.</p>			
Commenter #43				
	<p>As an alternative to driving to Edison tonight I would like to give some input to the Blanchard Mountain Plan. As a long time neighbor I would prefer to see the mountain off limits to logging or at least logging minimized. Blanchard is much more valuable as a recreation site to the people of Skagit and Whatcom Counties with its extensive use from hikers, hang gliders and just plain tourists. There are other ways to raise money for the state including a one time tax people seem willing to pay to save the trees on Blanchard.</p>			

Commenter #44				
	<p>Please consider logging another track of DNR land. Blanchard is so close to many residential areas in two different counties and accessed by several different user groups, the revenue cannot possibly be worth the loss to our communities. Between hiking, biking, horseback riding, hang gliding, camping, etc the area provides much needed recreation and renewal. Parts of this forestland have contributed lumber in the not so distant past and are barely starting to recover from those cuts. Its location on the edge of the bay, just above the oyster farm and highway makes runoff and land slide management a serious financial consideration in addition. Please look to fill the coffer from a less conspicuous and used parcel and look to develop an alternative source of funding for the future.</p>			
Commenter #45				
<p>1. The primary benefit of Blanchard Mt is its watershed function for Samish Bay and Lake Samish/Friday Creek. Possibly included in this benefit is the wildlife habitat present in the forest there - it represents the terminus of a wildlife corridor extending from the Cascades to Puget Sound. Secondary/tertiary benefits are for non-motorized recreation (hiking, Mt biking, horse back riding, hand gliding), and (thirdly) as a source of timber harvest.</p>	<p>2. The benefits are important because: Blanchard Mt is the closest point where the Cascades touch the sea and provides a watershed/wildlife corridor to Puget Sound. Habitat similar to that provided there is very scarce in the Puget Sound region. Its watershed area is of great importance to the health of Samish Bay.</p>	<p>3. The area of benefit actually extends well outside of the DNR managed lands on Blanchard Mt, but I will for the purpose of this comment say that the benefits extend over the entire forest.</p>	<p>4. Very high</p>	<p>5. As far as management strategies go, I would suggest that the Blanchard Mt forest be managed under FSC Certification. Possibly this could be used as a pilot project for potential FSC certification of the entire expanse of state forests.</p>

Commenter #46				
	<p>To Whom It May Concern: Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the open house June 30th at the Edison Elementary School, so here are a few of my thoughts on the future of Blanchard Mtn. I am a resident of Lake Samish and frequent Blanchard Mountain and the Chuckanuts for walks, biking, and horseback riding. The current trail system and second growth forest remaining (3000+ acres) is very important to me and I would like to preserve it for recreation purposes. There has already been too much clearing of the forest in the past and I would prefer no clearing of the remaining second growth forest on Blanchard. Continued tree farming of the previous cleared portions of the mountain is acceptable but the 3000+ acres remaining should be protected for future generations to enjoy. I know DNR is also considering selective logging or thinning in some areas of the remaining second growth forest. Although thinning is a better alternative than clearing for many reasons, I still believe strongly that the 3000+ acres second growth forest remaining on Blanchard should be preserved for recreational use.</p>			
Commenter #47				
	<p>To whom it may concern: It is absolutely essential that the forests in the Chuckanut Range get protected. With the astronomical development going on in Whatcom and Skagit Counties, the relatively intact forest ecosystem in the Chuckanuts is all the more valuable. These forests are the home of forest birds such as Pileated Woodpeckers, Winter Wrens, Barred Owls, and Spotted Towhees, and provide breeding habitat for Neotropical migrants such as Western Tanagers, Swainson's Thrushes, and Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warblers. Besides, Mt. Blanchard provides outstanding recreation opportunities for hikers and campers, with a multitude of trails that are accessible all year round. Furthermore, intact forests are badly needed to protect the watershed. Logging Blanchard Mountain would be a crime. Doug Sutherland says it should be done to provide money for schools, but I don't buy it. Certainly there has got to be a better way to support the schools than logging Blanchard Mountain!</p>			
Commenter #48				
	<p>Hi Jim, I wasn't able to get to the open house on 30 June so would like to participate via e-mail. I generally support DNR in your proactive approach to timber and revenue management as it pertains to the Blanchard area. I am a user of the trail system on Blanchard and have attended some of your meetings as a member of Backcountry Horsemen. The maintenance of the road system, the trails and recreation in general is important to most of us and applaud you for addressing these issues along with the mandate to provide revenue to the people of Skagit county. I know I speak for many of our membership. You have my support. Walden Haines, work party coordinator Whatcom BCH</p>			
Commenter #49				
	<p>Hi! I'm interested in camping at Lily and Lizard Lake and wish to get some information concerning them from a knowledgeable source. Is there someone I could talk to about existing accommodations up there? Thank You! Kris Crawford</p>			

