

**San Juan Islands National Monument (SJINM) Advisory Committee (MAC)
Meeting Summary
October 6th, 2015**

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San Juan Islands National Monument Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

October 6th, 2015

9:00 – 3:45

County Council Building

55 2nd St N #1. Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Next Meeting: Will send out Doodle Poll to set date

Meeting changed location. Brickworks was locked and could not access. Left sign informing public.

Was at: Brickworks, 150 Nichols St., Friday Harbor, WA 98250. Changed to:

Large Conference Room County Council Building, 55 2nd St N #1. Friday Harbor, WA 9825

Morning Session

Welcome and Introductions

In Attendance:

MAC Members:

Gene Helfman (Wildlife/ Ecology), Mike Jonas (Cultural Heritage), Jamie Stevens (Local Government), Michael Carlson (Private Landowners), Barbara Marrett (Tourism)

BLM Staff:

Lauren Pidot (Planner), Tom Christopher Knauf (Travel and Transportation), Mike Carlson, Marcia deChadenedes (Monument Manager), Nick Teague

Public at Large:

Tom Reeve (Chair), Rhea Miller, Mary Firm, Erin Corra (FOLKS)

Note-taker:

Kelsey Green

9:00 Tom Reeve, Chair: Calls the meeting to order.

Update from Lauren:

Oregon/Washington (OR/WA) State director going to CA, until replaced will be state director for both. No update for appointment for replacement of MAC, down to 8 instead of 12 in terms of appointment MAC members

Presentation on Travel and Transportation Planning¹

Christopher Knauf, BLM OR/WA State Lead for Travel and Transportation
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Lauren provides context: Plan level decisions, implementation level decisions. Plan 1st, then implementation. Will have another round of public meetings, more public meetings.

TMPs: Travel Management Planning. No Travel Management Plans (TMPs) will be done with RMPs, unless: area is small, State Director Approves

- A. History of Travel Management
- B. Travel Management Planning is an implementation level NEPA process
 - a. Primarily comprehensive
 - b. Different trails require different uses
 - c. IV. ORV Allocations
- C. Open, Limited, Closed
- D. Minimization Criteria
 - a. Includes: Damage to soil, harassment of wildlife, conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other proposed recreational uses, etc., areas and trails located in other areas.
- E. Process: The polygon view.
- F. The Narrow View (Within the Polygon)
 - a. Ex: Sage Grouse habitat, direct and indirect impacts
- G. Expected Results
 - a. Consideration of all uses
 - b. Route Designations
 - c. Defined Commercial, and admin. access
- H. Tools for solving issues

Discussion of Presentation

Questions and Comments:

- *How to track visitors?*
 - Various methods: track counters and guess work.
- *Clarification of commercial use; what qualifies?*
 - Commercial can be a lot of things, discussion of what qualifies
 - Permitting
- *Barbara: Alternatives will be at the planning level*
- *What are the problems that we foresee?*
 - Huge group of people that want to minimize traffic, especially tours
 - Crossing private property to get a vehicles out
 - A lot of these comments captured in scoping input
 - No-go zones will be reflected in draft

¹ A copy of this presentation is attached to the end. Chris has also provided presentation on Google Drive.

- *Need to give historical context and recognize diversity.*
- *Budget for trails?*
 - More money for travel management, trails
 - Assume that we will get full funding for plans
 - Washington has Recreational Trails Program for the state
 - Timelines aren't as important, with planning basis set, can look for money from there
- *Vehicles/ Parking, Etc*
 - Creating further opportunities, not diminish current ones
 - How to plan in places where dealing with other entities like county, parking, etc
 - Creating mandates for working together on issue?
 - Ex: Iceburg Point, Parking
 - Ex: Whatmough, parking is limited and people park everywhere
 - Would a small tour bus be better?
 - Quality of road, turnaround, etc.
- *Will work together to collectively figure out vision and alternatives*
- *What do we mean as 'sense of place'?*
 - What are people getting out of the recreation areas?
 - How do you get there?
 - Wilderness characteristic discussion; formal way to characterize? Ex. Solitude, quiet
 - Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: Incorporate elements to help determine, quantify
 - Nick and Marcia will share determination data with MAC group

