



CHAPTER 4: ALTERNATIVES

According to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, alternatives must be developed in a draft general management plan and fully explore a range of ideas, methods, and concepts for managing a national park unit. It must be possible to implement all alternatives. In addition, regulations require that the draft GMP/EIS identify a “preferred alternative” before the EIS is released for public review. The preferred alternative is that alternative that the NPS believes would best accomplish its goals, based on the analyses conducted.

FORMULATION OF THE ALTERNATIVES

The planning team, comprised of staff from the park and the Pacific West Region, developed management alternatives in the winter of 2004 for San Juan Island National Historical Park. In developing alternatives, the staff incorporated ideas generated by the public from public meetings and public comment letters. National Environmental Policy Act regulations and NPS planning standards require the formulation of a reasonable range of alternatives that address identified planning issues and management concerns. Each alternative was evaluated to ensure consistency with the park’s purpose and significance, the desired future conditions, and current laws, regulations, and policies.

This chapter contains three parts:

- A description of the four management zones for the action alternatives;
- A discussion of desired conditions for each resource. Desired condition statements describe the preferred long-term condition for specific resources. Future decisions and actions by park management would be judged by whether they further progress towards these desired conditions.
- A description of Alternatives A, B, and C with emphasis on the concepts behind the alternative, and management actions for those topics that varies among alternatives. Management actions describe specific activities that help to achieve the desired future conditions. This includes a “Common to All Alternatives” section organized by resource topic.

Included at the end of this chapter are tables that summarize the key differences among the alternatives and their impacts. The summary of impacts chart is based on the analysis in Chapter 6, “Environmental Consequences.”

Three alternatives are described in this GMP and are characterized as follows:

- Alternative A is the No Action Alternative, which means a continuation of the present course of action or maintenance of the status quo of existing policies and programs.
- Alternative B strives to increase visitor use opportunities and outreach in both the park 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 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.

Each alternative has a somewhat different concept, which is primarily defined in terms of different management zones and how they are applied geographically. Each alternative also varies in the management prescriptions, or actions, for various resource topics that the park would take in order to achieve the desired conditions. All action alternatives afford a high degree of protection for the park’s resources.

The alternatives focus on what resource conditions and visitor uses and experiences should be at the park rather than on details of how these conditions and experiences should be achieved. Thus, the alternatives do not include many details on resource or visitor use management.

More detailed plans or studies would be required before most conditions proposed in the alternatives are achieved. The implementation of any alternative also depends on future funding and environmental analysis. Approval of this plan would not guarantee that funding will be forthcoming. Instead, the plan establishes a vision of the future that will guide future management of the park. Upon approval, full implementation will likely take many years.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The development of a preferred alternative involves evaluating the alternatives with the use of an objective analysis process called “choosing by advantages.” Through this process, the planning team identified and compared the relative advantages of each alternative according to a set of factors. The benefits or advantages of each alternative were then compared.

The relationships between the advantages and costs of each alternative were established. This information was used to combine the best attributes of three initial alternatives into the preferred alternative. This alternative gives the National Park Service the greatest overall benefits for the most reasonable cost.

MANAGEMENT ZONES

Management zones define specific resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved and maintained in each particular area of the park under each of the action alternatives. Each zone includes the types of activities and facilities that are appropriate in that management zone. The management zones were developed during this planning effort, except for the No Action Alternative, Alternative A, whose zoning is taken from the park’s 1979 general management plan.

In formulating the alternatives, the management zones were placed in different locations on a map of the park according to the overall concept of each of the alternatives. Therefore, the alternatives represent different ways to apply the management prescriptions to the park. For example, an alternative whose overall concept includes emphasizing cultural resources will have more of the cultural management zone than an alternative whose overall concept is to increase visitor access to the entire park.

For the action alternatives B and C, four management zones were developed in this plan to guide future management within the park. The existing management zones are Administrative, Cultural, Natural, and Visitor Services.

The management zones and prescriptions for San Juan Island National Historical Park are presented on the following page. Visitor experiences, resource conditions, and appropriate activities and facilities are described for each management zone.



Management Zones

Zone	Administrative Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Visitor Services
Zone Concept	A variety of facilities and functions that support park operations would be accommodated in this zone.	Resources and experiences related to pre-history, the joint occupation period, and post-military history would be accommodated.	Resources and experiences related to coastal, woodland, upland, prairie, and wetland ecosystems and communities would be accommodated.	Education and interpretive facilities and services, and concentrated visitor use would be accommodated. This zone would serve as a primary entry into other zones.
Cultural Resource Prescriptions	Facility design standards echo and complement historic character. Historic structures may be adapted for administrative use when appropriate. All facilities would be sited and designed to minimize disturbance and would be screened for views and noise. Fences, barriers, and other measures may be needed to protect resources.	All significant cultural features would be preserved and interpreted to enhance visitor understanding and enjoyment. There would be low tolerance for resource degradation. Archaeological sites would be preserved.	Cultural resources would be compatible in natural areas and would be managed in a way that would not degrade natural features or the character of the natural environment. Minimal activity would be acceptable to protect cultural resources.	Because this zone is intended to promote access to cultural resources, this zone must be adjacent to important cultural sites. All facilities would be sited and designed to minimize disturbance and would be screened for views and noise. Fences, barriers, and other measures may be needed to protect resources. Signs and trailheads would be preferred in this zone to avoid intrusion into cultural zones. Adaptive use of historic structures could be utilized where appropriate. Design standards echo and complement historic character.
Natural Resource Prescriptions	Natural resources may be modified in ways that harmonize with park settings. Facilities would be located in areas having low impact to sensitive natural resources. Green design, native landscaping, screening for views and noise would be incorporated. Fences, barriers, and other measures may be needed to protect resources.	Natural resources would be managed to maintain or restore the character of the cultural landscape. Non-invasive exotics may be used where they support the cultural landscape and visitor understanding of it. Invasive plant and animal species would be controlled or removed. Trails and roads might be removed and rehabilitated or allowed to recover naturally.	The emphasis in this zone would be on restoring and perpetuating natural systems and processes. There would be low tolerance for resource degradation. Intensive management would be used to restore native species on disturbed lands (such as restoring high quality prairie). Monitoring would be implemented and action taken to prevent degradation. The goal would be to restore ecosystem to a nearly natural state. Trails and roads might be removed and rehabilitated or allowed to recover naturally.	This zone provides access to popular natural features and resources such as shorelines, forested areas, and prairies. Natural resources may be modified in ways that harmonize with park settings. This zone would be located in areas having low impact on sensitive natural resources. Green design, native landscaping, and screening for views and noise would be incorporated. Fences, barriers, and other measures may be needed to protect resources.

