

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 902-4111 • www.governor.wa.gov

February 14, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to urge your support for the designation of a National Monument in Washington State's San Juan Islands. Such a designation enjoys overwhelming support from the local community, and will afford important protections for these treasured natural resources.

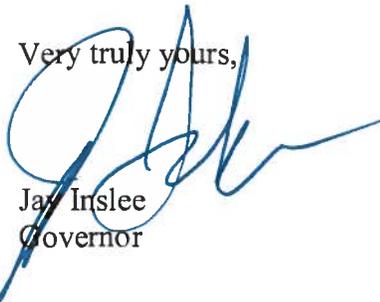
While serving in the 112th Congress, I proudly co-sponsored legislation to permanently protect as a National Conservation Area the lands in the San Juan Islands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The approximately 1,000 acres of BLM lands in the islands provide important recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat and spectacular scenery to the residents of those islands and to thousands of visitors each year.

Secretary of the Interior Salazar has been very helpful to the locally-driven effort to protect these lands including a significant investment of his time and talents in two meetings with the local community. That community, with the backing of the San Juan County Council, Senators Cantwell and Murray, Representatives Larsen and DelBene, former Governor Christine Gregoire, and over 150 local businesses, continues to drive this effort to protect these lands as a National Conservation Area or, if congressional gridlock has obstructed that path, as a National Monument.

I strongly support the permanent protection of these lands and urge you to consider using your authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to designate a National Monument in the San Juan Islands before Secretary Salazar leaves office.

Protecting these lands and involving the community in their management will be a lasting tribute to Secretary Salazar's work and will help preserve what makes the San Juan Islands a spectacular part of our great state.

Very truly yours,



Jay Inslee
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