

Topic: Open Space Preservation; Natural Resource Protection & Conservation
Resource Type: Regulations
State: Washington
Jurisdiction Type: Municipal
Municipality: County of San Juan
Year (adopted, written, etc.): 1991
Community Type - applicable to: Urban; Suburban; Rural
Title: County of San Juan Open Space & Conservation Plan
Document Last Updated in Database: April 17, 2017

Abstract

The San Juan County Open Space and Conservation plan is the result of an open space planning process, funded by San Juan County and The San Juan Preservation Trust. A primary goal of the plan is to identify and protect natural resources, with a focus on wildlife habitat. The plan proposes ways to implement five strategies of land conservation defined as information, education, incentives, regulation, and acquisition.

Resource

ORDINANCE ADOPTING SAN JUAN COUNTY
OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION PLAN ORIGIWU
ORDINANCE NO. 124-1991

WHEREAS, the preparation of a county Open Space and Conservation Plan was directed by this Board in 1990; and

WHEREAS, the Open Space and Conservation Committee appointed by this Board worked with the Planning Department and the consulting firm of Jones and Jones, Seattle, to hold a series of public meetings, develop an open space resource ranking and evaluation system, and establish priorities and recommendations for conservation actions, contained in the proposed plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed plan was determined to have no significant adverse environmental impact and the Administrator issued a SEPA determination to that effect, published on June 12, 1991; and

WHEREAS, the San Juan County Planning Commission held a public hearing on June 21, 1991, and after hearing public testimony unanimously passed a motion to recommend adoption of the proposed Open Space and Conservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, this Board held a legally advertised public hearing on August 21, 1991, and following public testimony made these findings and conclusions:

1. The San Juan County population grew at a rate more than twice that of Washington state between 1960 and 1990, increasing by nearly 350 per cent. Population growth has brought a surge of new construction, the majority in the form of single-family houses and related developments.

2. In 1989, a public opinion survey confirmed local public concern about the importance of open space in light of perceptions about the rate of growth occurring in the county. In 1990, county legislation passed to establish a local land bank and state legislation required the inventory and protection of natural resources by local government. Together, these indicate significant public concern about, and interest in the protection of, open space resources in the islands.

3. In 1990, San Juan County initiated a process to develop a plan for this purpose, with a matching grant from The San Juan Preservation Trust. The process included (a) the interpretation and analysis of natural and San Juan, Orcas and Lopez Islands; and (c) an evaluation and participation process, including nine public meetings on - visual open space resources; (b) an extensive community of existing conservation tools and techniques (including the comprehensive Plan, tax incentives, and acquisition) and alternatives to improve their effectiveness.