Management Zones

Zone	Administrative Zone	Cultural Zone	Natural Zone	Visitor Services
Visitor Opportunities	There would be limited opportunities for visitors. This zone would include work areas for volunteers and housing for Volunteers in the Parks, personnel and researchers.	There would be opportunities for broad understanding of the military encampment period as well as other cultural eras. Visitors would learn about the history through a variety of means. Visitors would have an opportunity to directly experience cultural sites. This zone would offer low impact recreational opportunities, such as hiking, picnicking, and beachcombing that would not affect cultural resources. Park sponsored special events related to the resources of the park would be acceptable.	While emphasizing natural features, this zone would enhance visitor understanding of cultural significance. It would offer low impact and non-motorized recreational opportunities, such as hiking, nature studies, photography, and horse use, where designated, that do not adversely affect the natural landscape and resources. Park sponsored special events related to the resources of the park would be acceptable.	This zone focuses on accessible and convenient visitor services; concentrated recreation and group activities when appropriate; and on visitor orientation, education, and interpretation with the goal of enhancing the visitors' understanding and appreciation of the history and significance of park resources. Interpretive and educational programs would provide opportunities for a wide range of visitors. Signs and trailhead orientation would facilitate access. Regulations and appropriate resource use messages would be communicated to promote stewardship. Visitors have increased opportunities for interaction with NPS staff and volunteers.
Desired Facilities	This zone would include facilities and related utilities needed to support park operations such as administrative offices, supply storage, maintenance office and storage, fire camp, research/curatorial space, library, seasonal housing, staff meeting space, and staff parking. Building design would be sustainable and compatible with the environment. Historic structures could be adaptively used for some of these functions. Administrative roads would occur in this zone.	Facilities in this zone would emphasize preservation of current historic facilities. Where adequate information is available, the park would consider the potential relocation of historic buildings back to the camps. Other techniques could also be considered including delineation and/or reconstruction of historic features. (Reconstruction would only occur if absolutely necessary for visitor understanding of the site.) This zone could include visitor contact stations, wayside exhibits, and other interpretive media.	This zone would include unpaved, non-motorized trails and unobtrusive and approved interpretive and directional signs. Bicycle and horse use may be acceptable on some trails. Scientific monitoring and sampling equipment for research (such as weather stations) would be acceptable.	Visitor centers, educational sites, and staging areas for public programs would be accommodated in this zone. Other support facilities would include picnic areas, restrooms, roads, docks, trails and trailheads, overlooks, signs, parking areas, wayside exhibits, and group activity sites.

DESIRED CONDITIONS

The planning team used laws, regulations, servicewide mandates, and policies, along with park-specific legislation, public input, and previous planning documents to develop desired conditions for protecting park resources and visitor use and enjoyment. These desired conditions would apply to all alternatives.

The following table summarizes the desired conditions. The individual alternatives would show potential strategies that could be used for achieving the desired conditions.

Desired Conditions	
Cultural Resources	Cultural Landscapes Desired conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The cultural landscapes are preserved for interpretation, public understanding, and research, and adverse effects are avoided. ▪ The cultural landscape characteristics are managed in a balance with the natural landscape. ▪ An enhanced cultural landscape provides additional opportunities for interpretation and visitor understanding of the historic setting of the park.
	Archaeological and Historic Resources Desired conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The extent and condition of historic and prehistoric resources are documented and adverse effects are avoided. ▪ Archaeological resources are protected in an undisturbed condition unless it is determined through appropriate consultation that disturbance or decomposition is unavoidable. ▪ The qualities that contribute to the eligibility for listing of prehistoric and historic structures in the National Register of Historic Places are preserved and protected in accordance with the secretary of the interior's standards, unless it is determined through appropriate consultation that disturbance or deterioration is unavoidable.
	Museum Collections Desired conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Museum collections, such as objects, works of art, historic documents, and natural history specimens, are maintained according to NPS museum management requirements.
Natural Resources	Natural Resources – General Desired conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resource inventories and surveys documenting the condition and extent of natural resources and processes are completed. ▪ Monitoring programs are developed and implemented to track changes in the condition of key resources serving as “vital signs” of ecosystem health. ▪ Forces such as erosion, geological shift, and fire remain as dominant agents of change to natural resources.
	Vegetation, Including Special Status Species Desired conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Native plant communities in coastal, prairie, wetland, and woodland environments are managed to protect and restore native species, provide habitat for native wildlife, and for research. ▪ Garry oak woodland and prairie communities are restored and managed as significant resources for both the natural and cultural landscape.

Desired Conditions

- All plant communities are in or making progress towards fire condition class 1 (class 1 is defined as within the natural or historical range of variability of vegetation characteristics; fuel composition; fire frequency, severity and pattern; and other associated disturbances).
- Special status species, particularly those listed by U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service (USFWS), make progress toward recovery.
- Preventing or limiting the spread of noxious weeds using integrated pest management protocols perpetuates the natural condition and/or historic vegetative cover.

