San Juan Island National Historical Park
PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY
Public Comments Provided during January 22, 2014 English Camp Trails Open House or Afterwards via Email

Comment Numbers
24 people attended public open house (including hikers, mountain bicyclists and equestrians)

15 total comment letters (all email, no PEPC comments)
1/15 from self-identified hiker
11/15 comment letters from self-identified equestrians (EM4, EM5, EM6, EM7, EM8, EM9, EM10, EM11, EM12)
1/15 comment letters from self-identified mountain bikers (EM2)

Agency commenters
(individual) San Juan Conservation Corps (EM3) (includes offer for assistance)
(phone call) NPCA (EM13) (request for summary)

Comment Summary
The English Camp trails open house began with a map and comment exercise that asked participants to identify where they accessed the English Camp trails.

Most participants (6) identified the Horse Trail Road entrance to Mitchell Hill. Other participants identified; 5 identified the junction of West Valley Road and Westcott Bay Drive; 4 identified the English Camp parking area; 2 identified the northwest corner of Mitchell Hill; 1 identified the south central boundary of English Camp (adjacent to private land); 1 identified the parking area at Westcott Bay; 1 identified an interior area in Mitchell Hill; 1 identified a north Roche Harbor Highlands/Mitchell Hill boundary access point; and 1 identified a south Roche Harbor Highlands/Mitchell Hill access point.

Introductory Map Exercise Summary
How often do you use the trails at. . .

	Mitchell Hill	Westcott Bay
Every Day	0	0
2-3 times/week	5	0
once/week	3	0
2 times/month	5	1
once/month	5	9
2-5 times/year	2	2
Never	0	0

Trail Use: How are you using the trails?

	Biking	Hiking	Running	Bird watching Wildlife viewing	Horseback riding	Dog walking	Exercise	Education
Mitchell Hill	6	13	1	8	7	4	7	1
Westcott Bay		13	1	4	0	2	2	3

Trail Access: How do you access Mitchell Hill and Westcott Bay Trails?

How	To Mitchell Hill	To Westcott Bay
By car from. . . (where)	Horse Trail Road Gate (2) Parking Lots English Camp	Trailhead /Parking English Camp Parking Lot

	West Valley Road parking area (2) Connecting trailhead (not identified)	Westcott Bay Parking Lot
By shuttle at English Camp	0	0
By horse and trailer at. . . (where)	Roche Harbor Road (2) Wish we could access at horse trail gate	
By horse at. . . (where)	Horse Trail Gate (3)	Service Road (2)
By bike at. . . (where)	Roche Harbor Parking (2) Horse Trail Road Parking (3)	
By foot at. . . (where)	Trailheads (2) Orchard Trailhead	Bell Point Trailhead

Trail Enjoyment: What do you most enjoy about using trails at. . .

Mitchell Hill	Westcott Bay
Trees, quiet	Bay views, creek beds
Beautiful, undisturbed	Remote quiet +
Multiuse trails, horses	water views, connection to English Camp
hills, network of trails, exploration, views	walking
There are two wonderful trails there that aren't even on the map	Would love multiuse trail that connects to Mitchell Hill
Exercise -- running, mountain biking	multiuse trails -- love to have connected between parks
Leading walks, hikes	
Trail network	
multiuse trails for horseback riding	
multiuse	

Trail Concerns: What concerns do you have regarding trails at. . .

Mitchell Hill	Westcott Bay
Will I be hit by a bike? [added by someone else: "not hard"]	Hikers straying from path and breaking down shoreline embankment
Losing multiuse trails and having too many signs, losing naturalness	Congestion and cars
Please don't close too many	No concerns!
Bikes and horses collide, don't want trails to go away	Mucky trails, not enough trails
Keep open to bikes please	Parking/access
Continue multiuse	Would love equestrian or multiuse access on loop in English Camp that connects to Mitchell Hill
Federal government closures	Loop Trail connecting three park areas
Losing multiuse trails	
Losing horse trails	

Code Explanation

EM#letter - Email comment letter number, and comment identification letter from letter

PM# -- Public meeting comment number

T# -- Public meeting table comments

(*Note: some of the comments are duplicates from recordation of the same information at the public open house table and group discussion or facilitator's notes and/or in an email*)

Concern Statements with All Applicable Comments

Substantive Comments Mitchell Hill

Allow hikers on all trails (4 comments)

EM3e) hikers can walk it all

PM6) No hiking restrictions

T3b) All trails are for hikers

T4a) Make all trails hiking

Provide some hiker only trails (1 comment)

PM8)Appreciate hiker only trails.