Commenter #50				
	<p>I was out of town and missed the opportunity in Edison last month when DNR hosted a meeting to hear from the local public about Blanchard. I admit I am not up to date on what plans are in the works, but I do know we must protect the resource for future generations of both people and the wildlife who live in the forest. I treasure the time I spend walking the trails in the forest and I also enjoy the view of green forest on both Blanchard and Chuckanut in the distance from my home in Mount Vernon daily. The area provides much needed recreation year round. My sons have grown up hiking the area and participating in trail projects both with the Boy Scouts and the PNTA. Please keep it as wild as possible. Thank you for listening, Karen</p>			
Commenter #51				
<p>Comments recorded on flip chart paper at June 30th meeting:</p>	<p>Picture depicting a proposed tram from Blanchard to overlook. At the overlook is restaurant titled "The Overlook" with the comment: restaurant pays \$ to DNR to operate. Use DNR existing road for vehicle access. No impact on steep hillside - hang gliders load kites on top of tram - access to trail system - look at existing tram in Albuquerque, NM for example.</p>			
Commenter #52				
<p>Comments recorded on flip chart paper at June 30th meeting</p>	<p>Maintain support for schools and counties: continuous sustainable</p>			
Commenter #53				
<p>1. Recreational opportunities like hiking, bike riding, etc. 2. Jobs and profits from logging.</p>	<p>Outdoor living is a west coast tradition and is very integral to our lifestyle. Logging provides family wage jobs and important revenues for schools and government.</p>	<p>Any part of the forest. The entire forest.</p>	<p>High High</p>	<p>Develop trail systems including hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking on the forest. Work to maximize the value yield from timber resources in Blanchard Forest.</p>
Commenter #54				
<p>Resource that provides forest products while also providing wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and supports local jobs.</p>	<p>Timber revenue benefits taxpayers by supporting schools without increasing tax burden. Also, it supports local jobs while satisfying public demand for resource products.</p>	<p>Entire forest.</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>Continue active management of DNR lands that will indirectly provide access to recreational use (via logging roads). Do not diminish management activity by reducing harvesting because this will unnecessarily hurt taxpayers and damage the local economy. The DNR HCP will serve to adequately protect environmental values while allowing reasonable management to take place.</p>

Commenter #55				
1. Logging helps revenue and trees will grow back.	It pays for schools and hospitals so the bonds and levies aren't so high.	Selected areas.	High	Commenter indicated example #1 as the "#1 choice": Practice sustainable harvest activities consistent with DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan to protect wildlife and water quality in order to maintain long-term income.
Commenter #56				
Standardized post card sponsored by Northwest Ecosystem Alliance with prepared statement. 50 people sent the separate post cards to DNR, some with additional comments by the individuals.	<div data-bbox="551 456 2470 930" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Prepared statement: Dear Bill Wallace: I'm writing to express my deep concern regarding the protection of Blanchard Mountain. Blanchard Mountain is the only place where the Cascade's reach the ocean giving it an ecologically unique character. Blanchard Mountain is one of the most popular recreation spots in northwest Washington, drawing over 45, 000 hikers, bikers, hang gliders, horseback riders, and photographers every year. Economists have found that citizens place much higher value on such amenities as non-commercial forestlands, wildlife habitat, scenic views, slope stability and erosion control, and recreation than on timber harvest.</p> <p>While some state lands are appropriate to log, Blanchard is a unique treasure for all the people of Washington. This remarkable mountain has high ecological and recreational values, and those unique public values should be protected, forever.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued interest in Blanchard Mountain. Please join me in working to protect this beautiful forest. (End of prepared statement included on each post card sent.)</p> </div> <div data-bbox="551 954 2470 1024" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Additional comment from sender 1 and 2: We always bring our out-of-town friends and relatives here to hike - they love it too!</p> </div> <div data-bbox="551 1049 2470 1149" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Additional comments from sender #29: "I love this area, I am 3<sup>rd</sup> generation born to Whatcom County. I frequent Lost Lake, Bat caves, and Lizard &amp; Lily Lakes."</p> </div>			

