

Instruction Manual for Commenting
on the San Juan Islands National Monument
Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement



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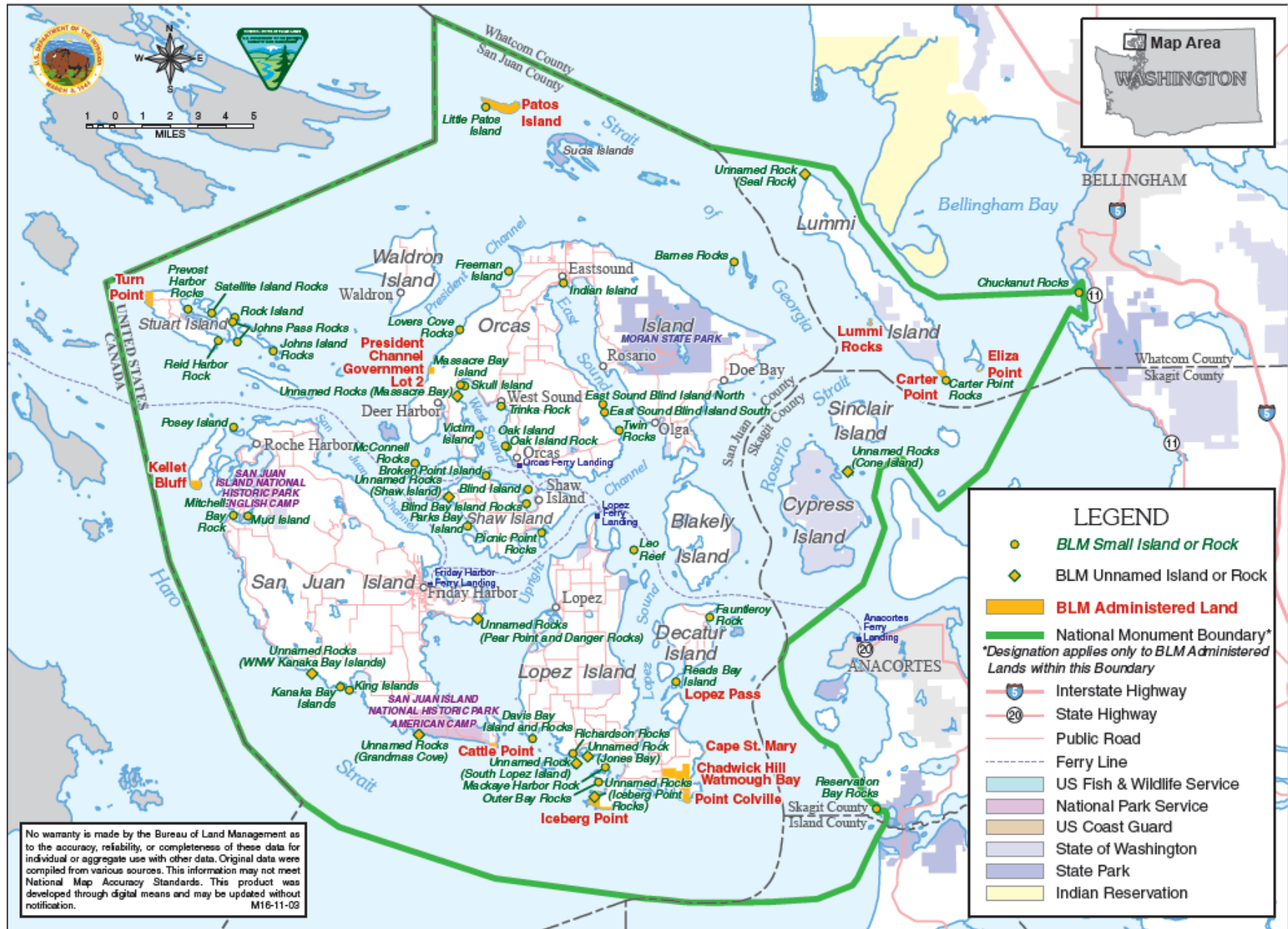
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Photo: Posey Island

1. Monument Map

Decisions in this Resource Management Plan only relate to 1,021 acres of scattered BLM-administered land, the landscapes of the San Juan Islands National Monument. Our management boundaries are above mean high tide, where land meets the Salish Sea.



