

May 17, 2007

Robert Towne, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1103 N Fancher Rd.
Spokane, WA 99212

Dear Mr. Towne,

On Sunday April 29th I had the opportunity to travel with about 25 Washington Native Plant Society members to the BLM property, Patos Island, in the northern San Juan Islands. Joining us were BLM staff, Pam Camp and Nick Teague.

I would like to thank the Bureau of Land Management for having the opportunity to visit this spectacular resource and to thank the Bureau of Land Management for keeping this property as a land management resource for the American public. In particular, I would like to support its current minimal usage and protection of the natural aspects of this island. As land is rapidly being developed everywhere, we were grateful to be able to see this island which has been minimally impacted by public recreation. Joining with us briefly was a State Parks Manager who expressed interest in placing more trails on this island and developing it more. We would hope that the Bureau of Land Management would not support such an action. Members of our group had a full day of enjoyment and exploration on the existing trail system. We would be concerned that further trail development would result in increased usage and simultaneously increased degradation of this exceptional natural resource.

Sincerely,

Catherine E. Hovanic
Administrator