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1 San Juan Islands Profile

Designating Authority

Designating Authority: Presidential Proclamation 7318

Date of Designation: March 25, 2013

Acreage

Total Acres in Unit	970
BLM Acres	970
Other Federal Acres	0
State and Private Acres*	0

*State and Private acres are not part of the total of the unit acres

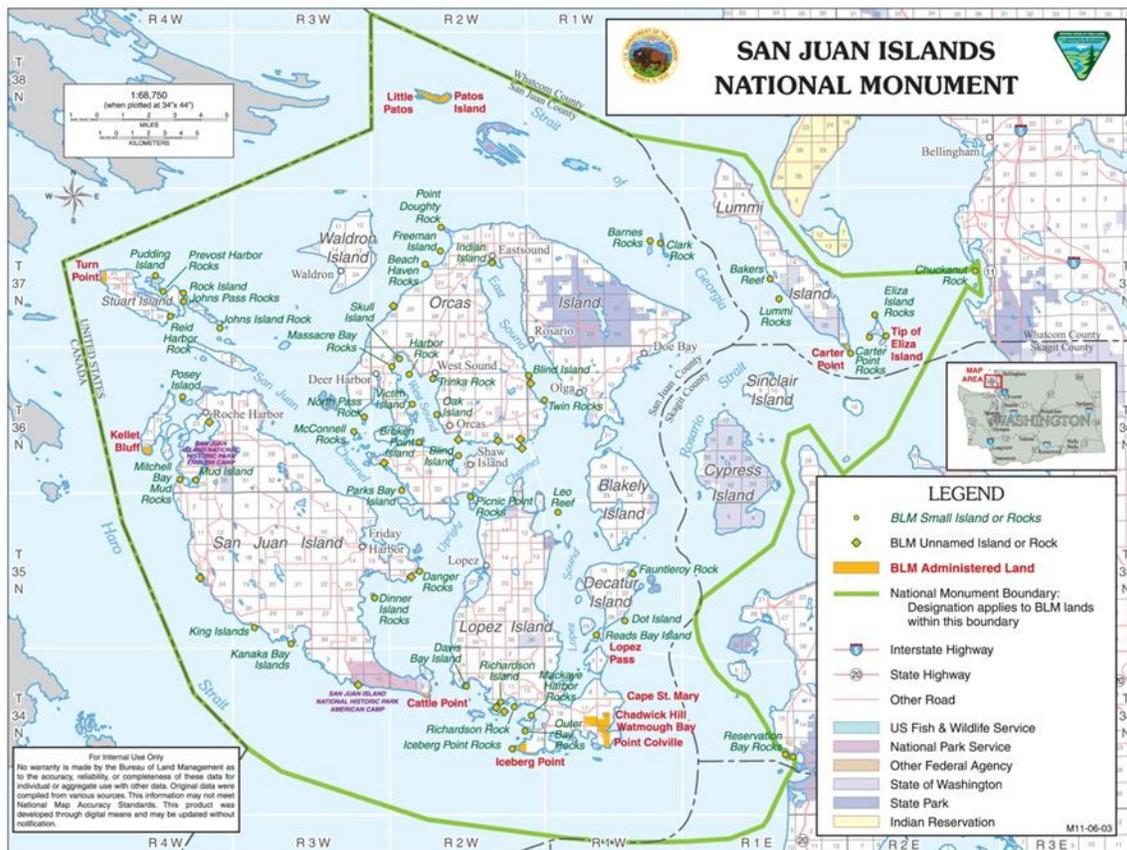
Contact Information

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Field Office Name	Wenatchee and Border
District Office Name	Spokane
State Office Name	Oregon/Washington

Budget

Total Fiscal Year 2014 Budget	\$513,000
Subactivity 1711	\$90,000
Other Subactivities' Contributions	\$275,000
Other Funding	\$148,000

Map of San Juan Islands National Monument



Managing Partners

All Bureau of Land Management-administered rocks, pinnacles, land, and islands within the green line comprise the San Juan Islands National Monument. The communities of San Juan, Whatcom, and Skagit counties in Washington State share stewardship for these landscapes.

Staffing

- **1 Monument Manager**
- **1 Outdoor Recreation Planner**
- **Representatives of the Spokane District Office, Wenatchee and Border field offices.**

With the creation of a monument manager position, the leadership for the landscape moved onto the islands, and the monument is moved on the Table of Organization to a status similar to the two field offices, directly under the Spokane District Office (DO).

