

CULTURAL RESOURCES

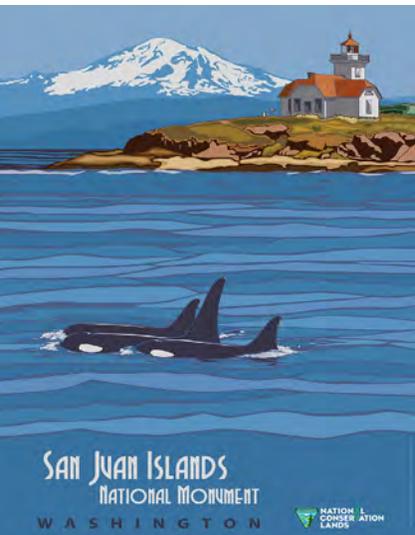
San Juan Islands National Monument RMP



CULTURAL RESOURCES AND THE PLANNING PROCESS

The San Juan Islands National Monument contains a variety of cultural resources, including archaeological sites, historic lighthouses, and areas of important spiritual and cultural use. Cultural resources are identified, evaluated, and protected to conserve their significant cultural, scientific, educational, traditional, and recreational values for present and future generations.

Through the planning process, the BLM will identify the objectives and management direction that will guide its stewardship of these important resources over the next 15 to 20 years. This will include exploring different management approaches that would be responsive to the types of planning issues described below. We're requesting your help to identify additional planning issues, as well as management approaches that you believe should be considered to address these issues. (More information on reverse side.)



PRELIMINARY PLANNING ISSUES

- How should cultural resources, including traditional cultural properties, be protected and preserved, while allowing for appropriate information/education efforts and use?
- Are any additional special designations necessary to support and enhance the protection and interpretation of these resources?
- What management measures are needed to ensure traditional use of sacred sites or properties of traditional religious or cultural importance to Native American Tribes may continue?
- What is the appropriate balance between visitation, access, and preservation of cultural resources?
- What additional plans should be implemented to enhance the protection, interpretation, and use of these resources?

WHAT IS THE SAN JUAN ISLANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT RMP?

The Bureau of Land Management is developing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the San Juan Islands National Monument which will guide the management of these spectacular lands in a manner that ensures the protection of their remarkable cultural, historic, and ecological values for the benefit of generations of Americans to come.

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Cultural Resources in the San Juan Islands National Monument

Cultural resources include objects and locations associated with human activity, occupation, or use. Examples include archaeological, historic, and architectural sites, buildings, and structures, as well as places with historical or cultural values and uses, including locations of traditional cultural or religious importance to specific social or cultural groups. Cultural resources are managed according to their relative importance, to protect historically and culturally significant cultural resources from inadvertent loss, destruction, or impairment, and to encourage and accommodate the appropriate uses of these resources through planning and public participation.

Archaeological sites and resources identified within the San Juan Islands National Monument include shell middens, rock features, rock shelters, campsites, burials, and areas associated with resource use and processing. Historic properties within the National Monument include buildings and structures associated with Aids to Navigation, early 20th Century occupation, and roads and trails. Prominent historic properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places include Turn Point Light Station on Stuart Island, and Patos Island Light Station on Patos Island. Partnerships with nonprofit volunteer organizations, including the Turn Point Lighthouse Preservation Society and Keepers of the Patos Light, have been instrumental in ongoing maintenance and care of these historic facilities. In addition, properties of traditional religious or cultural importance to Native American tribes are located within the National Monument where traditional or customary activities may continue to be carried out.

How Does the Proclamation Address this Resource or Use?

The proclamation identified the area's historic and cultural values as among the objects for which the National Monument was established and requires the BLM to develop a land use plan for the purposes of protecting and restoring these objects. Furthermore, the proclamation states that the Secretary shall, in consultation with Indian tribes, ensure the protection of religious and cultural sites in the monument and provide access to the sites by members of Indian tribes for traditional cultural and customary uses, consistent with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (42 U.S.C. 1996) and Executive Order 13007 of May 24, 1996 (Indian Sacred Sites).

How Does this Resource or Use Fit Into the Planning Process?

Through the planning effort, the BLM will determine how important cultural resources including historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest situated within the National Monument will be managed for the next 15 to 20 years. It will also identify potential impacts to those important cultural and historical resources that would be caused by the range of management approaches considered in the planning process.