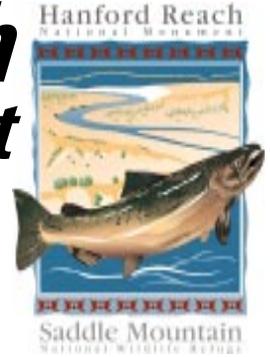




# ***Hanford Reach National Monument***

***Planning Update #1 August 2002***



### **Meet the Staff**

Stop by our office to meet the staff and receive information on the Monument.

**August 14, 2002  
5-8 PM**

Hanford Reach NM  
3250 Port of Benton Blvd.  
Richland, WA,

### **Open Houses in 2002**

We invite you to come and share your ideas about future management of the Monument. Staff will provide information on the Monument and the planning process.

**August 28, 6-9 PM**  
Wahluke High School  
502 N. Boundary  
Mattawa, WA

**September 5, 6-9 PM**  
Radison Hotel Seattle Airport  
17001 Pacific Hwy South  
Seattle, WA

**September 9, 4-9 PM**  
Consolidated Info Center  
WSU Tri-Cities Campus  
2770 University Dr.  
Richland, WA

**September 17, 6-9 PM**  
Yakima Convention Center  
10 N. 8th St.  
Yakima, WA

### **In This Update**

Open Houses.....	1
About the Monument.....	2
Monument Map.....	2
Issues, Concerns, & Opportunities.....	3
Advisory Committee.....	4
Planning Schedule.....	4
Comment Form.....	INSERT

### **Help Us Plan the Monument's Future**

This is the first in a series of planning updates to keep you informed and invite your participation in the planning process for the Hanford Reach National Monument (Monument).

The purpose of the Monument is to protect its biologically diverse landscape and array of scientific and historic features. It contains the only non-tidal free-flowing reach of the mainstem of the Columbia River in the U.S. It also protects adjacent uplands that represent some of the most pristine shrub-steppe habitats remaining in the Columbia Basin.

What is your long-term vision for how best to achieve the Monument's purposes? Help us shape future management of the Monument as we develop the Hanford Reach National Monument Comprehensive

Conservation Plan and associated Environmental Impact Statement. Please share your ideas with us by attending an upcoming open house (listed on this page); Advisory Committee meeting (see page 4); by answering questions included in the enclosed insert; or by phoning, writing or faxing the Monument (see page 3 for address and numbers).

The Monument is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System under agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The entire Monument is superimposed over DOE's Hanford Site. Several other Federal, State, and County agencies also play a role in the management of this area.



**Hanford Reach and the White Bluffs** USFWS photo: William Radke

## What is the Monument all about?

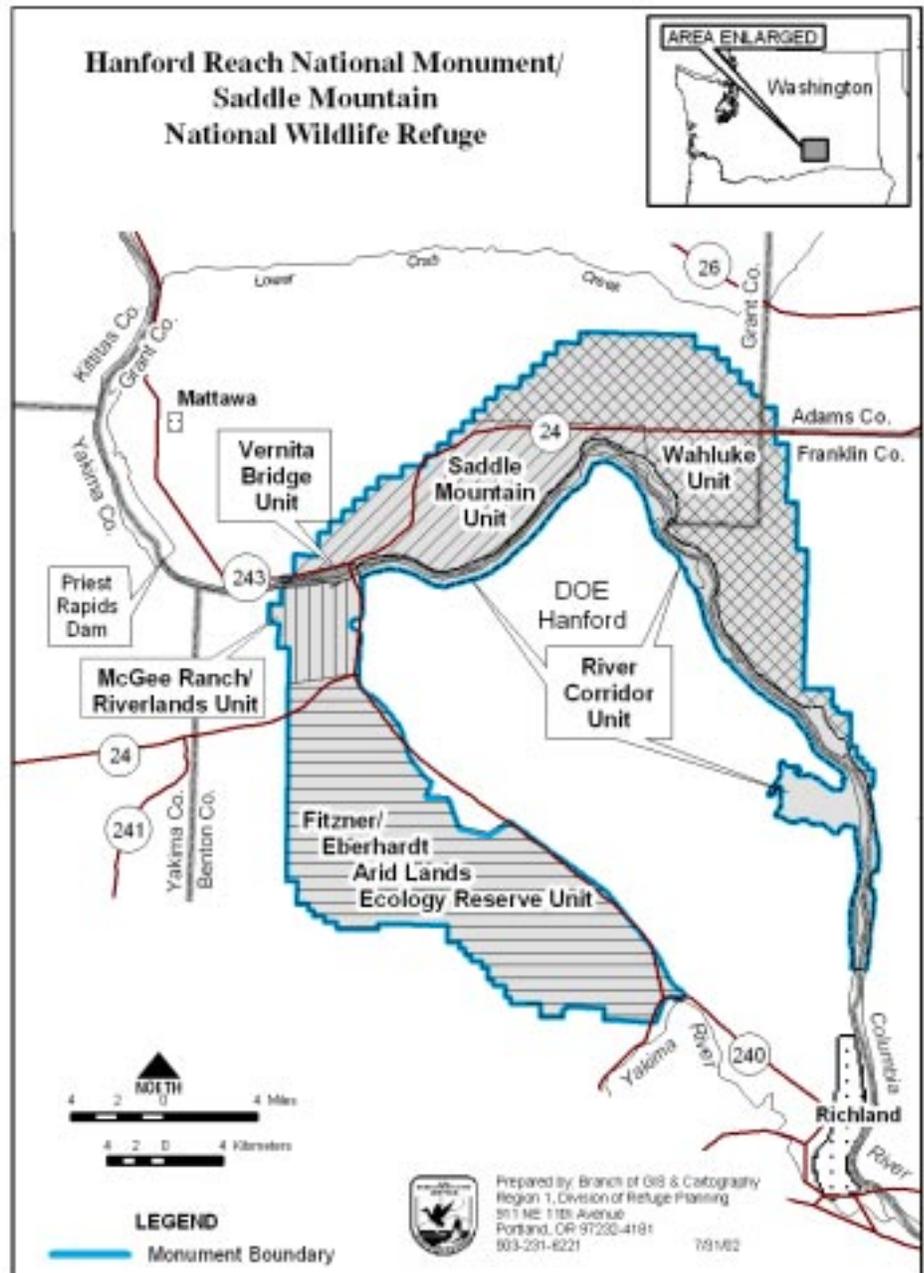
The Monument was designated by Presidential Proclamation 7319 on June 9, 2000. Among the many features the Monument was established to protect are:

