

Public Meetings

Three public meeting “open houses” have been scheduled in September 2005. Two of them will be held at the Rec Hall in Coupeville on Whidbey Island. The third will be at the REI building in Seattle. The purpose of the meetings is to receive public comments on the draft general management plan.

If you are unable to attend these meetings and wish to provide written comments, please write your comments on the enclosed pre-addressed form (enclose additional sheets of comments if needed) and return the form by December 1, 2005.

REI

Seattle Flagship Store
Second Floor Meeting Room
Monday, September 12, 2005 (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)
222 Yale Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98109
(Free parking in garage)

Coupeville Rec Hall

Thursday, September 15, 2005 (2:30 – 5:00 p.m.)
Thursday, September 15, 2005 (6:30 – 9:00 p.m.)
901 NW Alexander Street
Coupeville, Washington 98239

The two volume draft GMP/EIS is available at the Coupeville Public Library (788 NW Alexander Street) and online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lebla>. You may request your own copy by contacting the Reserve Manager at (360) 678-6084.

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



Reserve Manager
Ebey's Landing NHR
PO Box 774
162 Cemetery Road
Coupeville, WA 98239-0774

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Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve
General Management Plan - Special Edition Summer/Fall 2005
Draft General Management Plan Alternatives Newsletter

Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve

General Management Plan - Special Edition Summer/Fall 2005
Draft General Management Plan Alternatives Newsletter



A Message from the Trust Board Chair



Dear Friend of Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve:

It is with great pleasure that we submit to you this summary of 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 summary and provide us with any comments you may have. You may obtain a full copy of the two-volume GMP/EIS by contacting our office, or read a copy at the Coupeville Public Library. It will also be posted online at the website provided below.

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 late summer and are scheduled on the back of this newsletter.

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. We encourage you to use this website and submit your comments online electronically. The public comment period for this draft GMP/EIS will end **December 1, 2005**.

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
162 Cemetery Road
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, Chairman
Trust Board of Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve

Reserve Trust Board and NPS Release Draft GMP/EIS

Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve was created by Congress in 1978 as a unit of the National Park System. However, the Reserve is not a typical national park. It is an experiment in its approach to park management and land protection. Ebey’s Landing is the first “historical reserve” in the National Park System—its boundaries surround mostly private land (approximately 85 percent) and it is managed through a partnership. Though most national park units are managed by a superintendent, the Reserve is managed by a nine-member Trust Board comprised of representatives from four units of government—town, county, state, and federal. Given this nontraditional approach, the Reserve presents unique opportunities and challenges to planning, management, public use, Reserve operations, and preservation of significant natural and cultural resources.

The current comprehensive plan for the Reserve is now 25 years old. The production of a new general management plan (GMP) is necessary to respond to changing conditions, and to provide a new framework for the future management, protection, and public use of Reserve resources for the next 15-20 years.

Since the Reserve was established, many changes have occurred. The Seattle-Tacoma Metropolitan Area

has grown considerably, increasing visitation and residency to central Whidbey Island and changing the character of the rural environment. Over the years, dairy-based and other types of agriculture have declined within the Reserve while conversion of land to residential use is on the rise. Washington State Department of Transportation improvements along State Route 20/525—a State Scenic Highway and the main highway through the Reserve—

are incrementally changing the historic road patterns and increasing speeds in favor of the commuter at the expense of the park visitor. All these factors affect the ability of the National Park Service and the Trust Board to preserve the rural setting which the enabling legislation seeks to achieve: “to preserve and protect a rural community which provides an unbroken historical record from ...19th century exploration and settlement...to the present

(continued on following page)

Dates for GMP Planning Steps and Schedule

General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

PLANNING ACTIVITY		PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
1	Gather Data and Establish Goals & Vision	Spring 2003 Public Scoping Comments
2	Develop Alternatives	Fall 2003
3	Prepare and Publish a Draft GMP/EIS	Fall 2005 Comments on Draft
4	Revise Draft and Publish Final GMP/EIS	Summer 2006
5	Sign Record of Decision	Fall 2006
6	Begin Implementation	Winter 2007

(continued from front page)

time.”

