



San Juan Island National Historical Park

Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

San Juan Island National Historical Park
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*Cover: Aerial view of American Camp.
Opposite: Aerial view of Washington State Ferry sailing
through the San Juan Islands. Photos by Robert Demar.*



Draft General Management Plan
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
for
San Juan Island National Historical Park
Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Three alternatives have been examined in this draft general management plan and environmental impact statement for San Juan Island National Historical Park. They respond to National Park Service (NPS) planning requirements and to issues identified during the scoping process. These alternatives address visitor use and the preservation of cultural and natural resources to protect and interpret the sites of the American and English camps, and of commemorating the historic events that occurred from 1853-1871 on the island in connection with the final settlement of the Oregon Territory boundary dispute, including the so-called Pig War of 1859. Alternative C is the National Park Service's preferred alternative. Whatever alternative or combination of alternatives is approved will become the general management plan for the park.

Alternative A is the No Action Alternative and assumes that existing programming, facilities, staffing, and funding would generally continue at their current levels. The primary emphasis of the No Action Alternative would continue to be protection and preservation of cultural resources.

The general concept for Alternative B is to increase visitor use opportunities and outreach at both English Camp and American Camp and in the town of Friday Harbor through additional visitor facilities, recreational opportunities, programs, and services. Interpretation would be enhanced for both cultural and natural interpretive themes through more extensive facilities and programs.

Alternative C, the Preferred Alternative, would broaden the scope of resource management and interpretation programs to emphasize the connections and interrelationships between the park's natural and cultural resources. New facilities, trails and programs would provide opportunities for visitors to understand the importance of the park's natural resources in defining the cultural landscapes and influencing the settlement and historic events of San Juan Island.

The detailed description of the alternatives is followed by a description of park resources and the likely environmental consequences of the alternatives. Also included are the results of initial public involvement, as well as consultation with other agencies, organizations and individuals associated with planning for the park's future.

This draft general management plan/environmental impact statement has been distributed to agencies, organizations, and individuals for review and comment. The public comment period will last for 60 days after the Notice of Availability has been published in the *Federal Register*. Please see "How to Comment on this Plan" section on the following page. For more information, contact or write to the Superintendent at San Juan Island National Historical Park, 650 Mullis Street, Suite 100, Friday Harbor, Washington 98250; telephone: (360) 378-2240.



How to Use This Document

This draft general management plan/environmental impact statement (GMP/EIS) is presented in seven main chapters. The "Summary" at the beginning of the document provides a condensed version of this document. **Chapter 1:** "Introduction" describes the background of the park and important actions that have occurred since its establishment. It also explains the purpose and need for the plan, and an overview of the planning process. **Chapter 2:** "Foundation for Planning" describes the park's purpose, significance, special mandates, interpretive themes, fundamental resources and values, and legal and policy requirements. **Chapter 3:** "Scope of the GMP/EIS" describes the issues developed with public involvement during the planning process and presents the impact topics to be carried forward. **Chapter 4:** "Alternatives" describes three management alternatives, including the National Park Service's Preferred Alternative. The alternatives represent reasonable sets of management decisions to be considered consistent with NPS policy and applicable laws and planning requirements. This chapter includes two helpful summary charts: "Summary of Actions for Each Alternative" and "Summary of Impacts." **Chapter 5:** "The Affected Environment" provides detailed information on the park focusing on those resources that could be affected by the decisions contained in the individual management alternatives. **Chapter 6:** "Environmental Consequences" describes the impacts of each alternative on park resources. **Chapter 7:** "Public Involvement" summarizes public involvement and the consultation process that was an integral part to the creation of this draft GMP/EIS. This chapter also summarizes public comments received by the NPS during scoping.

How to Comment on this Document

The public comment period for this draft GMP/EIS will extend through **March 17, 2008**, or no later than 60 days after the EPA's notice of filing of the EIS appears in the *Federal Register*. As soon as this date is confirmed, it will be announced on the PEPC website and by local and regional media. We encourage you to review the document and welcome your comments. During the comment period comments may be submitted using several methods:

- We prefer that readers submit comments online at the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sajh>. An electronic public comment form is provided through this website.
- A postage-paid comment response form is included in the Draft General Management Plan Summary Newsletter. You may use this form and attach additional pages as necessary.
- Letters can be sent to:
Superintendent
San Juan Island National Historical Park
650 Mullis Street, Suite 100
Friday Harbor, Washington 98250

In addition, comments may be made in person at one of the upcoming public workshops. The specific dates and times for these workshops will be announced in local newspapers, in the Draft GMP Alternatives Newsletter, and online at the above website. A limited number of additional copies of this report are available from the above mailing address. In addition, this Draft GMP/EIS is available at the public library in Friday Harbor, Washington and at the NPS Pacific West Region's library in Seattle. Public comments and contributions have been an invaluable component of this planning process, and the National Park Service looks forward to comments on this draft GMP/EIS.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that due to recent litigation our practice is to make comments, including names, home addresses, home phone numbers, and email addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and/or home addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.