

San Juan Island National Historical Park

Special Edition Spring 2003
Public Scoping Newsletter



A Message from the Superintendent



Two nations poised on the brink of war over issues of sovereignty: troops being moved, military camps established, shots fired, attempts made at intimidation, tempers inflamed over past conflicts. As much as this sounds like a number of hotspots on the globe today, the place was San Juan Island in 1859, and the potential combatants were the United States and Great Britain.

Both nations were convinced of the justness of their cause; neither could afford to yield because of the strategic and defensive value of the San Juan Islands. Military commanders on land and sea were determined to press their nation's claim, to the point of war if necessary. Fortunately, wiser heads prevailed and a joint military occupation of San Juan Island was established, with the Americans at one end and the British at the other. This allowed time for peaceful third-party arbitration of the two claims, resulting in resolution in favor of the U.S. in 1872 and a friendship between nations that has endured to the present. This is a story of war, and of peace, that resonates in our own unsettled times.

Important as the military era was, it represents only part of the story of the San Juan Islands. Archeological remains tell a story of perhaps 3,000 years of human occupation. Native Americans burned grasslands of the region in order to favor camas and other useful plants. The prairies and oak woodlands they perpetuated have nearly disappeared as fire has been excluded from the ecosystem during the past 150 years. Almost 95% of native prairies in the Puget Sound lowlands have been heavily altered, including the American Camp prairie. As a result, some of the unique plants and animals dependent on these habitats are threatened with extinction.

How should park staff deal with these emerging issues? How do we protect the cultural resources, while at the same time restoring the natural system? Balancing management of cultural and natural resources will require robust participation from the public. The National Park Service invites you to join us in planning how park resources will be managed over the coming fifteen to twenty years.

To provide adequate time for public review, written comments will be received until June 1, 2003. Please send comments you may have to:

Superintendent, San Juan Island NHP
125 Spring Street
P.O. Box 429
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Thank you for your participation and involvement in the planning process.

Peter Dederich
Superintendent

National Park Service Begins General Management Plan

"The President was not prepared to learn that you had ordered military possession to be taken of the island of San Juan or Bellevue. Although he believes the Straits of Haro to be the true boundary between Great Britain and the United States, under the treaty of June 15, 1846, and that, consequently, this island belongs to us, yet he had not anticipated that so decided a step would have been resorted to without instructions.

Nevertheless, ...if you had good reason to believe that the colonial authorities of Great Britain were about to disturb the status, by taking possession of the island and assuming jurisdiction over it, you were right to anticipate their action. It has been too much the practice of the British Government to seize first and negotiate afterwards."

-U.S. Acting Secretary of War, William Drinkard, 1859.

"Throughout this untoward affair we have been perfectly passive, exercising a degree of forbearance which their Lordships may not, perhaps, altogether approve, but called for, in my opinion, by the almost certainty of a collision at this distant point causing a rupture between the two nations; and I felt that as long as the dignity and honour of the British flag was in no way compromised, I should be best carrying out the views of Her Majesty's Government, and the interests of these colonies, by avoiding the risk of it. ...Acts of discourtesy on minor points were, on more than one occasion, shown by the authorities of the United States, though the military behave with perfect propriety. This was all an irritating matter."

-British Pacific Station Commander, Rear Admiral R. Lambert Baynes, 1859

The General Management Plan

This spring the National Park Service (NPS) will begin to develop a General Management Plan (GMP) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to replace the 1978 *San Juan Island National Historical Park Master Plan*. Many conditions on San Juan Island and in the park have changed since the last plan was produced. According to the 2000 population census, San Juan County was the second-fastest growing county in the state. Over 270,000 annual park visitors

have been recorded at American and English camps. This growth in local population and visitation has implications for management of the park's resources.