2. Instruction Manual for Commenting

This is an instruction manual to assist you in commenting on the *San Juan Islands National Monument Draft Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* (RMP/EIS). The Draft RMP/EIS available for public comment from October 5, 2018, through January 3, 2019.

The Draft RMP/EIS contains the full details of the management approaches considered for Monument landscapes and the analysis of their impacts on the Monument and other land and resources.

We developed several documents to help you review and provide informed comments on the Draft RMP/EIS:

- The *Instruction Manual for Commenting* (this document); and
- The *Planning Process Primer and Guidebook for the Draft RMP/EIS (Guidebook)* (which summarizes information on key management approaches analyzed in the Draft RMP/EIS).

We have also developed comment forms (see Section 5 below), to make it easier to comment on the large and more detailed Draft RMP/EIS.

All of these publications, including the Draft RMP/EIS, are available in hard copy at the BLM Lopez Island and Spokane District offices. They are also available online at:

<https://go.usa.gov/xRphc>



Photo: Turn Point Light Station

3. Snapshot of the Planning Effort

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered lands are required to have an overarching resource management plan (RMP) generated through a comprehensive planning. This process will establish a management framework outlining objectives and parameters for what will and will not be allowed in the Monument. Public engagement must occur for both the overarching plan and for future on-the-ground actions that will tier to the overarching plan.

We will also be making implementation-level decisions¹ for travel and transportation management as part of this planning process. This is because of the limited amount of road and trail miles in the Monument (1 mile and 14.9 miles, respectively). It is also because the BLM solicited intensive site-specific public feedback on roads and trails during this planning process.

The Draft RMP/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is a big step toward the Approved RMP (see timeline below). The Approved RMP will provide a management framework for approximately twenty years. It will define management parameters in order to protect and restore Monument cultural and ecological values, to ensure tribal treaty rights are respected, and to address growing demand for Monument recreational use.

When developing the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, the BLM considers public, tribal and agency partner comments, the impacts of management approaches on resources, and agency priorities.



Photo: Patos Island Lighthouse, Patos Island

¹ See *Guidebook* for further information and definitions.

3.1 Resource Management Plan Timeline

Tasks and Milestones	Estimated Date
Kick Off the Planning Effort	January 2015-Summer 2015 (Public scoping: March 2015)
Develop the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP)/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	Summer 2015-Summer 2018
CURRENT STEP: Publish the Draft RMP/EIS Provide a 90 day public review and comment period.	Fall 2018
Develop the Proposed RMP/Final EIS	Fall 2018-Winter 2019
Publish the Proposed RMP/Final EIS	Winter 2019
Develop the Record of Decision/Approved RMP	Spring 2019
Publish Approved ROD/RMP	Spring 2019

See the *Planning Process Primer and Guidebook for the Draft RMP/EIS* (Guidebook) page 66 for details on next steps as outlined above.

4. What Do You Need to Know Before Commenting?

In the Draft RMP/EIS, you will find:

- A spectrum of management approaches representing the diverse input received.
- Chapter 2, which describes all of the management approaches we logically grouped for analysis, creating themes for management. These approaches are called “alternatives.”
- Chapter 3, which presents the analysis by our resource specialists of impacts from each of the alternatives.
- The No Action Alternative, which considers a continuation of the existing management approach (focusing on meeting legal mandates and preventing unnecessary and undue degradation of the Monument).
- The Draft Travel and Transportation Plan Appendix (Appendix H) to the Draft RMP/EIS, which includes alternatives for implementation-level Monument roads and trails decisions.

There are many ways to submit comments: emails, letters, written comments delivered at public meetings, or comment forms.



