

**HANFORD REACH NATIONAL MONUMENT  
FEDERAL PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Final Meeting Summary: Session # 17  
Wednesday, February 25, 2004  
Washington State University Tri-Cities  
Consolidated Information Center, Rooms 120 & 120A  
Richland, WA**

The Hanford Reach National Monument Federal Planning Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, February 25, 2004 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Washington State University Tri-Cities Consolidated Information Center in Richland, Washington.

The purpose of the meeting was to (1) hear a report from the Service on how the Committee advice on management objectives was used; and (2) begin work on discussing a Federal Advisory Committee proposed alternative.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Paula Call, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Acting Designated Federal Official (DFO), Hanford Reach National Monument, opened the meeting and welcomed Committee members, the public and other attendees. Ms. Call briefed the Committee on the status of the re-charter process. The re-charter package is still in Washington D.C., and the Monument has had no new news on the progress of the reappointment process.

Alice Shorett, facilitator, reviewed the day's agenda, noting that the purpose of the day's session was to hear how the Service used the Committee advice on management objectives presented in January. After the presentation, the Committee will begin discussing a Committee-proposed management alternative to be presented as official advice to the Service and US Department of Energy (USDOE) at the April meeting.

Jim Watts, Committee Chair, reviewed the public comment process and reminded those making public comment that there was a five-minute time limit. He stated that the public comment period was scheduled to immediately follow the opening of the meeting and Committee business. A public comment sheet was available at the sign in table for those interested in giving comment. He also reviewed the Committee's purpose and charter.

**Meeting Minutes from Session #16**

Mr. Watts asked the Committee for any changes to the summary from Session #16 as drafted. One suggestion was made to amend the meeting minutes. The Committee approved a motion to adopt the meeting summary, with amendments.

<b>Action:</b> Committee members adopted the meeting summary from Session #16 as amended.
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**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

### **Report on Monument Activities**

Paula Call addressed day-to-day management topics. She stated that Committee members should have received a notice on the elk summit. The date is set for April 5-6 in Prosser. The summit will be facilitated, with materials provided prior to the summit, and a final report at the conclusion of the summit. They have received a number of RSVPs to date, and Ms. Call encouraged people to RSVP if they plan to attend.

Dave Smith updated the Committee on resource management activities on the Monument. He reported on the projects to rehabilitate burned areas. Many projects have benefited from the weather this winter. Some other current projects include wildlife habitat monitoring surveys and noxious weed mapping. An eagle and a ground squirrel survey are almost complete. A vegetation assessment and inventory is also nearly complete. The Monument has been working in cooperation with McNary Wildlife Refuge on an outreach program for the islands in the River, and will be releasing a press release soon on the public closures due to wildlife and the critical habitat they use on the islands. The Monument will be advertising for a law enforcement officer position that was previously occupied by a gentleman in Iraq for the last year.

The Committee asked Mr. Smith to elaborate on the notion that the wildlife inventory identified the ground squirrel as a “species of concern.” Mr. Smith responded that ground squirrels have been identified as a species that are supported by a wide range of habitat. For this reason, monitoring ground squirrel habitat enables the Service to also be monitoring a variety of other species’ habitat. The Committee also suggested that if some access is permitted on the islands, signs need to carefully delineate what is closed when and why. Also, without enforcement, closures do little good to sensitive areas. Finally, some Committee members suggested that treatments of burned areas should be closely consulted on through the government-to-government process to ensure there is no impact to culturally sensitive plants.

Ms. Call finished the report by saying that in response to the Committee request to do more community outreach about the Monument, a presentation has been scheduled for March 3<sup>rd</sup> to the Richland Kiwanis Club. The Committee requested an email notice on this and future outreach meetings. The Planning Team also recently met with the Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to continue engaging them in the planning process.

### **Presentation and Discussion on the Use of Committee Management Objectives Advice**

Dan Haas addressed the Committee on how its advice regarding Monument management objectives was used (Attachment A). In general, the Service agreed with the majority of the objectives and concepts forwarded by the Committee. He summarized the Service’s actions on the Committee advice by saying that they:

1. Moved strategy statements into step down plans;
2. Adjusted time frames to reflect fiscal possibilities;
3. Kept references to acreage, because of the budgeting realities to tie projects to specific land areas; and
4. Dropped Goals 9 and 13 as advised, and also dropped Goal 10. The ideas were moved into the “Actions Common to All Alternatives” section. Goal 5 was reworded per the

Committee's advice, although they will continue to work on the language to ensure that Native American involvement on the Monument highlights the past and continues in the future.

Mr. Haas then went through a few examples of how the Service specifically used Committee advice with revisions based on fiscal priorities or management feasibility. The Committee asked for a comparison sheet in order to understand where the specific Committee suggestions were incorporated and where they were dropped. Ms. Call responded by saying that the Service is preparing an official letter of response to the Committee that will describe specifically where changes were made and what was incorporated.