Other changes have been favorable. Nonprofit organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, the Whidbey Camano Land Trust, and the Au Sable Institute now own and have protected land within the Reserve, preserving agriculture and protecting open space and unique natural resources. Partnerships have been forged that protect historic buildings and new “niche” agriculture is beginning to appear as economic factors change.

As part of the general management planning process, three alternatives have been developed that address these changes and other issues discussed in the “Purpose and Need” chapter of this GMP. Both the action alternatives, Alternatives B and C, are intended to address these issues successfully, if the recommendations are implemented. The Preferred Alternative is the alternative chosen by the Trust Board and the NPS to implement.

An environmental impact statement (EIS) has also been prepared, which outlines the impacts or effects that each of the alternatives will have on the Reserve environment. It also assists managers and the public in assessing the relative merits and effects of any one alternative compared to the others.



Interpretive wayside overlooking Ebey's Prairie

As a partnership park, the success of this plan is not solely determined by the National Park Service; rather, the plan’s success depends upon the will and perseverance of all those who have the authority and desire to implement actions within this plan. Final GMP/EIS approval is obtained by the the signing of the Record of Decision and the approval by the NPS Regional Director, Pacific West Region. In acknowledgement of the partnership arrangement, the Trust Board will be recommending the adoption of the approved final GMP by the elected officials from the town of Coupeville and Island County as a component of their comprehensive plans.

The draft general management plan is a two-volume document that includes the GMP/EIS in Volume I. Volume II includes supporting technical reports prepared by consultants on agriculture, land use change patterns, and the adequacy of county zoning for protecting the Reserve.

In conjunction with the GMP/EIS, a land protection strategy was produced by a consultant for the Trust Board and some of the key elements of this plan are included within the draft GMP/EIS. A more detailed land protection plan, which seeks to implement these strategies, will be completed by the National Park Service in consultation with the Trust Board in the near future. Once a draft of the land protection plan is produced, it will be made available for public review and comment.

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative (Alternative A) is required by the National Environmental Policy Act and provides the baseline from which to compare the other alternatives. Under this alternative, current management practices would continue as funding allows. Emphasis would be upon protecting the values of the Reserve largely through part-

nerships with others without substantially increasing staff, programs, funding support or facilities.

It would be assumed under this alternative that the principal support for the Reserve would continue to come from the leadership of the predominately volunteer Trust Board. A small staff consisting of the Reserve Manager and part-time administrative assistant would continue to serve the Reserve, along with an NPS part-time natural resource position and the combined NPS Cultural Resource Specialist/Trust Board appointee. From time to time, staff would be augmented by assistance from the Pacific West Region Seattle Office, North Cascades National Park Service Complex and other NPS park units in the Region as time and funding permit.

The Reserve staff would continue to protect historic structures and natural resources on retained NPS owned land in fee. The Reserve staff would also continue to monitor and manage easements, helping to protect the cultural landscape. The Trust Board would continue to encourage private landowners within the Reserve to be private land stewards of natural resources. State parks would continue to be managed according to state law and policies. The resources on any NPS lands owned in fee would continue to be managed according to federal law and NPS policies.

Land protection efforts would continue to rely upon availability of federal funds secured through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) by NPS staff, largely to acquire conservation or scenic easements from willing sellers on the high priority lands within the Reserve. However, the principal reliance of the Trust Board for protecting Reserve values would continue to be upon local land use controls from the town of Coupeville and Island County. No expansion of facilities, staff, programs, or services would be anticipated under this alternative. There would be no adjustment to the Reserve boundary under this alternative.

