



SUMMARY

San Juan Island National Historical Park was authorized by an act of Congress on September 9, 1966 (Public Law 89-565). The last general management plan (GMP) was completed in 1979. Many changes have occurred since this time. Patterns and types of visitor use have changed. San Juan County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state. Over 250,000 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. As the population of the island has grown and the island has become more developed, the park has become an important refuge for natural resources such as prairie and Garry oak woodlands. Water has become a precious commodity. Each of these changes has major implications for how visitors access and use the park and the facilities needed to support these uses, how resources are managed, and how the National Park Service (NPS) manages its operations.

This GMP establishes and articulates a management philosophy and framework for decision-making and problem solving in the park that would be implemented over the next 15-20 years. A new plan is needed for the following reasons:

- to clearly define resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved in the park,
- to provide a framework for NPS managers to use when making decisions about how to best protect national park unit resources,
- to determine how to provide a diverse range of visitor experience opportunities,
- to determine how to manage visitor use,
- to determine what kinds of facilities, if any, are needed,
- to ensure that the foundation for decision making has been developed in consultation with interested stakeholders and adopted by the NPS leadership after an adequate analysis of the benefits, impacts, and economic costs of alternative courses of action.

This draft GMP presents three alternatives including the National Park Service's preferred alternative for future management of San Juan Island National Historical Park. The alternatives, which are consistent with the park's purpose, significance, and special mandates, present different ways to manage resources and visitor use and improve facilities and infrastructure at the park. The three alternatives include the No Action Alternative (continuation of current management) and two action alternatives, B and C.

Several other actions and alternative were also considered, but were eventually dismissed from further analysis. These actions and alternatives, along with the rationale for their dismissal, are included near the end of the Chapter 4 "Alternatives".

The implementation of the approved plan (no matter which alternative is selected) will depend on future funding, Service-wide priorities, and partnership funds, time, and effort. The approval of a GMP does not guarantee that funding and staff needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. Full implementation of the GMP could be many years into the future.

ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION

The No Action Alternative consists of a continuation of existing management and trends at San Juan Island National Historical Park and provides a baseline for comparison in evaluating the changes and impacts of the other alternatives. No new construction would be authorized.

The primary emphasis in the No Action Alternative would continue to be placed on the protection and preservation of cultural resources. Since 1966, the park has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark. The management of cultural landscapes around the immediate encampment areas places emphasis on cultural landscape management while still respecting the natural environment and natural processes. Existing landscape elements from the encampment period and the Crook homesteading era would continue to be preserved and maintained. At English Camp, this would include the formal garden, flagpole, segments of historic trails and roads, cemetery, parade ground, fencing, historic orchard fruit trees, and extant structures. At American Camp, this would include the redoubt, parade ground, fencing, extant structures, cemetery, historic fruit trees, historic prairie, and segments of historic trails and roads from the encampment period. The 1979 double-wide trailer that serves as the temporary visitor center would remain.



At English Camp, the barracks would continue to be used as the primary visitor contact station and for special events, and the Crook house would continue to be used as an exterior exhibit. Interpretive displays and exhibits would continue to focus on historical themes.

ALTERNATIVE B

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. Natural and cultural resources interpretation would be enhanced through more extensive facilities and programs.

At English Camp, the road system would be reconfigured as a one-way loop road by connecting a road segment approximately one-fifth mile long from the entrance road to the administrative road. The road would follow the existing historic road alignment where possible. The Crook house would be rehabilitated as a visitor contact facility on the ground floor and for administrative use on the second floor. The educational camp would remain in its present location.

At American Camp, the existing visitor center would be removed, the site restored to natural conditions, and a new enlarged visitor center would be constructed north of the redoubt. The new visitor center would include space for a collections study room for natural and cultural resource items, including a portion of the prehistory and military-era collections. The existing road to the redoubt off Pickett's Lane would be removed and converted to a trail. The cultural landscapes would be enhanced to aid visitor understanding and interpretation through a variety of techniques. The prairie would be restored to native plant species.

Off-island interpretation would be enhanced through partnerships. The park would propose boundary adjustments at both camps to include important natural and cultural resources related to the purpose of the park.

ALTERNATIVE C

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 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. This alternative was selected by the GMP planning team using an objective analysis process.

At English Camp, the Crook house would be retained, stabilized, and used as an exterior exhibit with interpretive signs and displays that tell the story of the Crook family. The educational camp would be relocated within English Camp along the administrative road and set back in the woods. The hospital would be rehabilitated and opened to the public for interpretation.

The 1979 double-wide trailer that serves as the temporary visitor center at American Camp would be removed and replaced with a permanent, enlarged visitor center at the existing site, allowing for improved exhibits and staff space. A collections

study room for natural and cultural resource items, including a portion of the military-era collections would be relocated to the park. The collections study room would be located at park headquarters or at the permanent visitor center and would be easily accessible to park staff. The NPS would retain pre-history collections predominately at the University of Washington's Burke Museum in Seattle. The existing road to the redoubt off Pickett's Lane would be removed and converted to a trail.

In the officers' quarters duplex, half would be rehabilitated for use as an interpretive exhibit that shows a typical officers' quarters, and the other half would be available as a study house so visitors could see evolution of the structure and changes that have occurred to it over time. The cultural landscapes would be enhanced to aid visitor understanding and interpretation through a variety of techniques. As in Alternative B, the prairie would be restored to native plant species.

Historic buildings from the encampment period still existing on the island would be repatriated back to their original locations within the camps. Off-island interpretation would be enhanced through partnerships. The park would propose boundary adjustments at both camps to include important natural and cultural resources related to the purpose of the park.

