

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

### *Purpose of Checklist:*

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21 RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

### *Instructions for Applicants:*

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring the preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the question from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply". Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe the your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or to provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

### *Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:*

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (Part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

### A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

**Proposed Management Strategies for Blanchard State Forest**

2. Name of applicant:

**Washington State Department of Natural Resources**

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

**Contact:** Kristen Ohlson-Kiehn, DNR, Project Coordinator  
**Address:** 919 N. Township St., Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284  
**Phone:** 360-856-3500  
**Fax:** 360-856-2150  
**Email:** [BlanchardForest@wadnr.gov](mailto:BlanchardForest@wadnr.gov)

4. Date checklist prepared:

**April 27, 2007**

5. Agency requesting checklist:

**Washington State Department of Natural Resources**

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

**See Non-project Review Form, Part I, 1.d.**

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

**Upon completion of the proposal, the document will be used as a tool to guide future forest and recreation management activities in Blanchard Forest, as well as specific "on-the-ground" projects related to harvest layout and silvicultural activities. The plan will be evaluated and updated as necessary.**

**SEPA review will be conducted for any future site-specific project actions that require additional environmental review at the time the project is proposed.**

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

**See Non-project Review Form, Part I, No. 4 "Regulatory Framework", and 5 "Related Documentation."**

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

**There are no pending FPA approvals involving Blanchard Forest at this time.**

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

**None needed for the proposal.**

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agency may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

**See Non-project Review Form, Part I, No. 1 "Background."**

12. Location of proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographical map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any applications related to this checklist.

**The planning area covers 4,827 acres located in northwestern Skagit County adjacent to the southern boundary of Whatcom County. It is approximately 5 miles south of Bellingham and 10-12 miles northwest of Burlington and Mount Vernon. The eastern edge of Blanchard Forest is located approximately 1.5 miles from Interstate 5 while the Chuckanut Drive Scenic Roadway borders its western edge. Larrabee State Park lies to the north of the site, and is connected by a forest road.**

The legal description is as follows: Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 16, Township 36 N, Range 3 E, W.M., all within Skagit County, WA. See Attachment 1, Preliminary Map of Blanchard Forest Management Zones, for a map of Blanchard Forest.

**B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountains, other \_\_\_\_\_.

**Blanchard Forest can be described as mountainous. Forested areas in the landscape range in slope from flat (0%) on small benches, over a small percentage of the area, to 90% over a significant percentage of the area, particularly on the western slope of Blanchard Forest. Rock outcrops, which make up a majority of the forested acreage of the landscape, have slopes that range from 30-60. The highest point of Blanchard Forest is 2,300 feet elevation, with the majority of the surrounding lowlands generally under 500 feet in elevation.**

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

**The steepest forested slopes are approximately 90%. There are rock outcrops and cliffs with vertical to near vertical slopes.**

- c. What general types of soils (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

**Soils within the proposal area are generally gravelly loams or gravelly silt loams, 1 to 4 feet deep over bedrock or glacial till. Significant acreage of the following soils series (USDA Soil Survey of Skagit County Area 1989) are mapped within Blanchard Forest: Chuckanut, Squires, Montborne, Van Zandt, Rinker, Dystric Xerochrepts, and Andic Xerochrepts. Rock outcrops are common on slopes steeper than about 70 percent. Talus is found at the base of cliffs and in the Oyster Dome area.**

**Areas with 65 to 90 percent slopes typically are composed of Dystric Xerochrepts soils with interspersed rock outcrops. Dystric Xerochrepts soils were formed from colluvium primarily derived from glacial till and sandstone. The rock outcrops in these areas limit the area available for forest harvesting (USDA 1989).**

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

**Slope stability is a function of topographic relief, soil structure, ground moisture content and vegetational cover. Many of Blanchard Forest's slopes are steep especially along its western face, however few significant slides have been recorded.**

