













- Islanders for the San Juan Island National Monument stated they can help the local community understand the Protest Process and help be liaison with the Governor's Office; Also offered to assist MAC members in ways to help the local community understand the complicated process based on experiences in other places that met with success

DRAFT













**SAN JUAN COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
PO BOX 669, FRIDAY HARBOR WA 98250 / PH 360-370-7612**

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Ron Krebs, Sheriff

Brendan Cowan, Director

San Juan Islands National Monument  
Monument Advisory Committee  
Attn: Rhea Miller, Acting Chair

May 23, 2019

RE: Wildfire Risk and Land Use Allowances on National Monument Properties

Ms. Miller:

This letter is written to express concerns about the potential for the SJI National Monument Resource Management Plan to allow for dispersed camping and firearm discharge on monument properties.

My primary concern is with the wildland fire risk posed by these allowances. The San Juan Islands National Monument is located within an area of extremely low rainfall compared to the rest of Western Washington, and much of the terrain is comprised of habitat with a high potential for wildland fire. These grass, meadow, and dry forest lands ignite easily and burn quickly. There is high potential for expended bullet casings or careless camping practices to be the cause of a potentially catastrophic fire event.

In addition, Monument properties are located in areas that are very difficult to access with fire fighting resources and have virtually no readily available fresh water supply for fighting fires. All are islands, and the vast majority of these islands have no regular ferry service. There are no Federal or State fire fighting assets in the area, local fire fighting agencies have limited jurisdictional authority for Federal Monument lands, and have limited capacity to respond to the remote areas involved. Aerial fire fighting assets controlled by the State of Washington are not located nearby and during peak fire season are often literally on the other side of the State.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that safety and common sense prevail and limits be placed on use of Monument properties to minimize fire danger and ensure the safety of first responders and residents living nearby.

Regards,



Brendan Cowan  
Director  
Department of Emergency Management  
San Juan County /Town of Friday Harbor  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250  
360-370-7612  
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CC:

Mr. Scott Williams, Chief, Orcas Island Fire & Rescue  
Mr. Norvin Collins, Chief, San Juan Island Fire  
Mr. J Havner, Chief, Lopez Island Fire & Rescue  
Mr. Jon Shannon, Chief, Shaw Island Fire & Rescue  
Mr. Jamie Stephens, Chair, San Juan County Council