

Public Meetings on Orcas, San Juan, and Lopez Islands Connect Locals to Plans and Planning

On September 26 & 27, 2013, the BLM held several well attended public meetings on these three islands to update the communities on the national monument program status and to start a dialogue on a collaboratively-developed vision and management design for the new National Monument. Locals were reminded that the monument designation and management applies only to those BLM -managed lands identified on the [Proclamation map](#) . Updates were given on the status of the resource management plan, the Resource Advisory Committee makeup, and strategies for the immediate future. Attending from Portland were State Director Jerry Perez and Deputy State Director of Communications Jody Weil. Spokane District Manager Daniel Picard, Wenatchee Field Office Manager Linda Coates-Markle, Wenatchee Assistant Field Office Manager J.A. Vacca, recreation planner Nick Teague, and public contact representative Randall Rische were also present and engaged. The meetings were facilitated by the interim monument manager Marcia deChadenedes. [See [San Juan Islands Frequently Asked Questions](#).]

The majority of each meeting was dedicated to working in small break-out groups so that everyone present could be heard. Four questions were asked and responses recorded so that when the public, other partner organizations, and the BLM are moving along with resource decisions, planning and implementation, there will be a clear picture of local desires and expectations to guide the direction. Participants were invited to respond privately, if desired, and handouts of the questions were available for folks to take home and share.

There were several great suggestions for themes for future public meetings: examples of management systems from other similar resources, explanation and training for those interested in the Resource Advisory Committee, work sessions for the interim management plan, and further scoping for the Resource Management Plan. Once the permanent manager is selected and on board, the next set of meetings will occur, providing another opportunity for the public to be involved.

Following, you will find the four questions that were presented at the public meetings. Attached are responses gathered, as well as a few emails that followed the meetings.

There is no deadline for feedback, so please, if you also are interested in sharing your thoughts, send your statements to blm_or_wn_mail@blm.gov with the subject line: SJI NM Questions

- 1. What is the worst thing that could happen now that we have a San Juan Islands National Monument?**
- 2. What is the best thing that could happen now that we have a San Juan Islands National Monument?**
- 3. What should the Bureau of Land Management do to ensure that the best will occur?**
- 4. What are you willing to do to ensure that the best will occur?**