

AGENDA

San Juan County Conservation Land Bank Commission

**Members of the public may participate in person at
846 Argyle Ave, Friday Harbor, WA 98250
join virtually by [CLICKING HERE](#)
or by phone @ (360)726-3293 Pin# 92880**

September 16, 2022

8:30 am	Convene
8:30	General Public Comments
8:40	Approve August 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes
8:45	Chair and Commissioners Reports
8:55	Partner Update – Angela Anderson, San Juan Preservation Trust
9:00	County Council Update – Christine Minney
9:10	Director’s Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Acquisitions Update○ County Budget Committee Meeting RE Stewardship Funding○ Parks, Trails, Natural Areas Plan Update (now Recreation, Open Space and Stewardship Plan – ROSS)
9:55	Break
10:05	Stewardship Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Coffelt Lease Draft○ Public Comments and Draft Responses for Turtleback SMP
10:40	Outreach and Volunteer Report
10:50	Future Agenda Items
10:55	Adjourn

Future Agenda Items List

- Staffing – staff to report back at a future meeting
- Improvement of communications with County Council
- Traditionally important landscapes and flora and fauna, and access for tribes of the region within current and future preserves
- The Land Bank’s collective big dream/goal for the overall resiliency of the islands and the bioregion
- Connecting trails on non-Land Bank properties
- Wetland mitigation
- Transfer of development rights

The Land Bank Commission May Add or Delete Agenda Items and Projects for Discussion. The Agenda Order is Subject to Change. You are invited to call the Land Bank office at 360-378-4402 for more details prior to the meeting. SJC Code 2.116.070 “All meetings and actions of advisory bodies and their subcommittees shall be open to the public, even where such meetings are not within the purview of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 42.30 RCW, except where the meeting is properly closed for executive session, as provided in RCW 42.30.110”

STEWARDSHIP & OUTREACH REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2022

OVERVIEW

Seed from the nursery will soon be sown at numerous restoration sites across the County. Turtleback Mountain and Mount Grant preserves are among the Conservation Land Bank's recipients, as they are sites that were selected by Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for grant funding to promote forest health. DNR staff recently traveled to Orcas Island to review several more potential forest health projects, and staff remain hopeful that more cost-share funding for this work will be made available in the future.

Several dead geese were found strewn along Crescent Beach Preserve and subsequent samples and tests determined that avian influenza was the cause of death. Two dead geese were then also reported and collected at Zylstra Lake Preserve, alongside a Green-winged teal. Samples were also collected here, but tests results have not yet been received and revealed the cause of death.

Annual monitoring of conservation easements is well-underway and yielding some nice views of late-season flowers (Photo). The guided tours for the public at the Watmough Addition and the North Shore have remained well-attended. The specialty license plate raised a total of \$40K this year. That's double the amount of last year, and it's only the second year of the program. Half of the total will be split between the SJI Youth Conservation Corps and the Coast Salish Youth Stewardship Corps, and the remaining \$20K will be made available for local grants. To learn more about the RFP process: [click here](#).

Last, but not least, Mary Gropp has wrapped up her very productive, seasonal position; and everyone hopes she'll return next year.

OUTREACH

Staff: Tanja Williamson

After three years of being virtual, the County Fair returned to being an in-person event. Tanja set-up and tirelessly staffed our booth which featured maps of conservation lands across the County as well as those specific to the Land Bank. She even had a Poo Game on hand for those

fair-goers that were playing bingo and for this, she had two takers. One was all the way from France. Margo gave a presentation that was all about camas and how to grow it -- to a full house, despite the heat! (Photo). Post fair, activities have included updating the webpage for the Fall Native Wildflower Sale. The launch date for the public to make online reservations is September 13th. “Doors” open at 9am, and it’s recommended that they view the plant list beforehand. [Click here](#) to see the great selection. Pick-up of the plants is scheduled for October 1st. Eliza is also working with Tanja to create some sweet nursery gifts that will help recognize some of the Land Bank’s dedicated volunteers. Ideas include native seed packets and small pots of sedum.

Later this month, on September 24th, there will be an open house at the North Shore property. It will be a joint celebration between the Conservation Land Bank and the San Juan Preservation Trust (SJPT) and held from 10-2. A fall e-newsletter will be released next week and will announce the event more broadly.

SALISH SEEDS NURSERY

Staff: Eliza Habegger, Margo Thorp

Nursery staff and stock have welcomed the cooler temperatures. There was a water shortage in late August, a result of heavy water consumption by cattle at Red Mill Farm, that caused staff some anxiety. They adjusted to watering in the predawn light, before the cattle were up, and kept the plants alive. The water supply is now back to normal.

Seed cleaning and processing has been a focus this month (Photo). Samples of collected seeds were sent to a laboratory to test for germination, presence of weed seed, and other characteristics. – State law requires this of any seed, native or cultivated, that is to be sold. Volunteers have been helping with weeding, seed-cleaning, labelling plants for the upcoming sale, and packing seeds into packets. And speaking of the fall sale: Over 1,200 potted plants, bulbs, and seed packets are ready and waiting for their new homes and Waldron and Shaw Islands have been added to this year’s list of pick-up locations (Photo).

DISTRICT 1

Staff: Doug McCutchen, Charlie Behnke, Jacob Wagner, Shauna Barrows

Beaverton Marsh: Work continues on the trail, and the trailhead, accessed off of Halvorsen Road. The grand opening is scheduled for next month. (It’s going to be amazing, says Shauna;

and her enthusiasm is often infectious.) A cultural resource assessment will soon begin, and Doug and Eliza collaborated with SJPT staff, Taylor family, and others on a plan to mow portions of the marsh and potentially a portion of the pine bog, in an attempt to maintain plant diversity and structure (Photo).

Cady Mountain: Recent trail work has involved making a small bridge, within a cedar grove, to provide for a seasonal creek crossing. Doug led a tour of the addition area, purchased from the Buck family, for SJPT staff as they intend to begin to fundraise for a conservation easement.

Driggs Park: Over the past year, landscape fabric has smothered a side lawn near the office entrance. The fabric has now been removed and soon native species will be sown and planted. The long-term vision for this area is that it can hope is it can serve as a demonstration area for how to convert lawn into meadow.

Frazer Homestead: Charlie and Jacob spent many hours harvesting tansy. Charlie has also been mowing the fields to reduce the amount of English hawthorn.

Kellett Bluff: Doug has been working with outside council, Derek Little, to review and suggest edits to an agreement that hopes to gain approval from the Suquamish Tribe about installing a mooring buoy.

King Sisters: The trail was recently brushed to remove the incredible growth that continually attempts to take over the trail!

Limekiln: Some evidence of diesel fuel from the sunken fishing vessel was detected on a small pocket beach on the north end of the Preserve.

Mount Grant: Archery hunting season has opened in the west basin of the Preserve and is operating on a new reservation system though WDFW. Preparations for the Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) grant are underway and include scheduling, tree marking and making improvements to a parking lot. A tour of the project area will be offered to preserve neighbors and the public.

Mount Ben: Staff joined Michele Smith, from the SJC Noxious Weed Board, for several days of hawthorn control (Photo).

Third Lagoon: Several Least Sandpipers -- the smallest of the sandpipers that are adoringly known as “peeps” – were seen feeding along the mudflats during this past month’s sampling for invasive green crabs. Welcome migrants!

Zylstra Lake: The YCC tended the native plant enclosures by the parking lot and removed (an enormous) teasel patch by the lower reservoir. Water quality has declined, as has been observed in previous years at this time of year. As mentioned, several dead birds were collected and tested, but no results have been received.

DISTRICT 2

Staff: Peter Guillozet, Andrew Jansen, Mary Gropp

Coffelt Farm: Peter and Charlie refined the draft long-term lease agreement and met with the Lums to discuss details. The electrical project continues to be on schedule and within budget.

Crescent Beach: Andrew worked with Rainshadow Consulting to gather tree data at this preserve and numerous others. These forest stand exams will inform the district’s forest health plan. Staff posted temporary signs to notify the public of avian influenza.

Deer Harbor: Shauna and Jacob assisted with removing a rotten split-rail fence that surrounded the parking area (Photo). The split rails were replaced with galvanized steel posts and a chain, and though the aesthetic is a change, these materials should last many decades and improve safety. A decaying alder that leaned over the mowed area was deemed to be a hazard and removed.

Fowler’s Pond: Someone removed the chain from a gate that opens onto Orcas Road and as a result the Lum Farm sheep crossed the road, created a minor stir in the neighborhood, and had to be rounded up. Staff added a new, heavy-duty lock and chain to prevent recurrence.

Judd Cove: After receiving several comments about dangerous road conditions at the entrance, Peter reached out to Public Works. They agreed that the conditions were unsafe but were unable to help remedy the situation because of their busy schedule. Peter issued a request for quotes (RFQ) for the necessary paving, via the SJC Small Works Roster, and received three bids. He is currently pursuing a contract and aims to have the work completed this fall. Andrew brushed the roadside ditches in preparation for winter rains.

North Shore: Public tours continue, and now numerous professional assessments are underway. Cultural resource, historic preservation, and geotechnical consultants all visited the property, and contractors have begun to evaluate the water and electrical systems. The roof and exterior of the garage were cleaned, the gutters were replaced, and the extensive dilapidated fencing and other hidden hazards are starting to be removed. Staff has sought and received quotes for an automated gate and initiated an in-house ecological assessment. Erin (merrily) performed an initial bird survey and met with a professional ornithologist to discuss the how to mitigate impacts to the swallows, both cliff and barn, that are nesting in the old house (Photo).

