

ATTACHMENT H

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Hanford Reach National Monument
3250 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, WA 99352

(509) 371-1801
(509) 375-0196 fax

Chairman
Jim Watts

Vice Chairman
Jeff Tayer

Washington State
Member - Jeff Tayer
Alternate - Ron Skinnarland

Cities
Member - vacant
Alternate - Bob Thompson

Counties
Member - Leo Bowman
Alternate - Frank Brock

Native Americans
Member - vacant
Alternate - Rex Buck

Utilities/Irrigation
Member - vacant
Alternate - Nancy Craig

K-12 Education
Member - Karen Wieda
Alternate - Royace Aikin

Economic Development
Member - Jim Watts
Alternate - Harold Heacock

Environmental/Conservation
Member - Rick Leumont
Alternate - Mike Lilga

Scientific/Academic
Member - David Geist
Alternate - Dennis Dauble
Member - Michele Gerber
Alternate - Eric Gerber
Member - Gene Schreckhise
Alternate - vacant

Outdoor Recreation
Member - Rich Steele
Alternate - Mike Wiemers

Public-at-Large
Member - Kris Watkins
Alternate - Valoria Loveland

Hanford Reach National Monument Federal Planning Advisory Committee

TO: Dave Allen, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1 Director
Greg Hughes, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Project Manager
Keith Klein, US Department of Energy, Manager

RE: **DRAFT** Committee Advice #6: Monument Management Objectives

The Hanford Reach National Monument Federal Planning Advisory Committee is pleased to present to the US Fish and Wildlife Service advice on the draft Monument management objectives. Five subcommittees (Cultural and Historical Resources, Public Use and Access, Terrestrial/Aquatic Natural Resources, and Valid Existing Rights) worked diligently since October 2003 to understand the range of objectives under the preliminary alternatives, suggest modifications where appropriate, and present that information to the full Committee at the December meeting. The subcommittees reconvened to address Committee comments and concerns from the December meeting. We are forwarding to you the specific Committee advice in the form of charts arranged by topic.

In general, the Committee's focus was on assessing whether the range of objectives was consistent with the range of alternatives. There were several themes that surfaced throughout the Committee deliberations:

- Eliminate the goal related to honoring Treaty Rights (#9) and move the language from the goal into the body of the Plan. The Committee feels that Treaty and valid existing rights are beyond goals and objectives of the Service. Honoring both is mandatory and should be addressed up front in the Plan.
- Prioritize and focus the intensity of research and monitoring first where public use will occur. In order to "do no harm" to Monument resources of native flora and fauna, there should be a resources assessment prior to allowing public use. All information from research and monitoring should be provided to the Service in accordance with adaptive management principles.
- As previously mentioned, effectively differentiating objectives across alternatives was the major focus for subcommittees. In some cases, the Committee feels that a geographic differentiation, Monument-wide, is more appropriate than a temporal differentiation. We encourage the Service to assess the importance of a geographic objective versus a temporal one.
- Elk management, and river access and management are key issues that will need to be acknowledged, with sufficient analysis in the Plan. Lacking keystone predators, elk management represents a socio-political and economic challenge, as well as an ecological challenge. More needs to be known about the herd, such as where they are, how many there are and their carrying capacity with respect to available resources. The current and potential damage the herd cause should be assessed and quantified. River access and management also represents a socio-political and economic challenge with multiple jurisdictions responsible for

January 15, 2004

- management. The Committee recommends developing partnerships on these key issues for a positive impact to long-term resource management

We appreciate the opportunity to provide advice to the Service and look forward to feedback on how this Committee's advice was used.

Sincerely,

Jim Watts, Chair