

**San Juan Islands National Monument
Resource Advisory Committee (RAC)
Call for Nominations Q & A**

What's happening? What is the "Call for Nominations?"

The BLM is currently recruiting members for the San Juan Islands National Monument's Resource Advisory Committee (RAC).

On March 25, 2013, President Obama signed a Proclamation to designate the San Juan Islands National Monument. The Proclamation included a requirement to establish a resource advisory committee to advise the BLM on development of the resource management plan. A notice has been published in the Federal Register announcing the establishment of the RAC. The call for nominations is the official recruitment period for participants. Submissions must be received by March 24, 2014.

Who can apply?

Applicants must be residents of Washington State. Members of the RAC represent certain interests, groups, or the public at large. The makeup of the RAC is designed to reflect the resources and values identified in the Presidential Proclamation.

Nominations are being accepted for:

- two members representing recreation and tourism interests,
- two members representing wildlife and ecological interests,
- two members representing cultural and heritage interests,
- two public-at-large members,
- one member representing tribal interests,
- one member representing local government, one member representing education and interpretation interests, and
- one member representing private landowners.

What is a resource advisory committee?

The Department of the Interior (DOI) established resource advisory councils in 1995 as a forum for local citizens to provide advice and recommendations to DOI on management of the public lands. Each RAC is comprised of local residents who represent a variety of backgrounds but share an interest in the public lands.

How do I apply? What's the process?

Nominees must submit an application and at least one letter of recommendation. Applications are available online here: www.blm.gov/or/rac/sanjuanac.php. Or call: 509-536-1200. Or visit BLM's Lopez Island Office.

What is the commitment of a RAC member?

The commitment to service varies depending on the purpose of the RAC. The San Juan Islands RAC will work with the BLM during the development of the National Monument's resource management plan. RACs typically meet two to four times a year. RAC members are typically appointed to three-year terms though initial members on newly established RACs may be appointed to staggered one-, two-, and three-year terms to avoid having all RAC members' terms expire at the same time. RAC members may reapply to serve after their term expires.

When's the deadline?

The call for nominations is open for 45 days and will end on *March 24, 2014*. Signed applications and accompanying letters of recommendation must be postmarked by that date. Letters of recommendation may be submitted separately from the original nomination packet.

Where can I get more information?

Check out the website: www.blm.gov/or/rac/sanjuanac.php or contact your local BLM office.

What will the RAC be doing?

RACs advise BLM managers and typically meet two to four times a year. The San Juan Islands RAC will make recommendations on the development of the resource management plan. Specific guidance on the RAC's roles and responsibilities will be shared once members are appointed.

How long will it take to approve new members?

The nomination period lasts for 45 days. BLM managers will then review applications, put together a nomination package, and consult with the Governor's Office before forwarding nominations to the Secretary of the Interior who makes the final selections. It typically takes up to six months to appoint new members.

Are RAC members paid?

RAC members serve without monetary compensation but travel and per diem expenses are reimbursed.

Background on the San Juan Islands National Monument

On March 25, 2013, President Obama signed a Proclamation to designate the San Juan Islands National Monument. Situated in the northern reaches of Washington State's Puget Sound, the San Juan Islands are a uniquely beautiful archipelago of over 450 islands, rocks, and pinnacles. The new San Juan Islands National Monument encompasses approximately 1,000 acres of land spread across many of these rocks and islands and managed by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management. Drawing visitors from around the world, this is a landscape of unmatched contrasts, where forests seem to spring from gray rock and distant, snow-capped peaks provide the backdrop for sandy beaches. The San Juan Islands National Monument is both a trove of scientific and historic treasures and a classroom for generations of Americans.