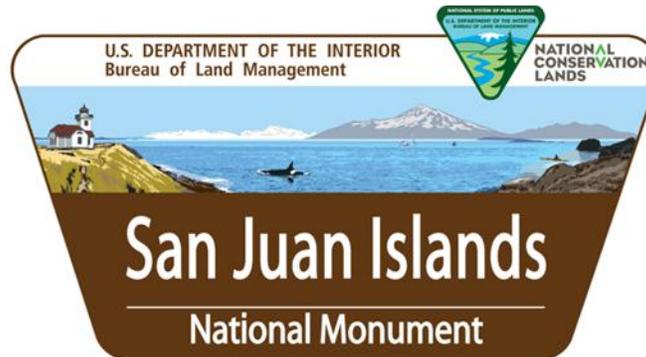
Because of its remote location, the majority of staff activity on the monument is accomplished through DO resource leads: the archaeologist, safety officer, hazardous materials specialist, and the engineer have assisted in the ongoing restoration of the two historic light stations. The archaeologist also is the lead for consultation activities with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the seven regional tribes. The Wenatchee FO law enforcement officer presently manages and will continue to oversee the cooperation with regional enforcement in the San Juan archipelago.



Manager deChadenèdes (l) and Recreation Planner Teague at a retired Patos Lightkeeper's Birthday Party.

The Wenatchee wildlife, forestry and botany specialists assist in the resource needs of the monument. The wildlife resource lead served as the San Juan Islands National Monument Project Lead until the monument manager arrived and is now assisting in the transfer of organizational history.

The San Juan Islands National Monument Interdisciplinary team taps into the employee talents and skills of the Border and Wenatchee field offices and the Spokane DO. All resource needs are coordinated through the DO, as well as coding, funding, and programmatic tracking.



2 Planning and NEPA

Status of the Resource Management Plan

The rocks, islands, and landscapes that make up the San Juan Islands National Monument have never been included in a Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan (RMP). Over the years there has been considerable local resistance to any treatment to the landscape other than to ensure its naturalness through the least invasive mechanical treatment, hand cutting invasive species. This has kept the need for NEPA actions to a minimum.



Terrestrial Managers Working Group Annual Meeting

In FY14, the San Juan Islands National Monument management planning effort was separated from the Eastern Washington RMP, and development of a local infrastructure began. Public input from listening sessions in FY13 was analyzed to inform a course of action and involvement that best served the local communities' interests. Another series of public meetings served to inform the community of the upcoming RMP process, as well as the laws, policies, handbooks, and

manuals that define interim management in accordance with the

monument proclamation. At meetings on the three main islands, the public reviewed and contributed to an interim policies strategy, becoming more aware of existing laws for public lands and wildlife, while contributing data and local knowledge of additional county policies and plans. One outcome of these meetings was an invested and informed public that understood the baseline of public land management laws and policies, and how those laws, policies, and the proclamation set the sideboards for the planning process. County Council members attended all three meetings and repeatedly thanked the agency for the transparency and public involvement.

The recruitment for the Monument Advisory Committee (MAC) garnered just under 50 nominations, all remarkable, highly talented people representing the full spectrum of community interests. Four months later, following selection and announcement by the Secretary of the Interior in July 2013, the date for the launch meeting was set for October (FY15).

Lauren Pidot was selected to lead the land use planning effort. State Director Jerry Perez established a Monument Oversight Team, with Monument, District and State Office

representation, to facilitate accomplishment of planning milestones and to resolve Monument management and planning issues as they arise. This collaboration has greatly benefitted process efficiency.



Turn Point Light Station, Stuart Island

Status of Activity Plans

There are no activity plans at San Juan Islands National Monument.

Status of the RMP Implementation Strategy

Once the RMP is complete, a RMP implementation strategy will be developed and implemented.

Key National Environmental Policy Act Actions and/or Project Authorizations



Washington State Parks, San Juan County, and BLM discuss collaboration at Patos Light

In the years preceding the monument designation the public lands on the ferry-served islands were well known and popularly protected by the community. Several decades ago, in response to learning that the Spokane District was considering disposing of BLM lands in the area, the local populace lobbied that BLM not only retain, but also pursue acquisition or exchanges of lands with Washington Department of Natural Resources, and to significantly protect the area's natural values.