Wildlife, Including Special Status Species

Desired conditions:

- Habitat in the park supports a diverse range of native wildlife species and gives the public high-quality opportunities for wildlife viewing.
- Habitat for migratory birds and butterflies, including forage, water, cover, structure, and security is available within the park to support healthy populations of resident and migrant species.
- Special status species, particularly those listed by U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service, make progress toward recovery.

Coastal Water Resources and Hydrologic Systems

Desired conditions:

- Floodplains, riparian areas, and wetlands are maintained or restored to provide diverse and healthy habitat and water quality.
- Preserving the quality of surface water in the park and surface water running out of the park is a consideration in park management actions, and decisions and threats to surface water quality are sufficiently mitigated.
- Tidelands are adequately protected by either the state or park, regardless of jurisdiction.

Geologic Resources

Desired conditions:

- Unique or representative geological features and landforms such as marine terraces, glacial erratics, and striations are identified, documented, and have protective strategies implemented to minimize any adverse effects from visitor access.
- Geologic knowledge and understanding are effectively shared with the public to stimulate appreciation and protection of the geologic resources.

Air Quality

Desired conditions:

- Air quality parameters negatively affecting human health, visibility or biological diversity remain at or below current levels.

Visitor Experience

Interpretation and Education

Desired conditions:

- The public has opportunities to understand and appreciate the park's natural and cultural resources through interpretation of natural and cultural history.
- Park interpretive programs, including encampment, living history and special events, help the public visualize mid-19th century life at American and English camps.
- The park builds and maintains relationships and partnerships with visitor user groups and educational organizations to disseminate the story and lessons of the Pig War.

Desired Conditions

- The story of native peoples and their connection to San Juan Island and park resources is interpreted to the public in consultation and coordination with appropriate native peoples and governments.
- The park's commemorative message of dispute resolution and peace between nations is incorporated in educational programming.
- The public has access to park information and learning opportunities through a wide variety of media both on and off site.
- Regional cooperation and partnerships help reach visitors who are unaware of the presence of a national park unit on the island and convey interpretive opportunities prior to arrival.
- Visitors understand and appreciate the natural resources at the park, which include rare plant communities and sensitive species, as well as the cultural resources, and leave with a sense of stewardship for these resources.

Recreation

Desired conditions:

- A wide variety of safe, year-round recreational opportunities is available for island residents and visitors that are compatible with the historic setting of the park.
- The park provides public access to the longest and most varied expanse of publicly accessible shoreline in the San Juan islands for compatible recreation.
- The park works cooperatively with other public and private entities to provide appropriate trail connections as part of an island-wide trail system.

Scenic Resources

Desired conditions:

- Existing opportunities to experience solitude, dark night sky, and broad-sweeping vistas to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the Olympic Mountains, Mount Baker, Mount Rainer and other regional features remain substantially free of human intrusions.
- The visual integrity of American and English camps, including vistas and viewsheds, are maintained and restored where appropriate.

Soundscapes

Desired conditions:

- Existing opportunities to experience tranquility, natural sounds, and natural quiet remain substantially free of human intrusions.

Socioeconomics

Socioeconomics

Desired conditions:

- Gateway communities of Friday Harbor, Roche Harbor and Anacortes benefit socially and economically from the park's presence.

Facilities

Facilities

Desired conditions:

- Visitor and administrative facilities meet visitor and staff needs.
- The park cooperates with Friday Harbor and Roche Harbor in providing information and services to visitors at sites outside the park.
- Location of park facilities and staffing levels promotes efficiency of operations while meeting public needs.
- Principles of sustainable and universal design are incorporated into all facilities and operations.

Desired Conditions

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional cooperation and partnerships provide new opportunities to locate additional visitor facilities on the island.
Transportation, Access, and Circulation	Transportation, Access, and Circulation Desired conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The road system within the park provides access for visitors, non-federal landowners, and NPS administrative needs while protecting park resources and values. Vehicular road access is maintained for residents at Cape San Juan and Cattle Point Estates and visitors to the Cattle Point Interpretive Area.
Research	Research Desired conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park continues to be an important coastal marine setting for research in the natural and social sciences The findings of scientific research in both the natural and social sciences enhance management decisions and contribute to increased public appreciation and understanding of the park's cultural and natural resources.
Park Boundary and Land Protection	Park Boundary and Land Protection Desired conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park boundary is adequate to protect the fundamental resources and values of the park and to provide for enjoyment of these resources by a diverse public. The park boundary recognizes the broader boundaries of the encampment period to preserve artifacts associated with the historic military presence and better interpret the historic camp setting and circulation pattern.



Guss Island at English Camp. NPS Photo.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

The following table summarizes the management guidance, or actions, that would apply to all the alternatives, including the No Action Alternative.