Retain equestrian trails (4 comments)

EM8a) [Keep equestrian trails] in the islands. . . open. (reason for purchasing nearby property)

EM6 a) [Continue to make] equestrian trails [available] on San Juan Island.

EM10a) We have raised and trained horses for nearly forty years and the only reasons we purchased the property were because it abutted and has direct access to Mitchell Hill area and English Camp National Park area trails and that all of the trails were open to equestrians for trail riding.

EM10b) We have regularly hiked the Mitchell Hill and Young Hill trails and will be regularly (several times per week) horseback riding on the same trails and plan to explore all of the trails in the system including the new connection to Roche Harbor.

Retain mountain biking trails (1 comment)

EM2*a)* hope these trails continue to remain open to mountain bikers.

Keep trails open for multiuse (6 comments)

EM1a) [Support] multiple users maintaining access to the trails around Mitchell Hill.

EM7a) [Retain] the multi-use trails

EM4a) strong consensus for keeping all trails multi-use

EM10c) We understand that the proposed plan is to continue the multi-use (including equestrian, hiker and biker) of all trails along with improvements and new connecting and loop trails - all of which we wholeheartedly support.

EM11a) I am an avid horseback rider, mountain biker, hiker, and backpacker and so was VERY pleased to hear that such progress was made toward keeping and establishing multiuse trails!

PM2) All trails are used by all user groups

Multiuse groups have improved trails (1 comment)

EM1c) [Stakeholders] have been able to join together to accomplish projects that benefit all users, such as trail improvements and guidelines.

Multiuse works well (2 comments)

EM1b) various stakeholders have demonstrated not only long term co-existence

EM5a) trails are working well for everyone involved.

Provide a range of trail experiences (2 comments)

T1c) Not all trails should be multiple use

T4b) Make all trails multiple use

Retain natural area (1 comment)
EM5g) Leave the Mitchell Hill area as natural as possible.

Close duplicate trails (4 comments)
EM4b) keeping most of [trails] open, removing only the occasional one where it's a close duplicate of another
PM43) Okay to close trails that parallel each other/go to same place from the same direction.
PM44) Remove some overlapping trails.
PM45) Some trails are too close together -- remove.

Improve trail navigation (10 comments)
EM5b) the maps need landmarks added to be much more useful, [including]
- Mitchell and Young Hilltops.
- Lake Trail.
- Alder Trail.
- Kneeknocker Trail from the Logging Rd around Briggs Lake, on both sides of Mitchell Hill trail, around the back of the top of Mitchell Hill and joining Mitchell Hill trail.
- And the old car wreck on Mitchell Hill off Kneeknocker trail near Mitchell Hill trail.
PM9) Locate landmarks on map so it is easier to understand trail navigation.
PM10) Put more information on the map so there are fewer signs on the ground.
PM11) Map should reflect what is on the ground
PM51) Identify on map
- Mitchell Hill Summit
- Puncheon/Turnpike
- Contours
- Pipe Gate
- Teepee
- English Camp boundary
- Old Car
T1i) Get local landowners to identify landmarks
T3e) Add mileage markers
T1d) Use Color-coding for signage and trail routes
T4d) Identify Roche Harbor Highlands viewpoint on map
T4e) Consider using colloquial trail names (Kneeknocker Trail, Lars Trail)
T4l) Show more landmarks on maps

Improve trail signage (16 comments)
EM5c) Provide just a few entrance only signs on multi-use trails as follow:
- Lake Trail; from the triangle trail intersection over the turnpike and on to Briggs Lake.
- Mitchell Hill Trail; from the same intersection and up over Mitchell Hill to the logging road.
- Alder Trail; from the logging road up through the Alder Woods to connect with the logging trail behind Mitchell Hill.
- The main logging road which passes from Mitchell Hill past the Horse Trail Gate to around the back of Mitchell Hill.
- Young Hill Trail up the back of Young Hill
PM10) Put more information on the map so there are fewer signs on the ground.
PM12)There are quite a few trails that criss-cross the main road loop that are not shown on the map.
PM13)Trails are hard to identify -- no names.
PM14) Destinations are an important trail use component -- trail users are usually headed somewhere.