Continued discussion and beginning of preliminary draft alternatives

- *Jan/Feb will conduct public meetings*
 - Purpose: to present alternatives, also doing a travel management plan based alternatives.
 - Looking for feedback on how to structure meeting
 - Needs to be breakout or open house structure; can't function otherwise in linear fashion
 - Charrette style
 - Don't need to reinvent the wheel
 - Want to make sure not angling, leading/ being an 'honest broker'
 - Conversation Lopez-heaving; want on multiple islands?
 - Different attendance levels different islands; Lopez high, San Juan & Orcas lightly attended
 - Important to set up capturing input
 - Very hard to do
 - Individual Comment Maps?
 - Beginning of the meeting can have presentation of draft alternatives all together
 - Are we leaving things out? Not voting here just looking for feedback of ranges
 - Where do you want the routes? Number of routes?
 - What kinds of things are available for handouts?
 - Summary of preliminary draft alternatives
 - Need to make it simple; hand out later
 - Scoping report?
 - Sensitivity around prelim draft report; generally don't share
 - Use sausage metaphor

11:30 BREAK, Nick and Marcia Arrive from ferry

Afternoon Session

12:00 Begin Public Comment/ Working Lunch

From Mary

Questions about how alternatives work:

- *Clumps of alternatives - can you move things from alternatives?*
- *Lauren: Yes, definitely, components can come from alternatives*
 - Trying to follow philosophies heard during scoping
 - Will go into more discussion of alternatives in later part of meeting

BLMs Preliminary Draft Alternatives

Lauren Pidot, Planner

Context: Not set in stone, will change. Still being modified. In idea stage, middle of the process.

Documents:

Summary Sheet: Preliminary Draft Alternatives for SJINM RMP Effort² and

Spreadsheet: Review of Preliminary Alternatives³

Summary Sheet

Most passive to most active approach

I. No Action:

- Does not meet purpose in need

II. Alternative A

- Public who wanted hands-off approach (as opposed to B and C)

III. Alternative B

- Moving back in time, not active management
- Cultural resources
- Recreation: It's happening, but limited interference

III. Alternative C

- Similar to B where going back in time,
- Remediation work where needed but otherwise hands off
- Ecological management
- Cultural resources
- Closed except to permitted use.

IV. Alternative D

- How much can we expand visitor opportunities while maintaining and meeting mandate of proclamation.
- Rebuilding, etc

² A copy of this document is attached at end.

³ A copy of this document is attached at end.

Questions/ Comments:

- *Rhea: Concern with retardant, chemical use*
- *Marcia: Will there be another alternative?*
 - Will come with proposed
- *Barbara: Overarching alternative or different for each parcel? (Application)*
 - Proposed would be a combination; would apply to the whole landscape but may include specific caveats for each parcel
 - Lauren: Telling a story of a draft of what might happen with this alternative
- *Tom: Try not to think about how each of these applies, how you would mix and match*
- *Rhea: Couldn't remember hearing anything about people not wanting active management/ regulations, etc.*
 - Marcia and Lauren responded that there definitely are those people.
- *Gene: Question about which climate change model BLM is adopting for this process*
 - Climate change in islands, mostly refers to beach status
 - Drought, wildlife movement
- Discussion around no alternative, a few people think it will be problematic to represent this group
 - Dig into spreadsheet so that we have a common language, or 'repackage' summary draft alternatives
 - Many feel that it will be important to reword such that they don't attach to one alternative
 - Lauren: Can't soft peddle no recreation
 - Could do by resource, but looking for representative range of alternatives. Looking to give a snapshot of alternatives, but can piece together different parts of alternatives.
- *Rhea: What do you want from the public?*
- *Lauren: Are there things outside the range of possibilities that aren't represented here*
 - Rhea: Why do you have the spreadsheets, summary, etc.
 - Group: Trying to make it easier for people to understand
 - Marcia: Need a written visual process to help people to understand. Also, agency is legally required to consider everything that could happen. Not voting; need to reflect that there are people who don't want recreation, etc.
 - The reality is that some of these options are going to make people uncomfortable.
- *More discussion around way of presenting alternatives*
 - Offer some navigational aids, words to help... themes?
 - Tom: More like a basket of options, buckets - each being internally consistent. But must present all the options for analysis. Make sure that these buckets capture everything possible.
 - Goal: all the ranges covered
 - Nick: Preface with one size not fitting all
 - Jamie: When will we have data on visitation, etc? Nick has them now.
 - Gene: thinks that alternatives need to be packaged differently - aren't mutually exclusive
 - Spreadsheet used to have labels
 - Tom - present in more of a spectrum setting, sub alternatives
 - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern documents - provides some precedents

