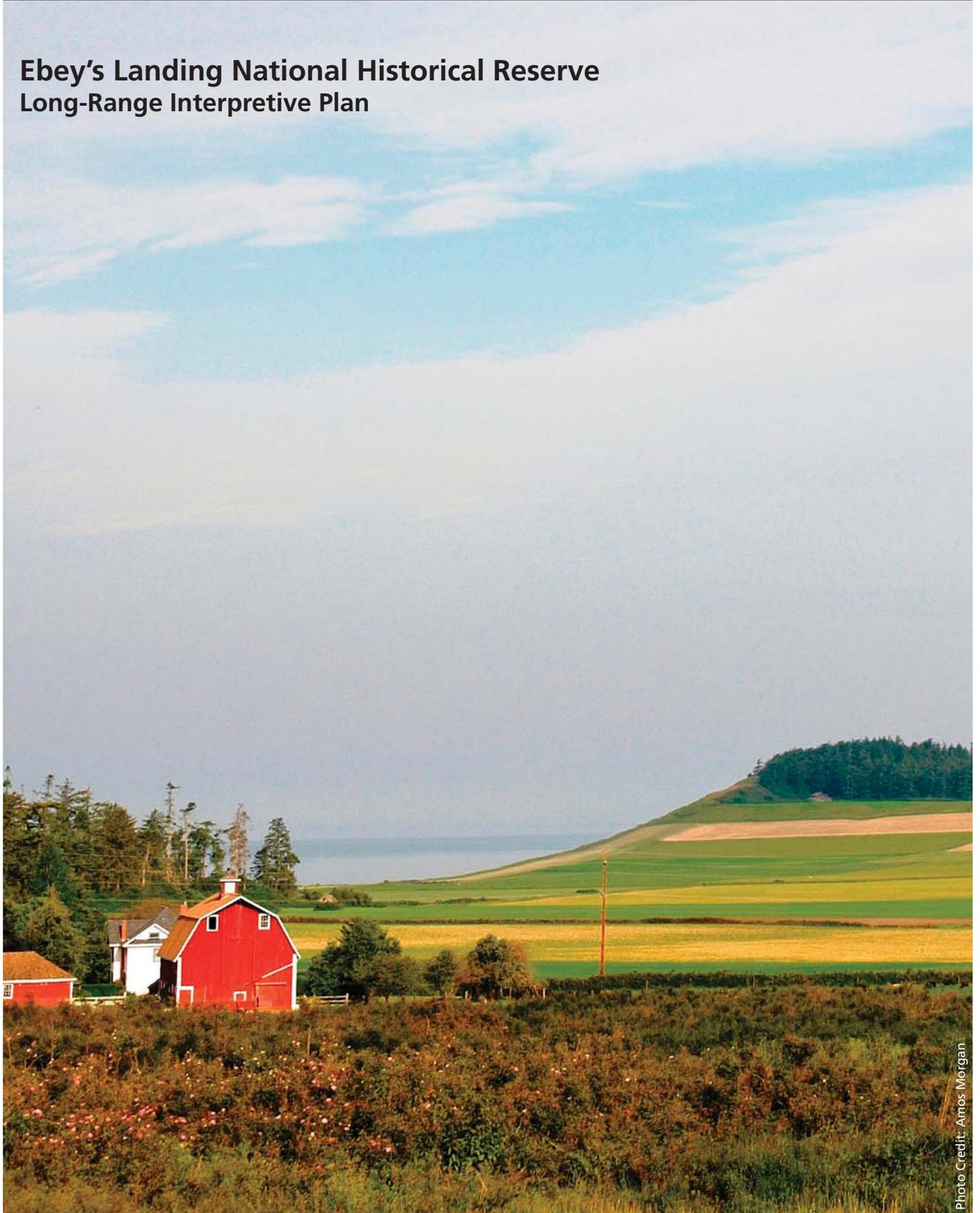




# Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve Long-Range Interpretive Plan



# **Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve**

## **Long-Range Interpretive Plan**

**September 2009**

Prepared by:

Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve

Pacific West Region

Harpers Ferry Center  
Interpretive Planning

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*“The precious living landscape of Ebey’s Landing Historical Reserve is now more secure than ever. Its rich history and the collaboration of all partners have provided the foundation upon which to build a bright future through the implementation of this long-range interpretive plan.”*

**Helen Price Johnson**  
Island County Commissioner, District 1



### **Trust Board Members**

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## **Message from the Trust Board of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve**

As the first historical reserve in the United States, Ebey's Reserve protects an important part of America's rural character – a cultural landscape of 17,572 acres that includes 17 working farms, more than 400 historic structures, native prairies, three state parks, miles of shoreline, a network of hiking and biking trails, and the second oldest town in Washington.

Ebey's Reserve is a national model for sustainable development in rural communities. It is the only remaining area in the Puget Sound region where a broad spectrum of Northwest history is clearly visible on the land, and protected within a landscape that is lived in and actively farmed. It is a place that is sustained using contemporary conservation strategies, local stewardship, and by leaving the land in primarily private ownership, while preserving its historic, cultural, and rural character.

The Long-Range Interpretive Plan is a document that sharpens our focus and pulls together all of the education and interpretation efforts within Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. Part One defines the Reserve themes, identifies the desired visitor experience, lists issues and challenges, and describes the existing condition of the Reserve's interpretive services. Part Two lists the specific actions the Reserve and its partners will take to meet our vision for the future of interpretation over the next seven to ten years.

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve is supported through partnerships with many local, regional, and national organizations. The Reserve staff engaged all of the Trust Board members, partners, local community members, and many others throughout the planning process. This collaborative effort produced a more comprehensive and inclusive look at how we will interpret Ebey's Reserve to visitors in the future.

On behalf of the Trust Board, we hope you will take time to review this important plan and join us as we continue to move forward in our efforts to preserve and protect the values and resources of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve.

Sincerely,

**Jan Pickard  
Trust Board Chair  
Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve**

**Mark Preiss  
Reserve Manager  
Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve**



Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve

## Comprehensive Interpretive Planning

The National Park Service (NPS) has a unified planning approach for interpretation and education. This approach combines planning for interpretive media, personal services, and education programs. The Comprehensive Interpretive Planning (CIP) process is the basic planning document for interpretation and was incorporated into NPS guidelines in 1995. Responsibility for accomplishing the CIP process lies with the Trust Board and the Reserve Manager.

### What is a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan?

The CIP process helps the Reserve make choices, and this planning document is written to provide guidance to Reserve staff. It helps them decide what their objectives are, who their visitors are, and what mix of media and personal series to use. Although the CIP as defined in Director's Order 6 is composed of specific elements, good planning is customized to meet an individual unit's need and situations. The CIP is not a recipe; rather it is a guide to effective, goal-driven planning. While it considers past interpretive programming, it is primarily a forward-looking document that concentrates on actions needed to create or sustain a vigorous and effective interpretive program for the future. All CIPs have these three components: the Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP), a series of Annual Implementation Plans and an Interpretive Database.

### What is a Long-Range Interpretive Plan?

The heart of the CIP is the Long-Range Interpretive Plan. The LRIP defines the overall vision

and long-term (7-10 years) interpretive goals of the park. The process that develops the LRIP defines realistic strategies and actions that work toward achievement of the interpretive goals.

### The Annual Implementation Plan and Interpretive Database

The completed LRIP is a critical part of the CIP, but it does not stand alone. Actions in the LRIP are divided into annual, achievable steps and

reproduced in the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP), the second component of the CIP. Creating a series of these AIPs that implement the recommendations outlined in the LRIP simplifies the park's annual planning. The third component of the CIP is the Interpretive Database, an ongoing compilation of information, reports, bibliographies, plans, and inventories that document the LRIP's ongoing progress.



Photo Credit: Amos Morgan

The Long-Range Interpretive Plan will help guide Trust Board decisions that will affect the next generation of Ebey's Reserve visitors and residents.

# Part One: The Foundation for Interpretive Planning

*My dear brother— I scarcely know how I shall write or what I shall write . . . the great desire of heart is to get my own and father's family to this country. I think it would be a great move. I have always thought so . . . To the north down along Admiralty Inlet . . . the cultivating land is generally found confined to the valleys of streams with the exception of Whidbey's Island . . . which is almost a paradise of nature. Good land for cultivation is abundant on this island. I have taken a claim on it and am now living on the same in order to avail myself of the provisions of the Donation Law. If Rebecca, the children, and you all were here, I think I could live and die here content.*

Colonel Isaac Ebey  
letter to his brother, W.S. Ebey, April 25, 1851

*The Reserve strives to engage all visitors and residents; to share and enrich their lives; and to inspire them to help preserve our natural heritage for seven generations into the future. As wildlife habitat and farmland is lost throughout the Pacific Northwest and on Whidbey Island, Ebey's Reserve serves as a unique and exciting resource for visitors and residents. The experience of discovery, beauty, natural landscape, and coastline enriches young and old with a unique national model of a living landscape, where premeditated preservation and community management reconnect us to the soil, wind, sea, and heighten our attention to the empowering experience of Mother Nature!*

Lisa Meserole  
Trust Board Member, Education & Outreach Committee Chair

## Enabling Legislation and Reserve Purpose

### Enabling Legislation

**Each unit of the National Park System is created by Congress and the President of the United States. The following pieces of legislation created Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve.**

Section 508 of the Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-625) established Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. Its boundaries are the same as those of the Central Whidbey Island Historic District established in 1973.

The Reserve comprises an area of approximately 17,572 acres: 13,617 acres of land and 3,955 surface acres of water (Penn Cove). Approximately 2,023 acres are protected with NPS-held conservation easements and 684 acres are NPS-owned in fee.

The language of the law cited the unbroken historical record of the central Whidbey Island community "from nineteenth century exploration and settlement in Puget Sound to the present time" and emphasized four historic eras: Vancouver's exploration of the Puget Sound in 1792; the first permanent settlement on Whidbey Island, led by Isaac Ebey; the Donation Land Claim settlements and subsequent settlements; and the development of Coupeville.

In more ways than one, the Reserve is not a typical national park. It is a new model in its approach to park management and land protection. Ebey's Reserve is the first historical

reserve in the National Park System – its boundaries surround mostly private land (approximately 85%). The movement to protect central Whidbey Island began more than thirty years ago with local citizens' initiative to protect Ebey's Prairie from development. Establishing a national historical reserve would provide immediate protection of critical lands threatened by development. The Reserve now preserves open space with a minimum disturbance to private landowners, and provides federal technical support without threatening local autonomy.

As part of the legislation, management of the Reserve is through a unit of local government, and not solely with the NPS. Though most national park units are managed by a superintendent, the Reserve is managed by a nine-member Trust Board comprised of representatives from four units of government - the town of Coupeville, Island County, Washington State Parks, and the National Park Service. On July 23, 1988, an Interlocal Agreement for the Administration of the Reserve established this joint interagency administrative board for management of the Reserve.

### Reserve Purpose

**A purpose statement summarizes the reasons a unit is included in the National Park System. It is derived from the legislation that created both the National Park Service and a specific site.**

The purpose of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve is to:

- Preserve and protect the cultural landscape and to commemorate the history of a rural community, which provides a continuous record of exploration and American settlement in Puget Sound from the nineteenth century to the present. This includes the first thorough exploration of Puget Sound by Captain Vancouver in 1792; settlement of Whidbey Island by Colonel Ebey; settlement during the years of the Donation Land Law beginning in the 1850s; and the growth of the town of Coupeville.
- Preservation of natural and cultural resources in the reserve happens in the context of a living, working, and changing community.



Penn Cove is a perfect place to kayak and canoe

## Reserve Significance

**Statements of significance describe a National Park System unit's distinctive natural, cultural, and recreational resources and values that are the factual rationale for national recognition of the site.**

According to the 2006 General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement, Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve is nationally significant because:

### *Primary Significance*

- Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve is the nation's first national historical reserve; a new kind of national park area cooperatively managed by a trust board representing local, state, and federal interests.
- The Reserve provides the nation a vivid and continuous historical record of Pacific Northwest history, including early exploration and American settlement of the Puget Sound region.
- Early settlement at Ebey's Reserve, precipitated by the Donation Land Claim Act of 1850, helped establish American territorial claims in the Pacific Northwest, resulting in the 1859 Border Resolution.
- The historical landscape of the Reserve appears much as it did a century ago. Historic homes, pastoral farmsteads, and commercial buildings are still within their original farm, forest, and marine settings.