Alternative B Preferred Alternative

This alternative constitutes the Preferred Alternative for Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve. The Trust Board and the National Park Service would respond to new operational and land management realities by enhancing programs, resources, and administrative and visitor facilities. This alternative would focus on promoting agriculture, protecting resources, and providing for greater opportunities for public education and enjoyment.

The NPS would seek increased budget appropriations from the National Park Service operating base to enlarge staff presence at the Reserve. The profile of the Reserve staff would expand from four to ten staff positions comprised of both Trust Board and NPS employees. This increase would be phased over time as funding permits. Staff composition would expand the limited maintenance and resource capabilities and allow for education and interpretive positions.

The Trust Board would adopt a new land protection plan subsequent to publication of this GMP



Preservation work on historic Reuble Barn (Farm II)



View of Ferry House from The Nature Conservancy property

that would better articulate the long-range land protection needs by prioritizing highly valued landscapes. Emphasis would continue to be upon the purchase of conservation easements from willing sellers, augmented by land use protection measures by local government and nonprofits. The establishment of an overlay district in the unincorporated portion of the Reserve (not to be confused with the existing town’s historic overlay zone) would be one of several key recommendations for strengthening design, zoning, and permitting authorities by Island County and the town of Coupeville.

The Reserve staff would expand its role in natural resource protection within the Reserve by partnering with other organizations and agencies, when appropriate, on such issues as prairie restoration, roadside vegetation, protection of prime and unique agricultural soils, air and water quality, elimination of exotics and protection of night sky/natural quiet.

Facility improvements would include new information kiosks at three gateway areas into the Reserve and a visitor center/contact station in an historic building either in the town of Coupeville or in the historic district to inform the public about the Reserve. This building could also serve as the Reserve’s administrative headquarters. This alternative would promote partnerships with others to achieve education and visitor goals.

To promote agriculture within the Reserve, the NPS would seek to exchange NPS-owned farms to private owners for additional protection on other properties within the Reserve. The NPS-owned historic buildings would be stabilized and the Jacob Ebey House and Ferry House rehabilitated in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards. The NPS would retain protective easements on the Rockwell House and Reuble Farmstead, as well as on the adjoining farmlands, before they are exchanged.

Once Farm II (the Reuble Farmstead) is exchanged, the Reserve’s maintenance facility would need to move. The Reserve would explore partnering opportunities with units of local government, nonprofits, or others within the Reserve to accommodate this function.

Congressional legislation would also be sought to provide for a modest boundary expansion of the Reserve to incorporate additional prairie, agricultural lands, and wetlands. These would include the remainder of Crockett Lake and the Naval Air Station-Whidbey Outlying Landing Field not currently within the Reserve, additional portions of Smith Prairie, and Bell Farm in the northwest area of the Reserve. Any boundary changes proposed would be fully coordinated with willing property owners and managers.

The Trust Board would work with the public, the Island County Marine Resources Committee, and other agencies to protect the coastal waters adjacent to the Reserve.

Three development concept plans have been included in the draft GMP showing detailed treatment of the South Gateway, the Ferry House, and a portion of the West Ridge property.

Total capital costs for developing Alternative B would be approximated at \$2,800,000 - 3,200,000. Land costs would be approximately \$975,000 - 1,150,000.

Alternative C

This alternative would capture many of the components of Alternative B, but with a few important distinctions.

First, the overall policy management of the Reserve would be executed by a part-time Commission that would be compensated through a stipend for their service. This Commission would replace the current Trust Board management structure. Reserve Staff would increase from four (No Action) to ten positions that would be exclusively hired and managed by the Commission. In Alternative C, the Commission would seek increased budget appropriations from the National Park Service operating base to enlarge staff.

As in Alternative B, the land protection emphasis would primarily focus on securing conservation easements on important Reserve landscapes from willing sellers, augmented by local land use controls. In addition, Alternative C would recommend that Island County reinstitute a system of transfer of development rights for the protection of agricultural, and other important lands.

