

The History of Hanford Reach National Monument

- November 1971** Administrative action establishes Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge.
- June 1994** The National Park Service completes the *Hanford Reach of the Columbia Comprehensive River Conservation Study and Final Environmental Impact Statement*. This study was conducted in response to the Comprehensive River Conservation Study Act, which directed the Secretary of Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, to evaluate outstanding features of the Hanford Reach and provide recommendations on alternatives for protecting the features.
- July 1996** The Secretary of the Interior signs a Record of Decision (ROD) for the *Comprehensive River Conservation Study and Final Environmental Impact Statement*. The decision recommends expanding the Saddle Mountain NWR boundary to include the Wahluke State Wildlife Recreation Area and also recommends designating the Hanford Reach as a “Recreation River” as provided for under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968.
- June 1997** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) signs an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Energy (DOE) to manage the Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve (ALE).
- August 1997** The FWS completes a Categorical Exclusion and signs an Environmental Action Statement to allow for FWS management of the ALE.
- November 5, 1999** The DOE signs an ROD for the *Hanford Comprehensive Land Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement*. The decision includes consolidating management of the Wahluke Slope, ALE, McGee Ranch, Columbia River Islands not in Benton County, and the Riverlands for FWS management.
- November 5, 1999** Director of the FWS signs an ROD to expand Saddle Mountain NWR. The ROD expands the approved acquisition area to include the federal lands within the Saddle Mountain NWR boundary, plus portions of the North Slope totaling an estimated 90,000 acres. The ROD also documents the FWS’s official adoption of the *Hanford Reach Comprehensive River Conservation Study and Final Environmental Impact Statement*, and *Final Hanford Comprehensive Land Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement*.
- May 31, 2000** The DOE Hanford Site Manager send a letter to the FWS Regional Director, Anne Badgley, reaffirming the DOE’s position that the ALE should be managed as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

- June 9, 2000** President Clinton signs a Presidential Proclamation under the Antiquities Act establishing the Hanford Reach National Monument to be managed by the FWS and DOE.
- July 26, 2000** The Secretary of the Interior issues a memorandum to the Director of the FWS stating, *“This Monument is to be managed by the [FWS] where it is authorized to exercise certain management responsibilities over resources on [DOE] lands within Monument boundaries under agreements with Energy. Pursuant to the terms of management agreements and the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, these areas are units of the National Wildlife Refuge System.”*
- December 19, 2000** The Secretary of the Interior approves the Hanford Reach National Monument Federal Planning Advisory Committee Charter.
- January 18, 2001** The Secretary of the Interior appoints thirteen members and thirteen alternates to the Hanford Reach National Monument Federal Planning Advisory Committee.
- June 14, 2001** The FWS and DOE sign a supplemental MOU as directed by July 26, 2000, Secretarial memorandum. The supplemental MOU establishes a new philosophy and intent for the DOE and FWS to work together and clarifies their respective roles and responsibilities for Hanford Site management.
- June 20-21, 2001** The FWS holds the first organization meeting of the Hanford Reach National Monument Federal Planning Advisory Committee in Richland, Washington.
- July 12, 2002** The FWS publishes a Notice of Intent to initiate a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) and environmental impact statement for the Hanford Reach National Monument.
- October 12, 2002** Public scoping for the CCP ends.
- November 4-7, 2002** The first of a series of vision, goals, objectives and strategies workshops for the Monument is held in Richland, Washington.