

## DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

### Description of proposal:

The proposal, entitled "Proposed Strategies for Management of Blanchard Forest State Trust Lands", represents a set of strategies that will provide guidance to the Washington Department of Natural Resources for balancing environmental, social and economic values in the management of Blanchard Forest. The proposal is based on a set of consensus recommendations made by a ten-person group, called the Blanchard Forest Strategies group, which was appointed by the Commissioner of Public Lands, Doug Sutherland.

The proposal is intended to be implemented within the existing policy and regulatory framework that the Department of Natural Resources currently operates for all state forest trust lands. This framework includes all state and federal laws, including Washington State Forest Practices Rules and Regulations, Board of Natural Resources' adopted Policy for Sustainable Forests (1996), and DNR's Habitat Conservation Plan (1997).

**Proponent:** Northwest Region, Department of Natural Resources

### Location of proposal, including street address, if any:

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.

### Lead agency:

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21c.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.


There is no comment period for this DNS

This DNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from April 30, 2007. Comments must be submitted by May 16, 2007.

**Responsible official:** William J. Wallace

**Position/Title:** Northwest Region Manager **Phone:** 360-856-3500

**Address:** 919 North Township Street, Sedro-Woolley, Washington 98284

**Date:** April 27, 2007 **Signature:** 

There is no agency SEPA appeal.