Lands at the south end of Lopez Island - Watmough Bay, Chadwick Hill, Iceberg Point and Point Colville - were designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) in 1990. These ACECs have the only existing BLM management plan defining specific management actions on the islands. All other land use management defaults to the general stewardship provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as modified by the Monument Proclamation. A handful of the smaller lands have historically been managed for developed recreation by Washington State Parks and Recreation, and will continue to be managed in this way, collaboratively, unless a change comes about through the RMP.

Since 2007 there have been several Compliance Assessment – Safety, Health, and the Environment (CASHE) decisions for Patos Lighthouse and Turn Point Light Station, to mitigate safety hazards, including soil and structure toxicity from lead paint and a dilapidated triplex on Patos Island. In 2008 the US Coast Guard relinquished the 69.3 acres of land and improvements at Turn Point Light Station, Stuart Island. With CASHE support and a growing awareness of these resources, partner groups have formed to support restoration of the two facilities, and small but specific categorical exclusion reviews have been generated to address NEPA compliance for issues such as hazardous trees, reroofing and rehabilitating vacant buildings for interpretive exhibits. With two additional categorical exclusion documents, the majority of hazardous waste projects have been analyzed and are slated for mitigation.



Inventorying Shoreline Forage Fish and Chinook

3 Year's Projects and Accomplishments

General Accomplishments

The San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau has determined that annual visitor numbers to the archipelago exceed 1,000,000. With one third of the total landscape in conservation status, and local population just over 15,000, the summer season is extremely busy. All energies are directed to managing a safe and pleasant experience for visitors, while preserving the character of the landscape to the greatest degree. Volunteers have been monitoring, researching, and maintaining this landscape for 23 years before the designation. Fortunately, with the Secretary of the Interior, the mission and the means to engage partners, to educate youth, and to empower publics continue to grow, serving a lively productive vision.

For a decade the BLM in the San Juan Islands has been a catalyst for collaborative projects, to the benefit of many of other land management organizations. The goodwill that the BLM garners by organizing and overseeing the transportation, camping and equipment needs, and sometimes overseeing on-the-ground activities, is boundless. Through participation in the San Juan Stewardship Network and the Terrestrial Managers Working Group, BLM keeps a finger on the pulse for concerns, calls to action, and problem solving. Transitions this year for the three island's youth conservation corps came about through our focused resources and energies to mentor and train, and support capacity building by working with them to create an umbrella mechanism.



BLM National Training Center Video Team interviewing Conservation Partners

This summer a contractor was brought on board to assist in seasonal duties, facilitating interpretive activities with nonprofit partners working on the lighthouses, with other land managers for our shared education programs, and comprehensively considering monument interpretive products design. Though there had never been

someone fulfilling these interpretive roles for the BLM, the list of needs grew daily and it became apparent that outreach for the monument would be greatly served with additional skilled interpretive staff. The true value of bringing an interpretive specialist to the islands was how it served our relationships with our lighthouse partners. These groups have worked for many years defining the interpretive programs and exhibits without much

direction or support. This new skilled assistance opened the doors to cooperative and collaborative accomplishment of interpretive planning, a new Assistance Agreement, a new Memorandum of Understanding and a Cooperative Management Agreement, all looking to next accomplishments that will come to fruition through teamwork with the monument staff.

The landscape needs did not slow down however, and though the BLM volunteer hours in the San Juan Islands represent 80% of the total in Washington State, visitor impacts continued to occur. The FY15 seasonal employee is likely to be focused on ranger duties, to stay abreast of growing maintenance requirements. There will be a balance that allows for the continuing need for interpretation.

A grant provided the monument with a Chicago Botanical Gardens Conservation Intern for five months, completing a portion of the baseline botany database for the 75 rocks, islands, and large-island landscapes. Significant headway was made, utilizing the Washington Department of Natural Resources Natural Heritage Chappel survey for uplands in the Puget Trough ecoregion. Local naturalist authors and avocation buffs were very excited to see this ongoing work, offering to mentor, share local knowledge, and asking to assist in the field transects. Our intern was also able to lead nature walks for a family camp, for the Native Plant Society of Seattle, and for Road Scholars (educational adventures sponsored by Elderhostel).

