

TRUST BOARD OF EBHEY'S LANDING

NATIONAL HISTORICAL RESERVE

September 2005

Dear Friend of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve:

It is with great pleasure that we submit to you the two-volume *Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve* (GMP/EIS). When completed, this plan will guide our management of the Reserve with a 15-20 year vision for its operation and protection.

However, before the GMP/EIS can be completed, it is important that we receive comments on this draft. Please take the time to review this draft and provide us with any comments you may have.

The Draft General Management Plan offers three alternative approaches to public use and enjoyment of the Reserve, protection of natural and cultural resources, and the overall management of this unique unit of the National Park System. The environmental consequences section of the document provides an understanding of the effects each alternative would have on the environment.

Your input to this plan is important and will make it a better guide for the future of the Reserve. You are invited to "Open House" meetings where you can meet with the Trust Board and NPS and Reserve staffs, to ask questions, discuss, and provide comments. These meetings will be held in the fall. Dates, times, and locations of these meetings will be published in local newspapers, in the Draft General Management Plan Alternatives Newsletter, and on our web page at www.nps.gov/ebla. You can submit comments or receive updates on the GMP/EIS online through the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment System at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ebla>. An electronic public comment form is provided through this website.

The public comment period for this draft GMP/EIS will begin with the publishing of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. All comments must be postmarked or transmitted no later than 60 days after the Notice is published in the Federal Register. This date will be made available on the above websites.

If you chose not to submit comments online, please send your written comments to:

Reserve Manager
Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve
PO Box 774
Coupeville, WA 98239

Since its creation in 1978, Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve has benefited from strong community support and broad public participation. Our planning effort for this Draft General Management Plan has also benefited from your participation and involvement. We thank you for taking the time to help make this the best plan possible for such a special place.

George Lloyd, Chair
Trust Board of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve





OH BEAUTIFUL PRAIRIE

*Oh beautiful prairie
How did you come to be?
Tell me your story,
Of how you came to be.*

*I will tell you my story
Of how I came to be,
I started under a glacier
that sat on top of me.*

*It pushed me out of the way,
It made my hills you see today,
It made a hollow deep and wide
and sat there a long, long time.*

*And finally the sun came and melted it away,
It left behind a beautiful lake
That many years ago dried up to make,
The prairie you see today.*

Emma Ruggiero



Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve

Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve
P.O. Box 774
162 Cemetery Road
Coupeville, WA 98239
Contact Person: Rob Harbour, Reserve Manager
(360) 678-6084

Prepared By:
National Park Service
Pacific West Region-Seattle Office
Park Planning and Environmental Compliance
909 1st Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

*Cover: View of Historic Gould Farm from Prairie
Overlook Trail. Whidbey Island, ca. 2000.
Photograph by Rod Slemmons.*



NEED CAPTION. ca. NPS Photo.



Volume I

Draft General Management Plan Draft Development Concept Plans Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