Turtleback Mountain: Mary continued her dedicated assault on invasive species, and among her (many) achievements this past month was the early detection and removal of a burr weed outbreak. Andrew teamed up with Troy from SJPT and they liberated oaks from unnecessary competition, which they intend to make a regular partnership activity. A dedicated SJPT volunteer, Kristin, also joined staff to collect seeds of California oatgrass and other species. Coordination for the LSR grant has increased as we prepare to work jointly with the Island Conservation Corps (ICC) and the Samish Indian Nation crew.

DISTRICT 3

Staff: Amanda Wedow, Sara De Roy

FB Spit: Oh, Italian Arum.

Lopez Hill: Hunting signs were posted, and neon vests were placed at four entry points. Tansy and thistles were removed within the addition, and a trail alignment for this area was reviewed. Staff is considering contracting with EcoStudies Institute for an ecological assessment.

Spencer Spit: Staff are in the middle of preparing a draft Stewardship and Management Plan for this property. The current vision for future management of this preserve is that employees of Washington State Parks will manage public access and maintain the proposed trail. This necessitates a MOU. One has been drafted, and it awaits review.

Weeks Wetland: Staff spent considerable time here this month. The trail was brushed and weed-whacked. Blackberries were removed. And many days were spent working on the boardwalk: rotten boards were removed and new decking was installed (Photo).

Watmough: Guided walks continued to be well attended. The final event was an evening walk, that included a picnic on the shore. Samples of beach sand were collected and will be examined for evidence of forage fish spawning.

Watmough CE: Staff monitored conservation easements in the vicinity of the preserve. One of the easements is within lands managed by the BLM and the new SJI National Monument Manager joined for the hike (Photo).

Photos



Photo 1. Fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*) seen at a conservation easement property.



Photo 2. At a North Shore public tour, many Orcasonians met each other for the first time.



Photos 3-4. Fun at the Fair was complete with a poo pick-up game called, “Stash It, Lash It, and Trash It”



Photo 5. Margo Thorp gave a well-attended presentation on camas



Photo 6. Margo weighs out a portion of the spring gold (*Lomatium utriculatum*) harvest



Photo 7. Yellow-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium californicum*) plants are ready for the Fall Native Wildflower Sale.



Photo 8: Eliza and Doug spent time in the Beaverton Marsh bog, and planning short- and long-term management.



Photo 9: Seeds of the aptly named “Tall Sock Destroyer” (*Torilis arvensis*) clings to more pants, boot laces, and beyond, after just 30 minutes of weed work on Mount Ben Preserve.



Photo 10. New parking lot fencing at Deer Harbor Preserve



Photos 11-12. A Barred owl and Cedar Waxwings were among the species detected during a recent bird survey at the North Shore.



Photos 13-14. Large Douglas firs, some standing dead and some still growing, at North Shore



Photos 14-15. Great smiles at the Weeks Wetland boardwalk replacement



Photo 16. SJI Monument Manager, Brie Chartier, joins for an outing to Watmough and gets up close to a stately cedar to observe some sapsucker wells.

Draft Turtleback Mountain Preserve Stewardship and Management Plan Public Comments

Topic	Person	Comment	Staff Response
Mountain Biking (2 responses)	1	<p>My family are all very active mountain bikers. Acknowledging the Land Bank's mission is not to build trails for recreation, I would still very much love to see the Land Bank evolve it's philosophy a bit to reflect the need for active recreation on its properties and commit to working with e.g. the Evergreen Mountain Bike Association to build dedicated biking trails on a small handful of its properties, namely Turtleback. At nearly 2K acres it would be possible to put in 1-2 trails for mountain biking that would provide an alternative to Moran and a way for families and individuals to enjoy the park on 2 wheels, while not disturbing the trails for hikers. I'm positive that if the LB were willing to explore this trail advocacy groups and mountain bike non profits would get involved to help cut a sustainable, enjoyable trail that would contribute to the overall mission of land stewardship, provide more recreational opportunities for families and residents and provide for more tourism dollars to the local economy.</p> <p>I've been exploring the area from the north entrance and feel there is a great opportunity to create that trail from the top of the fireroad climb back down toward the parking lot, potentially cutting back across the fireroad to take in some of the elevation changes. The trails out to Turtlehead are also a great spot to extend the trail network to provide more 2 wheel exploration.</p>	<p>Your interest in more mountain biking is shared by others in San Juan County and we respect your desire for greater access. Like you, we have seen examples of successful shared trail use elsewhere as well as successful stewardship efforts by users.</p> <p>Although the Land Bank’s mandate includes providing “low-intensity” recreational access, which we interpret as primarily pedestrian use, we have made exceptions in certain circumstances. For example, the decision to allow mountain biking and equestrian use on the pre-existing North Turtleback forest road seemed unlikely to significantly impact other trail users due to its width and long sightlines. Unfortunately, we see evidence and hear occasional reports of unauthorized cycling on south Turtleback.</p> <p>We believe that building additional trails for mountain bikers would be a departure from our mandate and would have a disproportionate impact on habitat quality and function. Additionally, conflicts between walkers and mountain bikers at Moran State Park are not infrequent and impacts such as trail-widening and erosion are easily observed on many Moran trails, even those that are officially closed to cycling. It is important to note that our limited staff (2.0 FTE on Orcas) is already tasked with the year-round demands of maintaining over 2,000 acres across 13 preserves and we must be cautious about increasing and prioritizing our responsibilities. As you may have noticed from your review of the Turtleback Mountain plan, we are seeking to reduce the fragmentation of habitat, and increase the health of the forests.</p>
	12	<p>I would like to add my voice to the conversation about the draft SMP. I will keep my comment focused on access for mountain biking in the preserve.</p> <p>Currently, the state of access for mountain bike (MTB) in the preserve is very limited and the available use areas are discouraging bikers from utilizing the preserve. The every-other-day access schedule is confusing (even as simple as it is), the road is extremely steep in areas reaching 16+% grade, and there is no access to even the shortest sections of singletrack. Even if you really like riding gravel roads, it's still not a great place to ride due to how steep it is.</p> <p>Based on Figure 2 in the Draft SMP, and my experience using the north trail, there is ample space in the Multi-Use Zone to build directional mountain bike specific trails that would improve user experiences riding mountain bikes in the preserve. Thoughtful trail design could keep road riding to a minimum, limit hiker-equestrian-bike potential conflict areas, and provide diverse levels of challenge to potential trail users.</p> <p>Bringing mountain bike trails into the preserve will also bring a large and demonstrably highly motivated user group to participate in Landbank efforts throughout the preserve. Mountain bike groups such as the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance and the Whatcom MTB Coalition can motivate huge groups of volunteers for trail maintenance or restoration projects and help with fundraising, permitting, and other logistical support if needed.</p>	

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		<p>I also believe that mountain bike trails could be built and maintained at a very low to no cost to the Land Bank. The volunteer participation and grant funding available for developing mountain bike areas is vast. Mountain biking has a stewardship mentality baked into it as the areas we get to ride in are precious and access has historically been fraught. Work parties, cleanup days, and participation in community events are increasingly a fundamental part of the culture. This should be clear based on the Land Bank's experience building mountain bike trails on Mt Grant.</p> <p>I also personally would like to have more options for trails to ride on the island so I don't have to drive so far to access public singletrack. I know this is a very "island" complaint, but if I leave from home I will end up driving an hour round-trip to go for a bike ride at Moran. Having more singletrack options will actually help me to reduce my carbon footprint. I will certainly volunteer my time to plan, design, and build trails on the north side of the preserve.</p> <p>I hope that you can find space in the Draft SMP to include plans to at least investigate expanding access to mountain bikes in the coming years. Mountain biking deserves a chance to be considered seriously as a viable use to expand in the north area of the preserve. You don't need to commit to building trails, but there certainly is no mention of even considering expanding access to a user group that deserves a space to enjoy this resource. Please include in the Draft SMP that the Land Bank will explore the possibility of expanding access to mountain bikes in the preserve.</p>	
Active Land Management (3 responses)	2	<p>I believe to preserve the environment we must let her take her own way. The least intervention the better. We should not manage forests, we should not hunt, we should not remove species we determine to be problematic, we should not use herbicides, we should not interfere with natural ecological processes such as fire, watersheds, succession vegetation. Our access should only be on foot and maintained by pathways that are manually built by hand. We need to remember that we are not the manager of nature, we are part of nature and leaving only our footprints should be the sign of our passing. There will be changes to the character of the environment but that is called evolution. Do not set a proposed outcome and then try to reach it. I propose that trail maintenance be the only impact we make on the preserve to insure a way for people to see what nature is.</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing your thoughts on the future management of the preserve. The approach that you propose is well-suited to areas in which ecosystem processes and functions are fully intact. Unfortunately, there is ample scientific evidence that many ecological systems and species are in steep decline due to a combination of habitat fragmentation, exotic species introductions, previous management actions, climate change and other factors. These negative changes are easily visible on the Preserve. Globally, such declines appear to be accelerating and are distinct from the natural process of evolution through natural selection. To prevent further ecological decline on the properties we protect, it is our duty to implement effective, best management practices that are in widespread use by trained ecologists and land managers throughout the Pacific Northwest. In doing so, we are making every effort to protect native species, as well as preserve users, from negative impacts.</p>
	11	<p>I am fully supportive of the Draft Turtleback Mountain Preserve Stewardship and Management Plan. Because my husband and I moved fulltime to Orcas Island in 2005, we were able to engage with the</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments about the past, present and proposed future management of Turtleback Mountain Preserve.</p>

