

Adam Zack

From: clayton parsons <claysalish@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 14, 2021 4:50 PM
To: Vacation Rental Comments; Cindy Wolf
Subject: Vacation Rental Permit Caps

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Date: August 14, 2021
From: Clayton and Karen Parsons
To: San Juan County Planning Commission and San Juan County Council
Re: Establishment of Permanent Caps on the Total Number of Vacation Rental Permits and the Future Regulation of Vacation Rentals

Dear Members of the San Juan County Planning Commission and County Council

We write to support the letter sent to you on 11 August 2021 from David Turnoy and others regarding the establishment of permanent caps on Vacation Rental Permits (VRPs) in San Juan County (SJC). We also write to express our distress at what is happening to our home and island and urge you to take immediate action to limit the damage that is being caused by the proliferation of vacation rentals and over-tourism.

We have lived full time on Orcas Island for over 15 years. We moved here from the SF Bay Area to enjoy the quiet, tranquil, rural, community of Orcas Island. We are concerned that the large crowds visiting the island are encroaching upon the limited carrying capacity of the islands to provide sufficient water, wastewater treatment and safe transportation. Over tourism is also creating unacceptable levels of road and infrastructure impacts, and very high levels of commerce in activity centers. We need our island businesses to thrive but there are limits to how many people can be served in our few activity centers without creating chaos. We are also very concerned about the loss of community in our neighborhoods. Many vacation rentals are in fact not 'homes' where local residents live; they have in fact become 'hotel rooms' rented out by absentee owners and managed by real estate firms. This is unacceptable in any community.

Please set appropriate caps that reduce the current negative impact of vacation rentals. Ensure that these caps are permanent and that they are re-evaluated yearly to ensure that they are sufficiently restrictive to prevent the challenges that we have been experiencing. Such reevaluations should be done with the intention of lowering caps as needed to minimize if not eliminate the negative impact of over-tourism.

The future of Orcas Island and the vitality of the local community is in your hands.
We expect you to act.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Clayton & Karen Parsons

Cayou Valley Road
Deer Harbor, Orcas Island