- Within the fast growing Puget Sound region, the Reserve has quickly become the only remaining area where a broad spectrum of Northwest history is still clearly visible within a large-scale (and partially protected) landscape.

### *Secondary Significance*

- Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve consists of excellent undisturbed examples of post-glacial geological features such as kettle ponds; steep gravel bluffs; remnant prairies formed by glacial lakes; and sweeping shoreline topography left by the receding glaciers.
- The unique climates, rain shadow, soils, maritime influence, and geologic features result in an unusual diversity of plant and animal species, communities, and habitats.

- Within the Reserve, the visitor can experience a variety of diverse physical and visual landscapes within a small geographic area.
- Because the Reserve is a short drive from major Northwest population centers, it is a popular destination for various forms of recreational and educational activities.
- Penn Cove within the Reserve has an internationally significant shellfish (mussels) industry dependent upon high water quality.
- Due to the sheltered harbor, Penn Cove has been a focus of human activities from prehistoric times to the present day.



Photo Credit: Amos Morgan

Penn Cove is a great habitat for the internationally significant mussel industry

## NPS Mission and Reserve Mission

**A mission statement is a vision for the future and articulates, in broad terms, the ideas that the NPS and the Trust Board strives to achieve.**

### National Park Service Mission Statement

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

### Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve Mission Statement

The Mission of the Trust Board of Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve is to:

- Preserve and protect, in

perpetuity, the historic, natural, cultural, scenic, recreational, and community resources which are vital to Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve;

- Foster appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment of Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve through education and interpretation;
- Further the purposes of Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve by establishing and maintaining productive partnerships between federal, state, and local governments, public and private organizations and individuals;
- Administer and manage Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve as a unit of the National Park system, consistent with the mandate of Congress (PL 95-625) and the Interlocal Agreement of July 26, 1988 between the National Park Service, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Island County, and the Town of Coupeville.

## Accessibility

Every attempt will be made to provide full access to interpretive media and programs to ensure people with physical and mental disabilities have access to the same information necessary for safe and meaningful visits to national parks. This is in compliance with the National Park Service policy:

“... To provide the highest level of accessibility possible and feasible for persons with visual, hearing, mobility, and mental impairments, consistent with the obligation to conserve park resources and preserve the qualities of the park experience for everyone.”

NPS Special Directive 83-3, Accessibility for Disabled Persons

All interpretation will follow general standards for accessibility as described in the Harpers Ferry Center Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for Interpretive Media <http://www.nps.gov/hfc/pdf/accessibility/access-guide-aug2009.pdf>



Photo Credit: Leigh Smith

Many special and remote places in Ebey’s Reserve can be experienced by visitors of all abilities.

## Interpretive Themes

**Interpretive themes capture the essence of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve's significance. They include the most important stories and represent core messages that every visitor should have the opportunity to experience.**

*While interpretation of any site could touch upon many stories, focused themes increase effectiveness. When well conceived, themes explore the meanings behind the facts. They open minds to new ideas and perhaps to multiple points of view. When linked to commonly held emotions or universal human experiences, themes encourage visitors to see themselves in the Reserve's story and discover personal relevance.*

A team of Reserve staff, local citizens, and partners worked together to develop these themes and associated stories during workshops held in 2005 and 2009. They are based on the two themes identified in the 2006 General Management Plan.



The unique micro-climate and rich brown soil of Central Whidbey provide the perfect conditions for growing seed crops such as cabbage.

### Theme 1 – Change/Cultural Heritage

*People have long been attracted to the Ebey's Reserve area, making it their home for similar reasons yet bringing new motivations and uses.*

- Native Americans resided in this area, cultivating the prairies and Penn Cove.
- Hubbard squash, alfalfa, barley, wheat, potatoes, and corn are among the scale crops and – due to the micro-climate and island isolation – seed crops of beet, cabbage, and spinach that are currently cultivated. Small farmers in the Reserve also grow a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and meats for local market and Community Supported Agriculture.
- Ebey's Reserve was one of the first areas settled in the Puget Sound due to fertile soils, access to water, and location.
- Military history reflects how Fort Casey and Fort Ebey protected the mouth of Puget

Sound from potential enemy invaders.

- The landscape that makes Ebey's Reserve an ideal agricultural reserve now provides a wide range of recreational opportunities.

### Theme 2 – Living Landscape

*Even after thousands of years most early patterns of land use are still visible at Ebey's Reserve and reveal a continuous history of human interaction with the environment.*

- Today, the vistas, woodlands, and fertile prairies of the Reserve are much the same as they were in the late 1800's.
- The soils of Ebey's and Crocket Prairie are among the most fertile in Island County. Local roads bear the names of historic farm families. Some of these families have lived in the Reserve for more than five generations and are still farming today. Yet the Reserve is far more than a snapshot in time; it is a living, working and changing community. Within its 17,572 acres, the Reserve contains more than 300 historic structures and 18 working farms.
- Cultivation tactics of American Indians included controlled burning to encourage desirable, edible plants that were dug with wooden tools.
- Hedgerows.

### Theme 3 – Environment

*Unique combinations of climate, maritime influences, and geologic features have shaped the*

*landscape, resulting in an unusual diversity of habitats and species.*

Examples of these unique features include:

- Geology
- Glaciers
- Prairie
- Forest
- Wetlands
- Sea life
- Wildlife
- Flora
- Climate
- Night sky
- Natural quiet
- Soil

#### Theme 4 – Historical Reserve

*The partners of the Reserve work together to create a model of sustainable development that respects a community’s need to adapt to new challenges while protecting natural and cultural resources. The Reserve is a model for preservation of a cultural landscape.*

- Ebey’s Reserve is homegrown. The impetus to protect this cultural landscape came from local citizens’ initiative to halt a housing development slated for Ebey’s Prairie. The concept of a national historical reserve was viewed as a way to preserve the working landscape and natural life with a minimum disturbance to landowners, and provide federal support without threatening local autonomy.
- Ebey’s is the first reserve in the United States to integrate historic farms, a seaside town, native and pioneer land use traditions, and ecologically significant areas through creative conservation tactics and contemporary, planned development.
- The Reserve is administered and managed by a joint interagency Trust Board. The 9-member Trust Board represents local volunteers and four governmental partners including the National Park Service, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Island County and the Town of Coupeville.
- The Trust Board sees a future where Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve is a model for sustainable development that respects a community’s need to adapt to new challenges while protecting a nationally significant historical resource.
- The partnership model of cooperative management of cultural and natural resources develops a sense of stewardship that exists within the local community and among partners that assures the health of the Reserve into the future.

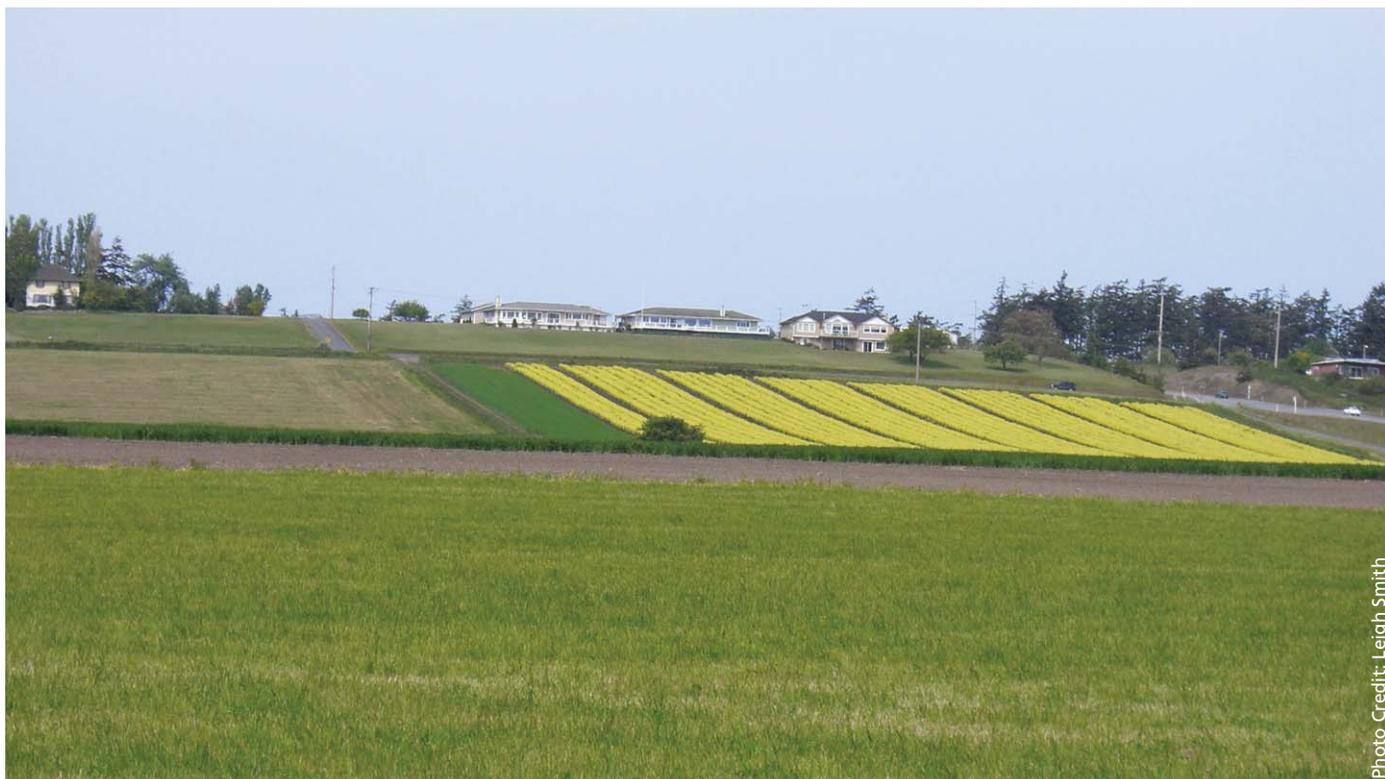


Photo Credit: Leigh Smith

The impetus to protect the cultural landscape that became Ebey’s Reserve came from local citizens’ initiative to halt a housing development slated for Ebey’s Prairie.

## Desired Visitor Experience

**Desired visitor experiences describe what physical, intellectual, and emotional experiences should be available for visitors to Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. These experiences will be available to visitors of all abilities, including those with visual, auditory, mobility, or cognitive impairments.**

Visitors to Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve will have opportunities to:

- Have advance access to maps and orientation information through a variety of media, in a variety of locations, including websites, exhibits at the ferry terminals, and published guides that will assist them in planning a trip to Whidbey Island and the Reserve, thereby maximizing their time, enjoyment, and understanding of the resources.
- Safely enjoy a variety of accessible, sustainable, recreational experiences.
- Enjoy solitude, dark night skies, prairie landscapes, and ocean vistas.
- Hike and bike across the entire Reserve on an integrated trails system.
- Go to an Ebey's Reserve visitor center to receive an orientation to the Reserve and to get maps and basic history of the area.
- Purchase Ebey's Reserve branded fresh local produce and products.
- Participate in hands-on educational experiences and weekend demonstration of historic events to better understand the natural and human history of the Reserve.
- Experience what it was like to be a pioneer on the prairie – eat the food they would have eaten.
- Enjoy the beautiful scenery including prairies, mountains and water.
- Feel the continuity and stability of the place.
- Experience a day on a farm in the Reserve - meet a farmer and plow a field with a tractor.
- Discover the history and stories of the people who have lived here for thousands of years.
- Explore the different landscapes and discover how they were formed.
- Enjoy a self-guided tour of the Reserve.
- See and explore the historic buildings, structures, and farms found throughout the Reserve.

## Reserve Visitors

**This is a broad description of Reserve visitors and their needs – including current and potential visitors as well as local residents. “Visitor” describes anyone who uses a site’s interpretation and educational services whether in person or “virtually” through digital technologies.**

Approximately one million visitors come to Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve annually. This figure is based on a five-year (2003-2008) average of data collected by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. Washington State Parks (Fort Ebey, Ebey’s Landing, and Fort Casey), is the only agency that currently collects visitation statistics within the Reserve. Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve does not report visitor use statistics

to the NPS Public Use Statistics Office.

Peak visitation is during May through September. High visitation periods also occur during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Visitation data from the 1995 University of Washington Visitor Survey and the 2007 NPS Visitor Survey Project study suggests most visitors drive to the Reserve and 93% come from within the state.