PM15) Add trail etiquette sign
PM16) Identify trail rules
PM56) Add Signage
T1e) No more "No" signs
T1f) More educational signs
T1j) Use Anacortes Forest Lands as a model for signage of multiple use
T3d) add trail signage
T3g) Add a trail etiquette sign -- horses, bikes, hikers
T4k) Provide more signage
T4m) Name or color code or number trail junctions
T4n) Use a minimum amount of signage with use symbols tied to a map

Establish a trail rating system (2 comments)
PM17)Consider establishing a trail rating system (easy, moderate, hard)
T3f) Consider a steepness/difficulty level system

Add interpretation (2 comments)
PM18) Add interpretation of historic features (Old Military Road)
PM55) Create a campaign for responsible mountain bike / horseback riding.

Provide Trail Facilities (22 comments plus 2 duplicates)
Benches (1 comment)
EMg) I'm always in favor of some benches here and there on trails.

Parking (7 comments)
EM5f) [Consider not establishing] a big parking lot with restrooms near Horsetrail Gate. Just widen the lot on the north side.
PM59) Add parking area at Horse Trail Road
PM60) Add parking between Roche Harbor Highlands and Westcott
T1b2) parking lot with toilet/restroom
T3a) parking and restroom at main parking area
T3p) Provide additional parking at Administrative Access Road and West Valley Road intersection
T4j) Provide more parking

Horse Trailer Parking (2 comments)
PM62) Consider a location for horse trailer parking.
T1b1) Add horse trailer parking

Trail Improvements (1 comment)
EM5h) Spend the money on the trails themselves if needed or the new connector [not facilities]

Hitching Posts (6 comments)
EM5i) [Install] a hitching post on the Young Hill trail where the horses are asked to stop near the top, so that riders are able to take in the wonderful view of the islands.
EM5j) [Locate] a hitching post at the end of the trail in English Camp, and maybe a picnic table nearby.
PM1) Put infrastructure into trails rather than facilities -- don't overbuild
PM48) Add hitching posts to Mount Young so that riders can get off and hike to the top.
T1b4) hitching posts
T4o) Add hitching posts where horses can't go, such as on Young Hill

Restrooms (2 comments)
PM57) A restroom would be nice.
T1b2) parking lot with toilet/restroom

Phone (2 comments)
PM58) Add emergency phone (many cell-phone dead zones).
T1b3) emergency phone

Camping (2 comments)
PM61) Consider adding low-key camping (hike-in)
T1b5) walk-in/drive-in camping

Accessibility (1 comment)
EM5e) [Consider] making the Cedar Woods available to wheelchair access by a puncheon to be constructed near the Horsetrail Rd gate entrance.

Improve trails likely to be used the most (1 comment)
PM21) Identify the trails that tourists are likely to use/be directed to for improvement.

Establish new trails (12 comments)
Provide horse access to Westcott Bay (1 comment)
EM12a) It is extremely exciting to hear we may get a loop for horses on the new Westcott bay property (bought property because of horse trail access)

Establish new access to Horse Trail Road (5 comments)
EM9a/b) interested in . . . another multi-use entrance near the top of Yacht Haven and West Valley. Several of us ride out of the Blazing Tree Equestrian Center and accessing the Horse Trail gate via the easement along West Valley next to the white fencing can be treacherous during the winter. The trail narrows considerable as it approaches Horse Trail, is very wet and muddy, and some of it is partially submerged at times.
EM5l) [Allow] multi-use on the existing trail or another multi-use trail entrance near the top of Yacht Haven and West Valley to take some of the pressure off Horse Trail Gate entrance.
EM14a) There are a number of equestrians that access the National Park trails from the Blazing Tree area. Currently we use the easement along West Valley Rd. in front of the white fencing of Twin Oaks to get to the Horse Trail gate. During much of the year due to our wet weather that trail is very slippery and muddy, and part of it is completely submerged under water. That easement trail is extremely narrow as it gets to the corner of the white fencing and Horse Trail and potentially could be very dangerous if a horse took a misstep.
EM14b) Is there a possibility that a new trail into the National Park could be created somewhere around Yacht Haven and West Valley Rd.? The easement we would have to ride in that direction is much wider without the steep drop off to the drainage ditch along West Valley Rd.
EM15b) re: Yacht Haven/West Valley Road horse trail (EM14b): Your idea would take some of the pressure off the very popular Horse Trail Rd entrance to the San Juan National Park.

Establish Access via the Sandwith Orchard Trail (1 comment)
EM15a) I have been asking for quite a while for a trail leading up through the orchard or along the NPS border with the private property on the south end of English Camp leading over to the Lake Trail which leads to Briggs Lake and all the trails. In the past, NPS Superintendents have not been interested. But at the recent NPS meeting Lee Taylor announced she was looking at this idea favorably.