The new GMP set will the basic management philosophy for San Juan Island National Historical Park for the next 15 years. It will provide strategies for addressing issues and achieving management objectives for the park to guide protection and management of cultural and natural resources,

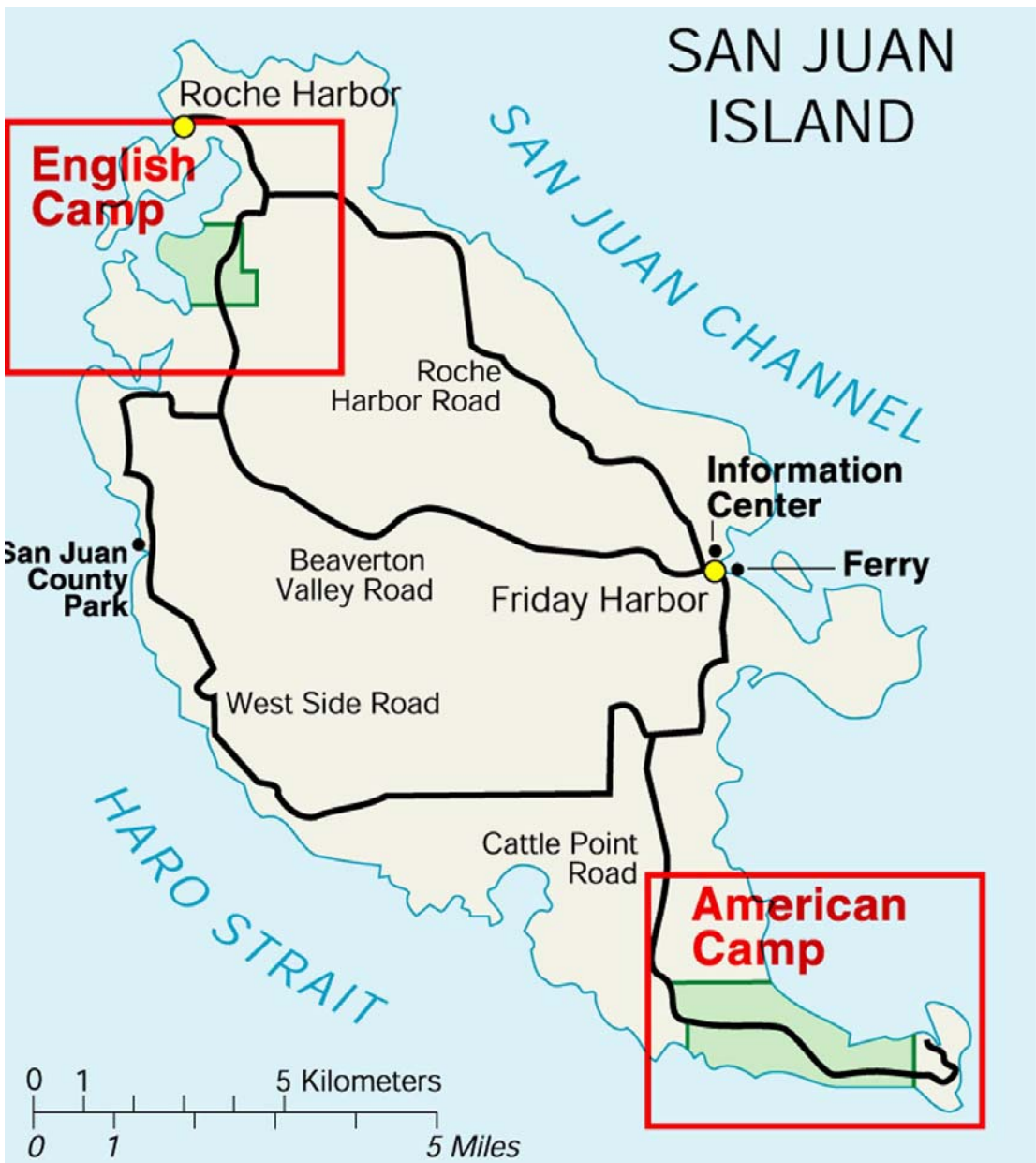
visitor use and services, educational and interpretive programs, administration and operations, and Native American activities and traditional use. Preparation of this plan will be consistent with legislation creating the park and the National Park Service's Organic Act of 1916, providing for protection of the park's natural and cultural resources while inviting appropriate visitor use and enjoyment of the park.

