

## BLANCHARD FOREST STRATEGIES GROUP

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### BLANCHARD FOREST STATE TRUST LANDS

#### A WORKING FOREST IN AN URBAN SETTING

### Additional Recommended Management Directions

(Attachment to Map showing Core)

#### Core Size

- The map representing Blanchard Forest and the core zone will require further refinement. It has been provided as a reasonable representation of the intent of the Blanchard Forest Strategies Group. A final map for management purposes (based on additional field inspection and detailed mapping) will be developed by DNR for review and use with the future Blanchard Forest Advisory Committee (see below).
- It is the intent of the Strategies Group to create a core zone that is approximately 1,600 acres in size.
- DNR will work in collaboration with the future Blanchard Forest Advisory Committee to do additional review of timber management strategies in three areas: labeled “CC” and “JJ” along the western edge of the core and “B” on the southern slope outside the core.

#### Ecological Management inside the Core Zone

- Intent is to hasten the development of late succession conifer forest without roads, compatible with recreational objectives for the core.
- Ecological management will be consistent with management activities described in the Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA) statute.
- Timber volume and revenue is a by-product, not an objective, of ecological management inside of the core.
- Based on management strategies and plans to be developed by DNR, in collaboration with the Blanchard Forest Advisory Committee (see below).
- Develop a phased approach, with expansion of areas receiving ecological management in select areas based on experience in initial phases and review by the Blanchard Forest Advisory Committee.
- Objective is to conduct ecological management without roads. However, if DNR and the Blanchard Forest Advisory Committee determine that roads will assist in enhancing ecological benefits under special circumstances, roads would meet following conditions: 1) temporary in nature and minimal in length, 2) use of construction standard with minimal impact, 3) would be removed (at a standard in between “obliteration” and “abandonment”) after use, ideally within 1 year.

## Roads

- Outside of the core DNR will develop a road system to support the anticipated harvest.
- DNR will construct roads in the southwest quadrant (between Max's Shortcut Trail and the trail from Chuckanut Drive to Oyster Dome) and in the eastern quadrant (above the B-2000 road and below the core zone). DNR also can construct a road from the Southwest quadrant to the Eastern quadrant, along the southern slope outside of the core zone. If a road along the southern slope is built it will be designed and constructed to create a road that is smaller than a "typical" logging road and reduces impacts on recreational use but still meets the department's operational needs and complies with the state Forest Practices rules regarding road construction.
- When proposed harvest activities intersect with trail use, DNR will work with user groups and the Blanchard Forest Advisory Committee to consider appropriate strategies for managing potential conflicts (i.e., signage and advance notice, potential trail relocation, and other approaches).

## Blanchard Forest Advisory Committee

- Assist DNR by making recommendations for management of Blanchard Forest (both inside and outside of the core).
- Serve as the community-based entity to help implement the agreement reached by the Blanchard Strategies Group.
- At a minimum, membership on the advisory committee would 1) be consistent with the membership interests represented on the Blanchard Strategies Group – a broad representation of interests (including a range of non-motorized, low-impact, recreational interests), and 2) include forest ecology expertise. The interests represented on the Strategies Group include Skagit County (representing beneficiaries' interests), the Friends of Blanchard Mountain, Backcountry Horsemen, Skagit County business and civic interests, Skagit Land Trust, Conservation Northwest, Skagit Forest Advisory Board, and timber/forest management expertise.
- Committee would operate on consensus basis.

## Implementation

- Blanchard Strategies Group will reach consensus on conceptual agreement
- DNR will work with parties to prepare a formal agreement, signed by the parties participating in the Blanchard Strategies Group.
  - Agreement will provide time horizon (5 years has been suggested) for all parties to support actions/strategies described in this document and the "Outline of Blanchard Forest Strategies Group Concepts" – i.e. maintain or increase timber supply in Skagit County, provide Skagit County Trust compensation, maintain or increase public and private working forests in Skagit and Whatcom County.
  - If milestones are not achieved within 5 years, agreement on Blanchard Forest will need to be revisited.
- DNR will collaborate with the Blanchard Forest Advisory Committee as part of its process to develop management strategies and plans that include Blanchard Forest.

- During initial five year implementation phase, DNR will conduct harvest in areas outside of the core zone consistent with the DNR sustainable harvest model (currently covering the period of 2004 to 2014) for the Skagit County State Forest Trust Lands. Based on that model, the annual area harvested on Blanchard Forest will average approximately 2% of the entire ownership (currently 4827 acres) in that area until such time that full compensation is secured and/or a new sustainable harvest level is calculated that places the core in long-term deferral status. DNR will review proposed harvests with the Blanchard Forest Advisory Committee and the community.
- In consultation with the Blanchard Forest Advisory Committee, the department will make changes in forest, ecosystem and recreational management strategies based on new information or changing circumstances.