Draft Turtleback Mountain Preserve Stewardship and Management Plan Public Comments

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		<p>Turtleback Preserve from its initial funding drive, successful acquisition in 2006, and observe its habitat management through the years. I enjoyed a more than 2-hour tour of the southern end of the Turtleback Mountain Preserve led by Erin Halcomb and Peter Guillozet on the evening of May 24, 2022.</p> <p>I am so pleased with the Garry Oak habitat restoration that has been evolving since the preserve was acquired! The restoration has inspired me to fence and begin restoring a small area of suitable Garry Oak habitat on my land in Deer Harbor. I also greatly appreciate the Salish Seeds project through which I have acquired native wildflower plants suitable for restoring Garry Oak habitat. What an exciting journey this has been!</p>	
	6	<p>I also read with interest the multiple referrals to consulting with tribes and using indigenous knowledge to help with managing the Preserve. The local tribes behaved as we human beings do and changed the landscape to suit their needs, just as current residents do. I know the local Native Americans used controlled burns. By doing so they were still intervening in a non-natural way in the functioning of the ecosystem. Since lightning is such a relatively infrequent event in the San Juans historically, I would expect lightning triggered fires were also relatively rare, yet I think the “controlled burns” used by the tribes occurred much more frequently. Since their food sources and lives depended on shepherding the resource perhaps they were less impactful on the environment, but I think we need to be honest that their methods might not always have been the best for the ecosystem either.</p>	<p>Thank you for highlighting the long history of management by Coast Salish people. This is a complex topic, but it appears that we agree that activities such as intentional burning altered the landscape to benefit hunting and gathering by people. Although our modern motivations may be somewhat different, the sorts of management activities practiced then and now by native people also provide benefits to habitats and species, many of which are currently imperiled by development, species introductions and other factors. Aside from treaty obligations and legal findings that may require it, welcoming traditional ecological knowledge and practices into the management to public lands may prove beneficial in a variety of ways.</p>
Morning Ridge/South Trail Decommission (5 responses)	3	<p>While I am a big proponent of the new trail down to Massacre Bay along Deer Harbor Road, I am largely against the decommissioning of the “steep” section of trail on the south end of the preserve. While the Morning Ridge trail is nice, it has never been an “upgrade” of a trail on the south side, and has only been a nice detour and secondary option for hikers to choose from. It offers different views, different grades, and even some different habitat areas than the traditional logging road. I believe these differences are important, for variety’s sake, but also for spreading people out on the mountain. The single-track Morning Ridge trail will not hold up well to the hordes of folks who frequent the south trail, while the steeper section proposed for decommissioning is a gravel-covered road that would likely take a long time to recover for habitat use, if at all. It does not seem wise to me to take away the widest section of trail on the most trafficked hike. Plus, it’s one of my favorite views on the mountain, providing a sweeping westward vista as you walk a rewarding flat section of trail up to the top of the south knoll.</p>	<p>We are pleased to be able to provide a new walking experience within the recent addition to the Preserve. As we consider this trail expansion and the additional maintenance demands on our limited staff, we must also look at ways to eliminate recurring problems and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of routine maintenance.</p> <p>We have made repeated efforts with crews and excavation equipment to repair this specific section of road section and have determined that removing it will address multiple issues: reducing fragmentation of oak savanna habitat, preventing concentration of runoff, and eliminating the need for repeated repairs in an area that is difficult to reach. Staff has previous experience with decommissioning roads, including blending former road surfaces with surrounding grades and reseeding with native species to achieve rapid recovery.</p> <p>Regardless of the road situation, we believe the Morning Ridge trail is overdue for improvements such as general tread work, modest</p>

Draft Turtleback Mountain Preserve Stewardship and Management Plan Public Comments

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			<p>widening, and the addition of several switchbacks to reduce steep sections. To ensure the best possible outcome, in terms of user experience and sustainability, we met on site with the Washington Trails Association Northwest Regional Manager who has worked previously on the mountain. As currently envisioned, he will lead the design and assist with implementation.</p> <p>We acknowledge that these actions will eliminate certain views (while retaining and improving others) and increase traffic on the Morning Ridge Trail. However, our plan proposes a longer-view in terms of habitat quality and more sustainable maintenance requirements; and we believe the combination of the new south slope trail and the changes to the existing trails will provide broad and lasting benefits, while still providing variety to user groups.</p>
	5	<p>The current section that's proposed for decommissioning is one of my favorite parts of the south end hike. I also enjoy the option of choosing a different route each time I ascend or descend. Having two routes also disperses visitors to the most popular area of Turtleback during busier times of the year. Why not reduce the width of the road to a single track foot path instead of closing this section completely? That would mitigate some of the erosion problems by reducing the compacted bare surface. Adding a slight meander to the trail, or rerouting it slightly through areas which are currently devoid of trees, could reduce the flow of water straight down the slope and further reduce erosion. It would be unfortunate to make such a significant alteration to an established route up the mountain, and you can be sure that many visitors who prefer the old route will simply take a shortcut through the area that you are attempting to close. Signs that say "Restoration In Progress" are unfortunately viewed by some people as an invitation to continue walking and see something that is off limits to others. It would be preferable to defer to the existing public use, since the level of erosion is not extreme and can most likely be managed with a reduction in the trail width.</p> <p>I don't support the addition of interpretive signage (existing overlook on Figure 6) at a proposed new overlook at the top of the hill (marked "create overlook" on Figure 6). Not only does the cost of this signage deplete funding that could have more of a direct ecological benefit, introducing signage beyond the bare minimum required for trail navigation takes away from the distraction-free experience that many people are looking for when they visit public lands. I feel similarly about the new signage at the Turtlehead overlook and connector trail boundary. It is actually quite disappointing to do these hikes only to find signage that you might see in a typical urban park in a major city like Seattle or Vancouver. The presence of manmade objects should be minimized, in keeping with the "leave no trace" principles familiar to many hikers. There's no need to make wilderness trails seem "nice, attractive, or upscale" to</p>	<p>Reducing the width of the road would likely reduce some of the negative factors related to the steep grade, such as runoff and erosion. However, it would not address the fragmentation of this critical habitat area.</p> <p>Although off-trail use is an ongoing problem on many preserves, staff will be responsible for ending use of the route following decommissioning and restoration and will monitor public use to ensure that this occurs. We will also work to educate users on the ecological benefits of this restoration activity. We believe this is a conscious community and though some will not adhere to the rules, the overall reduction in daily disturbance will benefit the many imperiled prairie species.</p> <p>In general, the Land Bank has long sought to minimize the use of signage on preserves, and to limit signage to trailheads. Staff also support and implement 'leave no trace' principles. We rarely install permanent vault toilets and don't provide trashcans for this reason. The existing interpretive sign, located near the road section identified for removal, is outdated, weathered, and due for replacement. The new sign is expected to cost around \$500, and we believe many users will benefit from the basic ecological overview it will convey. The Turtlehead signage is located on San Juan Preservation Trust property</p>

Draft Turtleback Mountain Preserve Stewardship and Management Plan Public Comments

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		visitors by adding expensive metal signage. Prominent signage also becomes a target for vandalism and theft and only increases the maintenance and oversight burden of the Land Bank. A more minimalist and less anthropocentric approach would be appreciated by many islanders.	and is distinct from Land Bank signage. For additional information, please see our responses to similar comments.
Morning Ridge/South Trail Decommission (contd.)	8	I also wish not to widen Morning Ridge trail. The steep dirt road can be held with some gravel and drain irrigations.	Staff have extensive experience with managing drainage issues along forest roads in a variety of contexts. Many of the runoff issues on the Preserve’s road system can and will be addressed through a combination of culvert replacement, and road surface and ditch drainage improvements. Shallow soils and exposed bedrock in the vicinity of this very steep road segment creates runoff conditions resembling those in urban areas; it concentrates and accelerates flow. Heavy rainfall events, which are predicted to increase, will continue to overwhelm the shallow drains and ditches, and produce ruts that are difficult and expensive to repair. For additional information, please see our responses to similar comments.
	9	<p>Morning Ridge Trail - this is one of the most unique trails in all of the San Juans and I have always hoped it could stay how it is now. The technical singletrack features, level of difficulty, relative remoteness, and other features lend to this being a unique experience for some visitors but not suitable for all. I am concerned that a modified trail would be very costly and intensive to construct, especially in order to provide the same level of access as the roadway trail currently provides. It would not solve the issue of the existing roadway being "uncomfortably steep" - morning ridge is as steep if not more steep, but includes a host of technical barriers that the roadway does not, making the roadway quite a bit easier for most hikers. The roadway trail seems like an excellent piece of existing infrastructure to keep many people off of Morning Ridge, for an easier approach to the summit. It also seems like a solid access point for vehicles, if needed, to reach the upper portions of the mountain to conduct maintenance or other operations, which would be lost if this trail is removed and very hard to regain. The cost of proper drainage in order to reduce or eliminate washouts during storms would likely be pennies on the dollar of eliminating this trail and re-routing to a rebuilt Morning Ridge, not to mention the damage this will cause to Morning Ridge.</p> <p>To the point about restoring the Oak habitat in the removed roadway area, I don't fully consider a trail meandering through the middle of the habitat patch to be a major hindrance on habitat health - it could be a blessing - and is what is proposed for the new lower field portion of the S. entrance. Indeed the road trails meander through other Oak habitats on the mountain and provide access for visitors to see the oak and crews to maintain the habitat. Oak can be planted along the trail and the ultimate success of the habitat seems like it would not be limited by having a trail with hikers passing through it.</p>	<p>Thank you for providing your thoughtful opinions about the future management of Turtleback Mountain.</p> <p>We acknowledge that this action will change the experience of trail users, and it will increase traffic on the Morning Ridge Trail. However, our main impetus for re-routing summit access to the Morning Ridge Trail, and decommissioning the steep section of road, is to provide greater connectivity of habitat. As climatic stressors and species losses advance, we feel implored to find creative ways to reclaim and restore rare or declining habitat, and though we recognize the challenge in curbing established human use, we feel this is an important discourse and a reasonable accommodation. There is a substantial amount of research that documents the negative effects of recreation on animals. Trails and roads fragment habitat, introduce weeds, and can disturb foraging, breeding, and nesting activities.</p> <p>Ecological stressors aside, staff have also made repeated efforts with crews and excavation equipment to repair this section of road and have determined that removing it will not only increase connectivity of imperiled prairie habitat, it will prevent the concentration and</p>