According to the 2006 General Management Plan visitors’ reasons for visiting the Reserve varied, but included the scenery, state parks, family, Coupeville Arts Festival, nature, history, and to look at real estate. The vast majority of visitors are not aware that the area is a national historical reserve. Of those places visited within the Reserve, the places having the highest number of visitors are the town

of Coupeville, followed by Fort Casey State Park, Coupeville Wharf, Fort Ebey State Park, the Admiralty Head Lighthouse, and Camp Casey. The least visited places are Crockett Lake, Sunnyside Cemetery, Prairie Wayside, Driftwood Park, and the Bluff Trail. Most visitors arrived by private vehicle (88%) with almost half (44%) coming via the Deception Pass bridge via State Route 20 from the north. About one-third arrived by ferry from Mukilteo. Only one-quarter sought information about the Reserve after they arrived in the Reserve. Most visitors spent two hours in the Reserve, while 30% spent three to four hours. Twenty-two percent were overnight visitors. The most common method of moving through the Reserve was by car (59%), but also walking, hiking, bicycling, and boating were mentioned.



Photo Credit: Mitch Richards

Many visitors come to the Reserve to attend special events like the Coupeville Arts Festival.

## Issues and Challenges Affecting Interpretation

**Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve has many assets upon which to build an effective interpretive program, including evocative and compelling stories, outstanding natural and cultural resources, ongoing research, and dedicated staff and supporters. It also faces a number of challenges. Well-designed programs can build on interpretive strengths to help overcome the challenges.**

### Funding

- Maintaining and acquiring property and easements.

### Agritourism/Farm to Table

- Most farmers do not have time to teach and support visitors coming to the farms.
- Is it practical to provide hands-on agritourism?
- Is agritourism sustainable?
- Is there enough interest within the farming community to support agritourism?

### Transportation

- Transportation to the island – ferry service may be reduced.
- Where will people be coming

from and how will they be getting to the Reserve?

### Volunteers

- Challenge to find quality people to get the job done.
- There is a finite capacity of labor on the island.
- Interpretive services throughout the Reserve are primarily provided by volunteers.

### Partnerships

- Partners need to collaborate and work together as a whole Reserve community.
- Partners need to share and provide more open access to information.



Photo Credit: Chris Smith

The Ferry House, located on Ebey's Prairie, was built on Isaac Ebey's donation land claim.

## Existing Conditions

### Landscape Character Areas

There are ten landscape character areas (see Appendix A) found within Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. Within this LRIP, one "prairie" area and one "woodland" area are recognized, reducing the total number of character areas to six. Ebey's Prairie and the West Coastal Strip have been the focus of interpretive services and programming. The three Washington State Parks, Scott's Bluff on the Nature Conservancy property, and the Ebey land claims have served as anchors along the western side of the Reserve. Coupeville is the center for visitor services, lodging, dining, and shopping. Many of the restaurants and shops feature Ebey's Reserve produce and products. Appendix B identifies the interpretive services currently offered in the Reserve by landscape character area.

#### Ebey's Prairie

The Ferry House was built on Isaac Ebey's donation land claim and was the site of the first ferry station. From 1860-1880 the house served as an inn, mail post, ferry stop, and salon. An old wagon trail still provides access to the beach and Ebey's Landing State Park. Closed to the public.

Jacob Ebey House and Blockhouse is still on the original donation land claim. The house has been restored to a ca. 1855 appearance. Closed to the public.

The view from Prairie Overlook is the iconic image of Ebey's Prairie and the Reserve. There

are wayside exhibits and a trailhead located at the parking area.

Prairie Wayside is located on the opposite side of Ebey's Prairie from the Overlook. Hedgerows obscure the breathtaking views of the prairie and the wayside area is continually subjected to vandalism and littering.

Sunnyside Cemetery overlooks Ebey's Prairie and is the burial site of many prominent historic figures including Jacob and Isaac Ebey and Captain Coupe. The Davis Blockhouse is located within the cemetery.

#### West Coastal Strip

Scott's Bluff, an NPS lease from the Nature Conservancy, is the most popular hike in the Reserve. Breathtaking views overlooking Ebey's Prairie, Perego Lake, and Puget Sound, and bald eagles circling overhead draw many visitors.

Ebey's Landing State Park is located along the beach on the western edge of the Reserve. The ferry came ashore here during the mid-19th century. Archaeological research has confirmed there was an American Indian village site. A spur trail provides access to Scott's Bluff. Due to its size and location the park has limited capacity for trail use and parking.

Fort Casey State Park forms the southwestern edge of the Reserve and was the site of the Kellogg donation land claim. Camping, picnicking, and spectacular views of Admiralty Inlet and the Strait

of Juan de Fuca draw hundreds of thousands of visitors annually. A coastal artillery post features two historic guns on display. The park also includes Keystone Spit, a two-mile-plus stretch of land separating Admiralty Inlet and Crockett Lake. Birding, diving, and fishing are popular activities along the Spit.

The Admiralty Head Lighthouse is located within Fort Casey State Park. Visitors can stamp their NPS Passport and tour the 1861 lighthouse.

#### Woodlands

Straddling the west coastal strip and the Kettle and Pratt woodlands, Fort Ebey State Park highlights the natural beauty of the Reserve. Visitors can stamp their NPS Passport and enjoy the many recreational opportunities such as camping, bicycling through the Kettles, picnicking, paragliding, and fishing on the beach. There is an amphitheater for evening programs and 28 miles of trails for hiking and mountain biking. Horseback riding is also allowed on some trails.

#### Penn Cove

Monroe's Landing was an American Indian village site thousands of years ago. Today there is a public boat launch into Penn Cove and beach access for swimming and clamming. Wayside exhibit panels describing the Indian village and Penn Cove are in good condition, just difficult to see from highway.

## Coupeville

Visitors can walk around the historic district featuring 19th century homes and store fronts. The Island County Museum is open daily and has an NPS passport station as well as Reserve exhibits and wayside exhibit panels. Visitors can shop or eat at a local restaurant featuring Ebey's Reserve-grown produce. Exhibits inside the Coupeville Wharf tell "Rosie's Story" about a gray whale and also Rudy, the dolphin. NPS passport stations are also located at the Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Coupeville offices.



Photo Credit: Leigh Smith

Inside the Coupeville Wharf, located on Penn Cove, visitors will find natural history exhibits, shops, and restaurants.

## Agritourism/Farm to Table

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve protects and preserves farms and agricultural values that were established more than 150 years ago. Sharing these values and providing the opportunity for local citizens and visitors to support the Reserve farms are key elements of an agritourism or "farm to table" program. Most of the activities associated with this program have been special events or specifically promoted by an

individual farm rather than having a Reserve-wide focus. The "Ebey's Forever" farm and barn tours and "Meet the Farmer" panel discussion are examples of Reserve-wide programs. During the summer 2008 and 2009 seasonal park rangers roved the farmers market talking about the Reserve. A new self-guided tour brochure of Ebey's farms will highlight for the first time all of the farms located within the Reserve.



Photo Credit: Chris Smith

Farmers markets bring the produce of Ebey's Reserve to local tables.

## Trails

There are 35 miles of trail within Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve offering visitors the opportunity to explore on foot, bicycle, and horseback, yet it is not an integrated system. Some of the trails are relatively flat and paved, while others are dirt paths that snake along the edge of the bluff. Using the trails visitors can travel through all of the landscape character areas except Penn Cove. Although no water trails are currently located within Penn Cove, Fort Ebey State Park is part of the Cascadia Marine Trail. The existing land trails cross public and private property making it difficult for visitors to know where they are within the Reserve, much less that they are actually in the Reserve. Different partners maintain the trails and each agency uses its own trail marking system adding to the visitors' confusion. During the right weather and tidal conditions visitors can walk one way along eight miles

of beach from Fort Ebey to Fort Casey. They cannot return by walking along the bluff above the same beach using a single trail. A Reserve trail concept plan was outlined in 2003. The Island County trail plan and the Whidbey Island Scenic Route are not mentioned in the plan.

## Marketing, Orientation and Access to Information and Interpretation

### Marketing

Ebey's Reserve does not have a well-known identity or marketing strategy. Because the Reserve is founded on partnerships, the partners struggle to maintain their own identity as well as to reflect a single "Reserve" identity. Many partners are reluctant to emphasize the connection to the National Park Service. The NPS arrowhead is not seen by most people as a unifying symbol. The Trust Board logo is used periodically on signs and publications.

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve is not acknowledged in the majority of tourist publications produced by local groups, communities, or agencies located within the Reserve including: 2008-2009 Whidbey/Camano Islander, Island County Museum brochure, Whidbey Island Farm Map and Guide, Lavender Wind Farm brochure, and North and Central Whidbey Island Map. The Island County Bicycle Touring Map has the area where the office is located marked as the Reserve. The 2008-2009 Whidbey Island Newcomers and Visitors Guide has two mentions of the Reserve, but only as invitation to attend the "Ebey's Forever" conference.

The Reserve informs the public of upcoming events and special programs through public service announcements sent to area newspapers, radio stations, and television stations. Most information is distributed through press releases in the newspapers. Posters are placed throughout the Reserve advertising interpretive programs. E-mail and the website are also used to promote programs. The Reserve has limited staff and resources to handle large outreach efforts.

### Signs

#### *Reserve Identity*

The Trust Board logo, rather than the NPS arrowhead, is currently used to identify many sites within the Reserve. The two major recreational destinations within the Reserve, Fort Casey State Park and Fort Ebey State Park, exclude signs that indicate they are part of the Reserve. The sign for the Town of Coupeville, the heart of Ebey's Reserve at the corner of Main and State Road 20, also excludes any text or graphic element that connects it

with the Reserve. Rhododendron Park, a future trail connector, is completely sign-free (from the highway), and Ebey's Landing State Park has no identifying sign.

#### *Entrance Signs*

Ebey's Reserve has four entrance signs, on State Road 20 at the north and south entrances to the Reserve and two at Crockett Lake. These are the only road guide signs that inform people they are within the Reserve. The signs are dated, in poor condition, and include the trust board logo as the dominant identity.

#### *Directional Signs*

Directional signs, except for a few county road markers, are non-existent within the Reserve boundary. There are no signs to direct you to visitor information or to visitor destinations. A small visitor information sign on Main Street, which is visible from State Road 20, is for the Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce and visitors may obtain a Reserve brochure from this location. Directional signs for the two state parks exist, but exclude any connection to the Reserve.



One of four entrance signs located within the Reserve.

### *Ferry Terminals*

No directional or entrance signs are apparent at either of the Whidbey Island ferry landings. The Clinton-Mukilteo and Port Townsend-Keystone Ferries have limited quality, interpretive information inside the ferry terminals and on the ferries. Also limited is the quantity of information available at the various ferry landings. There has been no significant effort to educate ferry goers or pedestrians near the ferry landings or within the ferry terminals themselves. Each ferry offers minimal interpretation of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. Numerous brochures are offered for various sites throughout Whidbey Island and the Puget Sound. The Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce continually stocks the Reserve unigrid brochures at the Keystone Landing ferry terminal, on the Port Townsend ferry, and at the Coupeville Wharf.

There is a three-sided kiosk outside the Port Townsend-Keystone Ferry Terminal featuring orientation information on the reserve concept, map of the Reserve and an interpretive panel on the Washington State Ferry System.

### Traveler Information Service

In 2007, the Reserve Traveler Information System (TIS) was upgraded. The Island County Historical Society, through a Cooperative Agreement with the Reserve, is now responsible for maintaining and updating the TIS. Segments advertise upcoming events and reflect the cultural heritage (Theme 1) of the Reserve.

### Website

The Reserve official NPS website ([www.nps.gov/ebla](http://www.nps.gov/ebla)) is a very popular way for visitors to access information. Virtual visitors can learn about Reserve history, planning projects, and to find directions to the Reserve. The Reserve staff has been working to upgrade and improve the NPS website; however, the content is primarily information that does not need to be changed very often. Interpretive activities and programs are not posted on the website. There is an orientation video on the website that provides visitors with an opportunity to see the diversity of the Reserve and learn a little about the history.

There is also a locally produced "Ebey's Forever" website ([www.ebeysforever.com](http://www.ebeysforever.com)) that is used primarily for the annual conference. This can be confusing for visitors if they do a search and find both websites listed.

### **Visitor Center**

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve does not have its own visitor center. Instead there are many different locations where visitors can get information about the Reserve including the Admiralty Head Lighthouse, Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce, Fort Casey and Fort Ebey State Parks, Coupeville Wharf, Island County Museum, and the Coupeville Library. Because each of these partner locations also has their own mission to fulfill, Reserve-specific orientation and information may be limited.