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Dates for GMP Planning Steps and Schedule

General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

PLANNING	ACTIVITY	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
1	Gather Data and Establish Goals and Vision	Spring 2003 Public Scoping Comments
2	Develop Alternatives	Fall 2003
3	Prepare and Publish a Draft GMP/EIS	Spring 2004 Comments on Draft
4	Revise Draft and Publish Final GMP/EIS	Winter 2005
5	Begin Implementation	Spring 2005



Map of San Juan Island showing the locations of English and American camps which comprise San Juan Island National Historical Park

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Planning Team

The development of the GMP will be conducted by an interdisciplinary team of planning professionals from the NPS support office in Seattle, park staff, and the park superintendent. In addition, consultants possessing specialized knowledge or expertise may serve as advisors to the planning team. Numerous agencies and organizations at the state and local level also will be contacted for their expertise.

Environmental Impact Statement

The GMP will also contain an environmental impact statement (EIS) to evaluate the environmental consequences of implementing the plan. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a range of alternatives will be developed, with the help of public involvement, to evaluate distinct management approaches for dealing with park issues. Through newsletters, such as this one, and public workshops, we will seek the public's help in identifying issues and commenting on the draft GMP/EIS.

Relationship of the GMP to the Cattle Point Road EIS

In response to coastal erosion and undercutting of a portion of Cattle Point Road, the NPS and San Juan County Public Works have been working to-

gether to prepare an environmental impact statement for a proposed road realignment. The affected portion of the road is a 1,750 foot stretch close to the eastern boundary of the park. The road is critical in providing access between Cattle Point and the remainder of San Juan Island affecting approximately 270 residents.

Public scoping meetings took place in August 2001 and comments were solicited. Since that time, San Juan County and San Juan Island National Historical Park have agreed in principle that the park will take over the project and seek funding for the road relocation. Proposed alternatives will be expanded to include designs at lower speed limits that would have less impact on park resources.

It is important to note that the park's GMP/EIS and the Cattle Point Road EIS will continue to be separate and independent planning processes. The general management plan would confirm the need for general access through the park to the San Juan community. The Cattle Point Road EIS would assess and analyze in detail how the road is realigned and restored. However, it is the intention of the NPS to keep the public informed about important milestones of the Cattle Point Road EIS though articles in this newsletter.

Building Blocks for Planning for the General Management Plan

The General Management Plan will be based on a number of elements, which need to be consistent with the 1966 legislation establishing the park. The "purpose" statement explains why Congress established the park. The "significance statements" say why the site is important locally, nationally, and internationally. The "primary interpretive themes" are the key stories described for the public about the resources of the park. The "desired future condition statements" serve as long-range goals for management. These statements are in draft form and your comments and thoughts about these items are welcome.

Purpose of the Park

The purpose of San Juan Island National Historical Park is to preserve the historic sites of American and English camps and to provide interpretive opportunities for understanding the Pig War and related events. The park commemorates the arbitration and resolution of an international dispute and the establishment of a lasting peace between nations.

Significance of the Park

Cultural

- The archeological sites at both American and English camps represent thousands of years of Native American settlement on San Juan Island.
- The Hoffmeister Orchard at English Camp contains several very old domestic fruit trees (planted as early as the 1870s) representing varieties now rare in the United States.
- American and English

camps are nationally significant cultural landscapes that allow the visitor to experience a glimpse of mid-19th century military life in an authentic setting.

- Hudson's Bay Company established the first European settlement on San Juan Island at Bellevue Farm as part of its strategy to claim the island for the British Empire.
- The English and American camps represent the determination of the British and American leaders to resolve their boundary dispute peacefully, which they did in 1872 after a dozen years of joint occupation.

