

# FORESTS AND WOODLANDS

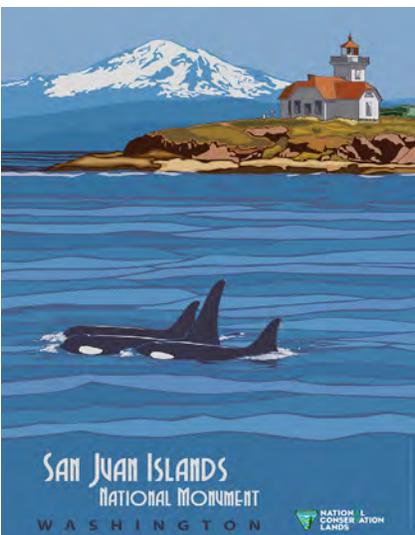
## *San Juan Islands National Monument RMP*



### **FORESTS AND WOODLANDS AND THE PLANNING PROCESS**

The San Juan Islands National Monument consists of approximately 1,000 acres, of which roughly 760 consist of forests and woodlands (78% of the monument). The northernmost islands, and north slopes and draws on the southern islands, are covered by moist, closed-canopy forests containing western red cedar, grand fir, and Douglas fir. As one travels south, the forests consist of more open and dry woodlands and grasslands. The dry woodlands are dominated by Douglas fir, lodgepole pine (shore pine), Pacific madrone, and Oregon oak. The dry site communities of grasslands oak-savannahs and dry woodlands are quite unusual in the otherwise wet Pacific Northwest.

Through the planning process, the BLM will determine how and whether to protect and manage forests and woodlands over the next 15 to 20 years. This will include exploring different management approaches that could respond to the types of planning issues described below. We want your help in expanding and/or refining these issues (More information on reverse side.)



### **PRELIMINARY PLANNING ISSUES**

- What types of management is needed to protect and restore forests and woodlands in a healthy and resilient state?
- What types of management should be considered to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire?
- What role should fire management play in the monument to preserve and restore forests and woodlands that were previously maintained through periodic burning by the Native Americans and/or early settlers, and from natural ignitions?
- What types of management should be considered to reduce the negative impacts from wildland fires?

### **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.

### **CONTACT US**



San Juan Islands National Monument  
BLM, Lopez Island Office  
P.O. Box 3  
Lopez, WA 98261  
mdechade@blm.gov

### **NEWS & UPDATES**

Scan our QR Code or visit us at:  
[www.blm.gov/SanJuanIslandsNM/RMP](http://www.blm.gov/SanJuanIslandsNM/RMP)  
Or send us an email to:  
[blm\\_or\\_sanjuanislandsnm@blm.gov](mailto:blm_or_sanjuanislandsnm@blm.gov)



## **Forests and Woodlands and the San Juan Islands National Monument**

The variable geology, soils, topography, and climate contribute to the large diversity of forests found within the San Juan Islands National Monument. Precipitation and disturbance regimes (historic fire frequency) on the southern islands are strikingly similar to sites on the east side of the Cascade Range, while the northern islands are similar to sites west of the Cascade Range.

The monument's drier areas are often relatively open and located on steep, rocky south-facing slopes. The understory of these drier sites is mostly grasses and forbs. Open grasslands are diminishing due to the invasion of trees into these areas. As the conifer canopy closes in, grass and shrub cover declines.

Forests classified as North Pacific Maritime Dry-Mesic Douglas-fir-Western Hemlock Forest are the most extensive forest type on BLM lands in the San Juan Islands, occurring at Point Colville, Chadwick Hill, Iceberg Point, Kellett Bluff, Turn Point, and Patos Island. Although the acreage managed by BLM is small, it includes old growth forest stands on Patos Island, Iceberg Point, and Chadwick Hill/Point Colville.

On the southern San Juan Islands, moist forests occur only in draws on Lopez Island where precipitation is 17+ inches; moist forests are more extensive on Patos and Little Patos Islands due to precipitation levels of up to 29 inches. Soils are usually deeper than in drier areas, and are able to support a heavier forest cover. Moist forests often lack understory vegetation due to the heavy overstory cover. These sites are usually productive and protected from wind and salt spray.

### **How does the Proclamation Address this Resource or Use?**

Forests and woodlands are among the diverse San Juan Island habitats that are identified for protection under the proclamation. For the purposes of protecting and restoring these resources, the BLM shall prepare and maintain a management plan for the monument.

### **How does this Resource or use fit into the planning process?**

Through the planning effort, the BLM will determine how the identified lands with forests and woodlands will be managed for the next 15 to 20 years. It will also document any impacts to forests and woodlands that would be caused by any range of management approaches it considers in the planning process.