### **Interpretive Media**

**There is interpretive media located within the Reserve, including:**

#### Publications

The current Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve brochure was locally designed, produced and distributed. Harpers Ferry Center is working with Reserve staff to create an official NPS Map and Guide. The new brochure will be available in September 2009. Once the brochure is completed, Reserve staff will be able to easily re-order as well as update and revise it.

A variety of Reserve-produced publications that are primarily informational rather than interpretive, are available at the Reserve office, the Coupeville Library, Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce, Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce, the Island County Museum, and the Coupeville Wharf. These publications include:

- Central Whidbey's Archaeological Heritage
- Naturalist's Guide: Fall and Winter at Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve
- Naturalist's Guide: Spring and Summer at Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve
- Traces of the Chinese in the Reserve
- Hedgerows
- Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve: Self-Guided Walking Tour of Historic Coupeville
- Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve: A Driving and Bicycling Tour

- The driving and bicycling tour is the only form of interpretive media that includes all of the Reserve's landscape character areas.

Reserve partner-produced publications cover military history and coastal ecology:

- *Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Your Guide to Fort Casey State Park (9/98)*  
*Coast Artillery Forts: A Century of Service (8/99)*  
*Fort Ebey State Park (9/02)*  
*Whidbey Island's Admiralty Head Lighthouse*
- *WSU Island County Extension Service and Island County Marine Resources Committee Beaches and Bluffs: Living on the Edge Island County Rosie's Story*
- *Getting to the Water's Edge on Whidbey & Camano Islands* is a sales item that makes reference to the Reserve on page 42 and page 47.

### Junior Ranger Program

In 2008 an Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve Junior Ranger booklet was developed and printed. Badges were also purchased. During the summer 2009 seasonal interpreters will update and finalize the program.

A Puget Sound Junior Ranger booklet has been drafted. The booklet will feature all parks, including Ebey's Reserve, that are located on the Sound.

### Wayside Exhibits

Wayside exhibits at Ebey's Reserve have been the predominant form of interpretation since the Reserve was created in 1978. They serve three different roles: as confirmation that visitors are in a national park, as visitor contact stations that provide information about the Reserve, and as visitor orientation that explains where visitors can go and how to get there. All three functions are very important to visitors. However, because of the limited space on a wayside panel, they accomplish these tasks marginally well. Wayside exhibits are best at conveying site-specific information and leaving other information to other media or other modes of communication.

The general condition of approximately 36 wayside exhibits that exist in the Reserve is average to poor. A majority of the fiberglass panels exposed to the elements (not under protected kiosk shelters) have become badly worn and faded. The bases (again, not under protected kiosk shelters) are scratched, chipped, and the paint has lost its luster and is beginning to chalk on many of the exhibits.

The Reserve contains three different eras of waysides. The earliest of the series (1988) is the simple black on khaki. Because of their age, the content of the exhibits has become outdated and ineffective. Their site-specific stories could be improved. The graphic treatment is not very effective, partly due to the technology of the time. The second era (1998) of exhibits is probably the most damaged of the three. Their effectiveness in

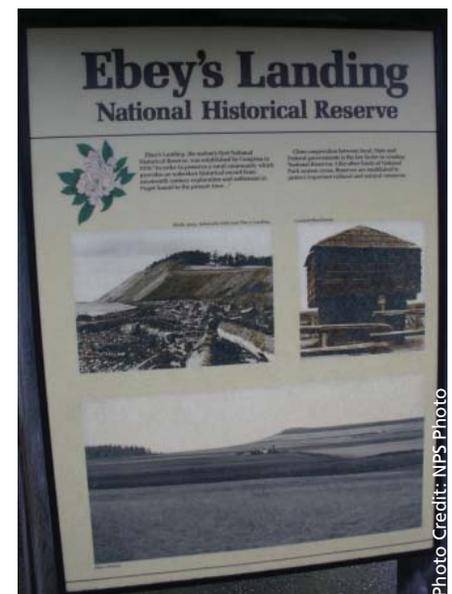
interpreting the story is not as poor as the earlier series, but because of their condition, they are becoming eyesores on the landscape. The last series (2003), of which there is only one exhibit in the Reserve, is well-designed and closely matches the current NPS wayside exhibit standards.

### Exhibits

A one hundred-square foot orientation exhibit was produced in 1995 and is located in the entry of the Island County Historical Museum. The exhibit is rated as unacceptable in the NPS Media Inventory Database System, because it was never finished. A three-minute video was designed; however, it was never produced.

### Artifact Collection

Ebey's Reserve does not have an artifact collections or archives within the Reserve. The Reserve has no facility to house archives or collections. The Reserve requests assistance from the Pacific West Regional Curator when objects or items are received.



In 1988 the first wayside exhibit panels were installed.

The Island County Historical Society Museum has a photographic collection and archives that includes Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, Island County, and neighboring communities located on Whidbey Island. These collections are available as negatives, prints, and exhibit or microfiche format. The Reserve office has a collection of photographs that are 35mm slides, negatives and prints.

### Personal Services

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve does not submit interpretive program statistics to the NPS Servicewide Interpretive Report.

### Curriculum-based Education Program

Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve does not

currently offer curriculum-based education programs.

During the late 1980s, seventeen lesson plans were created through a partnership between the Trust Board, Coupeville School District and the National Society of Colonial Dames. The lesson plans were directed toward middle and high school students and focus on the cultural heritage (Theme 1), living landscape (Theme 2), and historical reserve concept (Theme 4). Associated activities were developed targeted to kindergarten, third-grade, and fifth-grade students. Supplemental materials, including stories, maps and timelines, were also created. These lesson plans and activities are not being used in the classroom or in the Reserve. They would need to be revised, updated, and formatted before being offered to schools.

### Programs

In summer 2008 interpretive programs were presented in the Reserve by two NPS Centennial seasonal employees and one Fort Casey State Park volunteer.

The NPS seasonals were stationed primarily in Coupeville and on Ebey's Prairie. They offered three one-hour guided walks per day: Bluff Trail and Jacob Ebey House, Ebey's Landing State Park and Ferry House, and Historic Coupeville. The programs were not well advertised and consequently not well attended. When the Historic Coupeville tour was cancelled due to lack of visitors, a demonstration of how to make blockhouse roof shakes was presented. Many visitors appreciated seeing how the shakes were made and understanding more about the history of the Alexander Blockhouse. Evening programs



Photo Credit: Chris Smith

At Fort Casey State Park visitors can go on fort walks, beach programs, and more.

were presented at Fort Ebey State Park amphitheater on Friday and Saturday nights during July and August. Approximately 30-40 people attended each program. Most visitor contacts were made when the seasonals roved the Bluff Trail, Perego Lake, and the Keystone Ferry terminal.

A variety of programs were presented at Fort Casey including fort walks, lighthouse history talks, beach programs, nature walks and an evening slide program. Sixty-six programs were presented to a total of 1,274 people.

The Island County Historical Society presents regular historical programming for all ages. A new public program, where oral histories are recorded in an informal and open atmosphere has been especially popular, routinely drawing crowds of 60 or more per event.

## Staffing

The staff at the Reserve consists of the Reserve Manager, an office assistant, and a three-quarter-time education and outreach coordinator. These positions report to and are funded by the Trust Board. An NPS Operations Manager is detailed to the Reserve and reports to the Pacific West Deputy Regional Director. The Operations Manager provides technical support to the Reserve staff.

Two NPS Centennial seasonal employees provided interpretive programs July through October 2008. Centennial seasonal employees will again be hired in 2009. The seasonal employees are the only staff in the Reserve wearing the NPS uniform.

## Partnerships

Partnerships provide the Reserve with opportunities to reach and educate the public about the history and significance of the Reserve. Though few of the partners' interpretive programs target the Reserve specifically, many programs overlap with the Reserve's primary themes.

Washington State Parks: Is one of four representative agencies that form the Trust Board. Fort Casey State Park, Ebey's Landing State Park, and Fort Ebey State Park are located within the Reserve. The Trust Board and State Park staffs collaborate on a wide variety of projects including weed control, Golden Paintbrush restoration activities, and wayside exhibit panels. During the summer NPS interpreters provide evening programs at the Fort Ebey amphitheater.

Town of Coupeville: Is one of four representative agencies that form the Trust Board. The town appoints three members to the Trust Board, provides financial supports to the Reserve per the Interlocal Agreement, and is an "Ebey's Forever" conference partner. The Trust Board provides technical support to the town's design review process. The town participates in quarterly Trust Board partner discussions, and bi-monthly meetings between the Reserve manager, town planner, and Island County planning department director. The Town of Coupeville works closely with the Trust Board on design review issues, and is partnering with the Reserve and Island County to develop a new Reserve-wide design review process. The town has hosted historic preservation

workshops for owners of historic properties located within the Reserve.

Island County: Is one of four representative agencies that form the Trust Board. Island County appoints four members to the Trust Board and provides financial supports to the Reserve per the Interlocal Agreement. Island County works closely with the Trust Board on design review issues, and is partnering with the Reserve and the Town of Coupeville to develop a new Reserve-wide design review process. Public works and other departments coordinate their Reserve activities and projects with Reserve staff on a select basis. Island County is an "Ebey's Forever" conference partner.

Island County Historical Society (ICHS): The Historical Society provides free and low-cost programs and special events, many of which feature the Reserve. ICHS oversees management and operations of the Reserve's Traveler Information System, informing visitors about current Reserve events and history; and is also an "Ebey's Forever" conference partner.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC): Works to restore golden paintbrush and other prairie plant species in the Ebey's Reserve area. TNC is also focused on removal of non-native species such as gorse, Scotch broom and English ivy. Conservancy volunteers serve as docents along the popular bluff trail, informing visitors about the area, and monitoring the preserve for appropriate use. TNC is partnering with Ebey's Reserve for volunteer restoration events.

Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce: Hosts and staffs a Visitor Information Center in Coupeville. They provide visitor information, distribute Reserve brochures including the unigrid, Ebey's Landing Driving Tour, Historic Coupeville Walking Tour, Farms of Ebey's, and conference materials, help publicize Reserve programs and events, and serve as an "Ebey's Forever" conference partner.

Island Transit: Offers free bus rides to everyone on main roadways throughout the Reserve and provide bike racks for cyclists. Island Transit provides access to Reserve sites including the Port Townsend-Keystone Ferry, Fort Casey, Coupeville Schools, and the Town of Coupeville.

WSU Island County Extension Service: Provides funding and support to programs in the Reserve including the Admiralty Head Lighthouse, Beach Watchers, Master Gardeners, Marine Resource Committee. Also serves as a member of the Whidbey Island Sustainable Agriculture Committee.

- Admiralty Head Lighthouse: Docents provide visitor access to the lighthouse and promote knowledge, appreciation, and understanding through tours, exhibits, events, research, and lighthouse restoration.
- Beach Watchers: Collect data on marine plants and animals, measure shore topography, evaluating water quality, talk with the public, conduct tours and classes, and remove invasive weeds from fragile estuaries. Beach Watchers

works to improve, maintain, and protect the thriving Puget Sound ecosystem through education, community outreach, stewardship, and research. In addition, Beach Watchers developed and manages the marine exhibits at the Coupeville Wharf.

- Master Gardeners: Staff a booth at the Coupeville Farmer's Market and a call line to educate home gardeners about sustainable methods to maintain a beautiful, functioning landscape. They also provide educational classes throughout the year.
- Marine Resources Committee: Established the Shore Stewards program to help shoreline property owners become ecologically sensitive and protect shoreline health.

Coupeville School District: Provides venue for events. The Trust Board has worked closely with teachers and students on Reserve-based curriculum and other special projects including History Day and the Building and Landscape Inventory DVD; now available to all Reserve residents and visitors.

Au Sable Institute: Provides a venue for events, participates in prairie restoration projects, donates plants for revegetation work, and is an "Ebey's Forever" conference partner.

Whidbey-Camano Land Trust: Works in collaboration with the Trust Board to acquire conservation easements in the Reserve and throughout Island County. The Trust participates as

a member of Reserve Sustainable Agriculture Committee, coordinates easement language, sets land protection priorities, leverages resources, and shares information. The Trust also monitors easements, serves as the lead in select prairie restoration activities within the Reserve and other land conservation programs, and is an "Ebey's Forever" conference partner.

Island County Tourism: Promotes Whidbey Island to visitors through brochures, press releases, and an interactive website, which includes lodging, activities, history, beaches, restaurants, and Reserve information.

