



# NEWS RELEASE



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## Hanford Reach National Monument Final Management Plan Released

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) today released the *Final Hanford Reach National Monument Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (CCP/EIS)*. The CCP provides guidance for managing the Monument for the next 15 years.

The FWS released the Draft CCP/EIS in December, 2006, and received 308 comment letters during the three-month comment period. Appendix B of the Final CCP/EIS includes a summary of the comments received and the FWS's response to these comments. The Final Preferred Alternative, developed in response to public comment, allows for:

- Treating 13,000 acres annually for invasive species.
- Restoring 5,100 acres of habitat annually.
- Opening additional lands to public access pending lifting of Department of Energy safety and security zones.
- Opening an additional 10,680 acres to some form of hunting (67,117 acres total).
- Developing up to fifteen new interpretive sites and up to 100 miles of trails.
- Leaving the White Bluffs Boat Launch open while identifying the need for the Visitor Services Plan to derive a capacity limit.
- Working with partners to develop new boat launches in the Vernita Bridge and Ringold Fish Hatchery areas.
- Working with equestrian interest groups to assess trails and facility development needs and limiting horseback use to roads and trails.
- Keeping the Saddle Mountain Road open, using seasonal closures if necessary to protect specific resources.

The FWS will continue to work with existing partners and seek new partnerships to assist with implementing the plan. It is anticipated that actions outlined in the CCP will be accomplished over time as funding becomes available.

Following a minimum 30-day wait period, the FWS will publish a Record of Decision identifying the alternative which will be implemented. For further information or to request a copy of the Final CCP/EIS,

contact: Planning Team Leader, Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex, 64 Maple Street, Burbank, Washington 93323. Additionally, copies of the Final CCP/EIS may be downloaded from the project website, [hanfordreach.fws.gov](http://hanfordreach.fws.gov). The Final CCP/EIS will be at all Tri-Cities area libraries in three weeks.

A Notice of Intent to begin development of this CCP/EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on June 12, 2002. This began a multi-year process to identify issues that needed to be addressed and the management alternatives that would best address those issues. Along the way, the FWS received assistance and input from the Hanford Reach National Monument Federal Advisory Committee, 15 cooperating agencies and/or governments, internal resource reviews, and the public through formal scoping, a series of three public workshops, and other means.

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The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

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