Draft Turtleback Mountain Preserve Stewardship and Management Plan Public Comments

Topic	Person	Comment	Staff Response
		<p>This proposed change is my number one concern for which I am seeking to learn more about its justification and alternative options considered. Perhaps dedicating some resources to reducing the size of the existing roadway trail, while enhancing the drainage and surrounding habitat, would be money better spent than trying to convert the natural features of Morning Ridge into something accessible by all levels of hikers. I just can't envision Morning Ridge being suitable for the types of hikers that use the main trail, no matter how much money is spent, but I can see it being ruined in trying to do so. I was wondering if the Plan proposed re-routing the trail in some way to make the slope more tolerable to all hikers, but I don't see this being the case.</p>	<p>acceleration of runoff and eliminate the need for repeated repairs in an area that is difficult to reach. We have considered very carefully the loss of vehicle access for management and maintenance activities, and believe the gains outweigh this inconvenience. And, in terms of cost, upgrading the Morning Ridge trail with hand tools is not comparable to maintaining this remote section of roadway, that bisects the slope, on an annual basis.</p> <p>For additional information, please see our responses to similar comments.</p>
	13	<p>My comments only relate to the proposed modifications to the South side trails.</p> <p>The elimination of part of the trail s(in red) leaves two places as overlooks.</p> <p>I am a bit concerned that this could cause hikers to find shortcuts from these lookouts back to the new proposed trail (green). Lookouts are always an attractive destination by itself. However, for hikers wanting to go further, it forces them to backtrack and then pick up on the main trail again. I feel that this will cause unauthorized and damaging cross-country shortcuts. So why not create a cross trail to connect the lookouts to the new trail?</p> <p>Since I have not been on any of the Turtleback trails for a while, I can't really picture the actual terrain in these two areas. Therefore, my suggestion might be unrealistic.</p> <p>To clarify, I have attached a scan of the map from the Turtleback Mountain Preserve Stewardship and Management Plan with my suggested trails.</p>	<p>We acknowledge that trail users may attempt shortcuts and explored several trail alignments in this area including alternate connections between the Morning Ridge and South Trails. As a result of our meeting with the WTA Northwest Regional Manager we altered our proposed alignment to shorten the out and back distance to the lower lookout and to connect to the existing upper lookout via a new connection to the Morning Ridge Trail lower on the slope much as you indicated in your sketch.</p> <p>Because our main impetus for re-routing summit access to the Morning Ridge Trail and decommissioning the steep section of road, is to provide greater connectivity of habitat, we ruled out the lower slope cross-connection you proposed. As climatic stressors and species losses advance, we feel implored to find creative ways to reclaim and restore rare or declining habitat and feel this is a reasonable accommodation. There is a substantial amount of research that documents the negative effects of recreation on animals. Trails and roads fragment habitat, introduce weeds, and can disturb foraging, breeding, and nesting activities.</p>
New South Trail (1 response)	9	<p>New southerly trail expansion - The design for this trail looks like a very long out-and-back, with only the option to enter from the main trial and parking at the South Entrance. I think many people will be tempted to explore access to this trail via westsound and nearby Haida point - using pullouts, nearby parking, and dock facilities to quickly find their way onto this trail even if permitted access points do not exist. I see many people seeking out access to Turtleback via the water up through my beach (2098 Deer Harbor Rd) and by walking or riding bikes from their boats at the County dock. Turtleback hiking access for visitors coming by boat would be a game changer for many people coming to the island - I watch</p>	<p>Land Bank staff explored several trail alignments in this area including one with an entrance from Deer Harbor Road. After careful consideration, we determined that access from the road is unsafe. The Haida Point property will remain off-limits for parking by preserve users and the nearby Turtleback boundary will remain posted with signage. Although we cannot control all attempts to reach the Preserve through private property, we will welcome discussion with</p>

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		<p>dozens of people trying to connect these dots on their own each summer, and I can understand their frustration of not being able to do so - it's so close!</p> <p>What about putting a trailhead along the road, across from Haida Point, where there is currently a No Access sign? Parking in Westsound at the County dock pullout would need to be first come, first served, probably with No Parking strictly posted/enforced on nearby private lands, restaurants, etc. I understand that parking, safety, traffic, and many other concerns exist and would need to be addressed.</p>	<p>our neighbors about how to best collaborate and discourage such attempts.</p> <p>With regards to the design of the future trail, we have explored potential trail routes with the Washington Trails Association Northwest Regional Manager who worked previously on the mountain. He will be involved directly in designing and building future trail improvements.</p>
Deer Hunting (7 responses)	3	<p>Please do not open Turtleback for hunting. Yes, the deer are a nuisance, but so are people with guns trying to be sneaky. I do not wish in any way to see shell casings, hear gun shots, or even have to worry about the potential that someone is aiming a gun somewhere in my general direction while I’m off hiking and trying to enjoy a peaceful outing on the mountain. There are certainly other means of controlling the deer population and I would hope that those would be considered before opening up the can of worms that is allowing hunting on the preserve. I do not think we should be promoting extractive practices on our preserves and hunting is just that. It detracts the focus from the recovery of species and focuses on the harvesting (which can go hand in hand), and in this case I do not believe that hunting fits the ultimate goal for Turtleback Mountain.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments on the proposal to consider allowing deer hunting on Turtleback Mountain Preserve. Prior to any management decision, we will host public meetings in conjunction with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to further discuss this activity.</p> <p>We anticipated that the proposal would be controversial, and we would not be pursuing it there was not compelling data that high populations of deer have led to a cascade of other ecological losses. As we mentioned in the SMP, excessive herbivory by deer has been linked to steep declines in pollinators, birds, and many plant species. It is true that Adenovirus Hemorrhagic Disease (AHD) impacted many deer on Orcas Island last year. To wildlife managers, the severity of this outbreak exemplifies the harms of deer overpopulation, which allows transmissible diseases to spread faster and further than it would in healthy populations. Deer populations will rebound quickly and without a mechanism to keep them at healthy levels they will continue to be subject to natural control mechanisms such as disease and starvation while other sensitive wildlife populations (pollinators, birds, plants) continue to decline.</p> <p>Our proposal, as written in the SMP, identifies distinct “zones” for hunting that are removed from the Pedestrian and the Multi-Use area, and is modeled after successful programs in place on other preserves (Figure 2). We will also continue to explore other methods for controlling deer in the islands to both promote their health as well as to protect ecological function of pollination and forest succession.</p>
	4	<p>Saw some activity on Facebook about a proposal to bring hunters to Turtleback. This would be a big mistake. The deer just got wiped out by a virus and there are probably less deer on the island than there have been in 100 years. We should find a way to balance the ecosystem without killing animals or putting the public in harm's way from gun shots. Most of whom I'm told, are coming from off island. Look at how this country is hurting right now because of guns. People go hiking to get away from all that. I don't want to hear gunshots in parks that are maintained by my tax dollars. Having someone put a bomb up there a couple years ago was bad enough. People move to the islands to get away from all that stuff! Respect the island ways please, we don't solve our problems here with violence.</p>	

