

Adam Zack

From: Wendy Mickle <wenmic@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 1:09 AM
To: Comp Plan Update; San Juan County Council
Cc: Jamie Stephens; Christine Minney; Cindy Wolf
Subject: Vacation Rental Regularion

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Dear Council and Planning Commission Members,

Please do not increase the number of vacation rentals on Lopez Island. As it is, we are overrun with tourists. Island businesses can't keep up with the demand. At Lopez Village Market they have increased their delivery days from 2 to 3 and still have bare shelves. Last Friday I went to the market and could barely find a parking place. I saw a friend in the lot, who said, "it's a madhouse in there" and I was so discouraged that I just drove home again.

There are massive ferry lines every day of the week, and it is very difficult to get off the island. People line up at 4:30 am for the 6:20 am ferry. Taking the Lopez only 10:45 am boat, which has more room but still overloads, gives only a half a day on the mainland--not enough time to do much.

There is a shortage of workers, largely because they don't have a place to live. The post office and both grocery stores are looking for help, and there are 10 positions listed at the school. The Post Mistress is now delivering on a mail route herself because she is short of a carrier. The school superintendent commutes from Bellingham, lacking local housing, and the pharmacy has a need for housing also. The Spokane District Manager of the BLM may have the new National Monument Manager position stationed on the mainland instead of in SJ County because of lack of housing. All of this impacts our businesses/institutions and our residents, not just the individuals or families who aren't able to find housing.

There's nothing like our current dry spell to remind us of our need to conserve water. VR stress our aquifers with increased water usage and more frequent laundering of sheets and towels.

Please help us keep these problems from getting worse and do not increase the number of vacation rentals on Lopez.

Sincerely,
Wendy Mickle