<p>Commenter #56 continued</p>				
	<p>Additional comments from sender #32: "Please halt the practice of tying education to resource extraction."</p> <p>Additional comments from sender #35: "Please protect Blanchard!"</p> <p>Additional comments from sender #39: "Please help protect this beautiful mountain."</p> <p>Additional comments from sender #50: "This is such a special place for us all. Please protect this gem."</p>			
<p>Commenter #57</p>				
	<p>Dear Mr. Wallace: I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Burlington-Edison School District to provide input regarding the management strategy for Blanchard Mountain. Thank you for the opportunities you have provided us to attend meetings, learn about the issues related to forest management strategies, and provide this feedback.</p> <p>As you know, the Burlington-Edison School District receives substantial revenue from timber harvests on Blanchard Mountain. During this time where our state economy is weak and revenues for school districts have consistently been reduced, the revenues from Blanchard Mountain are critical for our programs in the school district. In addition, the Adequate Yearly Progress required by the No Child Left Behind Act and the high standards of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) have raised the standards for achievement in our school district. Adequate revenue in order to help our students reach these standards is absolutely critical.</p> <p>Secondly, Blanchard Mountain has the potential to be a wonderful, natural classroom environment for students of the school district. I foresee partnerships between the school district and the Department of Natural Resources for providing a very high quality environmental education program that will provide necessary education for our future citizens.</p> <p>Again, thank you for the opportunity you have provided for our participation and input into the decision-making process.</p>			

Committer #58				
	<p>Dear Mr. Cahill: Skagit County is providing you and your Department comments on the Blanchard Mountain Plan. We have provided the comments both by letter (dated June 9, 2004) and in the format DNR Provided.</p> <p>We strongly urge DNR as the trust to remain committed to its beneficiaries. As a large timber county, we have supported DNR's management and silviculture to ensure the sustainability of the forests. The Forest Resources Plan and the HCP (in which SEPA was administered) have provided the guidance for the management and potential harvest of this area and they need to be followed.</p> <p>Recreational opportunities are currently present on Blanchard Mountain, as well as many other areas within a 50-mile radius, and should continue, but not where the activities encroach so that the harvests do not occur. Logging will continue to benefit these activities.</p> <p>Again, prescriptions for timber harvests came from the HCP and will allow for the sustainability of our forests. Skagit County cannot stress how emphatic it is that the projected board feet of harvest for Blanchard Mountain be maintained.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments.          Ted W. Anderson, Chairman          Skagit County Board of County Commissioners</p>			
1. Logging	To provide necessary revenues to the BE schools, hospital district and County roads especially in light of the proposed tax cuts.	Throughout the entire area	High	Maintain a Timber Sale program that is consistent with the HCP, Forest Practices and the Forest Resources Plan.
2. Logging	Sustainability of timber product businesses. Provides economic diversity and stability for the County. Generates jobs that support forest product businesses and in turn support other subsidiary markets and local businesses. Limiting harvest dries the market and companies fold. Prime examples are the closures of the US forestlands in the 1980's.	Throughout the entire area	High	Maintain a Timber Sale program that is consistent with the HCP, Forest Practices and the Forest Resources Plan.
3. Logging	To maintain the health of the forests and productivity.	Throughout the entire area	High	Maintain a Timber Sale program that is consistent with the HCP, Forest Practices and the Forest Resources Plan.
4. Logging	Sustainability for intergenerational	Throughout the		Maintain a Timber Sale program that is consistent with the HCP, Forest