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	5	<p>I don't support this at all and, after asking other islanders in the community, I don't think most Orcas residents would either. Broadly, there are four reasons why it's the wrong place and wrong time for this proposal.</p> <p><i>1) The adenovirus outbreak.</i> Proposals for hunting at Turtleback and Moran State Park predate the adenovirus outbreak. The SMP mentions that "<i>state biologists still estimate the population to be excessively high</i>" but no figures are provided. As a full-time resident of Orcas and a frequent visitor to public lands across the San Juans, deer sightings are now rare and there are also reports of deer which are still showing signs of AHD. Would the Land Bank be able to provide an estimated range of island deer populations before the AHD outbreak, after the outbreak, and 10 years from now, with and without hunting? I fully support the use of scientific research for making public policy but this requires a certain level of transparency. An additional confounding variable in any population projections would be a potential recurrence of AHD or other pathogens, which could become more frequent due to climate change. Regardless, it is obvious that the deer population on Orcas is at its lowest point in quite some time, which negates any immediate need for hunting on public lands.</p> <p><i>2) Non-lethal methods of deer population management.</i> Although it's clear that overgrazing interferes with ecosystem balance, introducing hunting on public lands is a maximally disruptive and maximally controversial approach to managing this problem. Hunting should not be the default choice when alternatives exist. A 2014 article in the Washington Post titled "<i>Trying to limit the number of deer, with surprising results</i>" investigates the pros and cons of non-lethal approaches to deer overpopulation. The "surprising result" is that deer from outside the study areas simply moved into areas where non-lethal methods were used. However, island geography naturally limits the movements of deer populations, making the San Juans an ideal location for the implementation of the non-lethal methods described in the article. Additionally, hunting as a "solution" to deer overpopulation must be permanent to be effective. Unlike non-lethal methods, hunting access must be maintained year after year. Revoking that access, once granted, may prove to be difficult. It would be less disruptive and more humane to implement non-lethal methods of reducing deer fertility at a time when island deer populations are at a low point due to the AHD outbreak.</p> <p><i>3) Significant disruption to the public.</i> Conflicts between hunters and non-hunters are inevitable, especially since people who hunt on the San Juans are often not residents of the islands. Hiking at Lopez Hill and Iceberg Point during the hunting season is intimidating and I had one experience at Lopez Hill where a hunter acted aggressively after I "spoiled" his shot by simply going for a walk on a nice day. I have also observed illegal poaching on the public lands of Orcas Island outside of hunting season. Anything that encourages more hunting in the San Juans indirectly encourages this type of behavior. Without the establishment of new access points at Turtleback specifically for hunters, dead deer will also</p>	<p>The Turtleback SMP is intended to provide direction not just for the immediate future, but for future challenges as well. With that in mind, the current low deer population is not expected to persist, and we should plan for high populations in the future.</p> <p>Non-lethal methods for deer population management remain extraordinarily expensive and are largely ineffective. Non-lethal population control methods involve darting individual animals and must happen more than once per animal. A very high proportion of the animals on the landscape must be treated for non-lethal control for it to be effective. This effort must be sustained permanently if the goal is to keep the deer population low. Any method of deer population control requires a sustained effort year after year.</p> <p>Hunting occurs in many locations across the country and on other islands in conjunction with recreational activities. People who hike or bike or horseback ride on National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, or Dept. of Natural Resource properties regularly encounter hunters and accidents are extraordinarily rare. For example, Whidbey Camano Land Trust allows deer hunting at the 840-acre Trillium Woods property October through the end of the year. Managed hunting can be entirely compatible with other recreational uses on a property. Furthermore, there is no evidence that increasing hunting opportunity indirectly encourages poaching.</p> <p>Spatially separating hunters and non-hunting recreationalists is easily and safely accomplished. Hunters in small landscapes are very familiar with ensuring they remain in areas where hunting is allowed. Risk of human injury associated with hunting has also been significantly reduced with the current firearms restrictions in San Juan County that do not allow the use of modern high-powered rifles. The maximum effective range of legal hunting weapons in the county is less than 100 yards allowing hunters to be confident in their target and beyond.</p> <p>Prior infection from AHD does not make the meat of deer unsafe for human consumption.</p>

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		<p>have to be carried out on one of the two public access trails. In this age of mass shootings people are increasingly traumatized by gun violence and hunting is a reminder of that violence. Sharing trails with hunters, even in remote parts of the park, is not compatible with the peaceful way that most islanders want to experience Turtleback or other public lands. Additionally the hunting season coincides with a time of year when many islanders are slowing down after a busy working season and want to quietly enjoy their public lands without the crush of summer tourists. The public should be able to hike Turtleback and other public lands in the San Juans year round without having to accommodate hunters and the problems they bring to the island community, not least of which is the risk of being shot.</p> <p>4) <i>A cultural shift away from anthropocentric thinking.</i> To casually characterize hunting as a "local recreational and cultural tradition," as the Land Bank does on page 27 of the SMP, is an outdated and harmful mode of thinking. Emerging concepts of environmental justice do not put humans at the top of an anthropocentric hierarchy where we get to decide which species live and die. We should instead prioritize the right of all living things to exist. For many islanders, our public lands – and the islands themselves – are sacred spaces that are not compatible with the deliberate extermination of animals. Recreational hunting is not simply a "management tool," as the SMP dispassionately claims, it is an unnecessary form of interspecies violence. Although native Americans and early European settlers lived off the land, we no longer have a need for subsistence hunting today. The continuing presence of AHD among island deer makes hunting for sustenance even more of a dubious proposition.</p> <p>I strongly feel that this is not the Land Bank's "problem" to solve. Deer roam all of the islands at will and are not confined within Land Bank property lines. Non-lethal methods of preventing a future rebound of the deer population exist and those methods are the least disruptive way to maintain a healthy deer population and reduce overgrazing. The introduction of hunting at Turtleback would also be a significant disruption to existing public access. The Land Bank should not take the harmful anthropocentric position that the lives of other living things are expendable, nor should it feel entitled to so drastically and fundamentally change the preserve that islanders have fought for and directly funded for many years. I deeply respect and appreciate the work of the Land Bank and the SJPT, as most islanders do. I hope that on highly contentious issues like this the Land Bank will consider approaches that cause the least disruption and conflict for all species involved.</p>	<p>While the State of Washington retains management authority over wildlife in the state, the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife relies on landowners to provide the recreational access for hunting as the primary management tool.</p> <p>There are many portions of the island that will remain closed to hunting in the future. This includes Moran State Park and many county properties located in areas where hunting could not be done safely. If the sound of gunshots is discomfoting, there are many places to recreate without concern in the fall.</p>
Deer Hunting (contd.)	6	<p>My husband and I strongly oppose any form of hunting in Turtleback Preserve. I read that someone thinks Orcas is still overpopulated with deer after the huge die off last summer from Deer Adenoviral disease. Perhaps that is true, though I haven’t seen the science to support that assertion. How ironic that the Land Bank would consider allowing hunting on Turtleback and focus the activity in the part of the Preserve that those of us who donated to conserve and protect this beautiful property are discouraged from exploring. My husband and I never want to have to think about wearing orange to hike in</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments on the proposal to consider allowing deer hunting on Turtleback Mountain Preserve. Prior to any management decision, we will host public meetings in conjunction with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to further discuss this activity.</p>

