



San Juan County Council

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Friday Harbor, WA 98250
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District 1, Lovel Pratt
District 2, Rich Peterson
District 3, Howard Rosenfeld

District 4, Richard Fralick
District 5, Patty Miller
District 6, Jamie Stephens

April 3, 2012

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

RE: BLM Lands in the San Juan Islands

Dear Secretary Salazar:

We want to thank you for your support of our community's strong desire for permanent protection for the BLM lands in the San Juan Islands.

As you know, we are pursuing this course of action directly through Representative Larsen and Senator Cantwell, who have drafted and introduced legislation on behalf of the community that would designate these lands as a National Conservation Area within BLM.

The proposed legislation provides for permanent protection of the BLM lands in the San Juan Islands with a strong community voice in their management, keeping these lands natural and available to future generations.

We appreciate your offer to propose to the President that these lands receive the same protection via a presidential proclamation rather than wait for the uncertain legislative process.

The San Juan County Council endorses the protection of these lands by a presidential proclamation only if it is based on the proposed legislation and produces the same results as the legislation intended. Specifically that it:

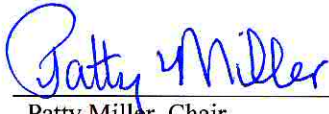
- Grants permanent protection for the BLM lands in the San Juan Islands with a strong community voice in their management.
- Sets the purpose of the proclamation to conserve, protect, and enhance for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations, the ecological, scenic, wildlife, recreational, cultural, historical, natural, educational, and scientific resources of the National Monument.
- Limits the lands included in the National Monument to the BLM lands in the San Juan Archipelago. Those approximate 1000 acres of public lands which are currently owned by BLM or acquired through exchange, donation, or purchase from a willing seller.

- The fact that an activity or use on land outside the designated area can be seen or heard within the designated area shall not preclude the activity or use outside the boundary of the designated area.
- It would not create a protective perimeter or buffer zone around the National Monument.
- Directs BLM to work closely with the community to develop a management plan.

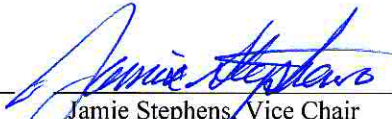
Thank you for your interest and support preserving these special lands.

Sincerely,

**COUNTY COUNCIL
SAN JUAN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



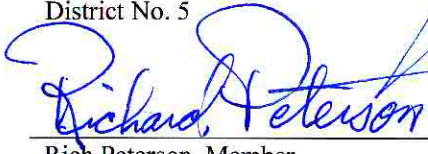
Patty Miller, Chair
District No. 5



Jamie Stephens, Vice Chair
District No. 6



Lovel Pratt, Member
District No. 1



Rich Peterson, Member
District No. 2



Howie Rosenfeld, Member
District No. 3



Richard Fralick, Member
District No. 4

Cc: The Honorable Senator Maria Cantwell
The Honorable Congressman Rick Larsen