Rather than exchanging all NPS-owned farmland,

the NPS would retain a five-acre portion of NPS-owned Reuble Farmstead, including the historic farm buildings, for use as the Reserve’s administrative and maintenance facilities, then exchange the remainder of agricultural land for additional protection on other properties within the Reserve. The historic Reuble Farmstead buildings at Farm II would be stabilized and rehabilitated to the Secretary of Interior’s Standards and adaptively reused as NPS administrative offices and workshop facilities. Some non-historic buildings may be removed. Preservation maintenance training could be incorporated into any rehabilitation work done on the historic buildings.

The Ferry House would be stabilized and a barn-like building would be built at the Ferry House using new compatible construction to serve as a visitor information and interpretive center.

The Jacob Ebey House would be treated the same as in Alternative B using the house as a seasonal contact station and the Blockhouse as an exterior exhibit. Before exchanging the West Ridge property to a farmer, the NPS would retain protective easements.

For enhancement of visitor services, the Commission staff would partner with other organizations in the development of a visitor contact facility at a proposed marine science center to educate visitors and interpret the marine environment. The Commission staff would explore the potential to use an historic building to serve as a northern gateway contact facility in addition to two other gateways proposed.

The same minor boundary expansion would be

recommended as in Alternative B; however, it is recommended that the legislation authorizing the change in the Reserve boundary call for a suitability/feasibility study of the western coastal area of Whidbey Island for potential designation as a National Marine Sanctuary managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Total capital costs for developing Alternative C would be approximately \$4,400,000 - 4,750,000. Land costs would be approximately \$975,000 - 1,150,000.



Jacob Ebey House and Blockhouse

Send Us Your Comments!

The National Park Service and the Reserve’s Trust Board and staff invite you to share your comments and concerns regarding the draft GMP/EIS.

By providing your comments on the draft document, you can play a part in producing the best plan to guide the future protection, public use, and management of the Reserve.

The draft GMP/EIS contains three distinct alternatives for future management. The draft GMP identifies the alternative that is preferred by the planning team. Please let us know if you agree with the preferred alternative, prefer another alternative, or elements of other alternatives. You may also have ideas or concepts that the planning team may not have even considered.

We hope that you take the time to read and comment on the draft GMP/EIS. Your input is important to us. To mail, please fold this form in half, enclose additional sheets of comments if necessary, seal it with tape (do not staple) and mail to the preprinted address. Please send comments by December 1, 2005.

Please contact Rob Harbour, Reserve Manager at (360) 678-6084 for additional information.

All comments received will become part of the public record and copies of comments, 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 public record, which will be honored to the extent allowable by law. Requests to withhold names and/or addresses must be stated prominently at the beginning of the comments. Anonymous comments will not be considered. Submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Do you want to remain on the mailing list for future planning newsletters? Yes No

For future Reserve activities? Yes No

Please print your name and address below if you wish to be added to the mailing list.:

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Comments

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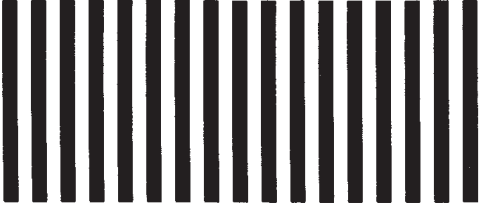


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Summary of Actions for Each Alternative