Actions Common to All Alternatives	
Cultural Resources	Cultural Landscapes – Common To All Alternatives Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A resource stewardship strategy would be completed that would provide direction for natural and cultural resources. ▪ Prescribed fire would continue to play a role in maintaining the cultural landscape. ▪ The park would update the existing historic landscape report to reflect the current needs at both camps. ▪ The park would update the national register listing for the park.
	Archaeological and Historic Resources – Common To All Alternatives Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fire and security systems would be installed in all existing historic buildings. ▪ Historical buildings would be maintained in good condition. ▪ Archaeological sites would be preserved and protected and, if appropriate, interpreted by park staff. ▪ An archaeological research strategy would guide decisions about future excavations. English Camp: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Crook house would retain all aspects of integrity that make it eligible for the Register of Historic Places on both its interior and exterior. The 1960s non-historic addition on the back of the Crook house would be removed to reestablish its original look and form during the Crook family era at the park. ▪ Park staff would continue efforts to relocate bats from the Crook house by providing alternate houses for bats and excluding bats from the Crook house.
	Museum Collections – Common To All Alternatives Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Park collections would be available for education, interpretation, and scientific research purposes.
	Natural Resources – General – Common To All Alternatives Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The park would prepare and periodically update a resource stewardship strategy that would include a comprehensive list of prioritized actions to achieve the desired resource conditions identified in the GMP. ▪ Invasive plant and animal species would be eliminated where feasible and otherwise controlled to ensure the long-term survival of the native ecosystem.
Natural Resources	Vegetation, Including Special Status Species – Common To All Alternatives Management Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The park would develop a vegetation management plan to guide future management and provide specific direction for managing vegetative resources, such as prairies and Garry oak woodland, that also possess cultural significance.

Actions Common to All Alternatives

- The park would continue to explore ways to promote and maintain these habitats, including the use of fire which plays a natural role in the ecosystem, vegetation management, and restoration implementation.
- The park staff would continue to work with a variety of partners toward restoration of the Garry oak woodlands and prairie habitats.
- The park's fire management plan would be updated every five years, consistent with federal fire policy.

Wildlife, Including Special Status Species – Common To All Alternatives

Management actions:

- The park would continue to work cooperatively with other U.S. agencies and Canada in managing wildlife, particularly candidate species for federal listing, and managing habitat for broader ecological restoration of special status species.
- Inventory and monitoring of wildlife would emphasize species that are regionally, nationally, or internationally important.
- Non-native animal species identified as pests would be managed in accordance with the applicable NPS Management Policies.

Coastal Water Resources and Hydrologic Systems – Common To All Alternatives

Management actions:

- The park would continue to work with a consortium of Puget Sound groups regarding oil spill response plans, including Island Oil Spill Association, Washington State Department of Ecology, and other interested organizations responsible for creating and updating geographic plans for oil spill prevention and response.
- The park would follow provisions in the consortium's geographic response plan.
- The park staff would continue to monitor water use and quality in an effort to conserve scarce water resources and maintain water quality levels.

Geologic Resources – Common To All Alternatives

Management actions:

- Examples of wave-cut marine terraces, or other glacial features created by a series of glacial periods would be protected for educational, interpretive, and scientific purposes.

Air Quality – Common To All Alternatives

Management actions:

- Federal, state, and local air agencies that have primary responsibility for managing air quality would continue to monitor and use computer models to assess air quality in and around the park. If air quality deteriorates to the point that the ambient standards are exceeded, then these agencies would implement and the park would support additional requirements to further reduce air pollution at or near the park.

Visitor Experience

Interpretation and Education – Common To All Alternatives

Management actions:

- Park staff would maintain existing interpretation programs and topics and enhance cultural interpretation through increased use of existing cultural resources, such as historic sites and features.
- The website would continue to place interpretive and educational materials online that would be periodically updated.
- A comprehensive interpretive plan (CIP) would be developed for the park.

Actions Common to All Alternatives

- Self-guided walks and ranger and volunteer guided walks would continue to be offered at both camps.
- Interpretive programs, including reenactments, covering themes related to historical and natural resources would continue to be offered in the summer.
- The park staff would continue to offer curriculum-based school programs.
- The Junior Ranger program would continue to be offered at the park.
- The educational camp would continue to offer programs on park themes to nonprofit groups such as the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry camp for children of various ages.
- Park staff would work with partners to communicate unique park themes, including peaceful conflict resolution.
- Interpretation of both Native American culture and prehistory would be enhanced, in consultation with those tribes affiliated with the area, through personal and non-personal interpretive services including, but not limited to, Native American demonstrations, exhibits and waysides, and special programs.
- The park would encourage tribal members to participate in the preparation of interpretive exhibits and programs that relate to the direct connections American Indians have with San Juan Island.

Recreation – Common To All Alternatives

Management actions:

- Recreational activities such as beachcombing, picnicking, bird watching, viewing and photographing wildlife, hiking, fitness and pet walking, general sightseeing and attending park interpretive programs would continue.
- The park would establish one trail connection at English Camp and one trail connection at American Camp to link with the island-wide trail system.
- Biking would continue along park roads and county roads within the park.
- Horseback riding would continue at the discretion of the superintendent.
- The park would continue to be a day-use only area.
- Overnight camping, hunting, and off-road vehicles would continue to be prohibited on park property.

English Camp

- On Garrison Bay, public shell fishing would continue to be permitted on approximately 900 feet of shoreline within English Camp.

Scenic Resources – Common To All Alternatives

Management actions:

- The park staff would continue to provide programs that highlight interpretation and education of the values derived from a dark night sky.
- The NPS would continue to protect the scenic resources of the park as required by law and policy.
- The NPS would educate and cooperate with adjacent private landowners and relevant agencies about potential modern development effects on the historic scene and provide vegetative screening where possible. This is especially important along Garrison Bay and at the east and west boundaries of American Camp.
- The park would encourage the use of low impact lighting to reduce visual impacts and promote energy efficiency.