**The only known unstable slope area, which reportedly occurs as the result of natural rainfall conditions every 20-25 years, is upslope of Chuckanut Drive near Chuckanut Manor restaurant. The last significant slide occurred November 11, 1989 and impacted a business, residential property and the county road. The Department of Transportation periodically clears additional rock slides (slabs of sandstone) from Chuckanut Drive, north of Oyster Creek.**

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

**This is a management strategy non-project proposal and contains no specific recommendations for filling or grading. Any future site-specific project actions that require environmental review will be addressed at the time the project is being proposed.**

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

**Erosion is not anticipated based on the management actions outlined within the proposal. Issues related to erosion, such as road construction and abandonment, and yarding timber, are expected to be minimal and measures to mitigate any potential erosion will be part of site-specific proposals.**

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

**There are an estimated 19 miles of active forest roads within Blanchard Forest. No additional roads will be constructed as a direct result of this non-project proposal. However, future forest resource management will likely include new permanent forest road construction in areas outside the "core zone" to allow for activities such as timber harvesting, reforestation and other silvicultural activities. Some existing roads may also be abandoned (removed from active use) according to Forest Practices Rules and Regulation standards to reduce maintenance costs and to protect public resources.**

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

**This proposal by itself will not result in the need for erosion control measures. However, existing and future activity supported by this non-project proposal, such as recreation and timber harvesting, may require erosion control measures during routine construction and maintenance activities. All erosion control measures will comply with all applicable standards and regulations.**

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from this proposal (i.e. dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

**No additional emissions will occur as a direct result from this non-project proposal. However, existing emissions include minor amounts of equipment exhaust and road dust created by vehicle traffic and logging machinery. The most likely area of increased emissions will be from vehicle use from the visiting public traveling to and from the area. Recreation use on Blanchard Forest is non-motorized.**

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

**No.**

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

**None.**

3. Water

- a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

**Many surface water bodies exist or flow within the proposal area. The largest year-round streams located within the proposal area include Oyster Creek, which carries water from the adjacent Chuckanut Mountain to Pigeon Point through a series of meanders and small cascades and Whitehall Creek, located in the southern portion of the proposal area. Some streams within the proposal area flow easterly into Bear Creek, located north of the northern boundary of the ownership block, which then flows into Friday Creek that extends to the Samish River. Other streams flow directly into Samish Bay. A few streams flow down the eastern slopes of Blanchard Forest into Colony Creek that flows directly into Samish Bay.**

Surface water bodies also include two small lakes (Lily and Lizard), vernal pools, ponds and forested and non-forested wetlands surrounding Lily and Lizard Lakes and along the edges of Oyster Creek.

The largest wetlands in Blanchard Forest are associated with Lily and Lizard Lakes, which are about 10 acres total located near the top of Blanchard Mountain. A small amount (estimated to be less than 30 acres) of forested wetlands also are present along the edges of Oyster Creek and at some small sites adjoining other streams in the area.

Samish Bay contains approximately 1,100 acres of salt-water mudflats farmed for commercial shellfish production, primarily Pacific oysters and Manila clams. Recreation shell fish harvest also occurs in portions of the bay.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

**This is a non-project proposal for a set of management strategies that will provide guidance for future forest and recreation management activities in Blanchard Forest. The strategies do not recommend specific work over or adjacent to the described waters. However, harvest layout and silvicultural activities will infrequently occur over, in or adjacent to the described waters, and in such cases project design will comply with DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) procedures, all Forest Practices Rules and Regulations, as well as guidance from the Blanchard Forest Strategy consensus recommendations (the subject proposal), and other policies listed in the Non-Project Review Form, Part 1, numbers 4 and 5. In addition, any future site-specific project actions will go through appropriate environmental review, including permit review and additional SEPA review, if required, at the time a project is proposed.**

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of the fill material.