Coupeville Historic Waterfront Association (CHWA): Has a virtual walking tour of Historic Coupeville available on their website, based on the Reserve's Historic Coupeville Walking Tour brochure, and is an "Ebey's Forever" conference partner. The association is a community of businesses, buildings, and homeowners focusing on putting Coupeville's unique location and architecture to work as a catalyst for economic growth and community pride. CHWA participates as a partner in sponsoring several Coupeville festivals including the Mussel Festival, Wharf Fest, and Penn Cove Water Festival.

Coupeville Farmer's Market: Provides access to fresh Reserve-grown foods. Reserve interpretation staff hosts an informational table each Saturday during market hours, free of charge. The Market participates in the Reserve agritourism working group, and is an "Ebey's Forever" conference partner.

Port of Coupeville: Manages the moorage marina and the Coupeville Wharf which hosts several marine exhibits provided by the WSU Island County Extension Beach Watchers, and is the location where whale watching tours depart. The marine exhibits include an underwater camera, various interpretive displays and two life-size, marine mammal skeletons.

SNO-ISLE Libraries – Coupeville Branch: Distribute Reserve brochures, is a program partner, and is an “Ebey’s Forever” conference supporter. The library Friends group hosts an educational series of programs throughout the year, and is a potential future partner for summer children’s programs.

Washington State Ferries: Provide visitor access to Reserve, provide rack space for Reserve brochures, and support a Reserve kiosk at the Port Townsend-Keystone Ferry terminal.

Coupeville Festival Association: Coordinates various events in Coupeville that bring many visitors to the Reserve. The goal of the Association is to enhance and promote local arts and crafts, and to help preserve the unique historic qualities of the Town of Coupeville. Proceeds from the festivals go back into the community through a grants program.

National Audubon Society, Whidbey Chapter: Hosts and coordinates a variety of educational events in the Reserve such as walks, talks, and tours relating to local birds and nature.

Whidbey Sea-Tac Shuttle: Offers special group tours of

the Reserve upon request, and provides transportation for special events around Puget Sound.

Pacific Northwest Art School: Hosts the annual Plein Air Painters’ US Open art event which features the Reserve, and curates annual art contest and exhibit in conjunction with the “Ebey’s Forever” conference. Provides art school courses in all mediums throughout the year; facility is located within the Reserve.

Whidbey Sustainable Agriculture Committee (WSAC): Is an informal agriculture advisory committee that was formed to address infrastructure issues impacting agriculture on Whidbey Island. Their mission is to provide leadership for agricultural profitability, sustainability, and land stewardship through the integration of agricultural producers and the island community. Reserve staff members participate in monthly meetings of the executive committee at Trust Board offices. WSAC hosts an annual Family Farms Forum community event and provides advisory support to the Island County Board of Commissioners.

Camp Casey – Seattle Pacific University: Works with the Reserve’s design review team on their campus facilities expansion planning including design, engineering, siting, green building, and other issues. The facility is located in the West Coastal Strip Landscape Character Area. The campus is an excellent example of cluster arrangement of military installation that retains a high

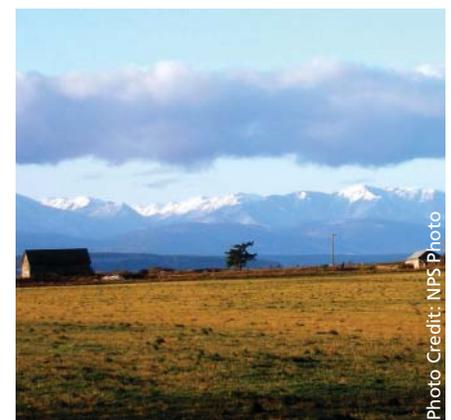
degree of integrity. Camp Casey’s expanded campus will include a wide-range of educational programming and partnering opportunities with Reserve. Initial programming discussions with the Reserve are underway.

Seventeen Farms of Ebey’s Reserve: Install “Ebey’s Grown” logo at farmers’ markets and are interested in developing and promoting agritourism in the Reserve. The Reserve promotes the farmers by hosting educational programs such as “Meet the Farmers” during the “Ebey’s Forever” conference, and publishing a Farms of the Reserve brochure.

B&B Lodging Association: Encourages visitors to participate in Reserve activities.

Coupeville Lions Club: Maintains Prairie Wayside; provides volunteers, technical support, and project coordination for the Reserve’s restoration field school; and is an “Ebey’s Forever” conference partner.

Central Whidbey Lions Club: Provides volunteer support on select Reserve projects.



Willowood is one of seventeen farms located within Ebey’s Reserve.

Coupeville Garden Club:  
Promotes wildlife-friendly gardening and maintains historic Coupeville's floral baskets.

Skagit Valley College:  
Coordinates Elderhostel visit to the Reserve.

Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation: Provides technical assistance on historic preservation and archaeology issues as requested, participates in Reserve historic preservation workshops and the "Ebey's Forever" conference, and is a consulting agency for Reserve Section 106 projects.

Whidbey Island Conservation District: Is a member of the Whidbey Sustainable Agriculture Committee, provides technical support to Reserve farmers, participates as lead agency on low impact development select projects in Reserve with town and county partners and developers, and is an "Ebey's Forever" conference partner.

Northwest Agricultural Business Center: Provides technical assistance to farms in the Reserve through a variety of programs including the development of "Whidbey Island Grown" brand.

Boys & Girls Club: Request that Reserve seasonal staff present summer programs.

Native Plant Society volunteers participate in an Ebey's Prairie revegetation project.

## Volunteers

The FY2008 NPS Volunteer-in-Parks report documented over 120 volunteers donating more than 3,500 hours at Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. Most of that time was donated by the volunteer Trust Board members. Partner groups also provide support to the Reserve including the Nature Conservancy, Coupeville Lions Club, Island County Museum, and the Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce. Washington State Parks volunteers as well as WSU Island County Extension Beach Watchers and Admiralty Head Lighthouse docents are not currently included in the NPS report. \$3000 is provided by the NPS annually to support the volunteer program.

Volunteers worked on many projects during FY2008: Community Restoration Field School, Alexander Blockhouse restoration, Protecting Rural Character Community workshop, prairie restoration, maintenance,

weed control, and the "Ebey's Forever" conference. Volunteer work teams meet monthly and focus on design review, sustainable agriculture, education and outreach, and capacity building. For the summer 2008 season, a volunteer manual was created for Fort Casey State Park. All of the 2008 interpretive programs at Fort Casey were presented by volunteers.

Most of the interpretive programs and services offered within the Reserve are provided by docents and volunteers. The Nature Conservancy docents rove the bluff, beaches, and Perego Lake. Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce volunteers staff the Chamber Visitor Information Station. WSU Island County Extension Beach Watchers provide education programs and rove Coupeville Wharf, Penn Cove beachfront, and the coastal beaches. Admiralty Head Lighthouse is staffed by WSU Island County Extension docents. Docents staff the Island County Museum.



Photo Credit: Leigh Smith

## Part Two: Actions/ Recommendations

*The “abruptness of the forests that surround (the prairies) give them the appearance of lands, which have been cleared and cultivated for hundreds of years.”*

Governor Governor Isaac Stevens, 1855  
Describing the prairies of Whidbey Island

*When I till, dig a hole, plant a seed, I’m doing the same things my great-grandfather did 100+ years ago on the same land. Now my children are continuing that tradition. To see and experience this connection to our agricultural past is something that many communities have lost. The reserve not only reminds us of our past, but creates hope for our remaining working rural landscapes.*

Georgie Smith, 4th generation Ebey’s Prairie Farmer  
Willowood Farm of Ebey’s Prairie

## The Planning Process

**In developing this Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP) as part of the Comprehensive Interpretive Planning process, a series of workshops was conducted with Reserve staff, NPS staff, local constituents, and partners.**

The Project Agreement was signed in 2004. A Foundations workshop was held in March 2005 and a Recommendations workshop was held in December 2005. Reserve staff, partners, Pacific West Region NPS staff, and two media specialists from Harpers Ferry Center participated in the 2005 workshops. Due to changes in Reserve management and the Trust Board, the project was put on hold in late 2007. The original planner accepted another position, and a new planner was assigned to the project in August 2008.

An update on the planning process was presented at the November 2008 “Ebey’s Forever” conference. More than 20 people, including Reserve residents, participated in the one-hour session. Two workshops were held in February 2009. During the first workshop nineteen participants updated the LRIP Foundation section. This meeting was also the first opportunity to brief the current Trust Board members on the planning process. The second workshop focused on identifying the existing condition of interpretive services within the Reserve as well as developing recommendations for the next seven to ten years. Using the five Reserve landscape character areas as a framework for the discussion, the twenty-five participants all worked together to propose realistic interpretive services. In April 2009 the implementation workshop was held. Twenty participants reviewed the recommendations, identified the top five priorities,

and grouped the task into short-term, mid-term, and long-term goals. The participants at all three of the 2009 workshops included Trust Board members, Reserve staff, NPS staff, park partners, farmers, Reserve residents, the Town of Coupeville and Island County officials, and interested local citizens.

Once the initial draft LRIP was completed in May 2009, it was used by the Trust Board to create annual implementation plans during their strategic planning workshop. The draft was made available for review by workshop participants, Reserve staff, and Pacific West Region NPS staff. The goal is to have the plan completed by the November 2009 “Ebey’s Forever” conference. This collaborative interpretive planning effort, and the thorough reviews, has produced a more comprehensive document to guide the Reserve’s interpretive program into the future.

Future interpretive services will include opportunities to discover and experience all of the different character areas of the Reserve including the uplands where cattle are raised.



Photo Credit: Amos Morgan

## Goals for Interpretive Programming

**After reviewing the contents of this LRIP's Part One, Reserve staff identified the following areas of focus that have not been adequately addressed. In order to enhance the effectiveness of the overall interpretive services in the Reserve, the following goals and issues must be addressed over the next 7 to 10 years:**

An integrated trail system will allow visitors to become immersed in all areas of the Reserve.



Photo Credit: Chris Smith

## Implement the Plan

Interpretive partnerships will play a key role in the implementation of the LRIP and also provide opportunities for enhanced interpretive products and services. A Reserve-wide LRIP team will be established to coordinate implementation; conduct an annual review; and update and revise the plan. Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is a primary partner within Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. To ensure that Reserve interpretive services are integrated and coordinated; the Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve LRIP has been vetted with the Fort Casey State Park Interpretive Plan.

## Use of Landscape Character Areas

The six primary landscape character areas (prairies, woodlands, uplands, coastal strip, Penn Cove and Coupeville) identified in the 2006 General Management Plan (see Appendix A) will be used along with the primary Reserve themes to identify future interpretive programs and services. While an emphasis will be placed on Ebey's Prairie, visitors will have a wide range of opportunities to discover and experience each unique character area.

## Expand Agritourism/Farm to Table Opportunities

Farms and agriculture are part of the life blood of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. Agritourism and the locally coined phrase "Farm to Table" opportunities are in their infancy within the Reserve. Throughout the next 7 to 10 years expanding the number and type of opportunities will be one of the Reserve's most important goals. Creating "Ebey's Reserve" branded products and produce; highlighting Ebey's farms through on-site tours and web-based programs; and expanding relationships between farms, markets, restaurants, and accommodations will provide visitors with a variety of sensory experiences and emphasize the importance of the living landscape (Theme 2).

## Create an Integrated Trail System

A variety of walking, biking, horseback, and hiking trails are located throughout the Reserve. Most of the trails

are not linked nor are they identified as being within the Reserve. During the next 7 to 10 years a Trust Board Advisory Committee will be established to complete a trail concept plan and create an integrated trail system within Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. Acquiring easements, creating an infrastructure, connecting existing trails, and actually improving and building trails will be a high priority. Providing visitors with access to become immersed in the natural resource will aid in understanding why Ebey's Reserve was established and provide opportunities for connections to all Reserve themes.

### **Improve Marketing, Orientation and Access to Information and Interpretation**

An important goal for providing interpretive services over the next 7 to 10 years is to improve orientation and access to basic Reserve information. No unified sign system exists to clearly identify Reserve farms, landscape character areas, structures, and historic sites, or provide information and clear directions to Reserve sites. A Master Sign Plan needs to be created to unify the many farms, landscape areas, partners, and agencies within the Reserve.