Actions	Alternative A (No Action)	Alternative B (Preferred)	Alternative C
Reserve Management <i>Policy and Oversight</i>	Continue to provide policy and oversight by volunteer Trust Board representing local, state, and federal interests.	Same as Alternative A.	Provide policy and oversight by a paid Commission structure, which would be compensated through a stipend for their service
<i>Operations and Management</i>	Provide operations and management by Reserve Manager and staff reporting to Trust Board for duties/roles assigned; retain NPS Cultural Resource Specialist/Trust Board member position; have NPS staff report to NPS supervisors.	Provide operations and management by Reserve Manager and staff reporting to Trust Board; split NPS Cultural Resource Specialist/Trust Board member position; have Trust Board staff report to Trust Board; NPS staff report to NPS supervisors.	Provide operations and management by Reserve Manager and staff reporting to Commission; eliminate all NPS staff positions; keep NPS Trust Board member.
Cultural Resource Management <i>Cultural Landscape</i>	Continue to participate in county/town design review boards; document prehistoric resources and update the National Register District properties as necessary.	Same as Alternative A plus develop system for tracking, evaluating, and monitoring changes to cultural landscape in Reserve; provide stronger advocacy role; expand technical library and archives related to Reserve history; facilitate historical research, publish research on various topics, and disseminate information; expand interpretation, special events, and outreach programs related to history, cultural landscapes, rural character of the Reserve.	Same as Alternative B.
<i>Historic Buildings and Structures</i>	Conduct research to preserve and protect NPS-owned historic properties; work cooperatively with property owners to provide technical assistance; revise historic preservation guidelines; stabilize and potentially utilize NPS-owned structures according to Secretary Standards;	Same as Alternative A plus update and strengthen design guidelines, zoning, and permitting authorities to assist preservation efforts and promote compatible new construction and in-fill development; initiate overlay zone.	Same as Alternative B plus use NPS properties for demonstration and training sites or interpretive uses for historic preservation through outreach programs; establish a friends group to help establish revolving low-interest loans to property owners for preservation work; encourage elected officials to use incentives to assist property owners in rehabilitation efforts.
<i>Collections Management</i>	Maintain existing collection at North Cascades National Park Service Complex	Same as Alternative A plus develop a museum management plan that provides for local museum to hold limited artifacts provided NPS storage requirements are met.	Same as Alternative A plus provide space for limited collections within new visitor center/contact station.
<i>Archaeology</i>	Continue established resource protection measures for the identification and treatment of archaeological resources.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Natural Resources <i>Geology, Soils, and Air Resources</i>	Continue to support preservation of prime and unique farmland soils; incorporate night sky preservation provisions in easement language.	Same as Alternative A plus encourage natural quiet/night sky programs and activities; join existing air quality networks within state and federal agencies to gather baseline information and establish monitoring program; work with partners to prevent the loss of prime and regionally important agricultural soils; solicit funding for soils monitoring and other research topics.	Same as Alternative B.
<i>Water Resources</i>	Continue to support and encourage existing water quality programs and protection of wetlands, impoundments, riparian areas, and aquifer recharge areas.	Same as Alternative A plus work with others to protect, restore, mitigate for wetlands; protect shoreline; protect aquifer and surface waters; encourage development of Penn Cove water quality plan; seek funding for hydrological assessments.	Same as Alternative B.
<i>Vegetation</i>	Coordinate vegetation management with the Reserve’s fire management plan; continue to advocate for native plant community preservation; monitor NPS-owned woodlands; identify/re-establish prairie sites; remove exotic species as possible; secure funding for the protection of listed golden paintbrush; promote importance of hedgerows; encourage compatible roadside vegetation program with others; continue vascular plant inventory and surveys.	Same as Alternative A plus work cooperatively with partners to expand and preserve woodland and prairie ecology; design and implement prairie restoration plan; promote compatible roadside vegetation program; work with partners in Weed Management Area to control exotic plant species; seek funding for research and monitor projects.	Same as Alternative B.
<i>Wildlife</i>	Continue to support T&E species at federal and state level; increase knowledge in baseline species information; continue to seek cooperation from NCCN network.	Same as Alternative A plus increase baseline information, produce interpretive materials, and conduct outreach programs; seek funding for research and monitoring.	Same as Alternative B.
Agricultural Resources <i>Protection of Agriculture Lands</i>	Continue to acquire easements on key parcels; encourage protection of prime soils; define the extent of acceptable change in easements; continue to track pest management on NPS-owned farmland; continue to provide technical assistance on farming topics; continue limited community programs, which promote public awareness of agriculture.	Same as Alternative A plus partner with federal, state, and local entities to provide technical assistance to property owners regarding grant proposals, tax incentives and other measures; establish a friends group; advocate for organic and sustainable agriculture; encourage innovative agricultural product development; cooperate with existing farm organizations to interest investors in farm operations; work with others to advance agricultural research marketing, and sales.	Same as Alternative B.
<i>NPS-owned Farms</i>	Farm I: Place NPS conservation easement and rehabilitate historic buildings where possible; then exchange out of federal ownership to private farm operator.	Farm I: Same as Alternative A plus retain 1 acre for development of trailhead. Farm II: Same as Alternative A.	Farm I: Same as Alternative B. Farm II: Place NPS conservation easement and rehabilitate historic houses; retain Reuble Farmstead and approximately 5

