

## **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

### **SECTION B, ELEMENT 9**

#### **HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRESERVATION**

**December 20, 1998**

*"Our community is enriched by a strong sense of identity, tradition, legacy, and continuity, where past and present freely mingle. We recognize the contributions to our rural and maritime heritage made by indigenous peoples, explorers, and island pioneers, and encourage the preservation of that heritage. We encourage preservation of historic sites, structures, and traditions for the enjoyment of all."*



## **ELEMENT 9**

### **HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRESERVATION**

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## 9.1 INTRODUCTION

San Juan County has a rich and unique heritage from its founding through its development over time. Historical and archaeological sites and pioneer structures still remain which represent prehistoric settlements by indigenous peoples, the westernizing influence of 19th century pioneers, and a heritage of significant agriculture, fishing, limestone mining, and lumber economies of regional stature and importance.

In order to effectively preserve historical resources, an evaluation must first determine which structures and sites are worthy of preservation. A method of encouraging preservation of these structures and sites and regulating the demolition of historic structures or degradation of historic sites is then necessary to protect them. This element provides goals and policies to achieve this.

## 9.2 GOALS AND POLICIES

**Goal:** To protect, preserve, and enhance the rich history and cultural resources of San Juan County; more particularly its significant places, traditions, artifacts, stories, family histories, and other important historical and archaeological items.

**Policies (9.2.1.5):**

1. The County should work with local historical societies to prepare a comprehensive inventory of San Juan County historic and cultural sites, resources, buildings, and structures. The inventory should include the location, quantity, quality and significance of these resources using state, federal, and locally defined criteria.
2. The County should work with local historical societies to prepare an historic preservation plan to be incorporated into this element which includes:
  - a. a detailed description of the County's historical background including Native American presence, an overview of local history, and identification of historical trends;
  - b. an assessment of local historic preservation needs including an assessment of existing data, the status of any local historic preservation efforts, and a discussion of issues affecting local historic properties in the future; and
  - c. specific goals and policies for preservation and implementation measures, incorporating the goals and policies of this element. Implementation measures should focus on voluntary efforts and incentives.
3. The inventory and historic preservation plan should be coordinated with similar programs of the Town of Friday Harbor and other public and private agencies within the county to ensure the county-wide comprehensiveness of the inventory.
4. Develop policies and programs to encourage the preservation of historic and archaeological resources and minimize conflicts with competing land uses. The following programs should be considered:
  - a. Allow segregation of parcels which contain significant historic or archaeological resources through an exemption from plat requirements when the creation of such parcels is to transfer historic properties for special resource management;
  - b. Pursue private and public sources of funding for use by property owners in the renovation and maintenance of significant historic properties;

- c. Coordinate and integrate preservation efforts for lands adjacent to significant historic properties;
  - d. Pursue options and incentives to allow productive, reasonable use, and adaptive re-use of historic properties;
  - e. Special valuation and open space taxation programs for rehabilitation and current use assessment;
  - f. Amend the SJC Building Code to exempt historic buildings from compliance with the energy and building codes to the extent permitted by law;
  - g. Accelerate permit processing time for relocation of historic structures; and
  - h. Require a demolition permit for historical structures listed on the National Register of Historical Places.
5. Appoint an Historic Review Board composed of but not limited to, representatives from each local historical society. The Board may do the following:
- a. Conduct, monitor, and update the historic resources inventory;
  - b. Prepare a San Juan County Historic Landmarks document which would include individual descriptions and maps of items in the resource inventory;
  - c. Review proposed demolition of historic resources not less than 30 days prior to demolition; recommend alternatives, coordinate relocation or other preservation efforts;
  - d. Provide technical assistance and conduct workshops to provide educational programs regarding historic and archaeological resources in order to raise public awareness of the value of maintaining these resources and retaining community identity, heritage, and quality of life;
  - e. Make recommendations for designation of sites on the State or National Register of Historic Places;
  - f. Promote a mutually supportive relationship between historic preservation and economic development; and
  - g. Pursue sources of public and private funding to cover costs incurred by this element.