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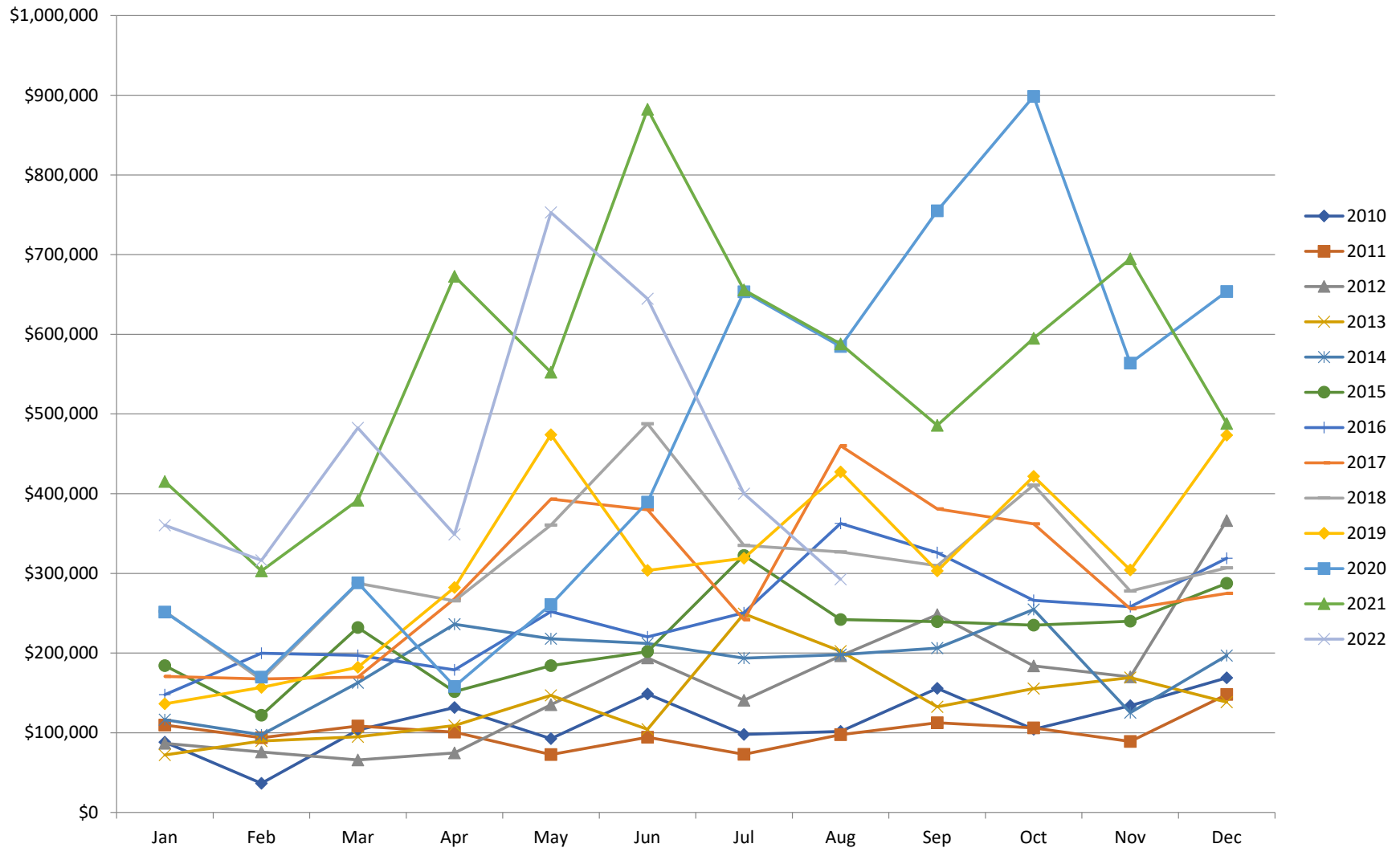
Topic	Person	Comment	Staff Response
		<p>Turtleback or to hear gunshots in our lovely park. I would wager that a large majority of Orcas residents I would agree.</p> <p>We oppose hunting in Turtleback not only because that activity goes against what most people who helped create the Park support, but also because we think it would be impossible to police and regulate. We live one parcel away from Killebrew Lake DFW land. Every hunting season we have hunters trespass on our property claiming they didn't see the signs or thought they were still on public property. We hear the sounds of rifles illegal in San Juan County. By the time the sheriff is able to get there, the hunters are gone. During hunting season we feel unsafe on our own property, please don't make us feel unsafe on Turtleback too.</p>	<p>We anticipated that the proposal would be controversial, and we would not be pursuing it if there was not compelling data that high populations of deer have led to a cascade of other ecological losses. As we mentioned in the SMP, excessive herbivory by deer has been linked to steep declines in pollinators, birds, and many plant species. It is true that Adenovirus Hemorrhagic Disease (AHD) impacted many deer on Orcas Island last year. To wildlife managers, the severity of this outbreak exemplifies the harms of deer overpopulation, which allows transmissible diseases to spread faster and further than it would in healthy populations. Deer populations will rebound quickly and without a mechanism to keep them at healthy levels they will continue to be subject to natural control mechanisms such as disease and starvation while other sensitive populations (pollinators, birds, plants) continue to decline.</p>
	7	<p>Bottom line - no people with weapons should be welcome to come to our peaceful paradise. There are already too many guns on this island. When we donated a \$1,000 to save the property we understood it was to keep it pristine and restore some concept of wilderness. Not for killing or wounding that may cause suffering. The deer culled themselves with a virus and that will happen again. That's nature and beyond everyone's control. Not if but when, someone will get wounded or killed. What will you do then? Admit it was a mistake and revoke hunting? Revoke it now please.</p>	<p>Our proposal, as written in the SMP, identifies distinct "zones" for hunting that are removed from the Pedestrian and the Multi-Use area, and this is modeled after successful programs in place on other preserves (Figure 2). We will also continue to explore other methods for controlling deer in the islands to both promote their health as well as to protect ecological functions such as of pollination and forest succession.</p>
	10	<p>I just read through the Plan as I wanted to educate myself to the Hunting aspect of it. I am a supporter of the Land Bank as well as the SJPT. After reading the section about hunting I am undecided on how I feel about it. At first my reaction when I saw a poster was "NO WAY". I can understand the need to cut back on the deer population as the only predators they have are vehicles. We are seeing a few deer showing back up on our property. We have 23 acres with nice habitat for deer. They are a nuisance for gardening but otherwise we do enjoy them. I fully understand the need to curb their population though. They were near starving when the virus hit as there were just too many of them. If the hunting could be done on property where hikers and hunters would not mix, I don't think we would have a problem with that. We have allowed a few friends over the many years to hunt on our property. It does provide food and helps preserve the habitat. So although I am undecided, I can see the wisdom in allowing hunting and habitat preservation aspects in allowing hunting on Turtleback. My main concern is keeping hunters and people separated. I respect the Land Bank and know you would not be taking this lightly. It is clear to me that the over all Plan is good and solid. I do see the need to preserve the habitat but how will man and beast be separated in a safe and responsible way? The part about hunting mentions that there already is hunting allowed on some preservation lands of both Land Bank and SJPT lands. How has that played out? Have</p>	<p>Spatially separating hunters and non-hunting recreationalists is easily and safely accomplished. Hunters in small landscapes are very familiar with ensuring they are in the correct area where hunting is allowed.</p> <p>Hunters in Washington State born after 1972 are required to pass a Hunter's Education course that focuses on safety. Hunting accidents are exceedingly rare, especially for big game hunting as opposed to more dynamic hunting opportunities like upland birds.</p>

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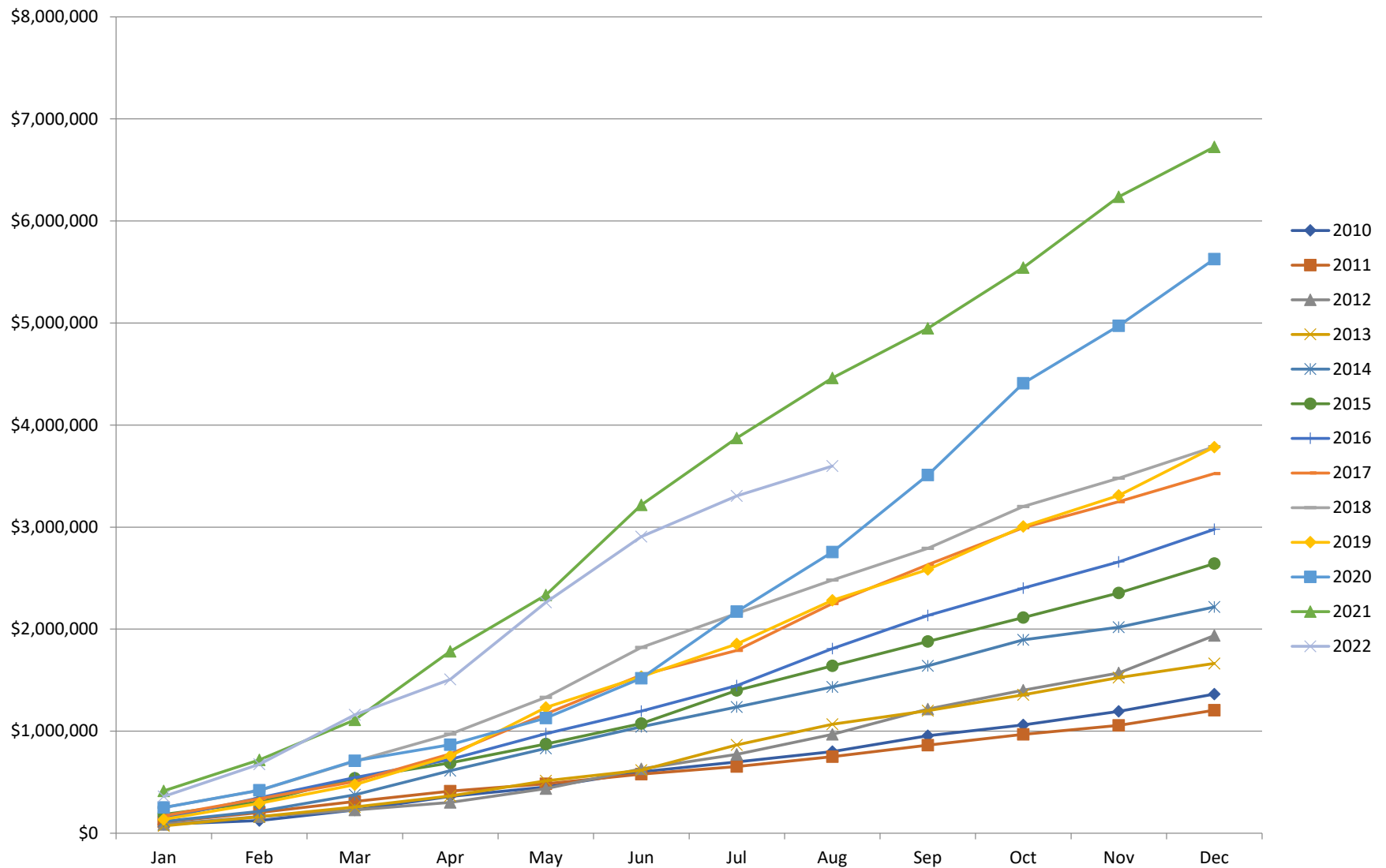
Topic	Person	Comment	Staff Response
		there been any problems? Have people respected private property that abut preservation land? There is also the aspect of hiking and hearing gunshots, knowing that deer are being hunting could be off putting. These are the questions and concerns that we have. We will look forward to participating in any hearings or educational outreach about this issue. Please keep us posted.	
	11	I do support this draft. There are way too many deer, and they are destroying the understory. They have no predators on the island. People have been complaining about the deer for almost 100 years. Thank you!	We appreciate your feedback, and we hope that you attend one of our future meetings on this subject.
South Entrance Parking and Accessible Loop Trail (3 responses)	5	On some of the busiest days the parking lot has been well over capacity. Expanding the gravel parking surface is reasonable. I would also suggest designing parking in such a way that it is not easy for cars to use the lots when they are at capacity, i.e. take measures to prevent people from parking on grass, on the shoulder of the road, or blocking other parked cars (all of which I noticed this past summer). I would also suggest that the Land Bank stop using concrete parking space bumpers. The production of concrete is associated with very high CO2 emissions and they must be manufactured off island. Conversely wood is a renewable and locally available resource that should be used wherever possible. Wood is also a better cultural fit for island parks than the concrete bumpers, which are typically found in mainland strip mall parking lots.	Thank you for these suggestions. We intend to work with a landscape architect and/or engineer to design the parking lot in the most efficient way possible, and we do hope to eliminate haphazard, overflow parking. We appreciate your aesthetic and carbon-friendly recommendation to use wood over concrete. Our experience with log barriers at other preserves has been that they rot quickly and must be replaced regularly at significant expense. Although cement production does create significant emissions, the parking blocks in use by the Land Bank are manufactured on the island. It may be difficult to complete a full cost accounting of replaceable wood versus long lasting concrete bumpers, as both are installed using diesel- and gas-powered vehicles and equipment.
	8	I checked the shorter version and my only feedback is a concern about adding an easy trail for people that otherwise will simply never go there, increasing need for parking etc. There are plenty of easy trails on Orcas for those who cannot climb a hill.	Thank you for sharing your concern.
	9	What will the improvements to the S. Entrance parking area look like - gravel pad added within the existing fenced perimeter of the field area? or something more elaborate tying the two parking lots together?	The final design has not yet been determined. We intend to work with a landscape architect and/or an engineer to develop the design. In this SMP, we are seeking support for the concept of upgrading this area and as stated, not expanding the current footprint, but increasing efficiency. Future design options will be shared with the public.
Public Process (1 response)	9	Regarding the Plan review/adoption process: 1. Will all public comments received be made available for viewing by others? 2. Will there be more public meetings specifically regarding the feedback gained through public review? It would be great to hear the public's concerns, Land Bank responses, and be able to discuss the issues in an open forum. 3. Would one of the upcoming naturalist hikes be an opportunity to ask questions and hear more information about the proposals in the draft, if I were to attend?	Yes, public comments and responses will be made available for general viewing, and their sum will be discussed at one of our monthly Commission meetings. We will announce that opportunity once its scheduled. The potential of allowing deer hunting will continue to be explored in community forums and in conjunction with wildlife managers.