Natural

- The park offers important habitat for threatened and endangered species (bald eagle, peregrine falcon, marbled murrelet) and for several species of state and local concern.
- The park provides opportunities to experience solitude, natural sounds, and dark night sky.
- The park protects significant natural habitats and features including prairies, wetlands, lagoons, forests, coastal marine environments, and the largest intact stand of Garry oak woodland in the San Juan Islands.
- For more than 30 years, the park has been the setting for important marine research.

Social

- The park provides a wide variety of year-round recreational opportunities for island residents and visitors that are compatible with the

historic setting of the park.

- With three intact shoreline areas, the park provides the longest and most varied expanse of publicly accessible shoreline in the San Juan Islands.
- The open landscape of the park provides unobstructed, broad-sweeping vistas to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Olympic Mountains, Mt. Baker, Mt. Rainier, and other regional features.
- The non-violent resolution of the boundary dispute between Great Britain and the United States by third-party arbitration provides an example to the contemporary world of how potential conflicts between nations can be peacefully resolved.

Primary Interpretive Themes

- **Crisis and Resolution**—Tensions fueled by the United States' territorial ambitions in the Pacific Northwest and Great Britain's determination to preserve her commercial empire, nearly escalated into an armed clash between U.S. and Brit-

ish forces in 1859 over possession of the San Juan Islands. The crisis was resolved peacefully through a combination of restraint, diplomacy, and arbitration.

- **Life at the Camps**—The peaceful, joint occupation of San Juan Island challenged U.S. soldiers and British Royal Marines to cope with the drudgery of 1850s military life in an isolated environment. Physical remains are tangible reminders of the occupation and reveal the layout and function of the military camps.
- **Island Ecosystem**—The island's varied landscapes, native plant and animal communities, and natural beauty have long appealed to people who have seen them. Those natural values are becoming increasingly important in the park as development changes the surrounding region. Prairie, oak woodland, and marine areas are threatened components of the park ecosystem.



- **Archeological Heritage**—Extensive archeological finds reveal evidence of prehistoric and historic occupations on San Juan Island. The rich archeological and ethnographic record provides glimpses into the lives of past inhabitants: native peoples, Hudson's Bay Company and military residents, and early homesteaders.
- **Native American Culture and Habitation**—Native peoples inhabited these islands for perhaps 3,000 years or more before the coming of European settlers, building a culture that utilized the abundant natural resources of the area, and at times, influencing them.

Draft Desired Future Conditions

Interpretation

- The park interprets mid-19th century life at American and English camps through active programs such as encampment, living history, and special events.
- The story and lessons of the Pig War are widely disseminated to the public through a variety of educational and interpretive means.
- The story of native peoples and their connection to San Juan Island and park resources is interpreted to the public in consultation with appropriate native peoples and governments.
- Natural history and the management of the park's natural resources are interpreted to the public on-site and through other media.



Preservation

- Historic resources and cultural landscapes are preserved for research, interpretation, and public understanding.
- Coastal, prairie, wetland, and woodland habitats are managed to protect and restore native species and natural processes, and for research purposes.
- The park's scenic qualities, vistas, and open expanses are preserved for public enjoyment.
- Through specific management actions, the park provides opportunities for the public to experience solitude, natural sounds, and dark night sky.

Commemoration

- The park's commemorative message of dispute resolution and peace between nations is widely acknowledged and is incorporated in both educational programming and international relations policies.

Partnerships

- Preservation objectives, education and interpretive programs, and the commemorative message are advanced through various partnership arrangements, including British and Canadian organizations.

Park Issues and Opportunities

The following topics describe some of the preliminary issues the GMP must address for the park to carry out its responsibilities. Other concerns may be identified, defined, and clarified through public participation.