The Committee then discussed the process for moving forward with the objectives as drafted. Mr. Haas explained that the current objectives are those that the Planning Team will be analyzing through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Once they have completed the analysis, the Service will recommend a proposed action and select an agency "preferred alternative." In the meantime, the Service is giving the Committee an opportunity to forward a proposed alternative to the Service. If the Committee-proposed alternative differs from what is currently going to be analyzed, then that alternative will also be included in the analysis.

### **Introduction on a Proposed Alternative**

Mr. Haas then introduced the concept of a proposed alternative from the Committee as official advice. The next step is for the Committee to look at the current objective statements, and propose an alternative for the Service to consider. The Committee could recommend one of three options:

1. Forward an existing alternative as drafted;
2. Draft a completely new alternative to be included in the analysis; or
3. Mix and match objectives from the existing alternatives and recommend that as the Committee proposed alternative.

Mr. Haas referred the Committee to the handout in their packets on suggestions for developing a Committee-proposed alternative (Attachment B). He also reviewed the ten criteria the Service will use in selecting the agency "preferred alternative." He explained that these ten criteria were developed with help from the Cooperating Agencies. The Committee asked when the "preferred alternative" would be selected. Mr. Haas responded by saying that once the environmental analysis was complete, the Agency would recommend a proposed action and select a "preferred alternative." The Service is not required to select the "preferred alternative" in the Draft CCP/EIS. However, by not selecting a "preferred alternative" in the Draft, they will receive fewer evaluation points from the US Environmental Protection Agency on that part of the review. Mr. Haas added that the Planning Team has not specifically identified when they will select the "preferred alternative."

The Committee entered into a discussion on the timing of releasing the draft and final CCP/EIS. Many Committee members suggested that their advice would be more useful in selecting a "preferred alternative" with the Service, after all public comments had been received on the Draft CCP/EIS. Ms. Call responded by saying that the Planning Team was working on outlining

the flow of input in releasing the draft Plan. She commented that prior a draft Plan going out for public review, the Service would need to route it through the Committee, the government-to-government consultation process, Cooperating Agency review and internal review. The Planning Team has not yet identified the order in which the draft will be routed prior to public review, but the Service is interested in getting Committee feedback prior to public release.

One Committee member commented that the Committee had just spent nearly three months in a laborious process with subcommittees developing the objectives. In the end, the subcommittee and Committee members were comfortable with the range of alternatives and objectives statements for NEPA analysis. It could be difficult for the Committee to come to agreement on any particular alternative without additional information from the analysis.

Another Committee member commented that Committee advice would seem more useful on the proposed agency “preferred alternative” prior to being released to the public. While the Committee could agree to roughly 90% of the objectives to construct an alternative, without the additional information, the Committee would be wasting time trying to reach consensus on the few remaining contentious issues.

Mr. Watts asked the Committee for a ten-minute break.

### **Discussion on Developing a Federal Advisory Committee Proposed Management Alternative**

After the break, Mr. Watts asked the Committee to continue the discussion on the timeline for developing the Plan and where the Committee will be providing advice. Mr. Haas responded that he recognizes the Committee sunset date is January 2005. They are working to release a draft Plan by fall of 2004. It is highly likely the Committee will have the opportunity to review and provide advice on the public comments to the draft Plan. However, Mr. Haas was unsure the Service would be able to respond to the public comment and Committee advice in time to release a Final CCP/EIS prior to the Committee sunset date.

Mr. Watts suggested that the purpose of the Committee, as stated in the charter, is to provide advice on a long-term management plan for the Monument. If that is not complete by the sunset date, a strong argument could be made to continue with Committee action until the Final CCP/EIS is signed and adopted.

A Committee member suggested that two-thirds of the objectives were generally non-controversial. The 8-10 “gut issues” could be a good opportunity for the Committee to provide advice to the Service in meeting the charter to “reconcile differences” in the long-term management plan. Another suggestion was that the Committee should be considered a sounding board for the public-at-large. Developing a proposed alternative prior to public comment is in conflict with that sentiment. Instead, the Service should consider not suggesting a preferred alternative in the Draft CCP/EIS, and have the flexibility to analyze public comment in an effort to develop a Service and Committee preferred alternative. Other Committee members felt the public deserves to know the Service’s preferred alternative in the Draft CCP/EIS.

Some Committee members suggested making a recommendation to the Service that the Committee not disband on the sunset date, rather remain intact through the release of the Final CCP/EIS. Mr. Watts asked for a motion to make that recommendation to the Service and other appropriate people.

**Action:** The Committee approved a motion to write a letter to the Service explaining the conflict in timing between the release of the Final CCP/EIS and the Committee sunset date, and recommend that the Committee remain intact through the end of the Plan.