<p>5. Areas with public interpretive maps and information.</p>	<p>equity. Education to the public on the benefits of the forests. Opportunity to educate the public on all the benefits associated with logging on trust lands, which range from economic returns, recreation, bio-diversity of the forests and sustainability. A better understanding as to what is provided from timber harvests coupled with understanding how the industry is regulated to ensure environmental protections allows better acceptance. Education should demonstrate how we now manage forests as 'working forest' that includes a multitude of regulations to provide necessary environmental protections.</p>	<p>entire area Both off and on the mountain in strategic places.</p>	<p>High Med-high</p>	<p>Practices and the Forest Resources Plan. Timber sales provide well maintained roads for better public access to see and experience the forest Interpretive centers and public forums for general information can be strategically located. DNR could set up a series of meetings partnering with the beneficiaries.</p>
<p>6. Recreational opportunities</p>	<p>Logging provides trails, view-sheds, wildlife viewing, diversified habitats (the eco-system become diversified due to the variety of ages of tree stands) and launch pads for hang-gliders to name a few</p>	<p>Controlled locations to ensure safety</p>	<p>Med-high</p>	<p>Timber sales provide well-maintained roads for better public access and to enjoy a variety of recreational experiences. Recreational use must pay for services and maintenance with user fees.</p>

Committer #59				
	<p>Dear Bill, Thank you to you and your staff for inviting us to meet with you regarding the Blanchard Hill Management Plan and for inviting us to send in comments detailing specific suggestions.</p> <p>As you are aware, the Chuckanut-to-Cascade Corridor is one of Skagit Land Trust's current focus areas. Our goal is to secure connectivity that will help to maintain the area's ecological integrity into the future. This corridor is unique in that it is the last place in Puget Sound where there is a relatively intact, forested corridor between saltwater shoreline and the Cascade Mountains. The corridor adds to our community in many ways including quality of life, watershed integrity and wildlife habitat connectivity. It is our hope that future generations will know and enjoy the benefits of this unique Chuckanut-to-Cascade Corridor.</p> <p>At our meeting at DNR, we passed on to you a copy of the Cascade-to-Chuckanut Conservation Plan prepared by Whatcom Land Trust and the Conservation Biology Institute. This documents the habitats and uniqueness of the area so I will not further detail these here. Suffice to say, Skagit Land Trust believes this to be a landscape we need to protect for future generations.</p> <p>The study identified four priority areas for conservation. These are the Chuckanut-Lookout Mountain Focal Area; the Nooksack and Samish Rivers Focal Area; the Anderson Mountain Focal Area; and the Lyman Hill Focal Area. The attached map shows these areas (large circles) and their connectivity. Skagit Land Trust selected the Chuckanut-Lookout Mountain Focal Area as our first area to work on. As you will note, this area includes Blanchard Mountain. The enclosed map shows our current private land protection focus (red circles). We have contacted landowners in these areas to educate them on methods of private land conservation. We will be pursuing ways to protect private land in these areas through tools such as conservation easements, acquisitions, and assisting other organizations in protecting important lands. We also hope to use innovative protection tools such as working forest conservation easements on some of the larger private forests. We know that we will not be able to protect habitat on all of the private lands, however we will work diligently to protect enough that habitat connectivity remains.</p> <p>In this focal area, Larrabee State Park offers excellent habitat to the north. However you will note from the enclosed map that the DNR lands on Blanchard Mountain along with private lands form the important western edge of the Chuckanut-to-Cascade Corridor.</p> <p>Our study took a look at the 30,000-foot view of the Cascade-to-Chuckanut Corridor and thought of future connectivity. As you develop management strategies on Blanchard Mountain we encourage you to plan for core habitat areas that are sufficiently linked to maintain connectivity. This will aid in the preservation of natural movement patterns and ecosystem functions on the western edge of the Chuckanut-to-Cascade Corridor.</p> <p>We are fortunate that much of Blanchard Mountain is state-owned and thus not subject to the development pressures elsewhere. We compliment you on your multi-use approach to forest management that includes awareness and planning for the habitats on Blanchard Mountain.</p> <p>We would be happy to meet with you and go over in more detail our current strategies, protection areas and goals in this area so that our plans compliment each other. If there are ways you envision us working with you to protect important aspects of the Chuckanut-to-Cascade Corridor that are on state lands, such as Blanchard Mountain, please let us know. Thank you for your time and for involving us in this process. We appreciate both the formal and informal information sessions we have attended and have found very useful the amount of information sharing that is occurring.</p> <p>Sincerely, Molly Doran, Executive Director, Skagit Land Trust</p>			

