

Adam Zack

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Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 9:43 AM
To: Vacation Rental Comments
Subject: VR Caps

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Dear members of the San Juan County Planning Commission,

I strongly support the San Juan County Planning Commission's August 20 unanimous decision to recommend an ordinance to the San Juan County Council that implements both a county cap and island-by-island cap on the issuance of new permits for vacation rentals, with such caps to be based on the number of active and compliant vacation permits.

Thankfully, the Staff Report to the Planning Commission recognizes that the County is currently suffering the detrimental impact of too many short-term vacation rentals and we cannot afford more.

In addition, it is vital that we begin to plan NOW for continued and worsening impacts of over development, over tourism, climate change, species loss, habitat loss, top soil loss, and pollution that are all crises that we as a state, country, and world are now and will continue to face in the coming decades. Future generations will be grateful for any strong action we take now to curb additional destruction and over use of county resources. Life in this county and throughout the world is only going to become more challenging as the impacts of human development continue to take a massive toll on the natural world and on human societies that depend fully on functioning ecosystems that are being degraded at an ever faster pace. Ending new VR permits should be part of that strong action. Indeed, it is the very least we can do.

To fail now to close the gates to new permits in the future would seriously exacerbate the acute stress we've already experienced on our islands' natural resources, housing stock for working families, the community ambience of our residential neighborhoods and the adequacy of our island services.

San Juan County is choking under the weight of over tourism, which continues to spill into our once-tranquil residential neighborhoods.

The time is now to take decisive action.

I urge the Planning Commission to move forward on this proposed ordinance as generally described in the Staff Report. Without these proposed caps in place as soon as possible, the damage to our island community will be irreversible. The very nature, and future, of our beautiful islands and community is at stake.

Respectfully,
Elisabeth Robson
Lopez Island