Visitor Days: 82,000



Patos Island, one of those only accessible by Private Vessel

Current Areas of Focus

There are so many interest groups lobbying for monument support, and a myriad of regional issues with facets of relevance to the Monument, such as Navy “growler” flights, coal terminals, climate change, and fuel transport vessel traffic. The challenge is to maintain awareness of issues and engage in the dialogue to an appropriate level while focusing on the start-up of the RMP planning process with an engaged public, sowing the seeds of rewarding stewardship with a new Hands On the Land program, and supporting youth corps and volunteer groups in such a way that they continue to grow but also create a stronger connection for the monument’s purpose.

Every way that we can mentor and support engagement in conservation thought, science, and celebration is worth consideration. While paperwork, NEPA discussions, and administration demands pile on, the greatest and most rewarding work is to sustain the growing public ownership for the San Juan Island landscapes and the monument. The number of highly skilled nominees for the Monument Advisory Committee is testimony to the developing status of the monument as an institution of local community conservation.



Student Conservation Corps, in collaboration with the National Park Service, San Juan County Parks, San Juan County Land Bank, the Preservation Lands Trust, and WA State Parks

Education, Outreach, and Interpretation

Hands On the Land in Chadwick Marsh

The monument has initiated a Hands on the Land (HOL) program for one of the springs in the Lopez Island. San Juan Nature Institute, the non-profit arm of the University of Washington Friday Harbor Labs, is contracted to manage the learning engagement.



Hands on the Land, Lopez Schools Science Club

Working with Lopez Schools, the HOL program is the startup for a science club that gives the community a means to become engaged and involved in supporting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs. Because Chadwick Marsh has limited access and few visitors, the setting is perfectly suited for quiet exploration, inquiry, and discovery. The design of this HOL program is as an afterschool

enrichment opportunity for students passionate about science. Each month throughout the school year, seven students will work with different kinds of scientists—one day in the field and one in the lab. Each month features a different component of marshland science, including wetlands ecology, hydrology, entomology, botany, soils, and wildlife. The program fosters student ownership for this precious place, and inspires continued reflection as they move into careers.



Chadwick Marsh

Youth Conservation Corps



San Juan Island Conservation Corps learn the basics.

Approaches to environmental education on the monument are primarily accomplished through partnerships and shared opportunities with other land managers. Recreation planner Nick Teague has been instrumental in the creation of three youth conservation corps, one for each of the larger islands. In FY14, through mentoring and resource

support, the three corps units joined forces for grant applications, training, and outreach. These summer organizations work with local youth caught in the busy setting of summer visitation. The challenge is to master landscape stewardship challenges rather than wallow in resentment of the temporary possession of the crowds. Board members strongly support the team spirit and scientific focus for youth to understand the dynamics of landscape management. This is a great opportunity for local middle and high schoolers, and the crews are filled to capacity at twenty members per island. Each Island group has their own landscape issues to address, such as trail maintenance, managing invasive species, and conducting beach cleanups.

Outreach



Kwaiht and Indian Island Observatory conduct a Full Moon Tidepooling event

Through the year, with the assistance of our contract interpreter, the monument was able to increase participation and shared production of outreach and educational materials. FY14 was the first year for the monument to have a presence at the county fair, in addition to the three youth conservation corps who participated through our sponsorship. This was a very successful effort, and brought awareness, not just for the monument, but for the community of conservation organizations, all highlighted in the Green

Village—a grouping of booths with ongoing outdoor education activities and shared hosting for the site.

As part of the Leave No Trace project, the BLM led other Department of Interior agencies and land managers in a collaborative production of the Junior Ranger booklet, building on our common message and shared visitors. Offices are now displaying maps with all management lands displayed, and share circulation of handouts for appropriate visitor activities and wayfinding.

Retired BLM Interpretive Lead, Gene Ervine, visited the islands and shared his expertise with both lighthouse groups. Upon learning that he was a poet, he was recruited as the monument's first Poet-in-Residence, sharing a poetry reading at the Lopez Library, which was a well-attended and enjoyable event. From this first connection, the monument began a great relationship with the library, sponsoring presentations on wildlife, kayaking, geology, astronomy, climate change, and poetry.

