

**San Juan Islands National Monument  
Monument Advisory Committee Meeting  
June 10, 2016  
San Juan Island, Friday Harbor Grange**

**DRAFT Meeting minutes**

**Present:** Monument Advisory Committee members: Jamie Stephens, Joseph Reynolds, Tom Reeve, Rhea Miller, Gene Helfman, Mike Jonas, Tom Reynolds, and Joseph Jones (attended the afternoon session.)

BLM: Lauren Pidot, Marcia deChadenedes, Nick Teague, Anjolene Price

BLM attending via phone: Stewart Allen (for socio-economic discussion), Jeff Clark (for communication plan discussion)

**Public members:** Rob Sendak, Executive Director, Washington Water Trails Association

**Introductions and MAC Business:**

- Introductions around the room were shared
- MAC business was rescheduled to take place in the afternoon
- MAC positions update: Marcia deC shared updates on the MAC positions. There were lots of applications and these have moved to the WA DC level.
- Marcia deC and MAC Chair Tom Reeve will have a future discussion about how and when terms end and begin regarding timing with calendar year endings and MAC positions
- Marcia deC while in WA DC met with Neil Kornze and others who want to bottle the success of the San Juan Islands to model across the Nation.
- WA DC RAC Team is proposing DOI Secretary not sign/approve MAC positions to help speed up the process.
- The election cycle in WA DC has many people uncertain about priorities
- National Recreation Trails Program recently included the Roche Harbor Trails. This Roche Harbor Trail system connects to the San Juan Historical National Park and provided more national recognition for the San Juan Islands

**AMS: questions and discussion:**

- Changes and additions will be incorporated into DRAFT plan; the AMS itself is a stand-alone document that won't be revised.
- MAC overall comments on the BLM's SJINM AMS:
  - Outstanding document, well done;
  - Good team effort on the BLM's part, nice work
  - KWIAHT would like to be listed as a contributor for the data they provided in the DRAFT and FINAL

- **Section 1.3:** Ownership clarification with USCG properties is needed for those areas in the relinquishment process.
- **Section 2:** This section would typically be longer but since we, BLM, do not have an existing Resource Management Plan for the San Juan Islands the information provided covers it adequately
- **Section 3:** List could be added – expanded with:
  - WA State Parks – Moran State Park Plan
  - San Juan County Master Tourism Plan
  - San Juan County Shoreline Master Plan
  - San Juan County Critical Areas Ordinance
  - USCG- Aids to Navigation Maintenance Plan: if there is one
  - San Juan Preservation Trust Management/ Preserve Plans
  - US NAVY plans
  - WA ferry plan
  - This is a good section to have the Cooperating Agencies review and make recommendations.
- **Section 4:** Air Quality:
  - How can we highlight the concern around wildfire on the landscape and the lack of available resources.
- **Section 4.2:** Should there be a tectonic section and or other devastating, unforeseen actions area in the DRAFT/ and FINAL?
- **Section 4.3:** Cultural:
  - Clarification was shared about why Native American sensitive areas were not being shared in the AMS.
  - Possibly more information is needed about why the need to be vague regarding Native American sensitive areas in the upfront sections would help. Possibly in the Pre-European contact paragraphs?
- **Section 4.4:** Education and Interpretation:
  - Include the Terrestrial Managers Group and maybe highlight other programs and organizations doing similar work in the planning area
- **Section 4.5:**
  - Table 2: further define description of what fire regime means
- **Section 4.6:** No discussion
- **Section 4.7:** need more recognition and importance of balds and lichens and mosses and low growing plants regarding their sensitivities
- **Section 4.8:** No discussion
- **Section 4.9:**
  - **Table 6:** Make more that these are examples of where these species have been found but that we don't have a comprehensive survey.
- **Section 4.10:** No discussion
- **Section 4.11:**

- Say something about the fact that paleo resources exist in the rest of the San Juans (e.g., Sucia and nearby areas)—possibly an indicator of additional, unknown values within the Monument)
- **Section 4.12:**
  - Hunting:
    - what is the length of the season?
    - how many permits for a second deer are issued each year for Lopez
    - Estimate of deer taken off of Lopez island each hunting season
    - Develop and estimate of number of hunters for 2016
  - Campsite:
    - What are the seasonality numbers of visitors
    - What is the capacity available for camping and recreation
  - Table 10: is too broad to be useful (focused on recreation demand in Washington State)-  
-narrow it if possible to reflect recreation activities for the San Juan Islands and or nearby area
  - Table 9: need to make the source of the numbers clearer. Fix the irregular numbers so it makes more sense to the reader.
- **Section 4.13:**
  - If possible include known San Juan County Public Works Road ends and new access areas
- **Section 4.17:**
  - Plants of local concern: ask local experts and partners what should be in the RMP
  - These same plants could also be a local cultural concern: more recent cultural value
- **Section 4.18:**
  - Why First Nations are not listed?
  - How to recognize First Nations in the RMP for more representations
- **Section 4.19:**
  - Add map and table
- **Section 4.21:**
  - Fish: Gene has seen evidence of fish at Chadwick Marsh
  - Spawning sites
  - Osprey: include osprey as species that uses the wetlands.
  - Kelp: add something about historic kelp harvest
  - Gene H will provide fish information to Lauren P

**Socio-Economic analysis discussion:**

- Stewart Allen: BLM, CA, OR, WA, AK region provided and overview of the Socio- Economic portion of the AMS and DRAFT EIS: for Socio., Economics and Environmental Justice
  - Beyond the SJI? What will be the affected area considering the small amount of BLM lands in the region?