Create new multiuse trail to link English Camp properties (3 comments)
PM46)Link English Camp properties with a multiuse loop trail.
T4c) Create a new trail connecting all three sites English Camp, Westcott to Mitchell Hill -- multiple use
EM5m) [Establish] a possible multi-use loop trail going from Mitchell Hill area to English Camp

Other (2 comments)
T2b) Establish new trail from Roche Harbor/West Valley intersection to English Camp

EMf) . . . now we need a trail leading from the parade ground area to the intersection of West Valley Road and Roche Harbor Road; it could follow the 100' contour line.

Retain the following trails (3 comments)
EM5d) The following are necessary connector trails:
- Kneeknocker Trail from the Logging Rd around Briggs Lake, on both sides of Mitchell Hill trail, around the back of the top of Mitchell Hill and then joining Mitchell Hill trail.
- Lars Trail heading uphill from the first puncheon on Kneeknocker winding up through the woods and over to Mitchell Hill trail near the top.
- The trail just south of Horsetrail Gate Rd heads east up into the woods and intersects with the Alder trail just before connecting with the logging road.
- The main trail headed south from the Alder Trail, through the woods south coming out on the logging road near the trail to the Boy Scout Camp.

EM4d) There are two delightful trails at Mitchell Hill that are not on the map and I believe should be. One is just after turning left (north) at the entrance Y; it crosses a little seasonal brook with a dilapidated bridge into a cathedral-like area, and rejoins the main trail farther north
EM4e) [Trail not on map]The other is almost immediately after turning right at the entrance Y, and I believe was created by the bicyclists; it is breathtakingly beautiful with green, green moss and intermittent sunlight coming through the trees. It's fairly steep, and I prefer to walk up it, rather than down, but it connects to a wide logging-road trail that will bring you back to the entrance.

Limit use in sensitive areas (16 comments)
EM3a) close off the sensitive areas from horses & bikes. . .
EM4c) narrow north-south trail through the middle of the Mitchell Hill property be closed to horses and bikes during the wet months, unless it can be improved so that the water drains off.
PM3) Could consider limiting mountain biking/horseback riding where trails are wet or mossy for both user groups or where extremely steep for horseback riding
PM4) No mountain biking in cedar grove
PM5) No horseback riding in cedar grove
PM22) Minimize or avoid horse and mountain bike use where it is steep, mossy or wet.
PM23) Balance recreation with resource protection.
PM24) Protect fragile areas.
PM28) Wet areas could have limited access.
PM29) The park should not be married to maintaining trails in existing locations -- there may be a less sensitive location/rerouting that could be done.
PM30) Avoid multiuse in riparian areas.
PM31) Consider seasonal closures if necessary to horses and bikes during wet season.
PM36) Evaluate trail, determine uses desired to provide and if the trail does not meet this, either rebuild or reroute.
T4g) Protect spring fed riparian area
T4h) Steep, mossy, wet areas should not be for multiple use
T4i) Limit seasonal hiking based on sensitivity

Some user groups have greater impacts on trails (4 comments)
EM3b) horses & bikes-weight and speed have a much bigger impact on trail, especially riparian areas. . .
EM3f) bikes & horses are hardest on wet areas, switchbacks/climbing turns, and tree roots/sensitive vegetation
PM54) Avoid use by BMXers, freeriders, because they create jumps
T3c) while biking on some trails should be appropriate, specific mountain bike trails with bike specific trail designs is not appropriate

User conflicts may occur with increased use (4 comments)
PM7) Multiuse could be problematic if there is increased use.

PM20) Limit multiuse/trail use based on carrying capacity -- with more publicity of the site, develop parking, there may be increased overall use and thus more conflicts.
T4f) Low level overall use/rarely see other groups
PM39) Use has increased since NPS took possession. There are more people putting more pressure on resources.

Minimize conflicts by separating equestrians and bicyclists (1 comment)
EM3c) split up your horses and bikes just to be safe-speed of bikes & horses spooking on a blind corner or high veg area not so good, even if you have a good yielding system. . .