Actions Common to All Alternatives

	Soundscapes – Common To All Alternatives Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The park would initiate an overflight management plan that would help in establishing a base-line for noise level in the park.
Socioeconomics	Socioeconomics – Common To All Alternatives Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trail connections would be established that provide new opportunities for visitors and links to communities. ▪ The park would provide a destination and educational opportunity for visitors, which would create indirect economic benefits to gateway communities.
Facilities	Facilities – Common To All Alternatives Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The park’s administrative headquarters would remain in its present location in Friday Harbor; however, in the long-term the park staff would have the flexibility to buy a building/property on the island, preferably a historic one, for administrative purposes. English Camp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A new fire cache building would be replaced near the administrative road at English camp.
Transportation, Access, And Circulation	Transportation, Access, and Circulation – Common To All Alternatives Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The park would work cooperatively with the state and county to provide appropriate access to private land adjacent to the park where rights-of-way exist.
Research	Research – Common To All Alternatives Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A research plan would be developed, based on the park’s vital signs workshop, to provide a framework for permitting and promoting research, including identifying research needs to support park management and restoration efforts.
Park Boundary And Land Protection	Park Boundary and Land Protection – Common To All Alternatives Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The park would continue to evaluate the growth and development trends on San Juan Island that affect resource protection and public access. ▪ A land protection plan would be developed for the park.

ALTERNATIVE A – NO ACTION

Alternative A is the No Action Alternative and is required by the National Environmental Policy Act. The No Action Alternative 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 park without substantially increasing or changing staff, programs, funding support or facilities.

The primary emphasis in the No Action Alternative would continue to be 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 consistent with protecting 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, these elements would include the formal garden, segments of historic trails and roads, cemetery, parade ground, fencing, historic orchard fruit trees, and extant (remaining) structures. At American Camp, these elements would include the redoubt, parade ground, flagpole, fencing, extant structures, cemetery, historic fruit trees, historic prairie, segments of historic trails and roads from the encampment period, and the Hudson's Bay Company's Belle Vue Sheep Farm.

The key components of Alternative A are as follows:

- 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.
- In the short-term, visitor facilities at both units would remain in their present location.
- The existing park boundary would be maintained.

Management Zones

In the last San Juan Island National Historical Park General Management Plan, dated April 1979, both English and American camps were broadly zoned Historic, including Guss Island, protecting the historical integrity of these sites. Peripheral areas of the park units were zoned Park Development for administration and secondary recreational uses. An area in the northeast portion of American Camp unit was zoned Natural— Environmental Protection Subzone, for maintaining the sanctuary qualities of the area for eagles, deer, and marine life. These zones were originally based on proposed actions in the GMP, many of which were never realized. (See Figure 6: Alternative A: Management Zones for English Camp and Figure 7: Alternative A: Management Zones for American Camp at the end of Alternative A.)



Alternative A—No Action

Alternative A would incorporate all of the management actions that are “Common to All” as previously described, plus the following alternative-specific actions.

Alternative A – No Action	
Cultural Resources	Cultural Landscapes – No Action Alternative Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The cultural landscape would continue to be maintained with some modest improvements for Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility along trails. English Camp: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The historic Crook and Sandwith orchards would continue to be maintained at the existing number of trees.
	Archaeological and Historic Resources– No Action Alternative Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management direction would continue to place emphasis on preservation of the existing historic buildings and structures that are included on NPS list of classified structures. ▪ No historic buildings from the encampment period would be repatriated to the camps. English Camp: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The barracks would continue to be preserved and used as the primary visitor contact station and for special events. ▪ The Crook house would continue to be used as an exterior exhibit. The Crook house would undergo hazardous materials remediation after the bats are removed so that the house could eventually be adaptively reused. ▪ The blockhouse would continue to be open to the public for viewing and the hospital and commissary would continue to be interpreted as exterior exhibits. American Camp: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The laundress’ quarters and the officers’ quarters would continue to be viewed and interpreted as exterior exhibits.
	Museum Collections– No Action Alternative Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Park collections of approximately one million objects would continue to be maintained at off-site locations in western Washington with only a few dozen objects exhibited in display cases at the American Camp visitor center.
Natural Resources	Vegetation, Including Special Status Species– No Action Alternative Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Same as “common to all”.
	Wildlife, Including Special Status Species– No Action Alternative Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Same as “common to all”
	Coastal Water Resources and Hydrologic Systems– No Action Alternative Management actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Same as common to all alternatives for water quality data collection. ▪ Park staff would continue to work toward defining ownership of the intertidal areas

Alternative A – No Action

	<p>Geologic Resources – No Action Alternative</p> <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as “common to all”. <p>Air Quality– No Action Alternative</p> <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as “common to all”.
Visitor Experience	<p>Interpretation and Education– No Action Alternative</p> <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretive displays and exhibits would continue to focus primarily on historical themes. The volunteers in the parks (VIP) program would continue to focus primarily on interpretation, helping with summer reenactments, demonstrations, and staffing the information counters. Interpretive programs would continue to be offered at the visitor center and at the barracks building at English Camp. <p>American Camp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> American Camp would continue to have the only visitor center inside the park. <p>Recreation– No Action Alternative</p> <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park staff would assist island organizations taking lead in developing island-wide trail connections if funding were available. <p>English Camp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 94- foot dingy dock would continue to be available for public boat access to English Camp from the water. <p>Scenic Resources – No Action Alternative</p> <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as “common to all”. <p>Soundscapes – No Action Alternative</p> <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as “common to all”.
Socioeconomics	<p>Socioeconomics – No Action Alternative</p> <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Same as “common to all”.
Facilities	<p>Facilities – No Action Alternative</p> <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hook-ups for VIP trailers would continue to be provided at both English and American camps. <p>English Camp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance facilities would remain at the current location along the West Valley Road. The educational camp, consisting of a group tent site with water but no sewer, would remain in its present location at English Camp.