Cultural and Natural Resources

Prairie and Garry Oak Woodland Restoration

Prairie and Garry oak woodlands are rare ecosystems in Puget Sound. As a result, species that depend upon them for habitat are in decline. Some of these species have been listed or are candidates for state or federal listing. Both of these habitats occur at the park. The park would explore ways to promote and maintain these habitats, including the use of fire, which plays a natural role in the ecosystem.

Water Quality

San Juan Island has a limited amount of fresh water. Some of the wells surrounding the park have experienced salt water intrusion. At issue is how to maintain the quality and quantity of water for park resources, staff and visitor use. In total the park manages 6.2 miles of shoreline, the largest in public ownership in the San Juan Islands. The GMP needs to discuss monitoring and response actions for potential oil spills.

The opportunity exists to partner on both marine and freshwater issues with the University of Washington Friday Harbor Laboratories, Friends of the San Juans, and the county in such plans as the Wescott-Garrison Bay Marine Habitat Management Plan.

Cultural Landscape

San Juan Island National Historical Park was originally established as a cultural park. Yet over the years it has become increasingly important for its natural habitats and features, including the ability to experience nature sounds and dark night sky. The park needs to determine to what extent the interpretation of the cultural landscape would be balanced with the natural landscape.

The NPS needs to reevaluate the use and function of historic buildings at the park. In addition, opportunities may exist to acquire and return historic buildings once located at American and English camps.

Curatorial Resources

Most of the park's curatorial resources (in excess of one million objects) are currently stored off-island at three locations within western Washington. This makes the items difficult for the park to access for display, academic, and teaching purposes. Associated with storage are cost and staff implications for the park budget. The

park needs to discuss ideas for curatorial storage including consideration of a curatorial facility located on San Juan Island. Direction provided in the GMP would help guide a future Collections Management Plan.

Prehistory and Native American History

The planning process needs to help define the extent of interpretation for prehistory and Native American history. Ancestors of contemporary tribes used the resources on San Juan Island for thousands of years before being largely displaced by Euroamericans. The groups associated with the island include several Coast Salish tribes and subgroups. Some of these groups had permanent villages, such as the Lummi at English Camp, and others utilized the island for seasonal food gathering and fishing. South Beach at American Camp is one site where important research is still being done on Native American occupation and cultural practices.

Park Facilities

Visitor Center

Currently the primary park visitor center is located in a temporary modular building at American Camp. The planning process should determine the best location, size, and interpretive function for a perma-

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What Are Your Comments?

Send Us Your Comments

The National Park Service invites you to share your thoughts regarding the future of San Juan Island National Historical Park. What are your concerns? How would you like to see the park managed? Do you have any creative or innovative solutions to pressing park issues?

Information you send to us will help to determine the types of issues the NPS will need to address in the General Management Plan. Subsequently, alternative management actions will be developed to address these issues. During Spring 2004, the Draft San Juan Island National Historical Park General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled to be published. The NPS hopes that you will take the opportunity to read and comment on the draft plan when it becomes available for public review.

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.

SEND COMMENTS POST-MARKED BY JUNE 1, 2003

Please contact Peter Dederich, Superintendent at (360) 378-2240 for additional information.

Do you want to remain on the mailing list:

For future planning newsletters?

YES NO

For future park activities?

YES NO

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

Name:

Address:

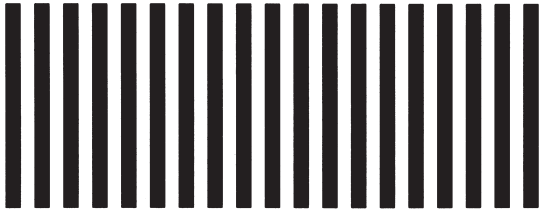
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Comments:

Please include a separate sheet for additional comments.

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 the 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 indentifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

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nent visitor center.