**This proposal will not result in filling or removing fill material from any water bodies. Future site-specific project actions, the most likely being related to forest road construction, may require fill material to be placed in wetlands or riparian areas at crossing points. These projects will go through the appropriate environmental review, including permit review and additional SEPA review if required.**

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

**This is a non-project proposal and will not require surface water withdrawals or diversions – nor are any planned. However, any future site-specific project actions that would require surface water diversions or withdrawals will go through the environmental review and permit process.**

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100 year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

**Some existing trails and camp sites lie within the 100-year flood plain of flowing waters. Site-specific projects that require actions within these flood plains will go through the environmental review and permit processes if required.**

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

**This is a non-project proposal. There are no anticipated projects that would require discharge of waste materials to surface water.**

b. Ground:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description,

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- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

**This is a non-project proposal and will not require withdrawing or discharging water to groundwater.**

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals . . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number such systems, the number of houses to be served ( if applicable), or the number animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

**No waste material will be discharged into the ground as a result of this proposal.**

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

**This is a non-project proposal. This proposal will not create a source for runoff nor does it recommend a method of collection or disposal. However, anticipated future projects, particularly road construction, are expected to generate run off. These future site-specific project actions will be evaluated separately.**

- 2) Could waste material enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

**No. It is not likely that management activities on Blanchard will cause waste material to enter the ground water. Future specific project proposals that could have a potential to effect ground or surface water will be evaluated separately.**

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

**This is a non-project proposal and will not result in surface, ground or runoff water impacts. However, future site-specific project actions will be evaluated separately. For example, such actions may include the following measures to control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts:**

- **Channel water through ditches and from culverts emptying out onto the forest floor which may increase surface saturation in localized areas, but would not be expected to affect ground water,**
- **Collect storm water runoff generated during and after future site-specific project actions by landings, road surfaces and ditches and then divert it through cross drain culverts onto the forest floor. Culverts will be placed to minimize the amount of ditch water entering existing streams.**
- **Limit road construction, reconstruction, inactivation, or abandonment during the winter wet season. These timing restrictions may be relaxed during periods of unseasonably dry weather if the operator formulates an adequate plan to prevent erosion into surface waters.**
- **Stabilize any soils that are exposed by road work with straw bales or revegetation.**
- **On newly constructed roads or trails, cross-drain culverts will be adequate in size and frequency to prevent concentration of road runoff to the extent that it would cause gulying of hillsides. Cross drain culverts will minimize the amount of ditch water that flows into surface waters. Stream-crossing culverts will be sized to withstand 100-year flood events. Rip-rap will be utilized at all culvert inlets and outlets to prevent erosion at these vulnerable points.**

4. Plants

- a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

deciduous tree: Red alder, Big Leaf Maple, Aspen, Cherry, Black Cottonwood, Pacific Madrone.

evergreen tree: Douglas Fir, Grand Fir, Western Hemlock, Western Red Cedar, White Pine, Sitka Spruce.

- shrubs: huckleberry, salmonberry, Oregon grape, devil's club
- grass
- pasture
- crop or grain
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation: sword fern, other types of fern and salal

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

**This is a non-project proposal for a set of management strategies, therefore there are no activities in the proposal that would directly result in the removal or altering of vegetation. However, Blanchard Forest is a working commercial forest and the management strategies as drafted support timber management for revenue to the trust beneficiaries in areas outside the core zone; and within the core zone, ecologically-based thinning is also supported by the proposal. In both cases the vegetation will be altered by the cutting and removal of trees. Future site-specific project actions that require SEPA environmental review will address work at the time the project is proposed.**

- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

**None known.**

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

**All site specific activities guided by this proposed set of strategies will comply with the DNR's (HCP) procedures, all Forest Practices Rules and Regulations, as well as other policies listed in A. 8. In addition, any future site-specific project actions will undergo additional environmental review when the project is being proposed – including SEPA where applicable.**

