



National Public Lands Day 2013

By: Randall Rische
San Juan Islands National Monument

A cold and foggy day did not stop 50 locals from the San Juan Islands Community to come out and enjoy the festivities for National Public Lands Day in the San Juan Islands National Monument. Sara Waugh, a former BLM employee and current volunteer, produced a brilliant Public Lands Day for all ages and fascinations. The Bureau of Land Management's Monument Office with the Wenatchee Field Office produced a wide range of events including a presentation on the history of public lands in the United States.

Along with an informative mushroom walk by our friends from KWIAHT, BLM partner organizations came out in full force throughout the archipelago as 100 pounds of garbage were removed from Point Colville Beach as well as maintenance work performed by the Keepers of the Patos Light including campsite cleaning, bathrooms and garbage pick-up. New San Juan Islands National Monument signs at Patos, Blind, Posey Islands, Turn Point, Kellet bluff and McConnell Rocks were set in place to advise the public on the new status. The enjoyment and use of America's public lands was put on display by a wet but no less exuberant group of people.

We look forward to seeing everyone and more at our National Public Lands Day event next year!

Special Thanks to Eclipse Charters, Dan and Denise Wilk, Cascadia Kayaks, Colin Dougherty who shared NPLD info and our event with participants during their outings along with all our partners including Keepers of the Patos Light, Turn Point Preservation Society, Heather Gladstone and Sara Waugh who made the event possible.