Headquarters Building
The NPS headquarters building is presently leased and is located on Spring Street in Friday Harbor. The interior building space is inadequate for park staff. There is limited room for rotating exhibits and on-going research functions. Street parking for cars, shuttles, and vans is inadequate for visitors along Spring Street. Ideas should be explored for finding suitable administrative space within Friday Harbor, American or English camps. Opportunities for partnering with other agencies and organizations would be explored.

English Camp
The original site development plan for English Camp was designed in the 1960s and many functions have since changed. A new site plan would be developed to address the following: the function of the historic Crook House (not related to the historic encampment period), potential park housing, a summer environmental camp site, amenities for park volunteers, visitor contact facilities, an accessible trail, and trail connection to Roche Harbor.

Visitor Use

Visitor Orientation and Information
Many visitors coming to San Juan Island by private boat or state ferry do not know the park exists. Some visitors stop at one or both of the camps without first stopping at the park headquarters site in Friday Harbor for orientation. A pri-

“...landed in a bay completely landlocked, our Camping Ground being on a shell bank—the accumulation of “Years”, evidently, as it averaged ten feet high, from thirty-five to forty feet through, by 120 yards long, it was the work of Indians, as they live very much on a shellfish called “Clams”, and of course deposit the shells just outside their Huts, hence the bank I mentioned, the brush wood grew quite down to the water’s edge, in the rear the forest was growing in undisturbed tranquillity...”
—Color Sergeant W. Joy , 1860

vate shuttle goes to English Camp, but not American Camp, and no public transportation is currently available. The planning team needs to determine the best way to inform visitors about the park, dispense information, and orient visitors once they have arrived. Different modes of potential transportation services need to be studied.

Recreation
Approximately 270,000 people annually visit the park and many of these are island residents. The park is used by the public not only for its historic features, but to enjoy recreation opportunities and the park’s natural, scenic, and open space attributes. The GMP needs to address the appropriate location, type, and intensity of recreational use. In addition the planning team needs to work with other island organizations to examine the potential to establish trail connections as part of a larger island trail network.

Boundary
Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Lands
Both English and American camps are adjacent to DNR

managed properties. As one of the GMP requirements, the NPS must look at the adequacy of the park’s boundary. Both parcels have a strong historic, ecological and spatial relationship with NPS lands. The GMP would revisit the potential for NPS management of these lands in cooperation with the DNR, San Juan County Land Bank, San Juan Preservation Trust, or San Juan County.

Adjacent Subdivisions
San Juan County is the second fastest growing county in Washington. Population has increased more than 40% over the last 10 years and residential development has grown by more than 60%. This level of growth on the borders of the park may have resource implications for the future. The park needs to seek ways to enlist the support of park neighbors in protecting these resources. The park also needs to be able to assess the possible effects additional adjacent growth may have on the management and use of park resources.

General Management Plan Public Scoping Meetings

The NPS invites you (private citizens, agencies, private organizations, businesses, and other interested parties) to voice your concerns and share your vision for the future of San Juan Island National Historical Park.

Your thoughts and comments will help identify the scope of issues to be addressed in the GMP. These ideas will help form the foundation for developing a plan to guide the management of the park for the next 15 years.

Opportunities for public participation will include attending public workshops and meetings during scoping and the release of the draft plan, and reviewing and submitting written comments on the future draft GMP/EIS. The NPS will keep you informed by providing periodic newsletter updates.

Three public scoping meetings at two locations are scheduled in April 2003. If you are unable to attend but wish to provide written comments, please write your comments on the enclosed pre-addressed form (enclose additional sheets of comments if necessary) and return it, postmarked by June 1, 2003.

Thank you for your help!

Please call Superintendent Dederich at (360) 378-2240 if you have additional questions.

Public Open Houses

Mullis Senior Center
Wednesday, April 2, 2003, 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.
589 Nash Street
Friday Harbor, Washington 98250

R.E.I.
Thursday, April 3, 2003, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
222 Yale Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98109



Superintendent
San Juan Island NHP
125 Spring Street
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

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