Photo: Barnes Rock

Refer to the Glossary in the *Guidebook* for a definition of terms.

4.1. What Types of Comments are We Seeking?

- Any additional, reasonable management approaches you think meet the purpose and need² for the planning effort.
- Any additional information you believe is relevant to the analysis (Draft RMP/EIS Chapter 3). Please explain why the additional information is relevant.
- Any concerns you have about the accuracy of the information used in the analysis. Please provide the reasoning or evidence behind your concerns.
- Any concerns about the methods or assumptions used for the impacts analysis (Draft RMP/EIS Appendix B). Please provide the reasoning behind your concerns.
- Any changes or revisions you would like to see to one or more alternative (Draft RMP/EIS Chapter 2) as the BLM develops the Proposed RMP—including whether you think elements from one alternative should be attached to elements from another.



Photo: Lummi Rocks

² See Appendix 2 in the Guidebook for this planning effort's stated Purpose and Need.

4.2. When is the Comment Deadline?

January 03, 2019



Photo: Iceberg Point, Lopez Island

4.3. Where Do I Submit Comments?

- Email: blm_or_sanjuanislandsnm@blm.gov
- Regular Mail:
 - San Juan Islands National Monument
 - Lopez Island BLM Office
 - PO Box 3
 - Lopez, WA 98261
- Hand Delivery at:
 - Any Public Meeting
 -
 - San Juan Islands National Monument
 - Lopez Island BLM Office
 - 37 Washburn Place,
 - Lopez Island, WA 98261
 -
 - Spokane District BLM Office
 - 1103 N Fancher Rd,
 - Spokane Valley, WA 99212

5. Comment Forms

For this planning effort, we developed several types of comment forms. These forms are intended to help you make the most impactful comments (called *substantive* comments³).

There are 19 comment forms for your use:

- 16 comment forms for human uses: 1 each for 16 specific management zones, called Recreation Management Areas or RMAs;
- 2 comment forms for key resources: Cultural Resources and Habitat and Plants; and
- 1 general comment form: For general comments about the analysis and other topics.

Comment forms identify page numbers linking them to the relevant pages in the Draft RMP/EIS and to the *Guidebook*.

The 16 **site-specific comment forms** summarize management options related to human uses and include space for your thoughts on road and trail alternatives described in the Draft RMP/EIS.

Resource-specific comment forms summarize management options analyzed for cultural resources and habitat and plants. These forms also give space for you to explain the rationale for your comments.

The tables in the comment forms only summarize major differences in the potential management approaches; refer Chapter 2 of the Draft RMP/EIS for the full details.

³ See *Guidebook* Appendix 4 for further information on “substantive comments.”

5.1 Comment Form Directions

1. Using the forms provided, please provide your name and email, and then place check marks in the columns next to the management approaches that make the most sense to you.
2. Be sure to write your reasoning on the back of the form. You can use the identification numbers of the column(s) you marked to reference your choices (see example below).
3. Use additional sheets as necessary.
 - For comments related to **habitat and plants**, use the *Habitat and Plants Comment Form*.
 - For comments on related to **cultural resources**, use the *Cultural Resources Comment Form*.
 - For comments on **human uses**, choose the comment form(s) for the location(s) on which you specifically wish to comment.
 - For example, if you want to comment on human use management approaches at Watmough Bay, use the *Watmough Bay Comment Form*.
 - If commenting on multiple locations, please staple your site-specific comment forms together.
 - For comments on **other topics** or for **general comments about the analysis**, please use the *General Comment Form*.

All alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, are a place to start from. Like a build-your-own pizza, chose only the elements from the alternatives you prefer.

The public comment period ends on January 03, 2019

5.2 Example Comment Form

Carter Point Comment Form

See *Guidebook* page 24 or the section beginning on page 613 in Appendix O and the section beginning on page 454 in Appendix H for additional information for more details on the potential management of travel and transportation and recreation at this location.