Alternative A – No Action

	<p>American Camp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Park staff would continue to utilize the 1,400 square foot double-wide trailer that serves as the temporary visitor center assembled in 1979. ▪ The fire camp would continue to be maintained along Cattle Point Road north of the visitor center.
Transportation, Access, and Circulation	<p>Transportation, Access, and Circulation– No Action Alternative</p> <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NPS would maintain the existing access into the park at both camps. Limited improvements would be undertaken for safety and road maintenance. <p>English Camp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The existing park entrance road off West Valley Road into English Camp would continue to be maintained along the existing alignment, most of it along the alignment of the historic military road. The park entrance road would need turnouts defined and chip seal to handle increased two-way traffic. ▪ The park's administrative road into the park from West Valley Road would continue to be a nonpublic road, used by park staff and occasionally by staff from the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) or other educational groups. The parking lot at English Camp would be maintained, but no additional improvements provided. ▪ Informal visitor parking to access Young Hill would continue along the shoulder of West Valley Road, a county maintained road that bisects English Camp. ▪ An ADA trail would be extended from the Crook house to the parade ground, providing better access to persons with disabilities. <p>American Camp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No additional improvements to the parking lot at the visitor center would be made in the near future.
Research	<p>Research – No Action Alternative</p> <p>Management actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Same as “common to all”.
Park Boundary and Land Protection	<p>Park Boundary and Land Protection– No Action Alternative</p> <p>Management actions:</p> <p>English Camp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The boundary at English Camp would remain the same. <p>American Camp:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The boundary at American Camp would remain the same.

Development Cost Estimates

The No Action alternative has costs associated with continuing to manage the park. The NPS estimates are \$2,380,000 to implement Alternative A over the next 15-20 years. These costs are derived from projects already entered into the Project Management Information System (PMIS) for the next five years. Costs are expressed in gross construction dollars and include design, compliance, and supplemental services.

These costs are based upon general “class C” estimates of site development. These estimates are not intended to be used for budgetary purposes, but should only be used for relative comparison of the alternatives proposed in the GMP. Prior to submitting funding requests for the design and construction phases, “class B” estimates are required, based upon detailed site design that will provide decisions about facility size and cost. Costs are expressed in 2007 dollars and phased over 15-20 years.

Park Operations

Staffing for Alternative A

This alternative assumes current staffing levels will be maintained at nine full-time staff positions. In addition, there are three part-time seasonal positions, all dependent upon funding.

Outside of the existing staff, the park currently pays for part-time curatorial services provided by North Cascades National Park where most of the park’s collection is located.

Full-time staff positions:

- Superintendent
- Administrative Officer
- Administrative Technician
- Chief of Resource Management
- Chief of Interpretation
- Chief of Maintenance
- Chief Ranger
- Park Ranger (Interpretation)
- Maintenance Worker

Part-time seasonal positions:

- Maintenance Worker
- Law Enforcement Ranger
- Park Ranger (Interpretation)

Current Operating Base for Alternative A

Total operating base for the park in 2006 was \$725,000.

Asset Management

For a discussion of the “Asset Business Plan for San Juan Island National Historical Park,” see the section on “Asset Management” in the “Affected Environment” chapter under “Existing Park Development and Programs.” In summary, the park has a total of 38 assets in the park. These assets include roads, parking areas, trails, maintained landscape, buildings, water systems and marina/waterfront. The majority of these assets contribute to the purpose of the park. The majority are in good or fair condition; a few are considered in poor condition. The largest deferred maintenance backlog is found in roads, trails, and landscapes. To maintain current assets in relatively good condition, application of the asset business plan model indicates that the park will need an additional \$192,000 annually in 2006 dollars for operation and maintenance requirements. In addition, there would be ongoing cyclic maintenance, component renewal, and rehabilitation projects for existing park facilities.

Staffing Under Alternative A

Administration	Maintenance	Interpretation/ Education	Resource Management And Visitor Protection	Total Staff
3 Permanent	2 Permanent	2 Permanent	2 Permanent	9 Total Staff
0 Seasonal	1 Seasonal	1 Seasonal	1 Seasonal	3 Total Staff
3 Total	3 Total	3 Total	3 Total	12 Total

There would be no capital development costs. The No Action Alternative does not add or subtract any assets from the park's inventory.

Programmed as part of the No Action Alternative are two large park projects, one involving paving the entrance road at English Camp and the other replacing the fire cache at American Camp. These two projects call for future expenditures of approximately \$550,000 total in 2006 dollars.

The Crook house is a notable resource that has a high asset prioritization index (API) value, meaning it contributes significantly to the mission of the park, but is in poor condition. The No Action Alternative includes identified needs of approximately \$275,000 of deferred maintenance on the Crook house. The park staff has requested and received funding this year for emergency stabilization on the building, but none of this funding reduces the \$275,000 in deferred maintenance.



The Crook house. NPS Photo.

Alternative A:
Management Zones for English Camp
San Juan Island NHP Draft GMP/EIS

