

# VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

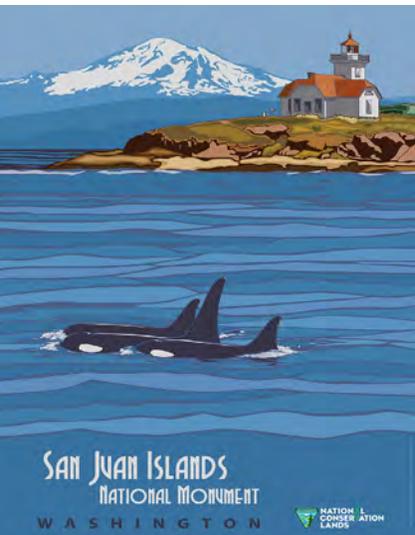
## *San Juan Islands National Monument RMP*



### **VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND THE PLANNING PROCESS**

The San Juan Islands offer a stunning visual display of a natural setting complemented by the surrounding Salish Sea. Likewise, the San Juan Islands National Monument, with its extremely limited development of shoreline areas, provides visitors by both land and sea a visual experience found nowhere else in the world.

Through the planning process, the BLM will determine how best to manage visual resources within the National Monument 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**

- How will the BLM utilize visual resource management to protect the objects and values identified in the proclamation?
- How will the BLM otherwise manage visual resources within the monument?"

### **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**



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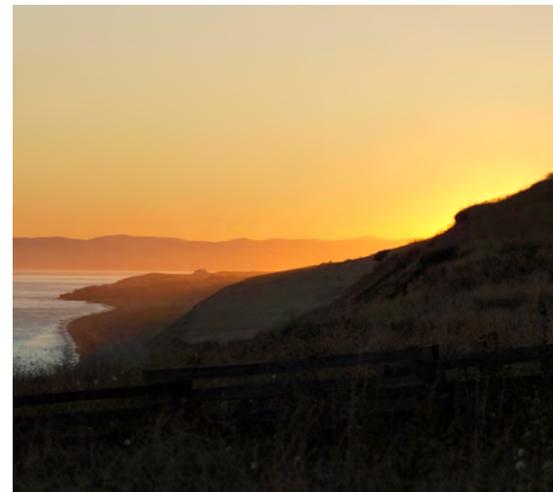
### **NEWS & UPDATES**

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)



## **Visual Resource Management and the San Juan Islands**

As noted on the reverse, the San Juan Islands National Monument is home to extraordinary scenic values. A Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) was completed as a component of Resource Management Planning for the Eastern Washington and San Juan Islands in the fall of 2010. The BLM locally contracted out the VRI. This required field-level participation as the selected contractor proceeded through the inventory process. This effort established the VRI classification for the BLM lands in the San Juan Archipelago.

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

The proclamation does not directly address visual resources. It is likely, however, that management that protects and restores the values identified in the proclamation will often be compatible with a high level of protection of visual resources within the monument. In some cases, decisions made to enhance or restore the monument's objects and values may have short-term impacts on visual resources.

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

Through the planning effort, the BLM will designate Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes for lands within the monument. These VRM classes define the extent to which visual resources may be modified by management actions. In setting these classes, the BLM considers the area's visual values and how they might be affected by other management priorities and desired outcomes. These VRM Classes establish the following management objectives:

- **Class I Objective:** To preserve the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.
- **Class II Objective:** To retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low.
- **Class III Objective:** To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate.
- **Class IV Objective:** To provide for management activities that may involve major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high.