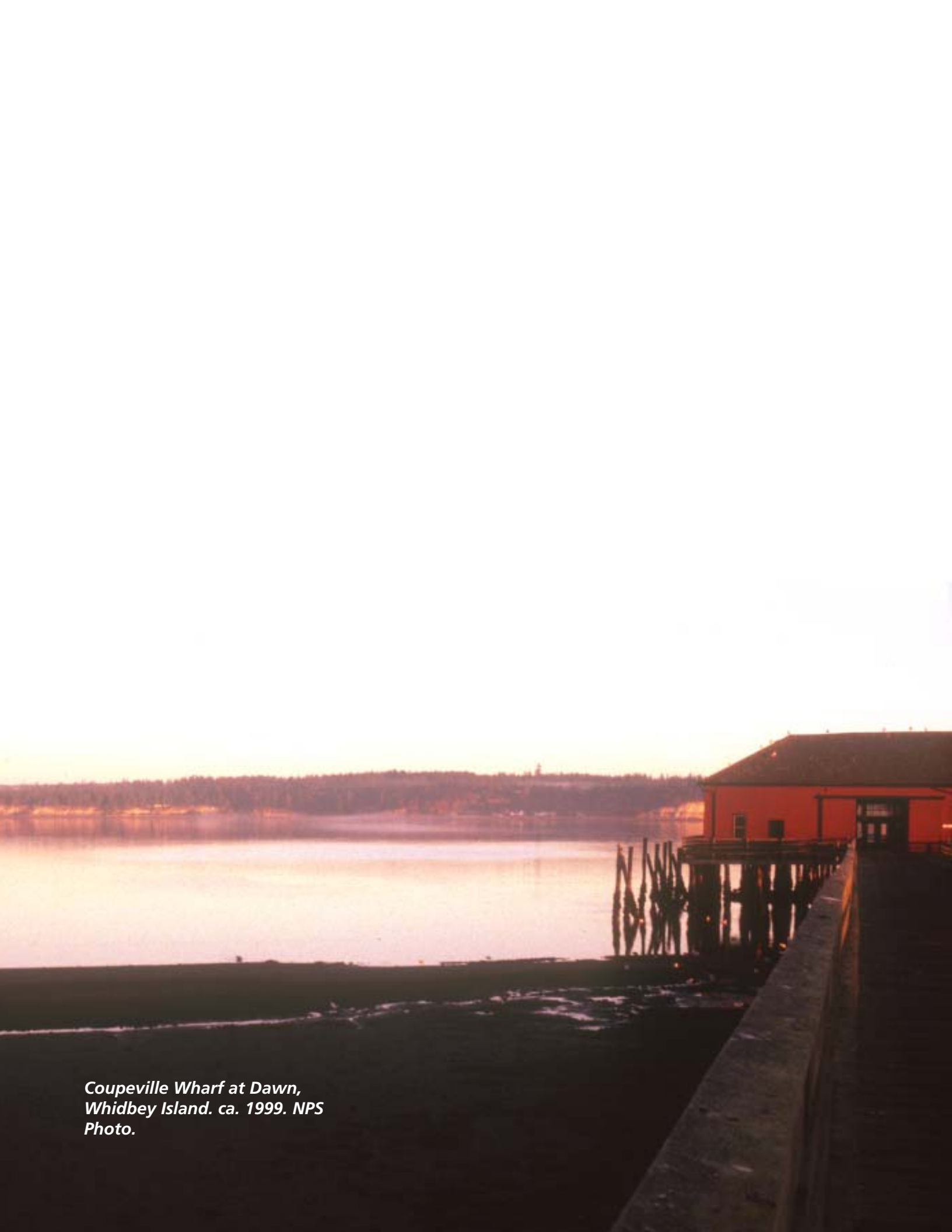
Three alternatives have been developed by the National Park Service (NPS), Reserve staff, and Trust Board in Volume I of the draft general management plan (GMP) and environmental impact statement (EIS) for Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve (Reserve). They respond to NPS planning requirements and to issues identified during the public scoping process. These alternatives address visitor use and the preservation of cultural and natural resources that protect and interpret the rural community on Whidbey Island from 19th century exploration and settlement in Puget Sound to the present time. Alternative B is the Preferred Alternative of the NPS and Trust Board and, if approved, will become the GMP for the Reserve. Volume II contains supplemental reports prepared by consultants which helped in the development of this draft GMP on topics including the cultural landscape, farmland preservation and case studies, and the adequacy of county zoning within the Reserve.

Alternative A constitutes the No Action alternative and assumes that existing programs, facilities, staffing, and funding would generally continue at their current levels. The NPS would dispose of NPS-owned and managed farms within the Reserve to the private sector after placing conservation easements on them.

Alternative B is the NPS Preferred Alternative. The Reserve's Trust Board, and the NPS, in cooperation with partners, would enhance existing programs and resources management, as well as administrative, maintenance, and visitor services within the Reserve. To maintain and protect the rural landscape, the NPS would continue to purchase conservation easements on priority properties based upon a new land protection plan. The NPS would exchange NPS-owned farms to private farm owners for additional protection on other properties within the Reserve. Historic buildings would be rehabilitated to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. The county would be encouraged to develop a zoning overlay for the Reserve to aid in land use control. In addition, a minor boundary adjustment would be recommended. To orient and inform the visitor about the Reserve, three gateway kiosks would be developed along State Route 20 and a visitor center/contact station would be sited in an historic building in Coupeville or within the historic district. Three development concept plans for three sites are included at the end of this alternative.