Minimize conflicts by creating one-way trails (1 comment)
EM3h) one direction flow is very helpful to decrease collision [for mountain bikes]

Design specific trails for equestrians and bicyclists (5 comments)
EM3d) bike & horse trails should be designed for that from the get go-they use trail very differently,
EM3g) good mountain bike trails need banked corners, lots of mileage, fortified corners/switchbacks, tree root coverage, speed checks & gains, trick/play spots (if you build them, they will come),
EM3k) good horse trails need to fortify corners/switchbacks, manage water/tread & drainage well, hold their weight w/ bridges/turnpikes/puncheons, have a solid & wide bench on sidehill trails to keep the outer bench from eroding, have good visibility
PM37) It is better to recreate or reconfigure a trail to accommodate preferred uses.
PM47) Build trails for appropriate use (horse, hiker, multiuse trails have/should have different characteristics)

Keep horses and bicyclists off hiking trails using fencing (1 comment)
EM3i) [Use] the "z" style fence that keeps out horses & bikes

Establish loop trails (3 comments)
EM3j) designing overall trail to be one big loop between all the properties,
EM3i) w/ smaller loops/or connecting trails in the middle makes it a 'smarter' trail system where folks can pick appropriate mileages for what they want, bikes and horses are 'satisfied' w/ longer trip abilities, hikers can explore different loops, folks can exit at various access points, and loops keep it interesting so hikers aren't always going in and out on the same trail
EM3l) [M]ap out an overall system/loop series that connects properties, closes/opens certain areas (sensitive, high impact, unique features, historical info, views) before deciding which trails for what user in addition to public input
PM19) Many trail loops are possible (loop trails desirable).

Design trails for ease of maintenance (1 comment)
EM3m) . . . consider the ease w/ which trail maintenance can be done in those marked places-do we need a turnpike? if so, do we have any nearby borrow pits (mineral soil to mine), if not, we're transporting in material for fill-might be impossible or really difficult, so next option....re-route? might be easier considering location....

Determine what impacts are occurring (4 comments)
PM25) Are there sensitive resources at Mitchell Hill? Can we limit use to protect those?
PM26) Are resources currently being damaged?
PM32) What is the impact of trail use on resources?
PM33) What is the impact of trail use on users?

Horses cause impacts (2 comments)
PM34) Walk and poop vs. stop and poop
PM35) Clean up after horses

The trail system is confusing/safety issues (4 comments)
PM41) People get turned around and confuse Roche Harbor Road and West Valley Road.
T1g) Identify EMT response
T1h) Establish volunteer patrol organization
PM38) There are many anecdotes about people getting lost.

Although the Roche Harbor Highlands area is open space now, it is platted for development (1 comment)
PM42) Roche Harbor Highlands is platted for development. Contact Will Hamilton for more information.

With NPS management, there has been a decrease in motorized uses and hunting/trapping (1 comment)
PM40) Since NPS took possession, motorcycle, ATV and hunting/trapping have decreased.

Improve English Camp Trails (1 comment)
PM50) Consider marking and identifying network of trails at English Camp.

Consider allowing bicycles on back side of Young Hill (1 comment)
PM49) Young Hill: Why if horses are allowed on the back side, why can't bikes be allowed (on old roadbed)?

Link trail system to (2 comments)
PM52) Consider Linkages to Pacific Harbor Trail System (kayaking)
PM53) San Juan County Park (Cascade and Marine Trail) (kayaking)

Substantive Comments Westcott
Provide/Improve Trails
T3o) Determine if trails area appropriate for shared (multiple) use at Westcott
T1a) Put trail to peninsula at Westcott on map

Provide interpretation
T3h) Provide interpretive information

Provide accessibility
T3i) Provide accessibility at Westcott

Provide facilities
Bench
T3j) Provide bench at engraved rock (Westcott)

Camping
T3l) Provide walk-in/hike-in campsites separated as needed for privacy for kayaking access
T3m) Provide horsecamp/hitching post
PM61) Consider adding low-key camping (hike-in or kayak-in)
T1b5) walk-in/drive-in camping, kayak camping, boat-in campgrounds

Parking and Restroom
T3a) parking and restroom at main parking area
T3k) Provide restrooms at Westcott

Kayaking
EMh) kayak landing. But perhaps there is firmer ground along the Westcott Bay coast, well west of the former Webb Camp, and perhaps there could be camping provided inside the Bell Point loop trail.
T1b) Add kayaking

<u>Create a stewardship group</u>
T3n) Create a use/stewardship group

Nonsubstantive Comments (Planning Process/Outside the Scope)
<u>Offers of assistance</u>
EM3n) -I can give you a good idea of what projects are do-able w/ middle school or high school kids, what might be better for SJ Trails committee and so on
EM5k) Money for hitching posts is available from the San Juan Trails Committee. Island Trail Riders would donate the picnic table and the hitching posts if needed.

<u>Provide comment summaries</u>
EM13a) NPCA requested notes from last week's meeting once complete (1-29-14)

<u>Outside of Scope (2 comments)</u>
PM27) Could continue for a year then reevaluate -- regarding horse use at Mt. Finlayson.
T2c) Add parking at Young Hill on West Valley Road