



SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RON WESEN, First District
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March 29, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Salazar:

We write to thank you for your support for permanent protection of Bureau of Land Management lands in Skagit County through the San Juan Conservation Area.

As you know, Senator Cantwell and Representative Larsen have introduced legislation to create a National Conservation Area to permanently protect the BLM lands in the San Juans. Their legislation would require a strong community voice in the lands management. We understand you have offered to propose to the President that these lands be designated Conservation Lands via a presidential proclamation rather than through the legislative process.

The proposal includes just one area within Skagit County, namely the Reservation Bay Rocks. According to a 1980 BLM inventory, these two groups of rocks, less than one acre total, are within 100 yards of Deception Pass State Park in the northwest corner of Reservation Bay and mostly under water at high tide. They provide no opportunities for recreation. We are supportive of their inclusion in a national conservation area.

We look forward to working with you, Senator Cantwell, and Representative Larsen to pursue either or both paths to conservation of these federal lands. Skagit County is supportive of voluntary conservation efforts in general and specifically supportive of including these Skagit County areas in the proposed San Juan Conservation Area.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt
Chair

Sharon D. Dillon
Commissioner

Ron Wesen
Commissioner

cc: Senator Maria Cantwell
Representative Rick Larsen