### **Additional Public Comment**

Charlotte Reep from the Lower Columbia Audubon Society addressed the Committee with the following points regarding hunting on the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve.

1. The soils and plants on the Reserve are very fragile. Having hunters with their vehicles all over the place would destroy this fragile ecosystem.
2. They have been protected and closed to public access for 60 years. A very rare, protected ecological balance has been preserved and it would be a tragedy if that were destroyed.
3. The land is just starting to recover from the horrendous 2000 fire.
4. The elk herd management is working since the size of the herd is declining.
5. Damage claims paid by the State are declining.
6. If the State wants to reduce the size of the herd, the hunt should be limited to cow elk. Hunting bulls will not impact the reproductive rate of the herd.
7. Wildlife needs the solitude of ALE. Continued closure of ALE will provide the solitude and protection elk need to provide a quality hunting experience to public outside the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve.

### **Summary and Next Steps**

Mr. Watts asked Ms. Shorett to summarize the meeting proceedings. Ms. Shorett summarized the Committee discussion regarding a Committee-proposed alternative. In the discussion, the Committee suggested the following.

- The Service should develop a preferred alternative as part of the Draft CCP/EIS.
- The Service should bring the draft-preferred alternative to the Committee for advice prior to going to the public, and while the preferred alternative could still be shaped.
- After release of the Draft CCP/EIS, the Service should bring public comment ideas and input back to the Committee for advice on “reconciling” the remaining issues.

**Action:** The Committee approved a motion to send a letter of advice to the Service with the three above recommendations.

Ms. Shorett continued by stating that the next Committee meeting was scheduled for the following date at the WSU-CIC:

- Thursday, April 29, 2004 from 9:30 – 4:30

Meeting Summary approved by:

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Greg Hughes, DFO

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Jim Watts, Chair

**MEETING ATTENDANCE**

<b>Committee Seat</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
K-12 Education		
Cities		<i>vacant</i>
Conservation/Environmental Counties	Rick Leaumont	Mike Lilga
Economic Development	Jim Watts	Harold Heacock
Outdoor Recreation	Rich Steele	
Public-at-Large		
Scientific/Academic	Michele Gerber David Geist Gene Schreckhise	Eric Gerber <i>vacant</i>
State		Ron Skinnerland
Native American	Rex Buck	<i>vacant</i>
Utilities/Irrigation	Nancy Craig	<i>vacant</i>
Designated Federal Official	Paula Call ( <i>Acting</i> )	

**Participants and Invited Speakers**

U.S. Department of Energy	Steve Wisness
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Dan Haas

**Facilitators**

Triangle Associates, Inc.	Alice Shorett	Derek Van Marter
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**Meeting Support**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Jennifer Boles
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**Observers**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Ron Crouse Dave Smith Jenna Gaston
U.S. Department of Energy	Tom Ferns Dana Ward Alex Teimouri
Yakama Nation	Jay McConnaghy
CTUIR	Barbara Harper Titto Moses Mary Hollen
BPA	Adam Fyall
Benton County	Linda Smith
Backcountry Horsemen of WA	Eugene Van Liew
Richland Rod and Gun Club	Charlotte Reep
Lower Columbia Audubon Society	Jeff St. John
Tri-City Herald	Maynard Plahuta
Public	

**DISTRIBUTED MATERIALS**

**Committee's Packet of Materials**

Meeting Agenda (February 25, 2004)

Draft Meeting Summary: Session #16 (January 15, 2004)

Final Committee Advice Letter #6: Monument Management Objectives

Suggestions for Development of a FAC-Proposed Alternative

Goal-by-goal Comparison across Alternatives

## Goal-By-Goal Comparison Across Alternatives

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### *Actions Common To All Alternatives*

(Objective CA1) Establish a regular schedule of government-to-government meetings with the Tribes.

(Objective CA4) Hold annual meetings with valid existing rights holders to discuss common issues.

(Objective CA2) Foster, support and respect cooperative partnerships that preserve valid existing rights while protecting the purposes of the Monument.

(Objective CA5) Recognize and cooperate with tribal, state and local governments and federal agencies in the discharge of statutory responsibilities.

(Objective CA3) Enhance relationships and partnerships with community organizations and neighbors furthering management goals.

(Objective CA6) Within one year of the CCP being adopted, evaluate operations and maintenance procedures of valid existing rights holders and begin to implement agreed changes to ensure protection of Monument resources.

**Alternative A is the “No-Action Alternative.” All actions are undertaken by the FWS unless otherwise specified.**

### *1) Conserve and restore the plants, animals and shrub-steppe and other upland habitats native to the Columbia Basin.*

#### **Alternative B**

(Objective 1B1) Evaluate existing research and monitoring data for all upland habitats and identify information gaps and prioritize research needs within one year of the CCP being adopted. Select conservation targets and conduct a threats analysis within one year of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 1B2) Based on data gaps and threats analyses, conduct habitat inventories within three to five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 1B3) Develop and implement an adaptable habitat management plan within two years of the CCP being adopted.