- Some people see clear differences between stuff, some don't
- Decision - Should decide right now to make 'no recreation' a sub category?
- Why cause distress by keeping it in here, ex. Lopez stoplight. Why bring it up if it's not going to happen.
- Jamie: try to use clear and easy labels to explain alternatives
- Lauren: Legally charged to conserve, protect and restore
- sub-alternative is fine, but needs to take to the planning team
- does tell part of the story to meeting the purpose and need
- *Tom: as part of preamble, said that it's the whole spectrum*
 - Reaction to filling sideboards
- *Jamie: just an irritant, but enables them to analyze the impact. Permits exist for parks, etc, because there is someone there.*
- *Bundle with passive management of A? Appealing to Lauren but not to everyone.*
- *Or subalternative*
 - let's you tell the story between having limited recreation and no recreation
- What about putting it as a sub alternative in B or C?
 - Might have a compounding effect
 - But couldn't you do both against the same baseline?

2:10 BREAK

2:30 Closer look at draft alternatives - Spreadsheet

Lauren went over each section of spreadsheet of alternatives. Some Alternative/ Themes broken into Objectives and Tools; doesn't make sense to break up this way for all of them.

Addressed in spreadsheet: Habitat, Invasives, Plant specific management, Wildlife specific management, Non-tribal collection of natural materials, Fire/Fuels, Riparian/ near shore, Cultural, Contemporary Activities by Tribal Members, Recreation, Public Health and Safety, Education/Interpretation, Science, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, Visual Resource Management, and Rights of Way.

- *Realized needed more clarification on fish: changed to aquatic species.*
- *Some discussion around erosion; feeder bluffs. Potentially could increase ecological resilience of area.*
- *Drones*
 - Came up as an issue. Don't use drones administratively in islands. Used for research though (monitoring whales).
 - Lauren will expand drone language.
- *Rights of Way*
 - Erin wanted to voice concern about power lines around Whatmough, rights of way.
 - Language does not apply to rights of way (discretionary).
 - As part of process: Manager can review, or can make exclusionary.
 - Avoidance is a way to set criteria.

3:30 Chance for public comment

- Mary: all desired alternatives listed in alternatives. Rocks and islands that have not been used by people are essentially wildlife refuges. Would like to change language to 'not being used' as to 'thoughtfully being used'. Vacant land does not equal left alone.

3:30 Wrap up and Adjourn

- *Moving forward: Marcia hopes to have an information gathering about meeting.*
- *Have another MAC meeting before changing membership?*
 - January Public Meetings: hard to meet in November and December, can get input without formal meeting.
 - Plan of record: hear from new members in next month or two; will send out Doodle in Jan when we've got new members for first half of next year. Will go through end of July to capture as much as we can. To see how to take advantage of fully staffed time.
- *Marcia: Does group desire BLM to move forward with next MAC positions*
 - Need to get started much sooner than last round. Slots opening in July 2016.
 - Get started ASAP on filling those positions.
 - Gene: wait until current position filled to start 2016?
 - Tom: no because sometimes can take up to a year.
- *Again: Jerry Perez moving on but not yet. Theresa Hanley may be acting in his absence.*
- *Rhea's request for update after iceberg discussion. What activities?*
 - Shared information of what occurred at that meeting, 250 people on email list. Gave everyone a month and reached out to tribes. Will report out this week at 'September at the Monument' of what consensus was. 21st, 22nd, 23rd, meetings at library from 1-4 with Nick to craft a map of areas to be addressed. 22nd - ground truth those areas for sensitive plants and restoration. Following this, an interpretive and education date will be set; group will come together and define kiosk and define.
 - Consensus of the group's observation.
 - Will run the map to be restored past botanist.
 - Listed plants count plus ones that are culturally sensitive.
 - A bit qualitative, but hard to document
 - Lauren: flagging for suggestive interpretive avoidance on a temporary basis. To help people stay off of areas
 - Primarily considering social trails
 - Will be addressed with travel management plan
 - If you are concerned, call and leave a message, or talk to Marcia and Nick personally
- *Set speculative date for January:*
 - Hard to do, will send out Doodle

3:48 Meeting Adjourned