<p>Commenter #60</p>				
	<p>January 23, 2003 Dear Bonnie,</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><i>Note: This letter was offered by Lisa McShane as NWEA's comments in response to DNR's request for their comments re: June 30<sup>th</sup> 2004 Public Open House meeting in Edison</i></p> </div>		<p>Thank you for initiating the collaborative development of a management strategy for Blanchard Mountain. In the time that I've worked on protecting the ecological values of Blanchard Mountain I've seen a remarkable passion for the area by local citizens – I think our economic study captured some of that. It is truly a special area and we're fortunate that it remains in public ownership. I commend DNR's approach to Blanchard Mountain. Your interest and initiative in working with citizens is a positive and productive approach to managing our state trust lands.</p> <p>I've given some thought to what a collaborative management plan looks like: the participants, the process, the needed resources and the outcome I envision. I've enclosed a list of participants. These are people who have demonstrated a keen interest in the area and are fairly representative of the constituencies that have a major stake in the outcome. While it's a list of 13, my assumption is that not everyone on that list will choose to participate, or at least not at the same level of intensity.</p> <p>The process I envision is best described as a negotiation: citizens and agency staff sit down together and exchange ideas, flesh out options and together reach a decision on a management strategy that will have broad public support. I'm optimistic that we can successfully do that. I think a process where citizen input is maximized will be a plan that garners widespread support.</p> <p>The preliminary steps that I see are to contract with a facilitator and gather data that we anticipate the planning group will need. Among the data sets are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Descriptions of the many options for managing trust lands and the legal mechanisms for those,</li> <li>- The Cedar River evaluation of Blanchard Mountain</li> <li>- DNR's 1999 Blanchard Mountain Assessment,</li> <li>- The Chuckanut Trails Master Plan,</li> <li>- Topographic maps,</li> <li>- Geologic maps of soil types,</li> <li>- Any available studies of fish, including anadromous fish, birds, insects and mammals, including their status and habitat needs,</li> <li>- Water quality data,</li> <li>- View shed maps, and</li> <li>- Timber harvest data.</li> </ul> <p>Several venues are available to make meetings convenient to participants. In addition to the DNR conference room in Sedro-Woolley and the NWEA conference room in Bellingham, space may be available in the Skagit Courthouse, Whatcom County Courthouse or Bellingham City Hall and in the Blanchard Community Hall.</p> <p>The timing is important and I think that a process that begins in April or May and concludes by the end of 2003 is realistic and will work well.</p> <p>Northwest Ecosystem Alliance is fully committed to protection of a significant portion of this exceptional natural area. However, there are areas of Blanchard Mountain where we believe logging can occur. How that logging occurs is important to visitors, to citizens in the area, and to wildlife. The last two timber sales, combined with our recent joint study, make me optimistic that we can work collaboratively on a management plan and reach agreement.</p> <p>I appreciate DNR's interest in looking to the community to find ideas and work towards solutions together and I look forward to working with you on this management plan.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lisa McShane Director of Community Relations Northwest Ecosystem Alliance</p>

**Draft Author's Work Draft \*\* Blanchard Forest: A Working Forest in an Urban Setting \*\* Draft Version Date: December 1, 2004**