Interpretation

Turn Point Light Station and Patos Light House have interpretive displays with historical information and photographs, managed by small but very active partner groups. These partners also manage summer-long docent programs for the remote islands so that private boaters and lighthouse visitors will have personal contact and opportunities to learn more of the rich local maritime history. The lighthouses are adjacent to well-established Washington State Park marinas and campsites, so we regularly meet individuals and families who have been visiting the lighthouses for years, and are very excited to seeing them come alive, with restoration and interpretation. Both of the lighthouses are boundary beacons for the United States, and there is a great desire to engage with the other lighthouses of the Salish Sea, Canadian and American. An interpretive planning workshop has been in the musing stage through FY14, seeking funding opportunities to help flesh out the training and engagement.



Much to see at Iceberg Point

Partnerships

The Lopez Area of Critical Environmental Concern Volunteer Monitors are in their 24th year. They continue to care for the resources daily, removing trash, noting trends in recreation habits, discouraging campers, sharing local observations of flora and beach seasonal changes, and encouraging owners of leashed dogs. Semi-annual reports summarize the data collected.

The Turn Point Lighthouse Preservation Society greeted Stuart Island's 8,000 visitors arriving during their nine weeks of docent presence. As with every year, the group has accomplished a number of significant facility projects. Though a challenging process, this year the BLM researched and established a protocol for managing contracts for restoration to the historic landscape. An Assistance Agreement was developed, projects have been hierarchically ordered, and NEPA processes are timed to be most effective to the season. With this organizations' energy, the interior of the interpretive side of the Keepers Quarters is nearly complete, with old asbestos floors removed (BLM contract), new flooring being

designed and underway. The kitchen has been researched and is being pieced together. Furniture for staging the interpretive quarters has been purchased and is awaiting ready rooms. The partners are organized to accomplish as much as possible and are very excited to be able to share their new interpretive spaces next summer.



The Lopez Monitors at their Quarterly Project Assignment Picnic

The Turn Point Lighthouse Preservation Society gained national recognition for exemplary service from the Public Lands Foundation, and was also awarded a Keepers of the Light Award by the BLM OR/WA State Office and the Spokane District for their unfailing commitment, diligence, and outstanding work rehabilitating the light station.



Keepers of the Patos Light bundle up during the chilly trip to the Island



Turn Point Lighthouse Preservation Society receives the Keepers of the Light Award from BLM State Director Jerry Perez, District Manager Daniel Picard, and San Juan County Council Member Rick Hughes

Keepers of the Patos Light is another high energy volunteer group that works through summers maintaining the wild and manicured landscapes

of Patos Lighthouse and Island and sets up host docents on weekends. As with Turn Point, this group has gathered a significant history of the site, with albums of photographs, documentation of the U.S. Coast Guard presence, and oral histories. They annually host the HAM radio operators for the International Lightship and Lighthouse Weekend, connecting worldwide via HAM radio communication, and collaborate with Washington State Parks, sharing their volunteer status in exchange for the cost of ferrying to the island.

This year was an exemplary year for three separate stewardship development programs. The American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacations returned for a weeklong effort hosted by the BLM, while working with the San Juan Preservation Land Trust, the San Juan County Land Bank, San Juan County Parks, Washington State Parks, and Department of Natural Resources. All of these managers have numerous locations requiring attention, and operate with a small staff and limited resources. Again, in partnership with the National Park Service, we hosted a Student Conservation Association youth crew, working with those same managers for eight weeks to cover more needs, simultaneously introducing the youth to the variety of management missions, needs, and settings. Lastly, with BLM leadership, the Terrestrial Managers Working Group hosted the Leave No Trace Travel Training Team.



Leave No Trace Land Health Assessment at Moran State Park, Orcas Island



Leave No Trace Volunteers Training Event, San Juan Island

Through our nomination to the Hot Spot program, over the period of one week, public lands on the three large islands were assessed for damage and rehabilitation, four training events were offered for agency and tourism managers, and three public volunteer events were held to imbed Leave No Trace principals in best practices. Perhaps most significant, San Juan County passed a resolution to integrate Leave No Trace principals in their planning and actions, becoming the first American Leave No Trace county.