- What are the dollars brought in by tourism? For every \$1 brought in = 60 Cents goes to support local infrastructures which impact local economies and people. The locals are the ones paying for the wear and tear through taxes and restructuring.
- Inclusion of vision statement within the San Juan County Comp Plan should be in the DRAFT and FINAL RMP
- Add Gap information – Yes it is in there could it be better defined?
- Watch for language about minorities; these are value laden.
- Use stats – let the data stand for itself
- Context: the extent to which Monument lands drive tourism to the county is unclear. If meaningful – spend more energy – if not, do not spend time on it.
  - This is a very complex issue
- Possibly the National Monument Status and its external advertisements do draw more visitors on Lopez and also people find out as they arrive. As a whole people are drawn to the natural beauty and outdoor recreation the islands provide.
- On Lopez the recent sustainable tourism workshop will produce a ‘plan’ which could help expand/bolster the socio-economic section.
- These National Monument Lands are advertised on the internet, google maps, B&B’s VRBO, blogs...The cat is out of the bag!
- Lodging tax: benefits from visitors coming
- Gas prices are low in the region and this has increased tourism
- Possibly the BLM is not a small contributor to overall Socio. Economic
- We are trans-boundary. Our location draws international visitors mostly from Canada but people are coming to the San Juan Islands as a whole from all over the world
- San Juan Islands is also in an upward swing of young regional workers moving here and advances in the Tech Industry are helping make living here and telecommuting more attractive
- Update shoulder season information from San Juan County Visitors Bureau, with events, planning and communities events
- The population estimate for 1970s in the AMS section seems low—check.
- Stewart: made himself available to the MAC members (but please cc Lauren—lpidot@blm.gov): sdallen@blm.gov.
  - Specifically Tom, Barbara, and Jamie may have more data for him.

**Communications Plan:**

- How and when best to share new information?
- Public meetings on the draft: where should we hold them and how should they be structured?
- How to amplify messages we want to share?
- How to better reach communities for RMP and general National Monument information
- These are two separate topics: RMP vs General Info
  - Lopez specific information is still working on this through our local online sources- how and what to share

- MAC: share and focus on RMP information. Also MAC would like to have a separate conversation about this topic
- This information is complicated for people to understand: external and internal
- Get information out early to people so they are prepared and informed
- Work with stakeholders to help them better understand the alternatives: Stewardship Network of the San Juan Islands, Terrestrial Managers Group, and others
- Reach out to largest group of visitors via WSDOT information. Most of our visitors are going to be on the ferry or in the ferry line.
- Pre-alternative release: focus on helping people understand the process.
  - Will people still be interested and engaged if/ when the information is presented?
  - How much information and what information to present?
  - Less than a month before the draft goes out
- This information is very complicated and difficult to digest and process
- Should explain who will be the decision maker and what criteria will be used to make the final decisions.
- Explain how and what decisions will be made and how their voices will be heard
- Explain how to make a constructive comment
- Share that while decisions aren't made based on "votes" from public comments (e.g., 15 comments want camping in a certain place and 10 comments don't, doesn't mean there would necessarily be no camping), public input is certainly taken into consideration.
- How to set the 'hook' engaging them into the process
- Use emotional attachment to help with this:
  - "Do you enjoy walking your dog on public lands?"
  - These are lands you use and enjoy
- How you present it and in what order
- Maybe using resource specific information will help?
- Possibly MAC could take the alternatives preview to local organizational meetings and represent the process:
  - Consider winter travelers who are local and may be gone during outreach efforts. How to connect with these people so they do not miss opportunities?
- Possible pre-release of the alternatives, possible high level ask about what is missing from the alternatives- this could be used to develop a better understanding and may help with people to be better prepared.
- It should be made very clear that the composition of the alternatives is not set in stone for the proposed plan—the different components can be taken apart and rearranged.
- Give examples of how one site would vary across the range.
- Could use a catalogue type of delivery for the 17 Recreation Management Areas with Photos, maps, as a prep to releasing the alternatives. Maybe release this in the fall. This can also be viewed as a educational tool.
- Use 'ole fashioned flyers to raise awareness

- Mid October may be an optimum time to have high level overview with pre-amble community outreach.
- Pre-outreach MAC conversation in the fall is needed to help design and form the events.