- Most of the 51-mile long Hanford Reach, the last free-flowing, nontidal stretch of the Columbia River in the U.S.
- Dramatic geologic landscapes shaped by tectonic, volcanic, and erosive forces
- One of the last intact large blocks of shrub-steppe habitat in the Columbia River Basin
- 30 rare plants including 2 new species
- 44 species of fish and productive spawning grounds for salmon, sturgeon and bass
- Approximately 238 species of migratory and resident birds and wintering habitat for bald eagles, white pelicans, and many species of waterfowl
- 40 species of mammals including Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, badger, and bobcat
- 15 reptiles and amphibians including tiger salamander, Great Basin spadefoot, sagebrush lizard and gopher snake
- Fossil remains from rhinoceros, camel, and mastodon
- Native American use and occupation spanning 8,000 years
- Remains from homesteads and small towns established along the river in the early 1900s

## Why is this new planning effort starting?

As part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, the Monument requires a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) to guide the management of fish and wildlife habitats, cultural resources, and public uses. Planning for the Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve CCP which began in 1998 was suspended in 2000 when the Monument was

established so that this management unit would be included in a planning effort for the entire Monument. Conclusions from this and other planning efforts such as DOE's "Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the Hanford Site" will be fully considered in the Monument CCP to the extent they are consistent with Proclamation 7319.



**Hanford Reach National Monument** is divided into six management units based on location, natural resources, and administration.

## Public Scoping of Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities

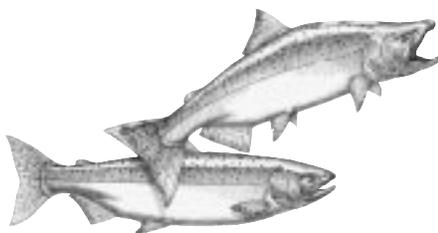
The Hanford Reach National Monument Federal Planning Advisory Committee along with FWS and DOE have identified preliminary planning issues, concerns, and opportunities. Some of these are listed below by program area. We are seeking your input on these and any others that are important to you.

### 1. Wildlife and Habitat Management

- restoration of native plants and habitats
- promoting biological diversity
- maintaining and creating habitat connectivity
- control of non-native plants and noxious weeds
- elk population management
- migratory bird management
- preservation of plant and wildlife species of concern
- minimizing potential wildlife disturbance in areas open to the public
- release of pygmy rabbit into historic habitat.

### 2. Fisheries Management

- protection and enhancement of fish spawning and rearing areas
- safeguarding water quality and quantity
- fisheries impacts from water flows and fluctuating water levels resulting from upstream dam operations.



FWS illustration: Ken Morris

### 3. Fire Management

- competition from invasive plants following a fire
- post-fire habitat rehabilitation especially sagebrush restoration
- protection of human health, safety, and property
- strategies for hazard fuel reduction



FWS photo: Heidi Brunkal

### 4. Scientific Research

- setting criteria for types of allowable research
- minimizing research impacts to natural and cultural resources.