NAME* Jane Q. Public

EMAIL janeq@email.com






Directions: We'd like to hear from you about which assortment of human uses you think is most appropriate for this location and why. In other words, what do you propose as the allowable uses at this location and why? Are there any major approaches that we're missing? In the table below, place a check mark next to the recreational uses you would prefer at this location and write your reasoning on the following page. For general comments about the analysis and other topics, please use the general comment card.

Uses	1. RECREATIONAL ACCESS		2. INTERPRETATION AND FACILITIES		3. HIKING		4. DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS		5. DRONES	
Alternative Approaches		1.1 Prohibit recreational access		2.1 Install signs only as needed to protect the public and cultural and ecological values		3.1 Prohibit hiking- no trails designated for this use		4.1 Prohibit discharge of firearms		5.1 Prohibit landing or launching of drones
		1.2 Allow recreational access by permit only		2.2 Install interpretive and educational signs at trailheads only	X	3.2 0.03 trail miles open to hiking		4.2 Allow discharge of firearms		5.2 Allow landing or launching of drones with a permit
	X	1.3 Allow recreational access without a permit		2.3 Allow development of visitor facilities and educational and interpretive signs		3.3 0.4 trail miles open to hiking		4.3 Create Your Own		5.3 Allow the landing or launching of drones
		1.4 Create Your Own		2.4 Create Your Own		3.4 Create Your Own				5.4 Create Your Own

Please submit your comments by January 03, 2019 using one of the following methods:

Email: blm_or_sanjuanislandsnm@blm.gov Mail: San Juan Islands National Monument RMP, P.O. Box 3, Lopez, WA 98261

Hand delivery: BLM Lopez Island Office 37 Washburn Place, Lopez Island, WA 98261 or at any public meeting

Uses	 6. RECREATIONAL BOAT LANDING		 7. CAMPING		 8. BICYCLING		 9. HORSEBACK RIDING		 10. PETS						
Alternative Approaches		6.1	Prohibit recreational boat landing		7.1	Prohibit camping		8.1	Prohibit bicycles-no trails designated for this use		9.1	Prohibit horseback riding-no trails designated for this use		10.1	Prohibit pets
		6.2	Allow recreational boat landing		7.2	Allow dispersed camping with a permit (one group per night, max 5 campers)		8.2	Create Your Own		9.2	Create Your Own		10.2	Allow access for leashed pets
		6.3	Create Your Own		7.3	Allow dispersed camping without a permit								10.3	Allow access for unleashed pets
					7.4	Create Your Own								10.4	Create Your Own

Trails you would like to see 1. Maintained: CPT-1 2. Closed: _____ 3. New: None
 (See section beginning on page 454 in Appendix H: Draft Travel and Transportation Plan for trails network at this location)

Please provide the rationale for your check marks above including any information on cultural or ecological values you think we should consider, below (Attach additional sheets as necessary):

There is a population of XX plant species at Carter Point that has not been considered in the Draft RMP/EIS. XX plant species is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Documentation of its presence can be found in John Doe (2016). Please only maintain the current trail (CPT-1) and do not build any new trails in order to protect this population.

**If you want to receive further notices regarding this RMP we must have your contact information. Additionally, in order to be considered an interested and/or affected party, you must have commented on the analysis before a decision is signed (i.e. commented during scoping or at Draft RMP/EIS review stage). Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment -- including your personal identifying information -- may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.*

Comment Deadline:

January 03, 2019

How to Submit Comments:

- Email: blm_or_sanjuanislandsnm@blm.gov

- Regular Mail:

San Juan Islands National Monument
Lopez Island BLM Office
PO Box 3
Lopez, WA 98261

- Hand Delivery at:

Any Public Meeting

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37 Washburn Place,
Lopez Island, WA 98261

Spokane District BLM Office
1103 N Fancher Rd,
Spokane Valley, WA 99212

For more information, refer to the *Planning Process Primer and Guidebook for the Draft RMP/EIS* or the full Draft RMP/EIS.