

## Adam Zack

---

**From:** Lynda Guernsey  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 17, 2021 3:22 PM  
**To:** Vacation Rental Comments  
**Subject:** FW: Vacation Rental Permits

Lynda Guernsey, Administrative Specialist II – Direct Line (360) 370-7579  
**SAN JUAN COUNTY**  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
(360) 378-2354 | 135 Rhone Street | PO Box 947 | Friday Harbor, WA 98250

---

**From:** kassenzie at rockisland.com <kassenzie@rockisland.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 17, 2021 3:05 PM  
**To:** Lynda Guernsey <LyndaG@sanjuanco.com>  
**Cc:** San Juan County Council <councilvm@sanjuanco.com>; keepsanjuanswild@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Vacation Rental Permits

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

August 17, 2021

From: Michelline Halliday  
San Juan Island  
To: San Juan County Planning Commission and San Juan County Council

Re: Establishment of fixed permanent caps on the total number of Vacation Rental Permits  
I write to support the letter <http://doebay.net/VR/PCCCaugletter.pdf> sent to you on 11 August 2021 from David Turnoy and others regarding the establishment of caps on Vacation Rental Permits (VRPs) in San Juan County (SJC)

I moved here 8 years ago to enjoy nature and the quiet, peaceful, slow-paced, rural, community-minded nature of San Juan Island. My environment has changed so much in this short period of time that I no longer feel at home. I am very concerned about carrying capacity of the islands to provide sufficient water, waste water treatment, and the negative impacts created by transient island visitors on noise levels, road and infrastructure impacts. More tourists equal more businesses, crowds, more pollution and create a negative habitat for wildlife and wear and tear on the environment. More and more I feel I am surrounded by strangers who do not value the community, the fragile environment and the habitats nurturing wildlife. Getting close to wildlife equals photos on social media: whale watching increases and the photographers literally lean down in the dens of the island foxes at American Camp. Visitors on vacation are here to enjoy themselves, have fun and even party. That's what vacations are and I don't blame them for wanting that but it is different from what I cherish here, a quiet, serene, rural environment.

Please set appropriate caps that reduce the current negative impact of VRPs. Ensure that the data used to calculate caps is the most current and most accurate available; caps should be set no greater than the currently existing active and compliant VRPs for each major island. I am very much in favor that these caps are permanent and re-evaluated every few years to ensure that they are sufficiently restrictive to prevent the challenges that we have been facing for the past several years. Such re-evaluation should be done with the intention of lowering caps as needed to minimize if not eliminate the negative impact of over- tourism.

Thank you,  
Michelline Halliday  
SJI