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

**Approximately 227 vertebrate species have been identified in Blanchard Forest, including: 16 fish; 10 amphibians; 6 reptiles; 150 birds; 45 mammals; and 198 moth and butterfly species. For the most recent biological assessment, see "Blanchard Mountain Assessment" prepared by Resources Northwest Consultants (1999), which is available at NW region office or at [http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/agency/blanchard/pdf/blanch\\_mt\\_assessmt\\_doc.pdf](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/agency/blanchard/pdf/blanch_mt_assessmt_doc.pdf).**

birds: hawk, heron, Bald eagle, songbirds, other: See Resources Northwest (1999)

mammals: deer, bear, beaver, bobcat other: See Resources Northwest (1999)

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: See Resources Northwest (1999)

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

**As of April 4, 2007, bald eagle and marbled murrelet are listed as federal and state threatened species. Chum salmon are federally threatened and a species of concern within the state of Washington. Puget Sound Chinook are listed as threatened and endangered and Coho are listed as a federal species of concern. Friday Creek is known to support a fall run of Chinook salmon. Puget Sound steelhead are currently being considered for listing. Friday Creek, Colony Creek, and Oyster Creek are known to support winter runs of steelheads.**

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

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All of Washington State is considered part of the Pacific Flyway migration route. Salmonids migrate up waterways in Blanchard Forest to spawn. See Attachment A, page 20, habitat for fish.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

**The proposed "core zone" will be managed with the objective of enhancing habitat conditions for wildlife species that live in older forest conditions.**

**All site-specific activities guided by this proposed set of strategies will comply with the DNR's (HCP) procedures, all Forest Practices Rules and Regulations, pages 35 and 36 in Policy for Sustainable Forests (December 2006) as well as other policies listed in the Non-Project Review Form, Part 1, numbers 4 and 5. In addition, any future site-specific project actions will undergo SEPA environmental review if appropriate when a project is proposed.**

6. Energy and Natural Resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electrical, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

**None, does not apply. This is a non-project proposal.**

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

**No.**

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

**None.**

7. Environmental Health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

**None. This is a non-project proposal.**

- 1) Describe any emergency services that might be required.

**Emergency services at the time of any future site-specific projects might include fire and medical response or the dispatch of a hazardous materials team in the event of an illegal chemical dump.**

- 2) Propose measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

**None. This is a non-project proposal. However, all local and state laws, rules and regulations for environmental health would apply in all cases.**

- b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

**None.**

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

**None. This is a non-project proposal. However, Blanchard Forest has and will continue to be a working commercial forest. Typically this means noise from log trucks and logging equipment will be present in site specific projects during daylight hours.**

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

**None.**

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

**The proposal area is currently managed for long-term forestry. Recreation has co-existed within the proposal area for many years. There are limited private in-holdings within the Blanchard Forest area. Along the outer boundaries of the forest, adjacent properties are privately owned, single family housing developments, industrial and secondary forest parcels, and a state park.**

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

**No.**

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

**Facilities: DNR-managed land in Blanchard Forest offers two campgrounds with nine sites total, two trailheads, and one heavily used day-use area. These facilities include structures that support recreation related-activities such as toilets, signs, trail bridges and other trail-related structures. Adjacent to state trust lands there are parks and recreation facilities that serve the surrounding community. These include Larrabee State Park and the Inter Urban Trail System.**

- d. Will any structures be demolished? if so, what?

**No.**

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

**Industrial Forest and Secondary Forest.**

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

**Industrial Forest and Secondary Forest.**

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

**The boundaries in the southwestern part of the ownership border Puget Sound, making those areas below the Ordinary High Water Mark subject to the Shoreline Management Act. However, no project actions are proposed within those areas.**

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

**This is a non-project proposal. Forest Practices Rules, other state agencies, DNR policies, federal laws, and sometimes public SEPA review are used to assess project site sensitivity at the time of forest land project proposals. See also the description of the existing environment in Attachment A.**

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

**None. This is a non-project proposal. However this will remain largely a working forest. The number of workers for future project proposals will vary, but is not likely to increase.**

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None.

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None necessary.