(NPS-owned Farms continued)

	<i>Farm II:</i> Place NPS conservation easement and rehabilitate historic houses where possible; then exchange out of federal ownership to private farm operator. <i>West Ridge Property:</i> continue to retain property in NPS ownership; continue to lease 60- acre tract for farming; retain Cottage for Reserve administration offices and maintain Jacob Ebey House and Blockhouse as exterior interpretive exhibits without intrepertation.	<i>West Ridge Property:</i> short-term—con- tinue to lease 60acre tract for agricultural uses; long-term—place conservation ease- ment on land and exchange for conserva- tion easement on other priority properties within the Reserve; retain sufficient acre- age to include Jacob Ebey House, Block- house, and Cottage.	acres to augment administration capability and for maintenance facility; ex- change remainder of farm out of federal ownership to private farm operator. <i>West Ridge Property:</i> Same as Alterna- tive B.
Recreational Resources <i>Trails and Walks</i>	Continue to work with partners in maintaining existing trails; continue to promote and publish tour brochures; implement Reserve-wide sign plan with partners.	Same as Alternative A plus complete/ expand trail network; retain 1 acre at Farm I for trailhead; cooperate with others on developing public self-guided nature trails; partner with county on water trail; expand auto tour route in northern Reserve.	Same as Alternative B.
<i>Appropriate Uses</i>	Encourage appropriate watercraft usage; provide information about water-based recreation opportunities; develop standards/locations for recreational uses within the Reserve with partners; continue to support passive recreational activities.	Same as Alternative A plus develop system for monitoring increased recreational use; mitigate for adverse effects.	Same as Alternative B.
Scenic Resources <i>Protection of Scenic Lands, Roadsides, and Vistas</i>	Maintain scenic/historic views; maintain open space along existing waysides/ pullouts; continue to influence placement of new structures on landscape to minimize visual impact; use purchase of easements to protect scenic quality.	Same as Alternative A plus develop with partners a homeowners design guidelines handbook; enhance beauty of roadside areas; encourage clustering provisions; continue to encourage the designation of key scenic roads; encourage development of scenic pullouts/overlooks/waysides; work with town to define and protect viewshed across Penn Cove.	Same as Alternative B.
Interpretation and Education <i>Exhibits and Interpretive Media</i>	Maintain wayside exhibits to NPS standards; produce long range interpretive plan; work with partners to expand exhibits/ pullouts; support the TIS; upgrade website; provide general information about Reserve; find new locations for NPS Passport Stamp; maintain Ferry House/ Jacob Ebey House/Blockhouse as exterior exhibits.	Same as Alternative A plus revise wayside exhibit plan; improve wayside at Port Townsend Ferry Landing; place oral histories/historic documents/photos on Reserve’s website; sign and actively interpret the Ferry House/Jacob Ebey House/Blockhouse as exterior exhibits.	Same as Alternative B plus interpret collections in Reserve visitor center/contact station operated by the Commission potentially with partners; work with partners to expand outreach using latest technology to reach larger, broader, and more diverse audience across country.
<i>Reserve Visitor Center</i>	Island County Historical Museum continues to serve as Reserve visitor center.	Find suitable Coupeville building or historic building elsewhere within Reserve; could co-locate administration offices here.	Same as Alternative B but explore partnering opportunities with others; partner for a visitor contact facility at a proposed marine science center.
