



March 2005

Open letter to
**Blanchard Forest Management Strategies
Public Meeting Participants**

Dear Participant:

Thank you for attending DNR's first Blanchard Forest Management Strategies public meeting on June 30, 2004, and for providing us with written comments and your address (regular and/or e-mail). We will continue to stay in contact with you as this project moves forward. It is our hope that you found the open house meeting to be beneficial.

Meeting results

As of the date of this letter, DNR has received more than 80 sets of comments, most of which were received during the June 30th public open house meeting with the rest received via e-mail or regular mail. Please continue to send DNR your comments during this early phase of the process. If possible, the best way to send DNR your comments is via e-mail to BlanchardForest@wadnr.gov. You also can send comments by postal mail to the address at the bottom of this letter.

Generally speaking, the comments reflected many of the benefits that Blanchard Forest currently provides and included numerous thoughts and suggestions as to what DNR could or should do to maintain, improve or protect those benefits. Not surprisingly, the comments exhibited a broad range of opinions. For example, most respondents commented on the issue of timber harvesting in the Blanchard Forest. The comments on this topic ranged from proposing that DNR cease all forms of timber harvest and adopt a preservation management scheme, to supporting current levels of harvesting or some level of reduced harvesting, to increasing the level of harvesting.

If you wish to do so, you may view the entire set of public comments at www.dnr.wa.gov, click on 'Blanchard' and then click on 'Open House June 30th Public Comments'. All of your comments will help DNR a great deal in this planning effort.

What happens next?

The next step will be for DNR to conduct another round of meetings with interest groups to discuss public comments. DNR will then draft a set of management strategies that will be sent out for public review. We will send copies of these strategies to you directly via e-mail or regular mail. Once the draft strategies are sent out for public review, DNR will conduct a second public meeting to receive comments on them. This second public meeting has not yet been scheduled but will most likely occur in late spring or early summer of this year. We plan to complete a final set of Blanchard Forest management strategies by late summer of this year.

As we mentioned in the information packet we handed out at the meeting, DNR's goal is to develop a set of management strategies for Blanchard Forest, which recognizes the opportunity to meet multiple objectives and benefits from state-owned lands - - including environmental, amenity as well as financial benefits to trust beneficiaries.

Should you have any questions please call me at 360-856-3500. If you have any additional comments, please use e-mail, if possible, and send them to BlanchardForest@wadnr.gov. If e-mail is not an option for you, send your comments to: DNR-Blanchard Forest, attn. Jim Cahill, 919 N. Township St., Sedro-Woolley, WA, 98284.

Thank you!