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

**This proposed set of strategies meets the terms of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources Habitat Conservation Plan, dated September 1997 and Policy for Sustainable Forests, December 2006. In addition, a representative for Skagit County government has participated on the Blanchard Forest Strategies Group which produced the consensus recommendations that are the subject of the non-project proposal. This proposal is consistent with Skagit County's Comprehensive Plan. See also the description of this proposal in the Non-project Review Form description of the background, planning process, need and objectives including legal mandates, regulatory framework, and the public involvement process.**

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle or low-income housing.

Not applicable.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not applicable.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

**This is a proposal for a set of management strategies and no specific structures are being constructed with this proposal.**

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

**No structures are proposed that would alter or obstruct views.**

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

**The management strategies will include provisions for forest management in areas of high visual sensitivity (see Attached 1 map entitled "Preliminary Map of Blanchard Forest Management Zones"). Management practices are site-specific and will be addressed on a case-by-case basis through the timber sale review process. All visual sensitivity management practices will be consistent with the Board of Natural Resources new Policy for Sustainable Forests.**

11. Light and Glare

- a. What kind of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

None.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None needed.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreation opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

**Current recreational use in Blanchard Forest is comprised of a combination of formal and informal use. Two campgrounds are located in Blanchard Forest and are open to overnight use, as are all of the trust lands. There are two DNR-maintained trails that are opened to non-motorized, multiple use traffic (i.e., hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers). In addition to the two DNR trails, there is an extensive user built trail system including a length of the Pacific Northwest Trail. The Samish Overlook is closed from 1hr past sunset to 1hr before sunrise. Typical activities are hiking, hunting, mountain biking, horseback riding, hang gliding and paragliding, mushroom and berry picking.**

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

**No. Blanchard Forest has a history of non-motorized recreation use that will continue. Off-road vehicle use has not been allowed on the trail systems at Blanchard due to incompatibility with non-motorized users. Hunting will still be allowed on Blanchard Forest consistent with Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife hunting regulations.**

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreational opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

**An important element of this proposal is to support and encourage recreational use that is compatible with a working forest and with environmental protection.**

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

No.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

No.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

**This non-project proposal and will not reduce DNR protection of any areas of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance. The 2006 BNR policy for protection of cultural resources in the 2006 PSF will be followed.**

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans if any.

**There are 24 miles of active and orphaned forest roads on Blanchard Forest. Orphaned roads are roads or railroad grades that have not been used for forest practices activities after 1974. Many of these roads are overgrown or closed off, but have not satisfied the abandonment process. The road density of active roads is 2.5 miles per square mile. These roads are sufficient for conventional harvest of about 25 percent of Blanchard Forest. Road density is provided for comparison in this document only. Other geographic areas will have different ideal road densities, due to different terrain or concentration of environmentally sensitive features. See Attachment 1, "Preliminary Map of Blanchard Forest Management Zones" of some of the major road network elements, including county roads and highways that access the forest.**

**Roads on DNR-managed land often continue onto private ownership. Neighboring landowners may also contribute to traffic on DNR-managed roads. Legal easements govern the use of these shared roads.**

**Traffic generally consists of trucks hauling logs and rock. Roads that access any future communication sites or other utilities may be frequently used for maintenance of those facilities. A number of forest roads on Blanchard Forest are used heavily by the driving public for sightseeing and access to recreation sites.**

**The forest road network joins with public streets at Barrel Springs Road – which is in close proximity to Interstate 5.**

**The level of traffic on a particular road varies, depending on where forest management activity is occurring. This traffic is also seasonal in nature, with more truck trips occurring during drier weather.**

**There are two DNR-maintained trails that are opened to non-motorized, multiple use traffic (i.e., hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikers). In addition to the two DNR trails, there is an extensive user built trail system including a length of the Pacific Northwest Trail. According to DNR's GIS data, there are approximately 12 total miles of trails in Blanchard Forest.**