Establishing a Reserve-wide marketing team and developing an "Ebey's Reserve" campaign will promote a strong connection between the Reserve and the local community. Informing the Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve area

community about activities and events is an opportunity to create goodwill with local residents. It is also important that Reserve identity be addressed comprehensively when working with the community to address the actual and thematic relationship between the Reserve and local landowners (Theme 4).

An ever-increasing percentage of Reserve visitors are web users who visit Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve ([www.nps.gov/ebla](http://www.nps.gov/ebla)) seeking information. Many of these "virtual visitors" never actually come to the Reserve, but have their needs met solely through the website. The website should highlight the opportunities and experiences that are available to both on-site visitors and virtual visitors. A Reserve "web team" will establish a single comprehensive website that connects all of the partners.

Within the next 7 to 10 years, Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve will determine a location for a Reserve-wide visitor center. The function of a visitor center is to orient visitors to the Reserve and its resources, services, and attractions. Another purpose of a visitor center is to interpret the Reserve's stories and provide opportunities for personal connections to resource meanings and significance as described by interpretive themes. Visitor centers emphasize those story elements that are best told by indoor interpretive media. Visitor centers provide a human point of contact as well as special and visual identity for the Reserve.

### **Upgrade and Improve Interpretive Media**

#### Wayside Exhibits

Wayside exhibits tell the Reserve story on location. They "caption the landscape" and help visitors make direct connections with resources and their meanings. Wayside exhibits provide round-the-clock information and interpretation, and with appealing high quality design, writing, and graphics, they can serve to instill and reinforce respect for important resources. In association with good graphics, waysides can show what a site looked like at different points in time. In addition, temporary waysides can be developed inexpensively to interpret construction and restoration/preservation projects. A Reserve-wide wayside exhibit proposal is recommended to ensure the development of a complete, high-quality, and unified system of waysides with an Ebey's Reserve identity. The proposal will provide an in-depth assessment of all potential wayside exhibit sites. It includes both informational and interpretive exhibits. The document also can set priorities to guide wayside development in phases as funding allows. The proposal will describe the purpose of each wayside exhibit, identify graphics available for use, show thumbnail design concept drawings, and determine exact exhibit sizes, base styles, and locations. A detailed budget estimate would also be part of the document.

## Publications

Visitors typically use publications in two ways: for information and orientation during their visit, and for in-depth interpretation following their visit. The Reserve's size, access issues, and number of stories to tell make publications an effective method of interpretive delivery. Publications are a means for getting information to diverse audiences through a variety of formats. All brochures, site bulletins, maps, rack cards, and other publications should meet the Ebey's Reserve graphic identity standards determined by the marketing team. It is important that Reserve identity be addressed comprehensively to address the unique nature of an historical reserve (Theme 4).

## Audiovisual

Audiovisual media are well suited to the presentation of chronological and sequential material. They can capture realism, provide emotional impact, and create a mood or atmosphere. Also they can reach the many visitors who are now using computers, cell phones, GPS units, iPods, MP3 players, and a variety of other technological systems for entertainment, information, orientation, and interpretation. In response to the growing demand for these services, the Reserve needs to offer portable "individualized" audio and/or audiovisual opportunities. Using new technology will possibly create opportunities for a more diverse audience to experience park resources than ever before.

These services will allow visitors to access more Reserve resources and meanings at their convenience.

In response to former NPS Director Mary Bomar's memo of October 20, 2006 on the "Audiovisual Accessibility Initiative for Visitors with Disabilities," staff should initiate steps to assure that the Reserve's current and future audiovisual programs are meeting accessibility requirements. For more information, see the website for Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for National Park Service Interpretive Media at [www.nps.gov/hfc/accessibility/index.htm#](http://www.nps.gov/hfc/accessibility/index.htm#). Audio provides intellectual access to visually impaired visitors and can be more effective for reaching visitors whose preferred learning style is auditory rather than visual. Audio descriptions could also be used to narrate the text of a wayside exhibit and describe the graphics seen on the panels as well as describe the surrounding view that prompted the need to tell the story.

### **Provide Personal Services**

Interpreters are the best interactive tool in enabling visitors to experience, understand, appreciate, and make personal connections with the resource. Seasonal roving docents and interpreters along the Bluff, the Wharf, and in other Reserve areas will increase opportunities to help visitors make personal connections with the resources. Education programs and special events will

be increased covering a wider range of landscape character areas and thematic connections will be established.

The diversity of the Reserve's resources and themes presents almost limitless opportunities for both standard and innovative interpretive activities. As staffing levels permit, and in keeping within the parameters of the interpretive themes and visitor experience goals, docents, volunteers, and interpreters throughout the Reserve should be given a high degree of creative freedom to explore and experiment with new programs. This will help to maintain a creative edge and attract new and returning audiences. NPS Centennial-funded seasonal employees should allow the Reserve to increase the numbers of programs offered as well as diversify the programming.

There is great potential to experiment with the development of programs related to agriculture, the landscape character areas, Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve history, military history, and the stories of the people who have lived, and continue to live in the Reserve. Since personal services interpretive programs are relatively easy to change, the activities should be evaluated on a regular basis to discontinue those that are not effective, modify or improve those that require it, and validate those that are successful.

## Action Plan over the Next 7-10 Years

During the 2009 Recommendations workshop, the participants agreed to divide the actions necessary to implement the recommendations into short-term (1-3 years), mid-term (3-5 years), and long-term (5-10 years) goals. Some actions will be undertaken immediately and others will be on-going. Lead agencies were defined to implement the recommendations.

### Actions to Implement the Long-Range Interpretive Plan

- Form an LRIP team to coordinate implementation, conduct annual review, and update and revise plan as needed.
- Link to Fort Casey State Park Interpretive Plan.

### Actions to Expand Agritourism/Farm to Table Opportunities

Leads: Farmers, Ebey’s Reserve – Agriculture Committee, Whidbey Sustainable Agriculture Committee, Northwest Agriculture Business Center, Washington State Department of Agriculture

#### Short-term:

- Connect local chefs with farmers and lodging to host “farm dinners”, slow food dinners, and “Taste of the Prairie” interpretive dinners.
- Sell “Ebey’s Reserve” branded products and produce.
- Produce, interpret, and sell heirloom crops including sugar squash and Rockwell beans.
- Integrate stories with produce.

- Interpret historic barns and explain how they were built.
- Explain the color of the soil and why it is so fertile.
- Explain the importance of farming to the natural area.
- Conduct a Reserve-specific farm tour.
- Label booths at farmers markets so people will recognize Reserve farms.
- Staff interpretation booth at farmer’s market.
- Improve crop signs and include within the Master Sign Plan.
- Connect Reserve farms with schools and hospitals to educate public about how the food goes from farm to cafeteria.

#### Mid-term:

- Host “Experiencing Ebey’s Farms” - a seasonally scheduled series of guided sensory farm walks.
- Host First Saturday events that highlight one farm each month.
- Establish a tasting room.
- Establish a tasting garden.

#### Long-term:

- Present farming demonstrations so visitors can watch a field being plowed, mowed, and threshed.
- Present a living history program using farm machinery.
- Set up Reserve webcam and show time lapse photography of crops and animals growing.
- Develop short audio- and video-casts using current technologies to highlight Reserve agriculture programs and products.

### Actions to Create an Integrated Trail System

Leads: Ebey’s Reserve Trust Board with Advisory Committee, NPS, Washington State Parks

#### Short-term:

- Complete trail concept plan.

#### On-going:

##### Trail Implementation

- Prioritize phases and identify missing links.
- Acquire property and/or easements.
- Include all of the existing trails/walks – historic Coupeville, Broadway, AuSable, Rhododendron Park, county trails, and Naas Preserve.

##### Trail Infrastructure

- Facilities
- Standards
- Policies
- Signs
- Maps

##### Build trails

- Provide multi-use trails – walking, bicycling, horseback riding, and hiking.
- Create new trailheads at Island Transit Park and Ride, and Prairie Wayside.
- Improve Kettles trailhead.
- Create bluff trail from Fort Ebey to Fort Casey.
- Create a water trail.

## Actions to Improve Marketing, Orientation and Access to Information and Interpretation

### Signs

- Create a sign element throughout the Reserve that indicates the landscape character area one is traveling through.
- Develop a Master Sign Plan for the Reserve including a sign assessment, sign condition plan, determination of needs, sign location, and sign drawings that would be used by all partners.
  - Identity signs including entrance signs.
  - Motorist guidance signs including Reserve boundaries.

### Marketing

Leads: Ebey’s Reserve Trust Board, Partners, NPS, Washington State Ferries, Island County Historical Society, Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce

#### Short-term:

- Establish a Reserve marketing team.
- Develop a marketing strategy including a Reserve identity and graphic design standards.

#### Mid-term:

- Develop a “Located in Ebey’s Reserve” logo and brand that can be used throughout the Reserve.
- Develop a local resident and business owner awareness and education program that may include bumper stickers and buttons featuring slogans such as “Proud resident

of Ebey’s Reserve” and “Ask me about Ebey’s Reserve.”

#### Long-term:

- Update and revise signs and publications.
- Conduct local and regional outreach.

#### On-going

- Use the ferry terminals to convey interpretive history and stories about Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve.
- Use the Traveler’s Information System (TIS) to communicate stories and information.
- Hold annual conference.

### Website

Leads: Ebey’s Reserve Trust Board and NPS

#### Short-term:

- Establish a Reserve “webteam” that will assess and determine content and layout.
- Identify web manager for the Reserve NPS website ([www.nps.gov/ebla](http://www.nps.gov/ebla)).
- Determine how many websites are currently connected to the Reserve and decide which one will be the primary one.
- Link to all partner sites.
- Develop a comprehensive website that visitors can use to plan their trip prior to visiting the Reserve.
- Establish business partners, internships, and volunteer opportunities.
- Create an “Ebey’s Seasons” section that includes what’s growing and why, heritage recipe of the week, where can you buy our produce

and homemade crafts, where can you taste our local food, where can you visit with a farmer, what is going on in the winter, canning, what are heirlooms, what’s going on in the barns, and more.

- Update online map and basic information to capture the essence of the Reserve.

#### Mid-term:

- Create a virtual “walk” through the six landscape character areas.
- Create a 360° virtual tour of the Ferry House interior.
- Identify and establish links to further themes in the Reserve.

#### Long-term:

- Set up a Reserve webcam and show time lapse photography of crops and animals growing.
- Create a “terra server” including a 3-dimensional view of the Reserve that has interactive features visitors can “click” on for detail about Reserve sites and features.
- Create a scale map of the Reserve with distances, elevation, terrain, and orientation.

### Visitor Center

Leads: Ebey’s Reserve Trust Board, NPS and Washington State Parks

#### Short-term:

- Finalize and secure visitor center site.
- Identify partners.
- Well trained, friendly, knowledgeable staff.

- Record and maintain oral histories including videos and interviews.
- Develop temporary exhibits.
- Develop a Visitor Center Media Concept Plan for building and grounds. The Concept Plan will provide detailed recommendations for determining how people will experience the site and learn of its significance, events, and context. Recommendations for interpretive media will include interior and exterior exhibits, wayside exhibits, and digital media.

Mid-term:

- Develop “Welcome to Ebey’s Reserve” interpretive film.
- Provide sense of place with 3-dimensional map and interactive exhibits.
- Facility operations: identity as a visitor center; focal point of Reserve; and consistent hours of operation.
- Preservation and continued use of historically appropriate garden plantings and native plants.
- Interpret Native American agriculture practices including land use of the prairie (burning and harvest).
- Maintain a well lit and clean building.

Long-term:

- Provide retail sales of Reserve products.
- Act as a model highlighting sustainable efforts within the Reserve.

**Actions to Upgrade and Improve Interpretive Media**

Wayside Exhibits:

- Update the 1990 Wayside Exhibit Plan.
- Develop exterior interpretation at Ferry House that includes wayside exhibits.
- Develop wayside exhibit panels for each of the six landscape character areas and include appropriate stories associated with each area: ships, Brooklyn and Chicago, native plants, Fort Casey, Admiralty Head Lighthouse, Fort Ebey, and prairie restoration.
- Develop a wayside exhibit at Grasser’s Hill describing and showing what had been in this area, and why we have protective easements across the hillside.
- Develop a wayside exhibit describing the Mussel Farm on Penn Cove.
- Develop a roadside pullout that describes the history of the San de Fuca area.
- Develop a series of wayside exhibit panels for Coupeville including the Krueger Farm, Front Street, Prairie Center, and Main Street.
- Continue to include panels that provide information about the significance of the Reserve.
- Maintain existing wayside exhibit panels.

