



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
San Juan Island National Historical Park  
P.O. Box 429  
Friday Harbor, Washington 98250



*August 2008*

Dear Friend of San Juan Island National Historical Park,

It is with great pleasure that we submit to you the Final General Management Plan for San Juan Island National Historical Park. This plan is a vision for the next 15 to 20 years that will guide our management of the Park in its operations, facilities, and new programs.

This final General Management Plan presents the Proposed Action of the National Park Service for the Park. The actions proposed in this plan will broaden the scope of resource management and interpretation programs to emphasize the connections and interrelationships between the park's cultural and natural resources. Historic buildings and structures will continue to be preserved, with some additional buildings open to the public for interpretation. New facilities and programs will provide opportunities for visitors to understand how the park's natural surroundings influenced the settlement and historic events on San Juan Island and help define the cultural landscapes preserved within the park. Boundaries will be expanded to include lands important for resource protection and to public understanding of primary interpretive themes.

This General Management Plan is the result of six years of thought, planning and discussion about the National Historical Park's future, with the public and with our partners. From the start, your involvement has been critical in shaping this plan. Three well-attended public meetings were held on the draft General Management Plan in February, at which we received more than 100 verbal comments. During the 60-day comment period, we also received 30 letters noting issues and ideas. We have listened to your concerns and have made a number of revisions to the final General Management Plan presented here.

We are most grateful for the time and effort contributed to this plan by engaged citizens, local and regional non-profit groups, a host of county and state agencies, and dedicated National Park Service staff. The vision contained in the plan is clearer and more refined because of your enthusiastic participation. To achieve the goals and objectives of the plan will require continued involvement of you, the community, and our partners. We look forward to working with all of you in coming years as we strive to implement programs contained in this plan.

Peter K. Dederich

*Superintendent, San Juan Island National Historical Park*





# San Juan Island National Historical Park

## *Final General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*

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





**Final General Management Plan**  
**Final 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 final general management plan (GMP) and environmental impact statement (EIS) 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 and proposed action and will become the final general management plan for the park.

The proposed action 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. Specific actions to be undertaken include the development of a permanent visitor center, repatriation of encampment era historic buildings to the park, rehabilitation of existing historic buildings, relocation of portions of the collections to the park, a relocated and improved educational camp, expanded prairie restoration, and boundary additions at both American and English camps.

This final GMP/EIS includes the results of public involvement, consultation, and coordination. On January 18, 2008, the draft GMP/EIS became available for public review. Public meetings were held in Anacortes and Friday Harbor, Washington during February 2008. The 60-day public comment period ended March 17, 2008 and comments were accepted until March 24, 2008. During this period numerous comments were recorded at the workshops and 30 letters were received. The National Park Service's responses to substantive comments are provided in this final EIS.

The release of this final GMP/EIS and published Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register* will be followed by a 30-day no-action period after which time the alternative or actions constituting the approved plan will be documented in a Record of Decision. For further information, contact or write to the Superintendent at San Juan Island National Historical Park, 650 Mullis Street, Suite 100, (PO Box 429), Friday Harbor, Washington 98250; telephone: (360) 378-2240. This document is available online at the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment System at <http://park.planning.nps.gov/sajh>. A limited number of additional copies and CDs of this final GMP/EIS are available from the park at the address above. In addition, this final GMP/EIS is available at the public libraries in Friday Harbor, Anacortes, and at the National Park Service's library in Seattle, Washington.





## ***How to Use This Document***

This final 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 GMP/EIS. This chapter also summarizes public comments received by the NPS during scoping and public review of the draft GMP/EIS







# 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 final 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 document is the final GMP/EIS for San Juan Island National Historical Park. The proposed action for the National Park Service is Alternative C and will be the management alternative implemented at the park. In addition to factual corrections and editorial changes made to the draft GMP, this final GMP contains minor changes, additions, and clarifications based upon written responses received during the public comment period. Additions to the final GMP/EIS include supplementary baseline information on air and water quality, an updated section on user capacity, and marine resource data placed on Figures 19 and 20 entitled Natural Resources. Clarifications focused on easement language and intent, and parking lot reconfiguration. Finally, there were minor language changes regarding the treatment of equestrian use in the park. Agency responses to public comments can be found in the Public Involvement chapter.

Three alternatives have been presented for the 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 proposed action 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 staffing 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 a 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.