Volunteers

Volunteer Hours: 10, 047

Whether because of the compelling setting, a largely retired community, or landscape features that are geologically intriguing but not physically challenging, this monument benefits dramatically from volunteerism. There is a dedicated volunteer coordinator who manages all administrative data as well as the trail counter information. Practically all opportunities that locals have to spend time with the monument's very popular recreation planner are well attended. This explains, in part, the pristine quality that the landscape has retained for the last decades.



Kwiaht Memorandum of Understanding Signing Ceremony at Watmough Bay, Lopez Island

Land (or Interests in Land) Acquisitions

Realty processes for the near future are most likely to be focused on research in terms of clarifying boundaries, as opposed to acquisitions. This is due, in part, to lack of RMP direction on this issue and also there is the need to attend to the administrative processes of the transition presently underway. The staff continue to identify new rocks and small islands that haven't yet had the determination of management ownership, communities are also tracking them down, and there are numerous easements with unclear status. The BLM is also expecting the eventual transfers of the remaining US Coast Guard-managed land, the navigational aids at Cattle Point (San Juan Island) and Turn Point (Stuart Island).

Perhaps the most important realty action at present is relationship and trust-building with the local communities, especially the adjacent land owners. Several key monument properties require access across private lands currently without easements. Caretaking of the land and respect for these landowners is key to establishing some form of secure access to these significant sites.



Cattle Point, San Juan island

4 Science

The San Juan Islands National Monument serves as an outdoor laboratory that attracts a variety of scientists, university researchers and their students.

Science

Annual Inventory and Monitoring

Coastal forests that have never been harvested, rare lichens, bats and butterflies, anthropogenic landscapes, and the evidence of retreating shorelines due to increasingly violent winter storms—all of these characteristics and more will be surveyed in coming years as part of the baseline data collection for a new national monument.



Birders at Point Colville, Lopez Island

Interest in conducting research in the San Juan Islands is not new. The University of Washington has managed the Friday Harbor Laboratories—484 acres on San Juan Island—for half a century. Many of the retirees here are scientists and professors. In fact, the woman who championed the first round of preservation activity for BLM land on Lopez Island thirty years ago was studying the peregrine falcon nest in Watmough Bay. She continued on, with many of her colleagues, to participate in the organization that managed the movement

to create a national monument. Kwiaht and other nonprofits focus their efforts on local environmental science research. This monument may have the benefit of a citizen scientist community that exceeds all expectations.

As yet there has been no known extensive terrestrial research other than floristic surveys by Christopher B. Chappell, Upland Plant Associations of the Puget Trough Ecoregion, Washington, published by the Washington Department of Natural Resources through the Washington Natural Heritage Program, 2006. This document is the result of a 14-year study, generating a classification of previously unstudied plant associations on federal lands. This guide works well to establish the monument database. A Seeds of Success grant from the Washington DC NLCS office has ensured the return of our Chicago Botanical Gardens Conservation Intern in the spring of 2015. This intern will not only develop the new Seeds of Success program, she will continue to research the landscape, and engage with the extensive web of local botanists and naturalists, to help identify the community and hold their interest in ongoing observation.

From another perspective, the monument's objects and values suggests that we make inquiry of traditional sciences. Agriculture and woodlands-dependent cultural practices

existed here before the Europeans and Americans arrived. The islands were occupied for several thousand years by Native Americans, whose ancestors continue to reside in the region. With the removal of tribes and their resource management practices, the landscape is changing again. An important monument goal is to recover that science of traditional management practices, and support how that might be shared by the tribes with the public.



Forage Fish and Chinook Counts, Lopez Island

5 Resources, Objects, Values, and Stressors

Native American Sites

The Coast Salish people often lived in villages of wooden-plank houses and used numerous smaller sites for fishing and harvesting shellfish. In addition to collecting edible plants, and hunting various birds and mammals, native people used fire to maintain meadows of the nutritionally rich great camas. Archaeological remains of the villages, camps, and processing sites are located throughout these lands; including shell middens, reef net locations, and burial sites. —Presidential Proclamation, March 25, 2013—

To date there are no intensive studies for the location of Native American sites. Folk stories and oral histories documented in local museums share geographic information of historic use. Trees and native weedy species are encroaching on coastal area locations that were recorded. Roughly 40 percent of the monument bears evidence that agricultural use, such as camas production and shellfish food processing, occurred.