Publications:

- Develop, print, and distribute a Ferry House publication.
- Develop, print and distribute the “Farms of Ebey’s” self-guided tour including a section on donation land claims.

- Create a brochure detailing pre-1850 and 1850-2008 agriculture practices emphasizing the crops, soils, and seasonal detail during each time period. Once completed, print and publish on website.

Audiovisual

- Develop an audio tour of the Reserve.
- Develop an audiovisual program about the Reserve.
- Create a “Birding by Ear” forest audio tour.
- Create a “Hearing Ebey’s Reserve” audio tour that would include all landscape areas.

Exhibits

- Create a visitor contact station at Jacob Ebey House including interior exhibits.

**Actions to Improve Personal Services**

Programs

- Use living history docents to portray historical town residents, tell their stories, and interact with each other and visitors.
- Conduct mountain biking tours and rides through all six landscape character areas on annual basis including various levels of difficulty and distance.
- Conduct Fort Ebey, Fort Casey, and Admiralty Head Lighthouse guided walking tours.
- Interpret sheep farm stories including herding dog demonstrations.
- Conduct a native plant van tour of Keystone Spit in the spring.

### Education

- Create a teacher’s packet about the Reserve.
- Establish a Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program.
- Identify what agencies are providing curriculum-based education programs within the Reserve and evaluate the effectiveness of the programs.
- Develop and provide curriculum-based education programs.
- Develop and post online curriculum.
- Continue to provide and perhaps expand water quality issues education programs. Programs are currently provided by WSU Island County Extension Beach Watchers at the Coupeville

### Wharf.

- Coordinate education programs between agencies: WSU Island County Extension Beach Watchers, Island County Historical Society, Au Sable, and Ebey’s Reserve.

### Special Events

- Develop portable temporary interpretive panels for use during Reserve special events.
- Determine the role that the Reserve will play at special events and how to tell Reserve stories.
- Host Native Peoples Gathering as a part of Penn Cove Water Fest. Provide storytelling, canoeing,

“bones” tournament, and basket weaving.

- Establish “Rural Recollections” - an ongoing oral history event open to public in Coupeville.
- Organize a Founder’s Day Festival.
- Present living history re-enactments or programs and tours using local History Day students (similar to what Roger Sherman does at the museum on Memorial Day).
- Host artist days on the prairies, at the lighthouse and at Fort Casey.
- Host murder mysteries at the lighthouse that are tied to the history.



Photo Credit: Mitch Richards

In the future living history docents may portray historical residents and share the stories of the residents’ experiences within Ebey’s Reserve.

## Research and Evaluation Needs

**In order to fully accomplish the actions included in this plan, the Reserve needs research on the following topics:**

- Conduct cultural traditions resource assessment with Washington State Arts Commission, Northwest Folklife, and/or other appropriate partners.
- Determine best methodology to collect and record Reserve visitation data. The Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce and the Island County Economic Development Commission

do not keep Reserve-specific visitor statistics. They use data from Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Washington State Ferries and other sources. The current data collected in the Washington State Park units does not represent the Reserve as a whole, only three individual sections located on the western side of the Reserve. Once a Reserve visitor center is established, then visitor data collection methodology should be developed in cooperation with the NPS Office of Public Use Statistics.

**In order to fully accomplish the actions included in this plan, the Reserve needs to evaluate several interpretive services and products including the following:**

- Conduct front end evaluation to determine use of Jacob Ebey House. Get input from the Trust Board first and then have focus groups during the conference. Consider using broad themes at the visitor center and more specific themes at the Ebey House.



Determining appropriate themes and uses for the Jacob Ebey House and Blockhouse will provide increased opportunities for visitors to better understand the historical landscape which appears much as it did more than 100 years ago.

## Staffing and Training Needs

### Permanent Staff

- Based upon a 2006 General Management Plan recommendation, an NPS OFS Request (#25764) has been submitted to hire a permanent, full-time Interpretation Specialist. This position may be hired in 2010.

### Volunteers:

- Establish a Reserve volunteer program.
- Determine how this program will be different and/or gain support from other local volunteer organizations.
- Expand Reserve-wide pool of interpretive volunteers.
- Provide beach volunteers at Fort Ebey.

### Training

- Need to establish a training framework and conduct a training needs assessment.
- Provide interpretive training.
- Provide resource-specific training.
- Provide visitor services training.
- Create a resource list.
- Create Reserve-specific training opportunities.
- Training should be open to all – paid staff and volunteers/ docents.

### Partnerships

- Establish a “Friends of Ebey’s Reserve” group.

## Implementation Plan

Actions items will be reviewed and integrated into annual work plans. During the May 2009 Trust Board Strategic Planning Workshop, these items were identified as short-term (1-3 year) priorities.

### 2009

- Publish the Long-Range Interpretive Plan.
- Establish working group to develop agritourism programs.
- Publish Farms of Ebey’s Reserve interpretive guide.
- Conduct annual community restoration field school.
- Continue to offer summer interpretive hikes.
- Continue to present evening interpretive talks at Fort Casey and Fort Ebey State Parks.

### 2010

- Offer agritourism programs such as “The Seasons of Ebey’s Reserve”.
- Establish Reserve trails team.
- Complete Integrated Trails Plan.
- Establish “Friends of Ebey’s Reserve” to support historic preservation and interpretation programs.
- Develop exhibit concept plan including interpretive themes and fabricate exhibits for Jacob Ebey House.

### 2011

- Install permanent exhibit at Jacob Ebey House.
- Develop Reserve Master Sign Plan.
- Expand number of agritourism programs offered.
- Develop reserve brand/label.
- Implement Trails program focusing on high priority trails.
- Acquire Visitor Center property based on 2010 assessment process.

### 2012

- Implement sign plan including fabrication and installation.
- Develop Visitor Center Media Concept Plan for building and grounds.

### Ongoing

- Host “Ebey’s Forever” conference.
- Provide annual interpretive training for partners and staff.
- Update website.
- Offer Junior Ranger programs.
- Increase number of participants and projects in the Volunteer-in-Parks program.
- Seek funding annually for LRIP recommendations.

## Planning Team

### **Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve**

Mark Preiss, Reserve Manager  
Emi Morgan, Education and Outreach Coordinator  
Karen Hossfeld, Administrative Assistant  
Craig Holmquist, NPS Operations Manager  
Leigh Smith, NPS Operations Manager (retired)  
Gretchen Luxenberg, NPS Superintendent (transferred)  
Rob Harbour, former Reserve Manager  
Rachael Protas, 2008 NPS seasonal employee  
Chris Smith, 2008 NPS seasonal employee

### **Trust Board of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve**

Jan Pickard, Chair, Town of Coupeville Representative  
Hank Florence, NPS Representative  
Jon Roberts, Town of Coupeville Representative  
Molly Hughes, Town of Coupeville Representative  
Marilyn Clay, Secretary, Island County Representative  
Al Sherman, Treasurer / Auditing Officer, Island County Representative  
Lisa Meserole, Island County Representative  
Fran Einterz, Vice Chair, Island County Representative  
Jim Neill, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Representative  
John Krambrink, former Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission Representative

### **Pacific West Region**

Lynne Nakata, Interpretive Specialist

### **Harpers Ferry Center**

Toni Dufficy, Interpretive Planner (Team Captain)  
Chad Beale, Graphic Designer  
David T. Gilbert, Web Manager (transferred)  
Katherine Brock, Interpretive Planner (transferred)

### **Partners and Friends**

Steve Ellis, President, Whidbey Island Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
Lindy Kortus, Marketing Coordinator, Island County Tourism  
Lynda Eccles, Executive Director, Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce  
Kimberly Martin, Public Affairs Officer, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island  
Nancy Conard, Mayor, Town of Coupeville  
Rick Castellano, Executive Director, Island County Historical Society  
Helen Price-Johnson, Commissioner, Island County  
Graham Johnson, Beach Watchers, WSU Island County Extension  
Pat Powell, Executive Director, Whidbey Camano Land Trust  
Aaron Terada, Park Manager, Fort Ebey State Park  
Sally Straathof, Volunteer Interpreter, Fort Casey State Park  
Ken Hageman, Park Manager, Fort Casey State Park  
Adam Lorio, Interpretive Specialist, Deception Pass State Park  
Sarah Martin, Beach Watchers Program Coordinator, WSU Island County Extension  
Judy Feldman, Interim Director, WSU Island County Extension  
Gloria Wahlin, Admiralty Head Lighthouse Docents Program Coordinator, WSU Island County Extension  
Alan and Elizabeth Hancock, Reserve Farmers, Hancock Farm

Dan Germano, Owner, Island Productions  
James Johnson, General Manager, Whidbey SeaTac Shuttle  
Christie Sears, High School Counselor, Coupeville High School  
Mary Beth Budzynski, Volunteer, Central Whidbey Chamber of Commerce  
Karen Bishop, Reserve Farmer and Manager, Whidbey Island Conservation District  
Linda Bartlett, Rosehip Farm and Garden  
Marshall Bronson, Owner, Compass Rose  
Georgie Smith, Reserve Farmer, Willowood Farm  
Lynda and Mitch Richards, Owners, Lovejoy Inn  
Sarah Richards, Owner, Lavender Wind Farm  
George Lloyd  
Anne Harvey, Board President, Community Foundation for CPS  
Susan Berta, Orca Network  
George Haglund  
Joann Roomes  
Leslie Franzen, Librarian, Coupeville Library



Photo Credit: NPS Photo

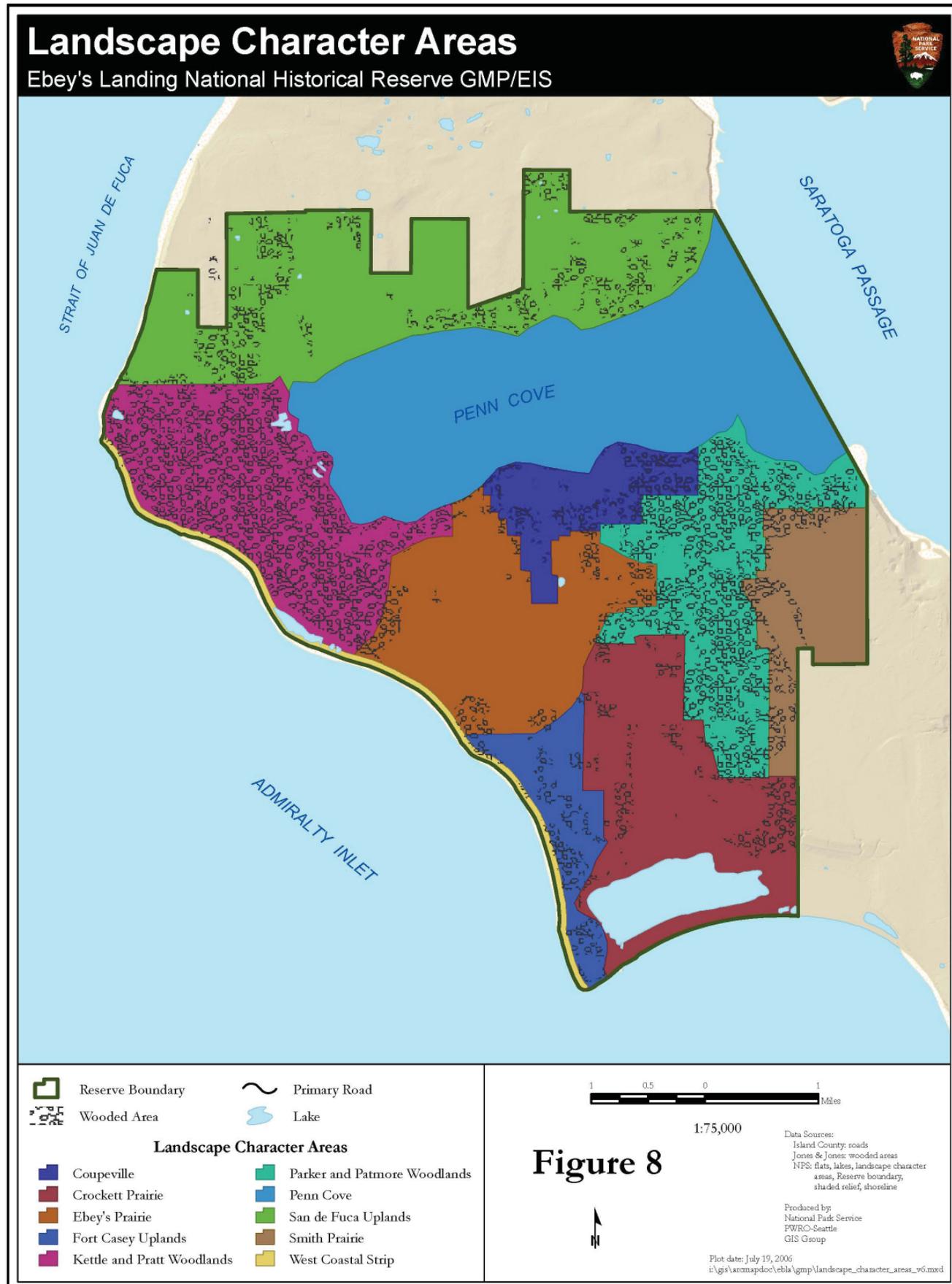
The interpretive planning team represented a cross-section of Ebey's Reserve partners, friends, and residents.

