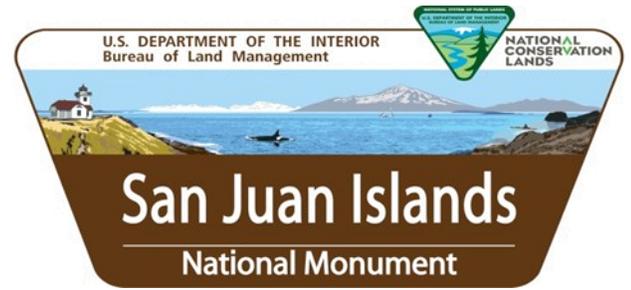




Frequently Asked Questions



On March 25, 2013, President Obama signed the presidential proclamation designating the San Juan Islands National Monument. A copy of this document is on the Monument website.

*The protection of these lands in the San Juan Islands will maintain their historical and cultural significance and enhance their unique and varied natural and scientific resources...
“...it is in the public interest to preserve the objects of scientific and historic interest...”*

What Is the National Monument?

The new National Monument comprises 980 acres of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the San Juan Islands. The proclamation only affects BLM-managed lands, above mean high tide and does not include any non-BLM lands.

The National Monument remains under the BLM’s management as part of the National Landscape Conservation System. The agency will continue to work closely with its community partners, tribal, federal, state, and local governments to manage the area’s unique resources for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

How did this come about?

An enthusiastic grassroots effort of the local community, non-profit organizations, and local governments compelled Governor Jay Inslee, Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray, as well as Representatives Rick Larsen and Suzan DelBene, to support this initiative.

What does it mean - a National Monument?

As a National Conservation Land, the monument is to be managed to preserve, conserve and restore its resource objects and values, as defined in the proclamation:

Native American Sites

Archaeological sites and historical great camas meadows.

Historic Lighthouses

Patos Island Light Station (National Register of Historic Places, 1977).

Turn Point Light Station (Washington State Register of Historic Places, 1978).

Biodiversity and Diversity of Habitats

Dramatic and unusual diversity of habitats which supports a diversity of wildlife including: marine mammals, terrestrial mammals, raptors, seabirds, land birds and insects.

Diverse stands of forests and open woodlands, some several hundred years old, including Douglas fir, red cedar, western hemlock, Oregon maple, Garry oak, and Pacific madrone. Fire dependent grasslands, chick lupine, giant camas and brittle cactus

Rocky bluffs, home to over 200 species of moss.



Where can I visit the Monument?

Cattle Point on San Juan Island includes public land adjacent to “American Camp” of the San Juan Island National Historical Park and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. This cliff-side landscape is a living dune ecosystem, with native grasses surrounding the small lighthouse. From this place a visitor can see the lights of Victoria on Vancouver Island and catch the wind blowing up the Strait of Georgia from the Pacific Ocean.

The more exotic locations of the monument are Turn Point Light Station on Stuart Island and Patos Lighthouse on Patos Island. These two historic structures have been painstakingly restored by the BLM with a great deal of sweat equity of our great partners, the Turn Point Lighthouse Preservation Society and the Keepers of the Patos Light. Though these islands are not served by the state ferry, over 15,000 visitors find their way to these shores.

There are hiking trails in a pristine setting, on 400 acres at the south end of Lopez Island including Watmough, Chadwick Hill, Point Colville and Iceberg Point. These landscapes are managed as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

What changes have occurred with the local management since the Proclamation in March 2013?

The first Monument Manager, Marcia deChadenedes, is based at the BLM Office at Lopez Village. She is working closely with Nick Teague, the local BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner, volunteers, partners, local tribes and governments.



What is the status of the Resource Management Plan (RMP)?

Now that the Monument has been separated from the Eastern Washington RMP efforts, a number of tribes and governmental organizations have stepped forward, interested in participating as cooperating agencies for the process. The monument advisory committee will meet regularly to consider the topics and alternatives under consideration, and make their recommendations to the BLM. Public meetings will be hosted in a variety of island and mainland locations and announced broadly. Strong and consistent public participation is critical to a plan that can be implemented successfully with no surprises.

What is a Resource Advisory Committee?

This is a nationally chartered, citizen-based committee that provides representative counsel and advice with respect to the land use planning process.

Inaugural members of the new San Juan Islands National Monument Resource Advisory Committee have been selected by the Secretary of Interior and will be convening regularly beginning in the Fall of 2014. Established to provide information and advice on the development of the Resource Management Plan, members were appointed based on their expertise in natural and cultural resources and local community issues.

2014 Monument Advisory Committee

Michael Carlson (Private Landowners)
Thomas Wooten (Tribal interest)
Erin Corra (Education/Interpretation)
Eric Eisenhardt (Wildlife/Ecological)
Jacquelyn Ferry (Cultural/Heritage)
Gene Helfman (Wildlife/Ecological)
Michael Jonas (Cultural/Heritage)
Barbara Marrett (Recreation/Tourism)
Rhea Miller (Public-at-Large)
Thomas Reeve (Public-at-Large)
Thomas Reynolds (Recreation/Tourism)
James Stephens (Local Government)

*For more information visit the monument office in Lopez Village, 37 Washburn St., Phone: 360-468-3754
Email: blm_or_sanjuanislandsnm@blm.gov ~ www.blm.gov/or/resources/recreation/sanjuans/index.php*