



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
U.S. Department  
of the Interior

www.doi.gov

# Media Advisory

Date: February 16, 2012

Contact: Adam Fetcher (DOI) 202-208-6416

Jared Leopold (Sen. Cantwell) 202-224-8277

202-340-6390

## Secretary Salazar to Visit Washington State, Host Town Hall on Future of San Juan Islands with Senator Cantwell

ANACORTES, WA—On Saturday, Feb. 18, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell will host a town hall meeting in Anacortes to hear about the ongoing progress to conserve and protect the San Juan Islands. The visit marks Salazar's third time to the area, showcasing the importance of engaging in a dialogue to learn how the Department can be a better partner in supporting community-driven conservation efforts, a key component in President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative.

Located between the mainland of northwestern Washington and Canada's Vancouver Island, the proposed San Juan Islands National Conservation Area (NCA) was identified as one of [18 backcountry areas](#) Interior highlighted as deserving protection by Congress as national conservation areas or wilderness areas. The area includes public land on dozens of islands within the San Juan Archipelago and attracts large numbers of visitors each year due to the islands' unique cultural and natural resources.

**WHO:** Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior  
Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senator

**WHAT:** San Juan Islands Town Hall Meeting

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 18, 2012  
11:00 a.m. PDT

**WHERE:** Anacortes Senior Center  
1701 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Anacortes, WA 98221

###