Commenter #61				
1. Hiking, horse riding		Trails.	High	1. No logging on trail or select logging. Because I have spent many hours working on trails for horses and hiking.
Commenter #62				
			High use	1. Have ridden trails in area and love the trails. Have worked on trails with Whatcom Chapter. 2. Good area to train new horses and riders. 3. Looking forward to future riding on Blanchard
Commenter #63				
1. Year round recreational horse riding.	Because it's great to have an area close to "home" with gas prices rising.	The entire forest.	High	1. Help maintain existing trails when the area is logged.
Commenter #64				
1. Revenue generated from timber harvest 2. Year-round hiking and horse back riding opportunities.	1. Because the timber revenue benefits the schools, hospitals, and county roads where I live. 2. Because it is important to have a local area to go and experience nature and enjoy the natural environment. 3. Good area to "train" green horses.	1. BCH trail head, up to lakes and jump off for hang gliders.	High	1. When logged, trails existing not be destroyed. 2. Use water runoff (bars) to save trail.
Commenter #65				
1. Revenue generated from timber harvest 2. Year-round hiking and horse back riding opportunities	(In comments, says, "All of the above", referring to examples). 1. Because the timber revenue benefits the schools, hospitals and county roads where I live. 2. Because it is important to have a local area to go and experience nature and enjoy the natural environment.	1. The entire forest. 2. Areas of Blanchard Forest where there are trails I can use.	High High	1. Practice sustainable harvest activities consistent with DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan to protect wildlife and water quality in order to maintain long-term income. 2. Continue to work with recreation groups so that the systems of trails on Blanchard can continue to be used by the public and so that trail use will not result in environmental impacts to water quality and wildlife.
Commenter #66				
1. Year round ability to ride horses, good trail heads, easy ride, fishing at lakes, and view from top.	1. Close to home 2. Can go for afternoon or evening rides.	1. Main trails to the top overlook and the Lakes.	High	1. Keep the trails open year round and during logging operations if possible. 2. Continue to take advantage of the volunteers of the Whatcom Chapter of Backcountry horseman who have done a lot of work every year.

**Draft Author's Work Draft \*\* Blanchard Forest: A Working Forest in an Urban Setting \*\* Draft Version Date: December 1, 2004**

<b>Commenter #67</b>				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recreation use</li> <li>2. Riding horses and camping</li> <li>3. Light logging</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We bring friends and relatives to ride this great area.</li> <li>2. My family rides at Blanchard 12-20 times a year.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All areas including Chuckanut.</li> <li>2. Samish.</li> </ol>	<p>Very High</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Leave and area (green area around the trails as well as with streams.</li> <li>2. High limb trimming</li> <li>3. Sloped angles to allow easy riding or walking</li> <li>4. Restrooms</li> <li>5. Gravel for trail maintenance.</li> </ol>
<b>Commenter #68</b>				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Convenience</li> <li>2. Great place to keep horses in shape between riding seasons.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Easy to get from Bellingham. Can take a "mini" vacation and get away from it all.</li> <li>2. Horses with little trail training can get experience on nice easy trails.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wherever I can take a horse</li> <li>2. No, just using the available trails.</li> </ol>	<p>High</p> <p>High</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We – all user groups – need to continue to work together to maintain the trails. These (can't read) good (can't read) were among all the users and pride in keeping it nice.</li> <li>2. No – see above.</li> </ol>
<b>Commenter #69</b>				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Year-round horse back riding.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It's a great local place to ride and I enjoy the views.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Blanchard Forest Trails.</li> </ol>	<p>High</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Put in restrooms.</li> <li>2. Work with all user groups.</li> </ol>
<b>Commenter #70</b>				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Definitely horseback riding opportunities.</li> <li>2. Hiking as well.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We ride horses and love to experience local areas and enjoy the environment.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Areas of Blanchard because it is close and local area.</li> </ol>	<p>Definitely high!</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to use the trail systems and maintain them so they can be used by horse riders and hikers on Blanchard Mountain.</li> <li>2. Work very hard with the recreation groups to keep this opportunity.</li> </ol>
<b>Commenter #71</b>				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Year around horseback riding &amp; hiking.</li> <li>2. Close to home</li> <li>3. Beautiful views</li> <li>4. Work parties</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I love the outdoors</li> <li>2. I have ridden horses my whole life.</li> <li>3. I was born &amp; raised here – do not close area to horses.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The entire forest</li> <li>2. All trails</li> </ol>	<p>High</p> <p>High</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please notify us so we can help to keep trails open for all users.</li> <li>2. Select logging.</li> </ol>