Native American Sites Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Fair	Stable

Native American Sites Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY14
970	400	400	400

Stressors Affecting Native American Sites

The San Juan Islands archipelago is situated on a major marine highway for delivery of fossil fuels. The potential for a spill has been well researched by NOAA and is said to have increased dramatically between 1992 and 2011. The impact of a spill to those shorelines and traditional sites is of great concern—to the BLM, the tribes, and the communities at large. An immediate concern is for a not infrequent storm disturbance, attributed to climate change, which erodes culturally sensitive shoreline areas.



Winter Storms on Lopez Island

Historic Lighthouses

In the late 19th century, the Federal Government built several structures to aid in maritime navigation. Two light stations and their associated buildings are located on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM): Patos Island Light Station (National Register of Historic Places, 1977) and Turn Point Light Station (Washington State Register of Historic Places, 1978).—Presidential Proclamation, March 25, 2013—

Historic Lighthouses Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Fair	Stable

Historic Lighthouses Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY14
970	50	50	50

Stressors Affecting Historic Lighthouses



World War II, Patos Island

It is reasonable to expect that old wooden structures at the heads of islands, that have gone unoccupied for many decades, would be in a state of disrepair. But that is not the case for Patos and Turn Point. Both of these light stations have had substantive care by both partners and the agency in recent years, and are on the path to total restoration. One outstanding concern for both of these resources is lack of wildfire suppression. There are no natural sources of water on either island, rainfall is not significant, so catchments would not be useful in this regard, and no fire plans are in place.

Challenges to the goals of restoration of these resources would be the brief window for work time annually, due to weather, coupled with financial constraints for an historic feature lacking a management plan. More than 15,000 people visit the remote areas annually, yet the quality of visitation has been managed well by the partners and land managers, with no significant human impacts.



Turn Point Fog Signal Building positions the right angle turn in Haro Strait

Diverse Habitats

These lands contain a dramatic and unusual diversity of habitats, with forests, woodlands, grasslands, and wetlands intermixed with rocky balds, bluffs, inter-tidal areas, and sandy beaches. The stands of forests and open woodlands, some of which are several hundred years old, include a majestic assemblage of trees, such as Douglas fir, red cedar, western hemlock, Oregon maple, Garry oak, and Pacific madrone. The fire-dependent grasslands, which are also susceptible to



Cactus

invasive species, are home to chick lupine, historically significant great camas, brittle cactus, and the threatened golden paintbrush. Rocky balds and bluffs are home to over 200 species of moss that are extremely sensitive to disturbance and trampling. —Presidential Proclamation, March 25, 2013—

Diverse Habitats Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Good	Stable

Diverse Habitats Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY14
970	710	710	710

Stressors Affecting Diverse Habitats

There are few stressors other than those brought by visitors. Overall, there is a high degree of naturalness for much of these landscapes. Coastal bluffs and shorelines are eroding due to seasonal storms. Invasive plants spread from cultivated areas and developments, but these activities are primarily limited to high-traffic areas.



Killer whales - J Pod, resident to the San Juan Islands, are dependent on the Salmon

Wildlife

Describe the resource, object, or value.

Wildlife Status and Trend Table

Status of Resource, Object, or Value	Trend
Good	Stable

Wildlife Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring Table

Acres in Unit	Acres Inventoried	Acres Possessing Object	Acres Monitored in FY14
970	970	970	850



Bald Eagle perched on a madrone tree.

Stressors Affecting Wildlife

Until the agency has established a baseline for these resources, identified stressors would be conjecture. Much of the natural habitat is intact and, apart from the primary tourism spots, the balance of wildlife populations seems unaffected. Again, the increased potential of an oil spill in the Salish Sea presents an increased risk of grave impacts to species that are dependent on the marine environment. This would include rocks for resting, roosting and nesting, and marine life forms that are food sources.

6 Summary of Performance Measure

This summary reflects a remarkable status for a relatively new national monument. All of the islands that are regularly accessed by visitors also have a high level of caretaking, by both public partners and the agency. There is a culture of stewardship for this monument that surpasses most because it is tied to the community's larger vision, a commitment to conservation for the archipelago.



Reindeer Moss Lichen and Garry Oak on Kellett Bluff, Henry Island

With the monument status comes an increased interest by the public and the agency to know the details of the unexplored places, the rocks and smaller islands that serve wildlife in a manner similar to that of the surrounding wilderness of the San Juan Islands National Wildlife Refuge. This is ideal timing for the agency to generate baseline data, to inform the resource management plan that is soon to be underway.