# Appendices:

**Appendix A: Landscape Character Areas**

**Appendix B: Interpretive Services by Landscape Character Area Matrix**

# Appendix A: Landscape Character Areas



## Coupeville

This nineteenth century seaport town, set on the southern edge of Penn Cove, has the greatest concentration of historic buildings in the state and is the second oldest town in Washington State. It is also the commercial center of the Reserve. Within the town limits, one can experience dramatic views of Penn Cove, Mt. Hood, the Cascades Mountains, and prairies.

Significant areas within Coupeville are the Coupeville Wharf, Town Park, Captain Coupe Park, Summit Loop Park, historic Front and Main Streets, and Prairie Center. Coupeville's historic resources include historic buildings, structures, platted neighborhoods, and remnant orchards. Significant corridors are Main Street, Front Street, Broadway, Madrona Way, Coveland Street, Ninth Street, and Parker Road.

## Crockett Prairie

Crockett Prairie is a natural, open prairie adjacent to Crockett Lake, Keystone Spit, and Admiralty Bay. Crockett Lake is a salt marsh, and is an important migratory bird habitat and nesting area. From Keystone Spit, the view of Crockett Prairie is complemented by the open water of Crockett Lake and the tree covered ridges beyond.

Other significant areas include the inter-prairie Ridge between Ebey's and Crockett prairies, and the Washington State Ferry Terminal. Historic remnants in this area reflect the building of Fort Casey, including ponds, wharf, and dock remains.

## Ebey's Prairie

Ebey's Prairie is located in the central portion of the Reserve and is the largest natural prairie on Whidbey Island. It contains its most productive agricultural land, which reflects its agricultural character. It is characterized by its historic farm clusters, fields, fences and hedgerows, upland ridges, and forest edges. It has a long history of agricultural use by Skagit Indians, dating back 8,000 years, and by European settlers since the 1850s.

Significant areas and locations within this Character Area are Ebey's Landing, the Ferry House and ravine, Sunnyside Cemetery and the (Davis) Blockhouse, Jacob Ebey House and Blockhouse, Sherman-Bishop Farm, Smith Farm, Engle Farm, Jenne Farm, Hancock Farm and the inter-prairie ridge between Ebey and Crockett prairies.

## Smith Prairie

Smith Prairie is a 600-acre natural prairie surrounded by Douglas fir forest. The prairie is open, characterized by agricultural features reflecting its cultural history.

Significant areas are Au Sable Institute (the former site of the Washington State Game Farm), Naval Air Station-Whidbey's Outlying Landing Field, and two commercial tree farms growing seed stock. The Au Sable Institute property is the site of the largest remaining remnant of a native prairie plant community on Whidbey Island.

## Fort Casey Uplands

The Fort Casey Uplands is characterized by undulating and gently rolling hills of forest, fields, and residential areas. Natural areas include remnant prairie communities, a Washington State Natural Heritage Forest, and golden paintbrush populations.

Cultural areas include the historic buildings of Fort Casey State Park and Camp Casey.

## San de Fuca Uplands

The San de Fuca Uplands are characterized by undulating and gently rolling hills that begin at the shoreline of Penn Cove and rise in elevation. The slope levels onto agricultural land, divided by woodlots and residential subdivisions. The visual continuity of open fields and Penn Cove is relatively unimpaired.

Significant natural features include saltwater wetland areas, Garry oak plant communities, and remnant prairie plant communities.

Significant areas include Grasser's Hill and Lagoon, San de Fuca's commercial and residential building clusters, Arnold Farm, Monroe's Landing, Muzzall Farm, Vandewerfhorst Farm, and Blower's Bluff.

### **Kettle and Pratt Woodlands**

The Kettle and Pratt Woodlands area is characterized by dense forests including Douglas fir, western red cedar, and alder, with salal, Oregon grape, and rhododendron understory. The interior portions of these woodlands are remote and isolated. The area contains kettles and trails that connect to Fort Ebey State Park. After owner Robert Pratt died, TNC purchased 400 acres of woodlands, eventually selling an easement to NPS. The kettles are large depressions up to 200 feet deep, which are significant geological features, formed by retreating glaciers. Kettle holes are formed when huge blocks of ice melt. These melted ice blocks formed deep ponds and wetland areas. Most of the kettles found in the Reserve occur in forested areas. Lake Pondilla is the only kettle large enough to be classified as a pond. The remaining kettle holes are scattered and relatively small in size.

Other significant sites are historic Coveland and the Captain Whidbey Inn. Significant corridors are Libbey Road, State Highway 20, Madrona Way, and the Kettles Trail.

### **Parker and Patmore Woodlands**

The Parker and Patmore Woodlands are a natural resource area characterized by densely wooded second and third-growth Douglas fir forest with western red cedar, alder, salal, and rhododendron undergrowth. It is located along a ridge on the eastern portion of the Reserve.

### **Penn Cove**

The Penn Cove character area is characterized by low beaches and uplifted banks. It consists of 3,955 acres of open water with nearshore and shoreline habitats of mudflat tidelands, high sandy bluffs, beaches, and eelgrass beds. The Penn Cove shoreline has more than thirty archaeological sites along the shoreline, including three permanent Salish villages.

Significant areas include Blower's Bluff, Monroe's Landing, Grasser's Lagoon, Kennedy's Lagoon, Long Point, and Snakelum Point.

### **West Coastal Strip**

The west shore of the Reserve along Admiralty Inlet is an eight-mile strip of narrow sand and stone beaches that give way to dramatic bluffs and ravines. Elevations range from sea level to just over 200 feet. Bluff instability, combined with steep slopes and well-drained sandy soil, prevents development of forest and shrub vegetation and helps maintain conditions allowing development of low-growing herbaceous plants. Nearshore areas include eelgrass and bull kelp beds. Remnant prairie populations and populations of a federally threatened and state endangered plant, golden paintbrush (*Castilleja levisecta*), are found at several locations along the bluffs.

Significant areas include Point Partridge, Fort Ebey State Park, Ebey's Landing Bluff Trail, Perego's Lagoon, Ebey's Landing State Park, Camp Casey, and Fort Casey State Park. Significant corridors are Hill Road, trails through Fort Ebey and Fort Casey state parks, Ebey's Landing Bluff Trail, and the coastal bluff and beach trail.

## Appendix B: Interpretive Services by Landscape Character Area Matrix

Prairies	
Exhibits:	Exhibit at Island County Museum
	*Exhibits at Visitor Center
	*Exhibits at Jacob Ebey House
A-V:	*Hearing Ebey's Reserve
	*Ebey's Reserve Audio Tour
	*Ebey's Reserve Film
	*Webcam
	*360° tour of Ferry House
	*Ebey's Reserve Virtual Walk
	*Ebey's Seasons
Historic Site:	Ferry House (EP)
	Jacob Ebey House (EP)
	Blockhouse (EP)
	Sunnyside Cemetery (EP)
Trail:	Wagon Trail (EP)
	Prairie Overlook (EP)
Personal Services:	Bluff Trail/Ebey House Guided Walk (EP)
	Ebey Landing/Ferry House Guided Walk (EP)
	*Farm Tour
	*Experience Ebey's Farms
	*Farm Demonstrations/Living History
	*Bike Tour
Publications:	Traces of the Chinese in the Reserve Hedgerows
	Getting to the Water's Edge
	Driving and Bicycling Tour
	*Farms of Ebey's Tour *Ferry House (EP)
Waysides:	Isaac Ebey (EP)
	Chinese (EP)
	Prime Land (EP)
	Prosperous Farm (EP)
	Bounty of Rain Shadow (EP)
	Crockett Blockhouse (CP)
	*Ferry House (EP)
	*Prairie Restoration
	Special Events:
*Founders Day Festival	

West Coastal Strip	
Exhibits:	*Exhibits at Visitor Center
	*Exhibits at Jacob Ebey House
A-V:	*Hearing Ebey's Reserve
	*Ebey's Reserve Audio Tour
	*Ebey's Reserve Film
	*Webcam
	*Ebey's Reserve Virtual Walk
Historic Site:	Ebey's Landing
	Fort Casey
	Admiralty Head Lighthouse
Trail:	Scott's Bluff
	Coastal Trail
Personal Services:	Fort Casey Guided Walk
	Lighthouse History
	Beach programs
	*Bike Tour
Publications:	Ebey Landing/Ferry House Guided Walk
	Beaches and Bluffs: Living on the Edge Island County
	Getting to the Water's Edge
	Coast Artillery Forts: A Century of Service
	Whidbey Island's Admiralty Head Lighthouse
	Driving and Bicycling Tour
Waysides:	Busy Shipping Lanes
	Guns at Fort Casey
	Building a Fort
	Battery 248
	Plans Change
	Historic Waters
Special Events:	Beach is Moving
	*Artists Days

Penn Cove	
Exhibits:	Rosie's Story
	Rudy the Dolphin
	*Exhibits at Visitor Center
A-V:	*Hearing Ebey's Reserve
	*Ebey's Reserve Audio Tour
	*Ebey's Reserve Film
	*Webcam
	*Ebey's Reserve Virtual Walk
Trail:	Penn Cove Water Trail
Historic Site:	Monroe's Landing
Personal Services:	Low Tide Walks at Wharf
	*Bike Tour
Publications:	Driving and Bicycling Tour
	Getting to the Water's Edge
	Rosie's Story
Waysides:	Stately Skagit
	*Mussel Farm
Special Events:	*Native Peoples Gathering

Uplands	
Exhibits:	*Exhibits at Visitor Center
A-V:	*Hearing Ebey's Reserve
	*Ebey's Reserve Audio Tour
	*Ebey's Reserve Film
	*Webcam
	*Ebey's Reserve Virtual Walk
	*Ebey's Seasons
Historic Site:	Fort Casey (FCU)
Personal Services:	Nature walks (FCU)
	Farm Tour
	*Experience Ebey's Farms
	*Bike Tour
	*Farm Demonstrations/Living History
Publications:	Getting to the Water's Edge
	Driving and Bicycling Tour
	*Farms of Ebey's Tour
Waysides:	*San de Fuca
	*Grasser's Hill

Coupeville	
Exhibits:	*Exhibits at Visitor Center
A-V:	*Hearing Ebey's Reserve
	*Ebey's Reserve Audio Tour
	*Ebey's Reserve Film
	*Webcam
Personal Services:	Historic Coupeville
	Shake Making Demo
	*Living History
	*Bike Tour
Publications:	Self-Guided Walking Tour of Historic Coupeville
	Getting to the Water's Edge
	Driving and Bicycling Tour
Waysides:	Coupeville
	Of Water and People
	*Krueger Farm
	*Front Street
	*Prairie Center
	*Main Street
Special Events:	*Rural Recollections

Woodlands	
Exhibits:	*Exhibits at Visitor Center
A-V:	*Hearing Ebey's Reserve
	*Ebey's Reserve Audio Tour
	*Birding By Ear
	*Ebey's Reserve Film
	*Webcam
	*Ebey's Reserve Virtual Walk
Trail:	Kettleholes (KPW)
	Perego Lake
Personal Services:	Bluff Trail/Ebey House Guided Walk (KPW)
	*Bike Tour
Publications:	Getting to the Water's Edge
	Driving and Bicycling Tour

Landscape Character Areas

- C = Coupeville
- CP = Crockett Prairie
- EP = Ebey's Prairie
- FCU = Fort Casey Uplands
- KPW = Kettle and Pratt Woodlands
- PPW = Parker and Patmore Woodlands
- PC = Penn Cove
- SFU = San de Fuca Uplands
- SP = Smith Prairie
- WCS = West Coastal Strip

\* = Potential Future Interpretive Service







## **Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve**

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