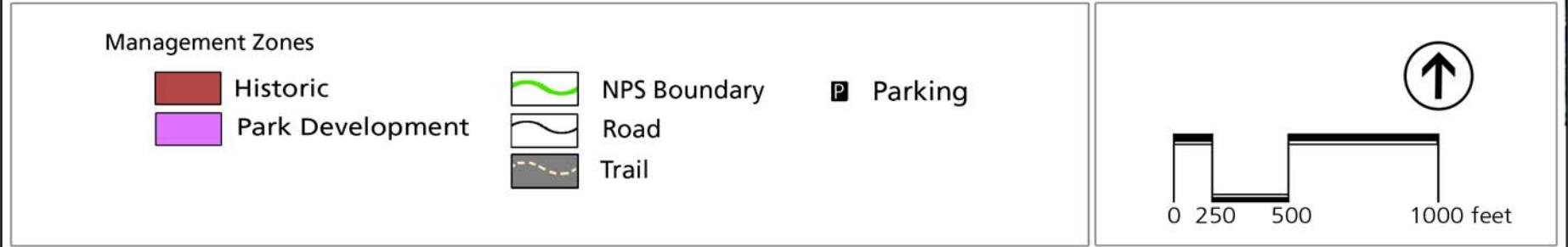
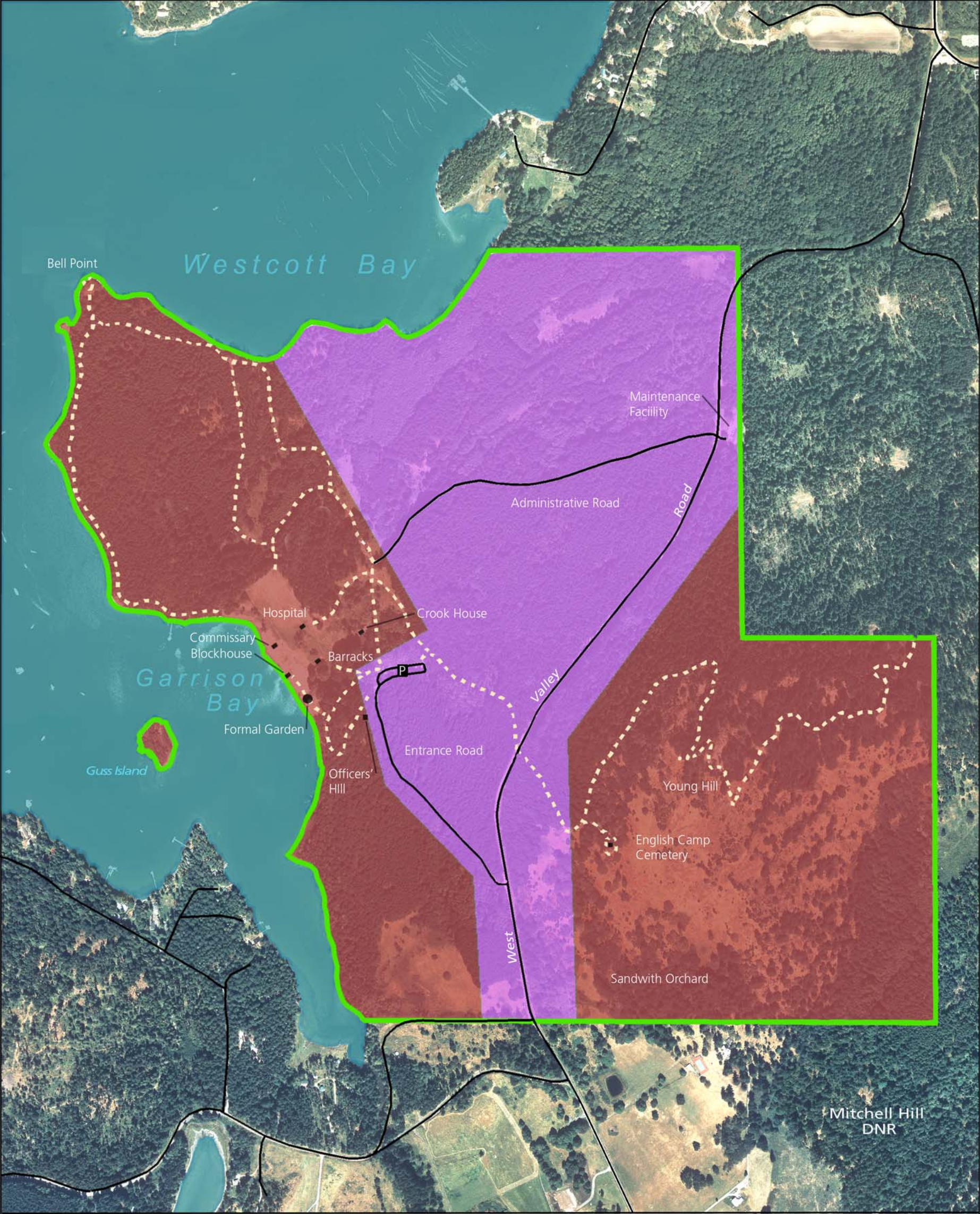
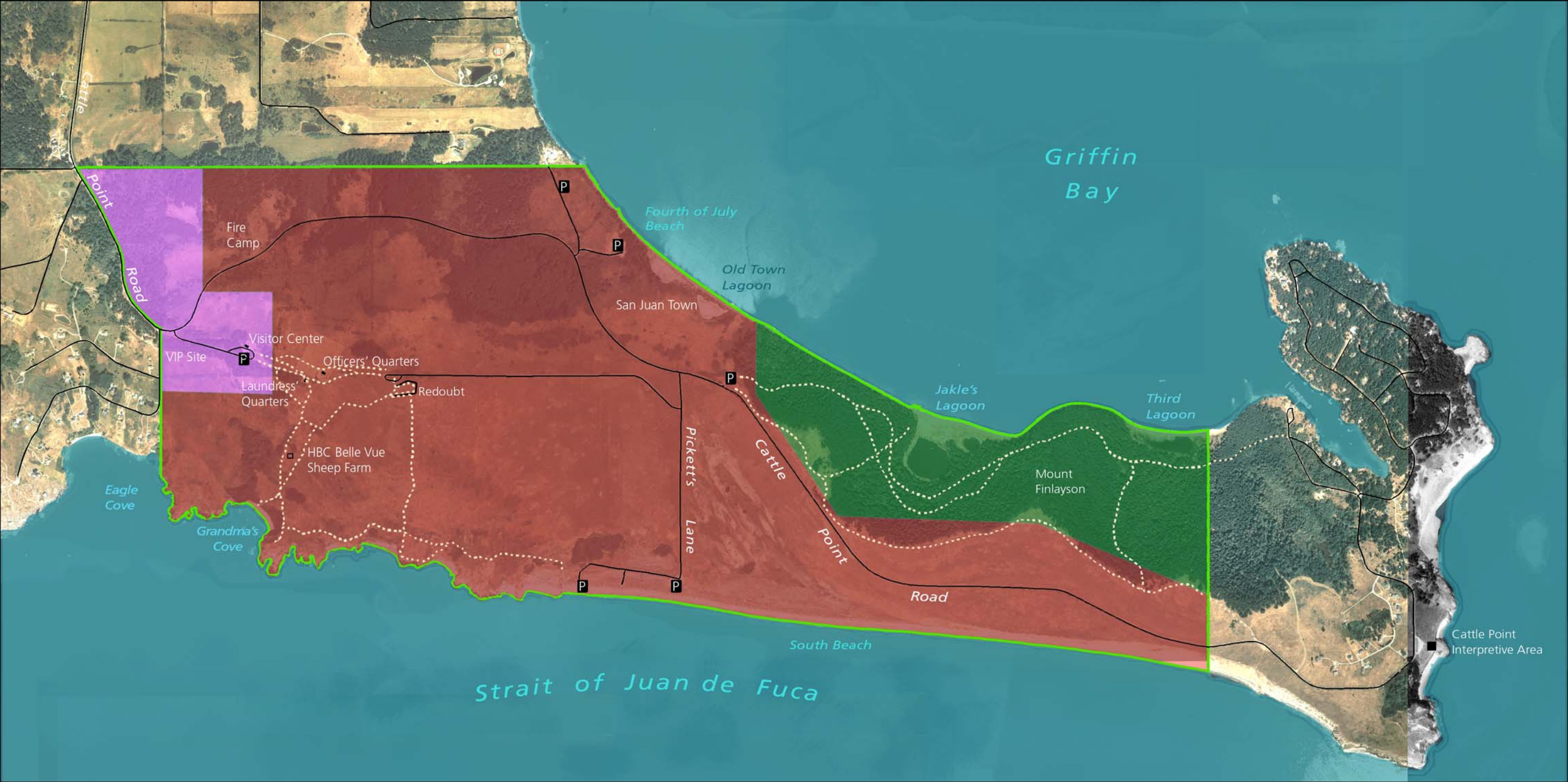