- b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

**No.**

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

**Parking for recreational use is currently available at all existing trailhead facilities within the Blanchard Forest. This is a proposal for a set of management strategies; site-specific project actions that require environmental review will be addressed during specific project proposals.**

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

**This is a non-project proposal, site-specific project actions that require environmental review will be addressed during specific project proposals. No new road construction is identified as part of this proposal. However, Blanchard Forest is a working commercial forest and it is expected that future project proposals will include both new forest road construction and road abandonment.**

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

**This is not a project proposal. Forest uses are not anticipated to change greatly based on this non-project forest strategy. Vehicular trips will be assessed when SEPA review is needed at the time of specific project proposals. It is estimated that 35,000 to 50,000 users visit Blanchard Forest each year. Peak periods are typically early spring through early winter. These visitors access the forest from several different county roads and highways.**

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

**None.**

15. Public Services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

**No.**

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

**Does not apply.**

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

**None.**

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

**None.**

Date: 4/27/2007

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Kristen Olson-Kielin

Title: Blanchard Forest Coordinator

Date: 4/27/07

#### D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(Do not use this sheet for project action)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

**\*\*Note to reader: Attached to this Environmental Checklist is a Non-project Review Form (NPRF) prepared by DNR for this proposal. This form contains supplemental information that goes into more detail about the elements of the environment and provides more background information about the Blanchard Forest Strategy consensus recommendations that are the subject of this nonproject proposal.**

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

**See Non Project Review Form, question 9.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

**See Non Project Review Form, question 9.**

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish or marine life?

**In terms of “affected environment” this proposal can be described as having two main geographic components: the 1,600 acre “core zone”, and the remaining 3200 acres outside the “core zone”.**

**Within the “core zone” any proposed management activity affecting the environment will be subject to compliance with the “Proposed Management Strategies for Blanchard Forest State Trust Lands” (see the Project Description in the Environmental Checklist) where the emphasis is on enhancing older forest conditions for the benefit of wildlife habitat, and to provide a “wilderness” experience for the visiting public. Therefore it is not expected that the environment will be affected in a negative or degrading manner. It is likely that there will be more protection for plants animals and fish species and their habitat in the core zone than is currently required. However, any management activities proposed will undergo environmental review in compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act.**

**Management activity on the 3,200 acres of forest land outside the “core zone” will be managed consistent with the “Proposed Management Strategies for Blanchard Forest State Trust Lands”, and DNR’s Habitat Conservation Plan, Forest Practices Rules and Regulations, and Board of Natural Resources adopted Policy for Sustainable Forests (2006). Any management activity proposed will undergo environmental review in compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act.**

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

**The proposal will not result in a depletion of energy or natural resources.**

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

**Does not apply.**

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designed (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection: such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

**This nonproject proposal will not reduce protection for environmentally sensitive or governmentally protected areas within Blanchard Forest. Any management activity proposed will undergo environmental review in compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act.**

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

**All activity will continue to be subject to DNR's HCP, Board of Natural Resources' Policy for Sustainable Forests (2006), Forest Practices Rules and Regulations and all other applicable federal and state laws and rules, in addition to the Blanchard Forest Strategy.**

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

**This proposal would not change any land or shoreline uses. See Part B.8.g. for shoreline designation. Also see answer to question 4.a. "Regulatory Framework" in the attached Non-Project Review form for more information on the Shoreline Management Act.**

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

**No change, does not apply.**

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

**This proposal in itself will not result in an increase in demand on existing transportation, or public services and utilities. Further environmental analysis will be conducted when any future site-specific road, parking, trail, or other transportation related proposals that implement this new strategy in the Blanchard Forest require project-phase SEPA review.**

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

**None at this time.**

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal is in conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

**There are no known conflicts with other state, county or federal laws or requirements. This proposal only addresses the Blanchard Forest trust land under the management of the Department of Natural Resources. See NPRF attachment, Part I, section 4 for regulatory framework.**