



**ADDITIONAL PROTECTION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
HABITATS OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas
SJCC 18.30.160 Table 3.12**

Species or Habitat	Habitat Description	Protection Measures
<p>Bluff Backed Beaches</p>	 <p>Beaches at the base of sediment bluffs including sediment-covered rock beaches, and beaches formed by seeps/small streams that enter beaches via a bluff rather than a pronounced stream valley. Bluff backed beaches do not form lagoons though they may be a sediment source to barrier beaches that do form lagoons.</p>	<p>Minimize and encourage removal of hard shoreline stabilization measures.</p> <p>Compliance with the San Juan County Code.</p>
<p>Garry oak (<i>Quercus garryana</i>) woodlands and savannas</p>	 <p>Garry oak is a type of Oregon White Oak found in warmer, drier areas within the Puget Sound and southern British Columbia. They are associated with what is becoming an increasingly rare ecosystem that supports a variety of rare wildflowers, butterflies [such as the Duskywing (<i>Erynnis propertius</i>)] and other plants and animals. Garry oak ecosystems are highly varied and are found in areas with rock outcrops, coastal bluffs, maritime meadows, and treeless grasslands as well as seasonal wetlands, and are sometimes found in mixed stands with other trees including arbutus and Douglas fir. Acorns from the oaks provide a key food for many birds, and other wildlife. Areas in the County that contain Garry oak include English Camp, Cady Mountain, San Juan Valley, the west side of San Juan Island, Point Disney, Turtleback Mountain, and West Sound.</p>	<p>In conjunction with new development and vegetation removal, minimize disturbance of areas with Garry oak and associated native grasslands and wildflowers.</p> <p>Removal of Douglas fir and other conifers is encouraged and authorized in Tree Protection Zones to allow adequate sunlight for the oak, grasses and wildflowers.</p> <p>If disturbance cannot be avoided mitigate by replanting suitable areas with Garry oak, native grasses and wildflowers.</p>

<p>Herbaceous Balds and Bluffs</p>	 <p>Herbaceous Balds and Bluffs. These are native plant areas located on shallow soils over bedrock, often on steep, exposed slopes with few trees. They support grasses, herbaceous plants, dwarf shrubs, Brittle prickly pear cactus, mosses and lichens that are adapted for survival on shallow soils with seasonally dry conditions. Trees that may be present include Douglas fir, Pacific madrone, and Garry oak. In San Juan County this habitat supports many plant species that are rare or that grow in few other land cover types. They are the preferred habitat of the Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly, which is a listed species. Information on the plants associated with herbaceous balds and bluffs can be found at http://www1.dnr.wa.gov/nhp/refdesk/communities/pdf/balds_veg.pdf.</p>	<p>In conjunction with new development and vegetation removal, minimize disturbance of herbaceous balds and bluffs.</p>
<p>Pocket Beaches</p>	 <p>Beaches that are contained between two bedrock headlands that essentially function as a closed system in terms of littoral sediment transport. Pocket beaches do not typically occur within a drift cell and there is little or no exchange of sediment between a pocket beach and adjacent shores. They can be found waterward of a rocky bank or cliff, or they may form barriers, sometimes partially or completely isolating a back-barrier lagoon or wetland. Pocket beaches are typically swash aligned, or oriented perpendicular to the predominant wave direction. They are relatively short in length, as compared to the length of a barrier beach. In plan view their shape is crescent shaped and they often have well-sorted sediment of similar size.</p>	<p>Minimize and encourage removal of hard shoreline stabilization measures.</p> <p>Comply with the San Juan County code.</p>
<p>West Side Prairie</p>	 <p>These are relatively undisturbed, uncultivated meadows and fallow fields that are mostly treeless, and ideally have a significant presence of native forbs (herbaceous flowering plants such as Camas) and grasses (e.g. Danthonia californica and Festuca rubra). West side prairies in San Juan County include parts of Mt. Constitution and Turtleback Mountain on Orcas Island, the west side of San Juan Island, Iceberg Point on Lopez Island, and Yellow Island.</p>	<p>In conjunction with new development and vegetation removal, minimize disturbance of native grasslands and Camas prairies</p> <p>If disturbance cannot be avoided mitigate by replanting suitable areas with native grasses and wildflowers.</p>