



Blanchard Working Forest

Washington Department of Natural Resources has an urgent need for \$7.7 million to complete implementation of the Blanchard Forest Strategy

Blanchard Forest is a 4,800-acre forest in Skagit County managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It is located on the southern end of the Chuckanut Range, north of the City of Burlington. The forest is state trust land that DNR manages to generate revenue to support Skagit County, Medic One, the Port of Skagit, and United General Hospital as well as the Burlington-Edison School District.

Blanchard Forest is a popular recreation destination with numerous values as conservation land. The mountain stands out in the landscape and includes prominent steep cliffs, such as the Oyster Dome. This coastal forest provides important wildlife habitat and includes wetlands, caves, and streams as well as Lily and Lizard lakes. Within the woods there are trails for hiking and horseback riding, paragliding opportunities, campgrounds, and mountain vistas with views across Puget Sound.

What is the Blanchard Forest Strategy?

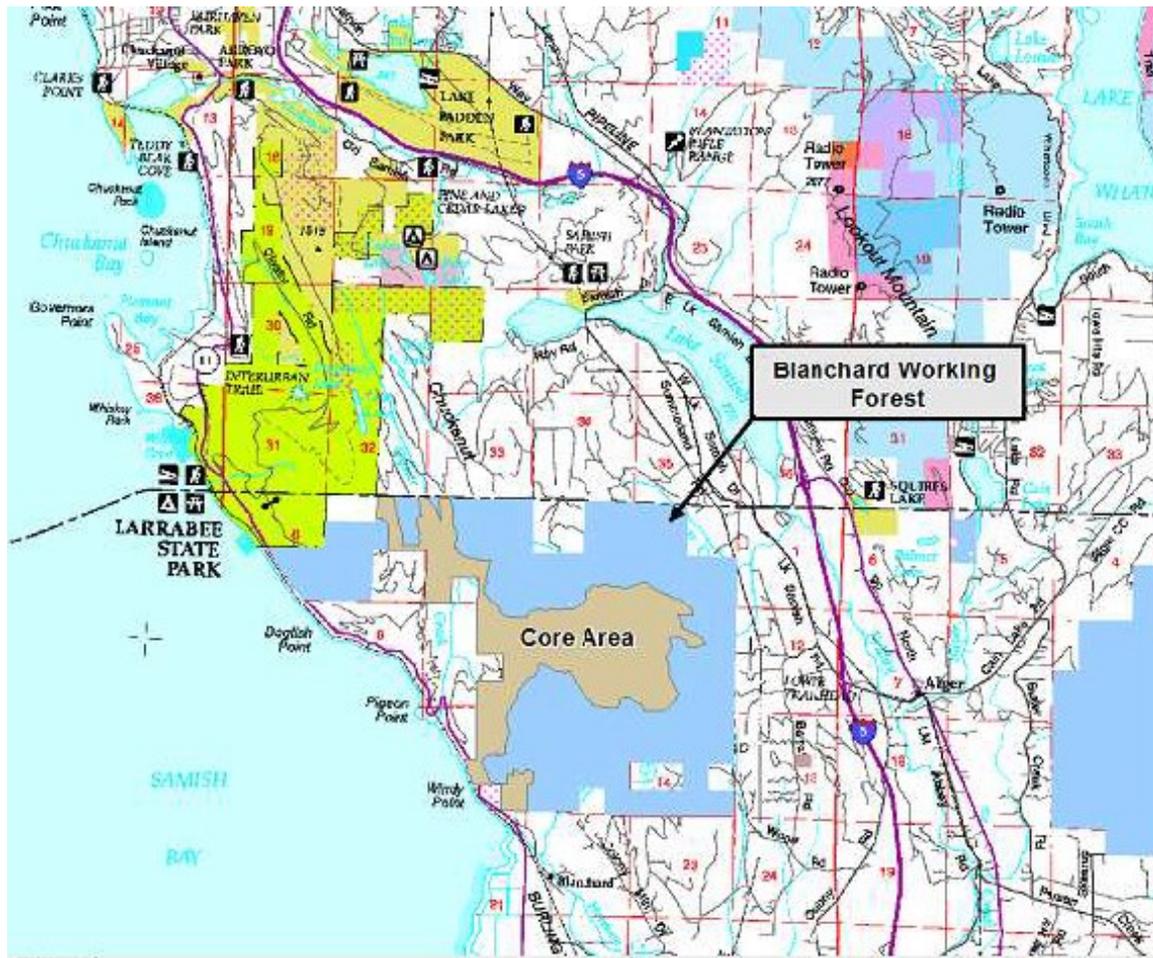
The Blanchard Forest Strategy is a signed agreement between DNR, trust land beneficiaries and a diverse group of stakeholders that identifies the principles and objectives for managing Blanchard Forest. The Strategy is the outcome of years of discussions, negotiations and planning by DNR, Skagit County, Backcountry Horseman of Washington, Skagit Land Trust, industrial forest managers, Friends of Blanchard, Washington State Parks, Pacific Northwest Trail Association, Conservation Northwest, and community members.

The Strategy identifies a 1,600-acre core zone within the forest. The core zone would be placed into conservation status and no longer used to generate revenue for the beneficiaries. However, to implement this part of the Strategy DNR needs the means to purchase replacement lands for the core zone. These replacement lands would then be used to generate revenue for the beneficiaries.

Why is this funding request urgent?

The timeframe for funding the Strategy just expired! To date, the legislature has supported Blanchard with \$6.5 million; however, an additional \$7.7 million is needed to complete the purchases of core zone replacement lands. If DNR does not receive this funding now, the integrity of the agreement will be gone and the Strategy will no longer be implementable. Years of partnership and the shared vision for the forest will be lost. DNR is committed to implement the Strategy but will not be able to do so without the remaining \$7.7 million from the legislature.

Blanchard Working Forest Strategy Core Management Zone



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