<i>Partnership Programs</i>	Continue to partner with others in existing limited educational and interpretive programs.	Initiate volunteer program coordinated by a Reserve staff coordinator/education specialist; establish friends group; promote public education on Reserve through programs/workshops; participate in NPS Parks as Classrooms Program; offer field schools with partners; develop aquatic environments interpretive exhibits.	Same as Alternative B plus develop regional and national educational partnerships on resource management and protection, landscape preservation and other topics.
<i>Gateway Contact Facilities</i>	No gateway contact facilities developed.	Develop 3 gateway interpretive kiosks.	Same as Alternative B plus explore the potential to use historic building to serve as the northern gateway contact facility.
<i>Interpretive Guided Tours/Outreach</i>	Provide limited guided tours by private operators; continue to provide limited outreach.	NPS staff would provide personal services, including training and certification to private operators; encourage public auto tour routes; partner with real estate companies to develop a brochure about living within the Reserve.	Same as Alternative B.
Reserve Facilities <i>Administration Facilities</i>	Retain staff offices in Cottage and a natural resources management office at Farm I.	Same as Alternative A in the short-term; long-term, secure admin space in town in historic building potentially within visitor center/contact station; retain Cottage for resource offices.	Same as Alternative A in short-term; long- term, adaptively use 5 acres of Farm II to augment administrative needs. Continue to use Cottage for resource offices.
<i>Maintenance Facilities</i>	In short-term continue to use Farm II for storage and shop; continue to use seasonal employees and volunteers; no funded/established maintenance program; long-term,explore various opportunities to co-locate facilities with others.	In short-term continue to use Farm II for storage/shop; when Farm II is exchanged, explore opportunities to co-locate facilities with others; hire NPS maintenance foreman; adopt procedures/programs for maintaining NPS-owned structures.	Same as Alternative B in short-term; long- term, adaptively use 5 acres of Farm II for maintenance complex.
Reserve Boundary	Maintain existing boundary.	Expand boundary to include remaining portions of US Navy OLF, Smith Prairie, Crockett Lake wetlands; Bell Farm.	Same as Alternative B.
Land Protection <i>Land Protection Methods</i>	Continue to rely on existing county/town land use controls; secure easements and limited fee-title; partner with nonprofit land trusts and organizations.	Same as Alternative A plus institute other creative land protection techniques; establish formal relationship with land trust; seek other funding besides LWCF; seek to protect recharge areas through easement protection; work with DNR to protect intertidal areas; work with other agencies to protect marine waters through county/state designation.	Same as Alternative B , with the following exception: recommend that legislation authorize the change in the Reserve boundary and direct a suitability/ feasibility study of western coast of Whidbey Island for potential designation as a National Marine Sanctuary managed by NOAA.
<i>Land Protection Priorities</i>	Seek to preserve key parcels in accordance with the Reserve’s subsequent land protection plan.	Focus land protection measures on 8 intact areas within the Reserve based on subsequent land protection plan.	Same as Alternative B.
<i>Land Use Measures</i>	Rely on county/town zoning and land use regulations; rely on town’s historic overlay zone; inform officials of proposals contrary to Reserve mission; provide design review input to county and town.	Same as Alternative A plus encourage county to adopt a regulatory overlay zone over unincorporated portion of the Reserve similar to Coupeville for implementing design review and other land use controls that aid in rural preservation.	Same as Alternative B.
<i>Funding</i>	Provided by LWCF and supplemented by nonprofit organizations.	Same as Alternative A plus seek new sources of funding support for land protection; establish friends group to support various land protection opportunities; solicit foundations and individuals for support, and bequests from private estates.	Same as Alternative B.