1021.00.318 - Revenues													
Acct_Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2010	\$88,143	\$36,539	\$103,506	\$131,590	\$92,665	\$148,524	\$97,972	\$101,730	\$155,569	\$104,191	\$134,046	\$168,904	\$1,363,380
2011	\$109,729	\$93,636	\$108,558	\$100,689	\$72,611	\$94,346	\$72,907	\$97,424	\$112,529	\$105,975	\$88,901	\$147,914	\$1,205,218
2012	\$86,547	\$75,746	\$65,834	\$74,531	\$135,260	\$193,882	\$140,610	\$196,444	\$248,152	\$183,896	\$170,092	\$366,337	\$1,937,333
2013	\$72,106	\$89,629	\$94,943	\$109,020	\$146,974	\$104,286	\$249,312	\$202,351	\$132,516	\$155,258	\$169,306	\$138,279	\$1,663,979
2014	\$116,307	\$97,403	\$162,759	\$236,076	\$218,046	\$211,937	\$193,491	\$197,924	\$206,334	\$254,695	\$125,044	\$196,812	\$2,216,829
2015	\$184,186	\$121,920	\$232,019	\$151,641	\$184,037	\$201,867	\$322,494	\$242,119	\$239,381	\$234,885	\$239,857	\$287,602	\$2,642,008
2016	\$147,780	\$199,709	\$197,208	\$178,799	\$251,916	\$220,177	\$250,453	\$362,646	\$326,094	\$266,216	\$258,039	\$319,005	\$2,978,044
2017	\$170,789	\$167,494	\$169,775	\$268,280	\$393,220	\$379,832	\$241,755	\$460,110	\$380,894	\$362,103	\$255,636	\$274,865	\$3,524,752
2018	\$252,155	\$166,287	\$287,448	\$265,414	\$360,538	\$487,738	\$335,172	\$326,847	\$309,460	\$410,876	\$277,932	\$307,045	\$3,786,910
2019	\$136,263	\$156,907	\$182,195	\$282,295	\$474,060	\$303,744	\$318,828	\$427,381	\$303,198	\$421,696	\$304,131	\$473,533	\$3,784,232
2020	\$251,391	\$169,933	\$288,018	\$158,176	\$260,943	\$389,402	\$653,337	\$584,765	\$755,057	\$898,677	\$563,691	\$653,695	\$5,627,084
2021	\$415,281	\$303,073	\$391,898	\$672,670	\$552,318	\$882,523	\$655,661	\$588,043	\$485,643	\$594,848	\$694,893	\$488,162	\$6,725,012
2022	\$360,392	\$316,292	\$482,637	\$349,007	\$752,805	\$644,480	\$399,948	\$292,473					\$3,598,033
Budget 2022	\$3,960,000												
2010	6.47%	2.68%	7.59%	9.65%	6.80%	10.89%	7.19%	7.46%	11.41%	7.64%	9.83%	12.39%	
2011	9.10%	7.77%	9.01%	8.35%	6.02%	7.83%	6.05%	8.08%	9.34%	8.79%	7.38%	12.27%	
2012	4.47%	3.91%	3.40%	3.85%	6.98%	10.01%	7.26%	10.14%	12.81%	9.49%	8.78%	18.91%	
2013	4.33%	5.39%	5.71%	6.55%	8.83%	6.27%	14.98%	12.16%	7.96%	9.33%	10.17%	8.31%	
2014	5.25%	4.39%	7.34%	10.65%	9.84%	9.56%	8.73%	8.93%	9.31%	11.49%	5.64%	8.88%	
2015	6.97%	4.61%	8.78%	5.74%	6.97%	7.64%	12.21%	9.16%	9.06%	8.89%	9.08%	10.89%	
2016	4.96%	6.71%	6.62%	6.00%	8.46%	7.39%	8.41%	12.18%	10.95%	8.94%	8.66%	10.71%	
2017	4.85%	4.75%	4.82%	7.61%	11.16%	10.78%	6.86%	13.05%	10.81%	10.27%	7.25%	7.80%	
2018	6.66%	4.39%	7.59%	7.01%	9.52%	12.88%	8.85%	8.63%	8.17%	10.85%	7.34%	8.11%	
2019	3.60%	4.15%	4.81%	7.46%	12.53%	8.03%	8.43%	11.29%	8.01%	11.14%	8.04%	12.51%	
2020	4.47%	3.02%	5.12%	2.81%	4.64%	6.92%	11.61%	10.39%	13.42%	15.97%	10.02%	11.62%	
2021	6.18%	4.51%	5.83%	10.00%	8.21%	13.12%	9.75%	8.74%	7.22%	8.85%	10.33%	7.26%	
2022	9.10%	7.99%	12.19%	8.81%	19.01%	16.27%	10.10%	7.39%					
Cumulative	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
2010	\$88,143	\$124,682	\$228,188	\$359,778	\$452,443	\$600,967	\$698,939	\$800,669	\$956,238	\$1,060,429	\$1,194,476	\$1,363,380	
2011	\$109,729	\$203,365	\$311,923	\$412,613	\$485,224	\$579,570	\$652,476	\$749,900	\$862,429	\$968,404	\$1,057,304	\$1,205,218	
2012	\$86,547	\$162,293	\$228,127	\$302,659	\$437,919	\$631,801	\$772,411	\$968,855	\$1,217,008	\$1,400,904	\$1,570,995	\$1,937,333	
2013	\$72,106	\$161,734	\$256,678	\$365,698	\$512,672	\$616,957	\$866,269	\$1,068,620	\$1,201,136	\$1,356,394	\$1,525,700	\$1,663,979	
2014	\$116,307	\$213,711	\$376,470	\$612,546	\$830,592	\$1,042,530	\$1,236,020	\$1,433,945	\$1,640,278	\$1,894,973	\$2,020,017	\$2,216,829	
2015	\$184,186	\$306,105	\$538,125	\$689,766	\$873,803	\$1,075,669	\$1,398,164	\$1,640,283	\$1,879,664	\$2,114,549	\$2,354,406	\$2,642,008	
2016	\$147,780	\$347,489	\$544,696	\$723,496	\$975,412	\$1,195,589	\$1,446,043	\$1,808,689	\$2,134,784	\$2,401,000	\$2,659,039	\$2,978,044	
2017	\$170,789	\$338,283	\$508,057	\$776,338	\$1,169,558	\$1,549,390	\$1,791,144	\$2,251,254	\$2,632,147	\$2,994,251	\$3,249,887	\$3,524,752	
2018	\$252,155	\$418,441	\$705,890	\$971,304	\$1,331,842	\$1,819,580	\$2,154,751	\$2,481,598	\$2,791,057	\$3,201,933	\$3,479,865	\$3,786,910	
2019	\$136,263	\$293,170	\$475,365	\$757,660	\$1,231,720	\$1,535,464	\$1,854,293	\$2,281,674	\$2,584,872	\$3,006,568	\$3,310,699	\$3,784,232	
2020	\$251,391	\$421,324	\$709,342	\$867,518	\$1,128,461	\$1,517,863	\$2,171,200	\$2,755,964	\$3,511,021	\$4,409,698	\$4,973,389	\$5,627,084	
2021	\$415,281	\$718,353	\$1,110,251	\$1,782,921	\$2,335,239	\$3,217,761	\$3,873,422	\$4,461,465	\$4,947,109	\$5,541,957	\$6,236,850	\$6,725,012	
2022	\$360,392	\$676,684	\$1,159,321	\$1,508,327	\$2,261,132	\$2,905,613	\$3,305,560	\$3,598,033					
Cumulative %													
2010	6.47%	9.15%	16.74%	26.39%	33.19%	44.08%	51.27%	58.73%	70.14%	77.78%	87.61%	100.00%	
2011	9.10%	16.87%	25.88%	34.24%	40.26%	48.09%	54.14%	62.22%	71.56%	80.35%	87.73%	100.00%	
2012	4.47%	8.38%	11.78%	15.62%	22.60%	32.61%	39.87%	50.01%	62.82%	72.31%	81.09%	100.00%	
2013	4.33%	9.72%	15.43%	21.98%	30.81%	37.08%	52.06%	64.22%	72.18%	81.52%	91.69%	100.00%	
2014	5.25%	9.64%	16.98%	27.63%	37.47%	47.03%	55.76%	64.68%	73.99%	85.48%	91.12%	100.00%	
2015	6.97%	11.59%	20.37%	26.11%	33.07%	40.71%	52.92%	62.08%	71.15%	80.04%	89.11%	100.00%	
2016	4.96%	11.67%	18.29%	24.29%	32.75%	40.15%	48.56%	60.73%	71.68%	80.62%	89.29%	100.00%	
2017	4.85%	9.60%	14.41%	22.03%	33.18%	43.96%	50.82%	63.87%	74.68%	84.95%	92.20%	100.00%	
2018	6.66%	11.05%	18.64%	25.65%	35.17%	48.05%	56.90%	65.53%	73.70%	84.55%	91.89%	100.00%	
2019	3.60%	7.75%	12.56%	20.02%	32.55%	40.58%	49.00%	60.29%	68.31%	79.45%	87.49%	100.00%	
2020	4.47%	7.49%	12.61%	15.42%	20.05%	26.97%	38.58%	48.98%	62.40%	78.37%	88.38%	100.00%	
2021	6.18%	10.68%	16.51%	26.51%	34.72%	47.85%	57.60%	66.34%	73.56%	82.41%	92.74%	100.00%	
2022	9.10%	17.09%	29.28%	38.09%	57.10%	73.37%	83.47%	90.86%					
Avg % Recvd	5.61%	10.30%	16.68%	23.82%	32.15%	41.43%	50.62%	60.64%	70.51%	80.65%	89.20%	100.00%	
Projections													
Min	\$3,958,399	\$4,010,287	\$4,479,417	\$4,405,739	\$5,616,289	\$6,042,238	\$5,739,094	\$5,423,513					
Max	\$10,008,654	\$9,037,596	\$9,845,333	\$9,783,639	\$11,275,161	\$10,771,807	\$8,566,999	\$7,346,407					
Average	\$6,426,202	\$6,571,134	\$6,949,295	\$6,331,259	\$7,032,475	\$7,013,457	\$6,529,879	\$5,933,311					
Budget Amt	\$3,960,000	\$3,960,000	\$3,960,000	\$3,960,000	\$3,960,000	\$3,960,000	\$3,960,000	\$3,960,000	\$3,960,000	\$3,960,000	\$3,960,000	\$3,960,000	
YE Budget Proj(%)	162.28%	165.94%	175.49%	159.88%	177.59%	177.11%	164.90%	149.83%					