Commenter #72				
1. Year-round riding trail.	1. There aren't very many trails open year around for horses and we do have some mice weather during the winter months.	1. Trails on Blanchard Mountain.	High	1. Try not to destroy the trails as you are logging the area. Continue to work with Back Country Horsemen to maintain the trail system. Have one trail in use for all non-motorized users – to split around obstacles for hikers here and horses there. Get rid of “this section of trail maintained by ____.” It is unsightly having a bunch of these signs on every other tree. Signs at the bottom or top (each end) of the trail would be better.
Commenter #73				
1. Trail that can be used by everybody year round riding. 2. This trail is used by many horse people from different counties and enjoy the view. 3. Blanchard is also the place where Toys for Tots fundraiser is held.	1. To continue to ride the trails and enjoy the trails.	1. Enjoy the trails.	High	
Commenter #74				
1. Horseback riding	1. Excellent trails for enjoying nature with my horses.	1. All the trails and parking areas.	High	1. Bathroom facilities would be much appreciated. 2. Maintain trailhead parking areas.
Commenter #75				
1. Hiking and horse back riding.	1. We need a place like Blanchard, it is the most beautiful place. 2. Blanchard is a place for a young generation to experience the beauty of nature. We do need the trails over there.	1. Trails.	High High	1. Select logging, maybe please save our trails. 2. As a member of B.C.H. I have worked on the trails in Blanchard.

Commenter #76				
1. Horse back rides and hiking.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It's important to keep areas where people may go to experience nature at it's best.</li> <li>2. Young people need a place like this to go instead of the mall.</li> </ol>	1. Trails.	High High	1. No logging or very little. Please be careful of our trails. BCH have spent many hours and materials to improve the trails.
Commenter #77				
1. Year round hiking and horseback riding.	1. Have enjoyed the area in the past and hope to be able to continue.	1. Blanchard and other areas.	High	1. Hope to work on trails.
Commenter #78				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Beautiful trails for hiking and horseback riding – open and fairly dry all year round.</li> <li>2. Lily and Lizard lakes and the overlook are favorite spots for Back Country Horsemen and many other local users.</li> </ol>	1. This mountain is a favorite destination of this horseback rider. Many other areas are not open throughout the year.	1. The trailheads, the access to the trails, and all areas that contain riding and hiking trails.	High	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue good communication and interchange with all groups that value this area.</li> <li>2. Consider not logging across trails.</li> <li>3. Consider giving high priority to protecting wildlife habitat and the natural beauty of this area as a valued recreational forest.</li> </ol>
Commenter #79				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hunting access.</li> <li>2. Revenue generated from timber harvest.</li> <li>3. Year-round hiking and horse back riding opportunities.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hunting is an important part of American History.</li> <li>2. Because the timber revenue benefits the schools, hospitals and county roads where I live.</li> <li>3. Because it is important to have a local area to go and experience nature and enjoy the natural environment.</li> </ol>	1. The entire forest.	High	1. Leave trails open.

Committer #80				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Year round hiking and riding horseback opportunities.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Because it is important to have a local area to go ride my horse with a great view.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The entire forest.</li> </ol>	<p>High</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When logging, try to keep trails clear or at least easily cleaned to use.</li> </ol>
Committer #81				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Close to home to ride horse</li> <li>2. Beautiful area.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Somewhere near home to ride my horse – a beautiful location.</li> <li>2. Less gas usage – more apt to go more often</li> <li>3. Great views, lovely forest.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All trails, roads, and woods, and lakes, and trailheads.</li> </ol>	<p>High  High</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assist on trail maintenance, don't log off or clearcut any areas.</li> </ol>