Alternative C changes the management structure of the Reserve from a Trust Board of volunteers to a paid commission structure. Many actions are similar to Alternative B but with some distinctions. Approximately five acres of NPS-owned land at Farm II would be retained for administrative and maintenance use before exchanging the remaining farmland to a private farm owner for additional protection on other properties within the Reserve. One of the three gateways would be in a historic building in the north of the Reserve. The Reserve would partner for a visitor contact facility at a proposed marine science center.

The environmental consequences of the alternatives are examined in the EIS. Results of public involvement, consultation, and coordination are included. For further information, or to send written comments on this draft plan, contact or write to the Reserve Manager at Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, PO Box 774, Coupeville, Washington 98239-0774; telephone: (360) 678-6084. All comments received are part of the public record and copies, including any names and home addresses of respondents, may be released for public inspection. Individual respondents may request that their home addresses be withheld from the public record, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. However, this request must be stated prominently at the beginning of the comments. Submissions from organizations, businesses, and officials will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. This document is available online at the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment System at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/eblla>. Public comments should be submitted through this website.



*Coupeville Wharf at Dawn,
Whidbey Island. ca. 1999. NPS
Photo.*



How To Use This Document

Volume I of this draft general management plan/environmental impact statement is presented in six chapters and includes appendices, bibliography, and an index.

The summary at the beginning of the document provides a synopsis of this document.

Chapter 1 sets the stage by describing the development of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve and Trust Board, the role of the four partners, and important actions that have occurred since establishment of the Reserve. It also provides the Reserve's purpose, significance, and desired future conditions that were developed with public involvement during the planning process.

Chapter 2 describes the purpose and need for this GMP/EIS.

Chapter 3 provides detailed information on the environment, which could be affected by the decisions contained in the individual management alternatives.

Chapter 4 describes three management alternatives including the NPS's Preferred Alternative. The alternatives represent reasonable sets of management decisions that are considered within the parameters of the GMP. The end of this chapter includes two summary charts: Summary of Actions for Each Alternative and Summary of Impacts.

Chapter 5 describes the impacts of each alternative on resources.

Chapter 6 summarizes public involvement and the consultation process that was an integral part to the creation of this draft GMP/EIS. Chapter 6 also includes summaries of public comments received by the NPS.

The appendices provide more detailed information, including a glossary, which some readers may find helpful when reviewing the main text of the document.

Volume II contains supplemental reports prepared by consultants on topics related to the cultural landscape, farmland preservation and case studies, and the adequacy of county zoning within the Reserve.

How to Comment on this Document

The public comment period for this draft GMP/EIS will begin with the publishing of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. All comments must be postmarked or transmitted no later than 60 days after the Notice is published in the Federal Register. We encourage you to review the document and welcome your comments. During the comment period, comments may be submitted using several methods:

We suggest that you submit comments **online** at: NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment System at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/eb1a>. An electronic public comment form is provided through this website.

A **postage paid comment response form** is included in the Draft General Management Plan Alternatives Newsletter. You may use this form and attach additional pages as necessary. You can also send a letter to:

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve
P.O. Box 774
162 Cemetery Road
Coupeville, WA 98239

In addition, comments may be made **in person** at one of the upcoming public workshops that will be conducted in late September or early Fall. The specific dates and times for these workshops will be announced in local newspapers, in the Draft General Management Plan Alternatives Newsletter, and online at the above site.

A limited number of additional copies of this report are available from the mailing address above. In addition, this draft GMP/EIS is available at the public library in Coupeville.

Public comments and contributions have been an invaluable component of this planning process, and the Reserve Trust Board and the National Park Service look forward to your comments on this Draft GMP/EIS.

