

DNR's Management Objectives For Blanchard Forest

As trust manager for Blanchard Forest, DNR has developed management objectives that are guided by the department's Forest Resource Plan, adopted in 1992 by the Board of Natural Resources. The plan establishes policies that guide management of all state-owned trust forestlands. The plan is currently undergoing an update process and is now called the Policy for Sustainable Forests)

DNR is required to comply with numerous statutes, including the Omnibus Enabling Act of 1889, Multiple Use Act, Forest Practices Act, Shorelines Management Act, State Environmental Policy Act, and the Federal Endangered Species Act. DNR's forest activities also are guided by its Habitat Conservation Plan, a long-term multi-species plan to help protect threatened and endangered species on forested state trust lands, mostly on the west side of the state. The agreement was signed with the federal services in 1997. Blanchard is a part of the forested trust lands included in the recently completed calculation of sustainable harvest levels for western Washington.

While state law has made clear DNR's trust responsibilities to provide revenue, the law also has recognized the need to manage trust lands to balance other competing public interests. This requires DNR to manage trust lands, such as Blanchard Forest, in creative ways that include generation of trust revenues while providing for collateral benefits, such as appropriate recreation, protection of .

Management Objectives

Management of Blanchard forestlands will:

Generate revenue and other benefits for trust beneficiaries

Objective 1: Implement timber harvest levels that contribute to and are consistent with sustainable yields established by the Board of Natural Resources.

Objective 2: Consider other revenue generating mechanisms that are consistent with state forestland management.

Sustain a healthy and productive forest

Objective 1: Implement forest management activities that will maintain the health and viability of forest resources such as timber, soil, water and wildlife.

Objective 2: Protect and restore riparian and wetland habitat to sustain healthy native aquatic, wetland and riparian ecosystems.

Provide for the safety and enhance the quality of life of neighbors and visitors.

Objective 1: Allow and manage for dispersed, low impact non-motorized recreation.

Objective 2: Develop and maintain an access network of roads and trails that facilitates and is compatible with commercial forest management activities while providing public access.

Objective 3: Reduce the visual impact of forest management activities in high visibility areas.

Objective 4: Support stewardship education opportunities and partnerships that address community needs.

Objective 5: Ensure no significant risk to public health, safety and resources from forest management related mass-wasting events.

Objective 6: Identify and protect, where appropriate, significant historic, archaeological and cultural resources.