

Slide 1

Visitor Services Review

Hanford Reach National Monument/Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge

July 8 - 12, 2002

Slide 2

Why Conduct a Review?

- **Ensure that Refuge System and its individual units are managed:**
 - consistently,
 - in compliance with legal and policy requirements, and
 - in an effective and efficient manner
- **Conduct program-specific Refuge Reviews, such as a Visitor Services Review:**
 - On an as-needed basis
 - To help with internal scoping prior to development or revision of a refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP)

(Draft Chapter Refuge Reviews 601 FW 8)

Slide 3

Goals of the Hanford Visitor Services Review

- **Help establish a vision**
 - Help identify a long-term vision for visitor services that will be used to develop goals and objectives

Slide 4

Goals of the Hanford Visitor Services Review

- **Evaluate existing opportunities, issues, etc.**
 - Determine extent to which current visitor services opportunities support Proclamation, Refuge purposes, priorities, goals and objectives; DOE/FWS management agreements; National Wildlife Refuge System mission; FWS and relevant policies regarding visitor services
 - Identify critical visitor service concerns and issues
 - Identify constraints limiting visitor service opportunities

Slide 5

Goals of the Hanford Visitor Services Review

- **Identify new opportunities**
 - Identify existing and potential opportunities for visitor services programs on refuge and nearby non-refuge lands
 - Identify new visitor services inventory, monitoring or information needed to make visitor service management decisions

Slide 6

Goals of the Hanford Visitor Services Review

- **Identify needs**
 - Identify needs (e.g. staffing, equipment, etc.) required to implement high quality visitor service programs
- **Evaluate new opportunities**
 - Evaluate existing or identify new visitor services priorities and strategies to develop Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Visitor Services Plan

Slide 7

A Team of Experts

Fish and Wildlife Service: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monument staff• Regional Office• Other refuges in Region 1• Visitor Services Chief from another Region	Representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bureau of Land Management• Department of Energy• Federal Highway Administration• Forest Service• National Park Service• Tribes invited; did not attend
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Slide 8

**Guidance for Visitor Services
Planning and Management at Hanford**

- Presidential Proclamation establishing Monument
- Management Agreements with Department of Energy
- Fish and Wildlife Service Policies
- Tribal Obligations
- National Wild and Scenic River proposed designation

Slide 9

**Presidential Proclamation
as it Relates to Visitor Services Management**

- Monument established to protect natural, cultural, historical, geological, paleontological resources
- Specifically prohibits all motorized and mechanized vehicle use off roads

Slide 10

Guidance for Managing the Monument

- The Proclamation directs the Secretary of the Interior to manage the Monument through the FWS under its existing authorities and existing agreements with the DOE
- The FWS manages lands under its management jurisdiction pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act and in accordance with agreements with DOE

(Background paper from the White House)

Slide 11

Guidance for Managing the Monument

“This Monument is to be managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where it is authorized to exercise certain management responsibilities over resources on Department of Energy 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.”

(Memo from Secretary of the Interior to the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service)

Slide 12

Management Agreements with DOE

- DOE owns land
- FWS manages under permits and agreements with DOE
 - FWS adopted DOE Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP)
- Agreement in place with DOE
 - Wahluke Slope Area
 - Arid Lands Ecology Reserve Unit (ALE)

Slide 13

**ALE/Wahluke Slope
Management Agreement Objectives**

- DOE primary objective: ensure preservation of natural and cultural resources of Refuge while continuing current use of portions of Refuge as Research Natural Area
- FWS primary objective: ensure that parts of Monument managed by FWS are managed in accordance with Presidential Proclamation

Slide 14

**ALE/Wahluke Slope
Management Agreement Objectives**

- Ensure integrity of Refuge as intact ecological unit is maintained
- Ensure Refuge managed to “provide an opportunity for Native Americans to exercise traditional religious and cultural activities consistent with foregoing objectives”

Slide 15

**ALE/Wahluke Slope
Management Agreement Objectives**

- Ensure access to Refuge available for educational, scientific, and recreational benefit of public to extent access and use is consistent with foregoing objectives and compatible with Refuge purposes
- Ensure protection, preservation and continued monitoring of nationally significant cultural resources including archaeological and historic resources and traditional cultural places

Slide 16

Goals of the NWR System
(Director's Order #132-601 FW1)

- Fulfill statutory duty to achieve refuge purpose(s) and further NWRS mission
- Conserve, restore where appropriate, and enhance all species of endangered or threatened fish, wildlife, & plants
- Perpetuate migratory bird, interjurisdictional fish, & marine mammal populations

Slide 17

Goals of the NWR System
(Director's Order #132-601 FW1)

- Conserve a diversity of fish, wildlife, and plants
- Conserve and restore where appropriate representative ecosystems of the United States
- Provide public with safe, high-quality, and compatible wildlife-dependent public uses

Slide 18

Purposes of the Hanford Reach National Monument/Saddle Mountain NWR

- Protect habitat for state and federally listed plant and animal species associated with Hanford Reach and surrounding shrub-steppe ecosystem
- Preserve native biodiversity and species abundance of Hanford Reach of and surrounding shrub-steppe ecosystem
- Conserve and manage waterfowl, neotropical and other migratory birds which use Hanford Reach and adjacent shrub-steppe ecosystem

Slide 19

Purposes of the Hanford Reach National Monument/Saddle Mountain NWR

- Restore natural, dynamic stream/river systems, including associated in-water and riparian habitats for anadromous fish, breeding neotropical birds, other native fish and wildlife
- Provide opportunities for quality, wildlife dependent recreation, education, and research to enhance public appreciation, understanding, and enjoyment of refuge fish, wildlife and habitats
- Preserve area's cultural history through exercise of reserved treaty rights of Yakima Indian Nation, confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Nez Perce Tribe, with exception of livestock grazing, and in cooperation with Wanapum People

Slide 20

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended

- "Public use of a refuge may be allowed only where the use is compatible with the mission of the System and purpose of the individual refuge."
- "Wildlife-dependent recreation, when it is compatible, is a legitimate and appropriate public use of the Refuge System, through which the American public can develop an appreciation for fish and wildlife."

Slide 21

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended

- Specifies six priority general public uses of National Wildlife Refuge System:
 - Hunting
 - Fishing
 - Wildlife observation
 - Wildlife photography
 - Environmental education
 - Environmental interpretation

Slide 22

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended

- “Big 6” uses shall receive priority consideration in refuge planning and management
- Unless valid reason not to, FWS must provide for those priority uses determined to be compatible
- Non-priority wildlife-dependent public uses may be allowed if found to be appropriate and compatible

Slide 23

National Wild and Scenic River Proposed Designation

- Proposed for designation as a Recreational River under Wildlife and Scenic Rivers Act
- FWS administers interim protection
- Classification recognizes outstanding qualities including
 - Sport fishing, hunting, flatwater recreation, historic sites
- **Primary management emphasis**
 - Fish & wildlife habitat protection and enhancement
- Recreational and educational uses encouraged

Slide 24

Visitor Services *Coming soon to*
a desk near you! **Review Report**
