

Write a Letter of Support

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar has offered to propose to the President that these lands achieve their Conservation Lands designation via a presidential proclamation rather than wait for the uncertain legislative process.

WHY? The principal benefit would be that the BLM lands couldn't be sold or mined. The same thing could be accomplished by giving the lands—which are mostly tiny patches—to the state park system with a bar to sale or use.

Instead, there will be another federal entity mucking around and “local” and tribal committees and commissions, all telling us what to do on these lands. It seems not far-fetched that they would close these lands to our use due to their “sensitivity” or perceived importance, much like they are trying to do with lots of our property under the CAO and SMP. Why create yet another committee to control yet another part of our islands and lives?

Include a few sentences about why these lands are important to you - your letter will have more impact.

Include a sentence about how these areas will be closed to the public if the “usual suspects” prepare a “local management plan.”

Most important:

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Less important:

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

Senator Maria Cantwell
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Wall Street Building
2930 Wetmore Ave, Suite 9F
Everett, WA 98201

Sample Letter

Date

RE: BLM Lands in the San Juan Islands

Dear _____:

We are writing about the effort by a few residents of the San Juan Islands to have BLM lands here declared a National Conservation Area or National Monument.

We are not sure who authorized these people to speak for all of us, and are very concerned about the limited public participation provided by this group. (Twice, it held meetings with little or no notice in Anacortes, more than an hour's ferry ride away from us. Once, it held a meeting for "invited attendees" only.) Why not survey the residents if you really want to know what we think?

We believe that the "local management" included in this proposal means that people will be banned from these places to "protect" the places. This is what is happening all around us.

We think we have too many groups already trying to "help" us out of our island way of life.

We are over-regulated already—take a look at BLM's "plans" and studies for its lands here <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/plans/ewsjrmp/documents.php>, especially the study by James Kent Associates "World Cultural Analysts" -- http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/spokane/plans/ewsjrmp/files/james_kent_report.pdf—

They probably cost an arm and a leg and the lives of numerous trees, and they are often just plain silly—the James Kent report discusses "human cultural units." Plus it's wrong in much of what it reports about the islands—for example, not that it matters, everyone waves on Orcas AND Lopez, and probably Shaw too.

Why not give the lands to the Washington State Park system and take some of the hundreds of thousands of dollars you will spend doing new logos and stationery and signs and give it the state to staff these parks spaces. There is already state staff working near all the sites.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Your Name

Your Address

Cc: Senator Maria Cantwell

Representative Rick Larsen

Email Instructions

This is a situation where paper mail is more effective than email. But there is an email approach you can use if needed. Just send email to:

Go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments> and use the e-mail form.

Secretary Salazar: exsec@ios.doi.gov

Senator Cantwell: Maria_Cantwell@cantwell.senate.gov

Representative Larsen: rick.larsen@mail.house.gov