Resources, Objects, and Values Status Summary Table		
Resource, Object, or Value	Status	Trend
Native American Sites	Fair	Stable
Historic Lighthouses	Fair	Stable
Diverse Habitats	Good	Stable
Wildlife	Good	Stable

7 Manager's Letter

A full set of seasons has turned around, while the concept of the San Juan Islands National Monument is taking form for a public that is so invested in the designation's potential. I reread the Manager's Letter from last year's report, and am surprised at the remarkable distance we are from that place, "on the edge of defining the preservation for these treasures of the archipelago, the lighthouses, the breathtaking landscapes, the cultural history."



Watmough Bay, Lopez Island

Partners offer all opportunities to participate, to weigh in collaboratively, requesting and expecting engagement, testing to see if the dream is a possibility. Now fully staffed with two on location, we are self-aware, conscious of choices that might become trends that define new relationships, or set in motion a new network of mechanisms to serve and engage the conservation community. With all of our commitments, we are setting a high bar and running hard to meet it.

In the islands, the land management partners appear to be enjoying their new teammate. The monument appears to be a catalyst for much that has occurred this year. Youth Corps members are excited to have more learning opportunities, building capacity for administratively sound systems while finding a comfortable yet challenging niche for their participation in the landscape. The thirty plus partners of the Terrestrial Managers Working Group are finding themselves in the transition from forming and norming to more performing, thoughtfully considering what is serendipity and what is possible through intent. Testing the waters with the Leave No Trace Hot Spot week, the team is perhaps a little surprised with the success and buy-in from the community, and they are finding a bigger pair of boots. Certainly the participation by the San Juan County Council, passing a resolution to make San Juan the first Leave No Trace county in the United States, speaks volumes to the potential of organized action.

The Department of Interior agencies have connected like never before, with three relatively new managers experiencing and identifying our organizational limitations, and finding ways to address local needs with common diplomacies, sharing staff and contracts. Together we addressed planning and implementation for youth programs, tribal interests, Leave No Trace, grant applications, interns, and the Island Marble Butterfly. A discussion has commenced regarding the potential for a Service First agreement (sharing personnel, space, equipment), to further benefit the community and address our own organizational

efficiencies. There is definitely a feeling of family to our process that validates our respect for each other's perspectives, and stimulates ways that we can serve each other's mission.

The wildflowers were especially beautiful this year, especially on our islands with no ferry service. The fields of purple camas are a vivid testimony to the agricultural practices of earlier residents, as are the many blooms in old fire-managed fields. Oystercatchers poke around in middens and we strive to retain our history-shaped shorelines, threatened by increasingly violent storms.



Regional tribes have been responsive to our outreach, desiring to reconnect with the landscape here. Four tribes were represented in our Cooperating Agency training. The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community is speaking of joining us in restoration on Iceberg Point. The Samish hold two positions on our Monument Advisory Committee while other tribes are committing to apply for upcoming positions. The Lummi Nation has begun a reconnection for their youth with the reef netting tradition, the culture of Sxwo'le. They

brought an enormous canoe and their young people danced and drummed to several traditional songs for a crowd of onlookers at the county fair. Following that ceremony, they set up a fish camp at San Juan Island National Historical Park while their nets were in the water. They speak of the monument proclamation as the country's testimony to their place and culture in the history of the islands.

This magical place means a great deal to many: the communities who acted to ensure its unique nature through the monument designation, the swell of visitors, the foreign boats in Haro Strait first meeting our lighthouses before coming to land, and the tribes resolving their diaspora and recollecting their history. As with the 83 US Fish and Wildlife Service Wilderness islands scattered across the sea surrounding the monument, it isn't necessarily visiting these places that serves our souls, but knowing that they are there and cared for to preserve their qualities, for all living creatures now and into the future. It is an honor to take part in and contribute to this system of preservation.

Marcia deChadenèdes
Monument Manager



**NATIONAL
CONSERVATION
LANDS**

San Juan Islands

National Monument

Lopez Island Office
Phone: 360-468-3754

Bureau of Land Management
Spokane District Office
1103 North Fancher
Spokane, WA 99312
Phone: 509-663-1200

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