**Public comment period:**

- Rob Sendak, Executive Director, Washington Water Trails Association, WWTA: Provided introductions about WWTA and his position and interest in partnering with BLM and assisting MAC if needed.
  - Rob S has been in his leadership position with WWTA for 14 months.
  - He is interested in Meaningful outreach and shared a recommendation to “Clone Nick Teague, BLM”
  - WWTA, 501 c 3 has been active for 26 years working with Land managers to plan, create , manage and maintain their Water Trails Sites along the Cascadia Marine Trail, CMT, and other Water routes.
  - The Cascadia Marine Trail is in the San Juan Islands and there are 2 BLM site designated along the route: Blind and Posey Island. There are numerous other campsites and day use areas nearby BLM properties within the SJINM.
  - There are over 66 campsites along the CMT
  - In 1993, the CMT received its National Recreation Trail designation.
  - This is the flagship Water trail for WA state There are many other Water trails on the state and many recreation communities and organizations supporting the success of the Water trails.
  - 21.6 billion \$ dollars recreation influences in WA State
  - John Snyder: appointed by Governor Inslee to work with Recreation providers and outlets. Rob S will be working with him on several fronts
  - 200,000 Outdoor Recreation jobs in WA State
  - The population in expected to increase in 20 years In the Salish Sea by 20% which is related to Outdoor recreation desired and the natural world setting.
  - 90% of paddle sports are all beginners and there is a increase of people interested in outdoor recreation and paddle sports.
  - WWTA is a public access advocate organization:
    - Public Access
    - Healthy communities
    - Environmental Conservation
    - Outdoor Recreation
  - WWTA is concerned about planning for the future and Sea level Rise, Changing climates and ensuring there is public access for future generations
  - There is a British Columbia, Canadian Marine Trail and Rick Hughes, San Juan County Council member knows about this Water Trail and the point of Contact for this Water Trail

- WWTA is a conveyor of Partners, similar to what the BLM does and others in the San Juan Islands
- WWTA has 768 members- working with clubs, partners, outreach including the Washington Trails Association and other non-profits
- Interested in Access and easements-possibly even direct purchase of land, but the WWTA is not quite there yet, maybe in the future
- WWTA is interested in many things and some of those top items are for a CMT site:
  - Bathrooms and facilities
  - Freshwater
  - Parking
  - Fire rings and picnic tables/ raised campsites
- WWTA is working with the National Park Service, RCTA, on a Management Plan for CMT

**Preliminary recreation components of Alternatives:**

- Nick introduced group to the values and current uses of four example locations: Cape Saint Mary (on Lopez Island), Blind Island, Chuckanut Rocks, and Turn Point. The group then gathered around a large spreadsheet with preliminary allowable and prohibited use decisions for each of these areas. The intent of this exercise was to help MAC members understand the construction of, and types of decisions that could be made through, the alternative’s approaches to recreation management. Nick walked through group through the table (see below).
  - Group requested clarification on shooting closures.
  - MAC members noted that the alternative summaries don’t really work for all locations, i.e., that the “manage for quiet and solitude” description for B doesn’t really represent management at Turn Point. The BLM acknowledged that minimal recreation might be a better term, but that management approaches like dispersing use through trails to increase opportunities for solitude don’t quite fit under that term. The nick names are intended to provide a sense of the alternative, but it’s hard to come up with something brief that captures everything.
  - MAC members noted that some of the approaches in the table for Chuckanut Rocks don’t make sense given their closure to use in A, B, and C. The BLM agreed and noted that this was a cutting and pasting error and would fix it.
- The group discussed how best to present recreation alternative information in the pre-draft plan preliminary alternative release and the draft plan itself.
  - For preliminary pre-draft release:
    - Describe range of options being considered by the BLM for recreation management and possibly for other resources (e.g., camping/no camping, bikes/no bikes, equestrian use/no equestrian use, etc...).
    - Potentially provide a table with how the alternatives would vary for one or two example locations.
      - Turn Point and possibly a small island or rock location might be good examples.

- Generally make it very clear to the public that the plan is making decisions for 15-20 years; this is not a 5 year plan that is easily updated. Changing the plan in a substantive way requires a plan amendment, which is an involved process.
- Need to make clear what it means where there isn't a shooting closure—that recreational/target shooting is allowed (outside of developed campgrounds and parking lots).
- Group asked the question: how do we structure our public outreach so that it is easily digestible and well understood.

**Closing Business:**

- Possibly 1 meeting is needed September or October: to help design the RMP information “newsletter” to help share the preliminary Alternatives
- How and what will it look like
- BLM figure out what this might look like so as not to violate FACA
- The DRAFT RMP role out
  - How and when and what
  - Preferred alternative- MAC recommendation (the Preferred Alternative is not the Proposed Alternative)
- 1 meeting: (November ?) MAC preferred discussion and role out= is this possible ?
- Minutes: previous minutes have not been vetted
- Motion to approve minutes: Tom R. Seconded: Rhea M. Approved: Unanimous
- Special Thank you from Tom R to Marcia dC, BLM, for her role in community and also representing the BLM at all levels. Nice job Marcia!!!!
- FIELD Trips: MAC and Cooperating Agencies invite Legislators
  - July 12<sup>th</sup>: Small islands site tours: Orcas West sound, Wasp Island Chain, Henry Island
  - July 25<sup>th</sup>: MAC: outer remote areas with Canoe Island support: Chuckanut rocks, Carter point, Eliza island and others

**Comment Period:**

**No additional public comments**