

Tourism in the San Juan Islands

A survey of residents and businesses



Frequently Asked Questions

Who is conducting the study?

The study is being conducted for San Juan County by Confluence Research and Consulting. For more information about the study, contact Dr. Doug Whittaker at (907) 346-3769 or dwhittakercrc@gmail.com.

What is the study for?

The study will assess several issues related to tourism on the islands. The goal is to describe residents of the San Juan Islands, their opinions about tourism issues, and the management actions that might be used to address them.

How will the results be used?

The public land managers, visitors bureau, and chambers of commerce on the San Juan Islands are developing a Sustainable Tourism Plan to address visitation on the islands, and impacts on public lands, visitor management, and marketing. Other government agencies and elected officials will use the information to help make decisions about tourism and its effects on communities.

How did I get selected?

The survey was sent to samples of registered voters in San Juan County and vacation rental permittees, covering a broad range of island residents. A parallel survey was sent to representatives of registered businesses.

Do you need my contact information? Are my responses confidential?

All your answers will be kept strictly confidential, and we don't need your name or contact information. Results will refer to groups, and will never be associated with your name (for example, "20% of residents own a sailboat"). The unique survey ID number helps us know who has completed the survey, so we can stop sending reminders. After you finish the survey, we remove you from our mailing list and disconnect IDs from responses.

Is the survey voluntary?

Yes, participation in the survey is voluntary, but we need your help. Your ideas and opinions are important, even if you live on the islands part-time or moved there recently. The survey is being completed by a limited number of people, so your response is needed to accurately represent the diversity of views.

What if I don't answer all the questions?

Please try to answer every question, because missing responses decrease the value of your other responses.

When will the study be completed? Can I get copy of study results?

The study report will be posted on the San Juan County website when it is completed in Fall 2019 / Winter 2020.