Figure 6
Date Created: October 2007

Alternative A: Management Zones for American Camp
San Juan Island NHP Draft GMP/EIS



Management Zones <ul style="list-style-type: none">HistoricNaturalPark Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NPS BoundaryRoadTrail	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parking
 		
Figure 7 <p>Produced by: National Park Service, Pacific West Region - Seattle</p> <p>Date Created: October 2007</p> <p>Data Sources: NPS - DOQs (1997), management zones, NPS boundary, roads, trails San Juan County - parcels USGS DOQ (1990)</p>		

ALTERNATIVE B

The general concept for Alternative B is to increase visitor use opportunities and outreach in English Camp, 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.

The key components of Alternative B are as follows:

- 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. It 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 administrative use on the second floor.
- At American Camp, the existing visitor center would be removed and a new permanent enlarged visitor center including space for a collections study room would be constructed north of the redoubt. The existing road to the redoubt, off Pickett's Lane, would be removed and reclaimed.
- The cultural landscapes would be enhanced for visitor understanding and interpretation through a variety of techniques.
- Off-island interpretation would be enhanced through partnerships.
- Park staff would seek to manage the intertidal areas through partnerships with DNR and others and encourage DNR to provide free conservation easements on tidelands connected to park land for consistent management.
- The park would propose boundary adjustments at both English Camp and American Camp. The park would acquire Mitchell Hill at English Camp. At American Camp, the park would acquire the DNR managed Cattle Point Interpretive Area, the DNR managed Cattle Point Natural Resource Conservation Area, the BLM property, and a privately owned parcel.

Management Zones

Management zoning for Alternative B includes the following zones: Administrative, Cultural, Natural, and Visitor Services. In formulating zones for Alternative B, the management zones were placed in locations or configurations on the park maps according to the overall concept of emphasizing visitor opportunities.

At English Camp, the Cultural Zone would include four distinct areas: the historic core area including the parade ground, historic encampment structures, formal garden, and officers' hill; the old military road spur and Sandwith orchard southeast of West Valley Road to the park boundary; the cemetery at Young Hill, and Guss Island. The Visitor Services Zone would form a loop along the park and county roads and include the Crook house, a new parking lot, and educational camp site (unless moved to Mitchell Hill). It would also include a small area on Westcott Bay that would allow for development of a canoe/kayak landing. Three small areas would be zoned Administrative to accommodate park operations for maintenance and VIP sites. The majority of the acreage at English Camp would fall under the Natural Zone. (See Figure 8: Alternative B: Management Zones and Schematic Design for English Camp.)

At American Camp, the Cultural Zone is situated south of Cattle Point Road to the Strait of Juan de Fuca, stretching from the western park boundary to Pickett's Lane. This zone would include the HBC Belle Vue Sheep Farm, the historic prairie, the redoubt, officers' quarters, the laundress' quarters, and the parade ground. It would also include a contiguous area north of Cattle Point Road to Old Town Lagoon incorporating the site of the former San Juan Town. The Visitor Services Zone would include the park roads and parking areas, an area from Fourth of July Beach north to the park border, and an area accommodating the new proposed visitor center. There are three small areas zoned for Administrative use: the existing visitor center area and access road, the VIP sites, and the fire camp. The Natural Zone is in two separate sections: the first would include the eastern half of the park from Pickett's Lane to the eastern park border. It would also include the area north of Cattle Point Road to the park boundary, excluding a small area that is zoned Administrative. The Cultural and Natural Zones are approximately the same amount of acreage in this alternative. (See Figure 9: Alternative B: Management Zones, Boundary Modification, and Schematic Design for American Camp.)