### 5. Cultural Resources

- protection of archeological and historical resources
- opportunities for interpretation of cultural sites
- Native American hunting, fishing and gathering opportunities

### 6. Public Use and Access

- types of use that should be permitted
- lack of adequate signing, information, and facilities
- concern for providing safe, quality recreational experiences
- management of commercial recreation providers
- potential impacts to biological, paleontological, and cultural resources if access and use increases.
- need for visitor center
- potential conflicts between and among user groups

### 7. Geological and Paleontological Resources

- White Bluffs slumping and associated damage to biological, paleontological, and cultural resources.
- opportunities to interpret geological features such as the White bluffs and cataclysmic flood topography.
- opportunities to interpret prehistoric fossil remains of rhinoceros, camel, and mastodon, among others.

### 8. Administration

- lack of a centralized location for headquarters office, maintenance equipment, and fire equipment.
- staffing and facilities to implement the CCP.

### 9. Valid Existing Rights

- interpretation and clarification of all valid existing rights.
- resource management parameters due to these rights
- potential conflicts between different rights

## Planning Workbook

Planning workbooks with more detailed information on the preliminary issues, concerns, and opportunities will be provided at the upcoming open houses and upon request. If you would like to receive a copy of the Planning Workbook please contact:

Hanford Reach NM  
3250 Port of Benton Blvd.  
Richland, WA 99352  
phone: 509-371-1801  
fax: 509-375-0196

## Planning Schedule

Key steps and anticipated completion dates include:

Public

Scoping .....June 12-Oct 12, 2002

Vision & Goals.....Winter 2002

Preliminary

Alternatives.....Spring 2003

Draft Plan.....Winter 2003/2004

Final Plan/

Record of Decision.....Fall 2004

Obtain additional information and track the planning process on the Fish and Wildlife Service website:

<http://pacific.fws.gov/planning/>

## Advisory Committee

The Hanford Reach National Monument Federal Planning Advisory Committee (see photo below) was chartered in 2001 to make recommendations to the FWS and DOE on the preparation of the Monument's Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Thirteen committee members represent a cross-section of stakeholder interests including: tribal, state, city, county, education, scientific, conservation, economic development, outdoor recreation, and "public-at-large." Meetings are open to the public and a public comment period is provided during each meeting. The next 4 meetings (see box below) will be held at the Consolidated Information Center in Rooms 120 & 120A, WSU Tri-Cities Campus, 2770 University Dr., Richland, WA.



### Future 2002 Committee Meetings

**August 14**  
9:30 AM-4 PM

**September 10**  
9AM-4 PM

**October 16**  
9AM-4 PM

**November 19**  
9AM-4 PM



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish & Wildlife Service

Hanford Reach National Monument

3250 Port of Benton Blvd.

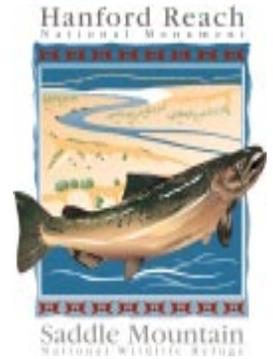
Richland, WA 99352

*Address correction service*



# We Would Like Your Comments

We value your input as we work to prepare the Hanford Reach National Monument Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Please take a few minutes to answer the following questions.



1. Why is Hanford Reach National Monument special to you?

---

---

---

2. Have you visited units of the Monument, perhaps even before they became part of the Monument? If so, which units (see map on page 2) have you visited? What activities have you enjoyed? (check all that apply)

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wahluke                    | <input type="checkbox"/> birdwatching/wildlife observation | <input type="checkbox"/> hunting                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arid Lands Ecology Reserve | <input type="checkbox"/> photography                       | <input type="checkbox"/> fishing                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> River Corridor             | <input type="checkbox"/> environmental education           | <input type="checkbox"/> boating                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vernita Bridge             | <input type="checkbox"/> Horseback riding                  | <input type="checkbox"/> bicycling              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (please explain)     | <input type="checkbox"/> hiking                            | <input type="checkbox"/> other (please explain) |

---

---

3. Which activities are most important to you and appropriate for the Monument?

---

---

---

4. List the issues, concerns and opportunities most important to you which we should address in the Plan.

---

---

---

5. What suggestions do you have to address your issues, concerns and opportunities?

---

---

---

---

---

**Thank You! Mail, fax, or drop it off this form to our office by October 12, 2002.**

**Would you like to remain on the mailing list to receive subsequent Planning Updates for this project?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**Is there anyone else you know who would like to be on the mailing list?**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Comments?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Fold here and tape ends*



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

apply  
postage  
here

Hanford Reach National Monument  
ATTN: CCP Team  
3250 Port of Benton Blvd.  
Richland, WA 99352