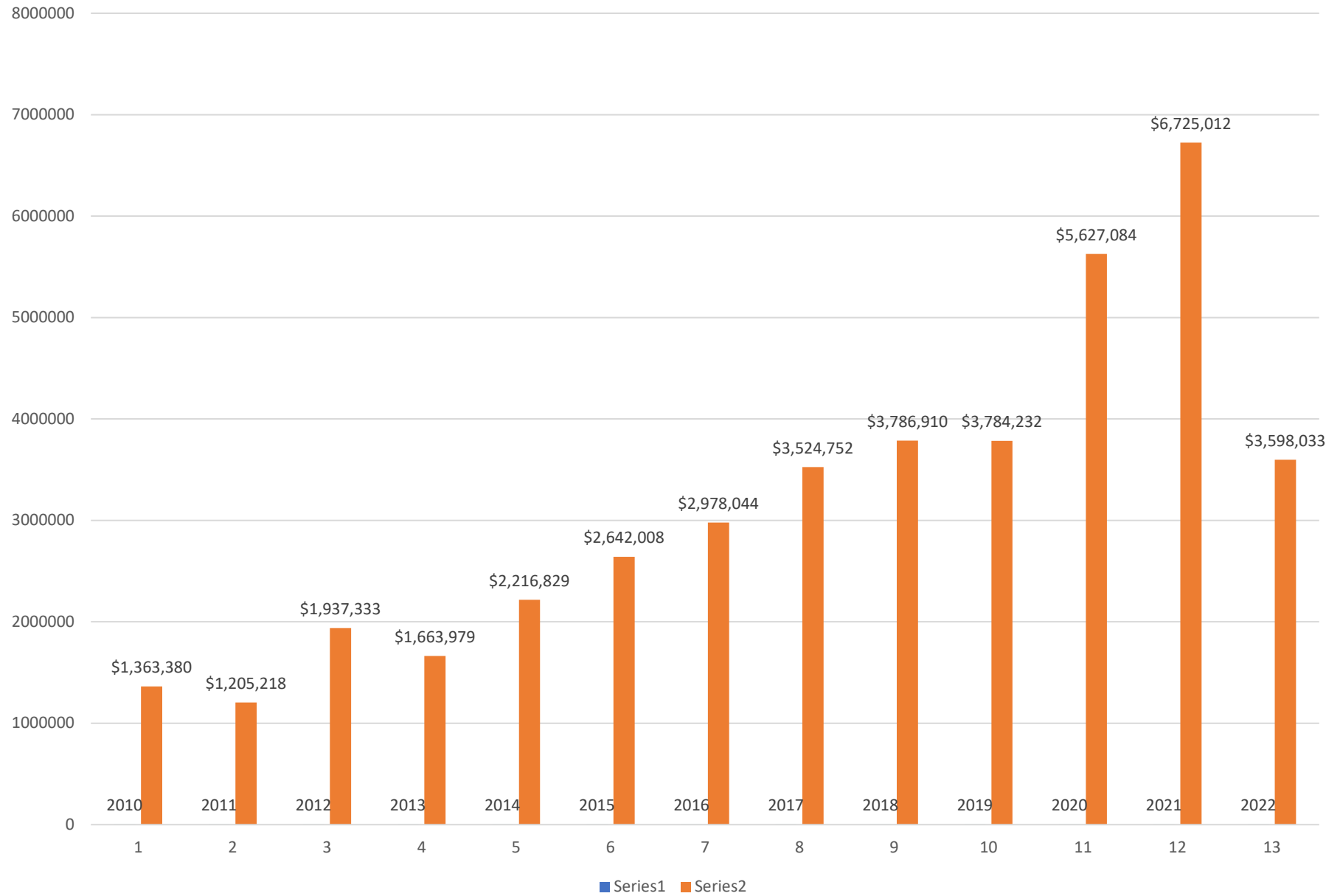
REET by Month



REET by Year



REET by Year Column



LARSEN TOURS FALSE BAY AND SAN JUAN COUNTY FAIR

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Representatives from [San Juan County's Marine Resource Committee \(MRC\)](#) and the County's Department of Environmental Stewardship joined Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02) at False Bay Wednesday afternoon to discuss federal funding of marine resources efforts. In 2023, the MRC is expected to receive an additional \$200,000 from congress to address long-anticipated projects like removing creosote pilings and derelict vessels. The Marine Program receives federal funding in support of a combination of programs and projects.

In 2022 the MRC received \$37,000 in federal funds to support the operations and projects of the MRC while the Local Integrating Organization is fully supported through federal NEP funds to the tune of \$125,000, and in addition also received \$100,000 in project funds that is allowing a county wide assessment of creosote infrastructure to be completed.

"We really appreciate the opportunity to share how grateful we are for the federal funding that the MRC receives," said Frances Robertson, the County's Marine Program Manager. "We couldn't do this important work without the programmatic grants."

Creosote pilings eventually break up and distribute chemicals and debris into the Puget Sound. These chemicals can be harmful and even toxic to marine species. That's why the MRC has its sights set on Jackson Beach.

"We've received \$100,000 from the National Estuary Program to conduct an assessment of creosote pilings," said Kendra Smith, the County's Environmental Stewardship Director. "The ones at Jackson Beach are right next to an eelgrass bed that is important to protect."

"It was great to see the important work the San Juan County Marine Resources Committee and the UW Friday Harbor Labs are doing to monitor and conserve marine wildlife habitat in False Bay," said Larsen. "I will continue to support legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act that invests in local initiatives to protect the San Juans and Salish Sea for future generations."

While standing along the shoulder of False Bay Road, Smith also discussed the future of managed retreat.

“This road we’re standing on will one day need to be relocated,” Smith explained. “It’s dangerously close to the shoreline and needs to be moved so that the bank can continue to erode naturally and safely.”

Rep. Larsen made his way to the County Fairgrounds for opening day of the fair. Parks and Fair Director Brandon Cadwell led a tour through the 4-H barns, exhibitor booths, and Green Village while discussing sustainability.

“The fairgrounds just completed the largest solar project in the county,” Cadwell said pointing to the massive solar array atop the main exhibitors building. “These panels are projected to produce over 4.5 million kilowatt hours (kWh) of energy and save the county over \$700,000 in utility costs.”

Rep. Larsen toured the Green Village at the fair – a collection of environmental groups including the San Juan County Conservation Land Bank, the MRC, the County’s Noxious Weed Program, and more. Attendees can [participate in events at the Green Village](#) throughout the fair to learn about the different programs and volunteer opportunities.

“No summer would be complete without a visit to the San Juan County Fair,” added Larsen. “For more than 100 years, the Fair has showcased the farms, agriculture, small businesses and conservation efforts that make the San Juans a unique place to live, work and enjoy.”