#### **Alternative C**

(Objective 1C1) Evaluate existing research and monitoring data for all upland habitats and identify information gaps and prioritize research needs within one year of the CCP being adopted. Select conservation targets and conduct a threats analysis within one year of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 1C2) Based on data gaps and threats analyses, conduct habitat inventories within three to five years of the CCP being adopted, focusing on areas where facilities and use are concentrated.

(Objective 1C3) Develop and implement an adaptable habitat management plan within two years of the CCP being adopted.

#### **Alternative D**

(Objective 1D1) Evaluate existing research and monitoring data for all upland habitats and identify information gaps and prioritize research needs within one year of the CCP being adopted. Select conservation targets and conduct a threats analysis within one year of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 1D2) Based on data gaps and threats analyses, conduct habitat inventories within three to five years of the CCP being adopted, focusing on areas where facilities and use are concentrated.

(Objective 1D3) Develop and implement an adaptable habitat management plan within two years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 1B4) Develop monitoring plans for critical species and habitats within three to seven years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 1B5) Begin to develop threat abatement strategies within three to five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 1B6) Within 15 years, identify, map and prioritize treatments on all invasive species populations on Monument lands and implement adaptive management principles using Integrated Pest Management strategies.

(Objective 1B7) Treat, map and monitor 20,000 acres of the Monument annually for invasive species.

(Objective 1B8) Conduct restoration activities on 6,000 acres annually on upland habitats to retain and restore stable functioning ecosystems that support diverse biotic communities.

(Objective 1B9) Establish, either individually or in cooperation with other organizations, a locally derived native seed collection, nursery and storage program within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 1B10) Restore, to the extent possible, the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain to pre-Manhattan Project conditions, excluding Proclamation-protected infrastructure, within 15 years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 1C4) Develop monitoring plans for critical species and habitats within three to seven years of the CCP being adopted, focusing on areas where facilities and use are concentrated.

(Objective 1C5) Begin to develop threat abatement strategies within three to five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 1C6) Within 15 years, identify, map and prioritize treatments on all invasive species populations on Monument lands and implement adaptive management principles using Integrated Pest Management strategies.

(Objective 1C7) Treat, map and monitor 15,000 acres of the Monument annually for invasive species.

(Objective 1C8) Conduct restoration activities on 4,000 acres annually on upland habitats to retain and restore stable functioning ecosystems that support diverse biotic communities.

(Objective 1C9) Establish, either individually or in cooperation with other organizations, a locally derived native seed collection, nursery and storage program within ten years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 1D4) Develop monitoring plans for critical species and habitats within three to seven years of the CCP being adopted, focusing on areas where facilities and use are concentrated.

(Objective 1D5) Begin to develop threat abatement strategies within three to five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 1D6) Within 15 years, identify, map and prioritize treatments on all invasive species populations on Monument lands and implement adaptive management principles using Integrated Pest Management strategies.

(Objective 1D7) Treat, map and monitor 10,000 acres of the Monument annually for invasive species.

(Objective 1D8) Conduct restoration activities on 2,000 acres annually on upland habitats to retain and restore stable functioning ecosystems that support diverse biotic communities.

(Objective 1D9) Establish, either individually or in cooperation with other organizations, a locally derived native seed collection, nursery and storage program within fifteen years of the CCP being adopted.

**2) Conserve and restore the communities of fish and other aquatic and riparian-dependent plant and animal species native to the Hanford Reach National Monument.**

**Alternative B**

(Objective 2B1) Cooperate with other stakeholders and Tribes to evaluate existing research and monitoring data for all aquatic and riparian habitats and identify information gaps and research needs within one year of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 2B2) Based on data gap analysis, conduct a thorough inventory of aquatic habitats across the Monument within seven years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 2B3) Within three years of the CCP being adopted, identify and propose rehabilitation treatments for those land-based threats or actions adversely impacting the aquatic environment.

(Objective 2B4) Monitor the effects of water quality, quantity and flow on aquatic communities, including invertebrates and aquatic plants in river, lakes, ponds and springs, within seven years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 2B5) Conduct a comprehensive baseline inventory of riparian plant and animal habitats across the Monument within five years of the CCP being adopted. Use inventory results to develop a monitoring and protection plan for aquatic and riparian habitats and plant/animal populations.

(Objective 2B6) Implement annual restoration treatments on at least ten percent of identified at-risk riparian and aquatic areas within three years of the CCP being adopted.

**Alternative C**

(Objective 2C1) Cooperate with other stakeholders and Tribes to evaluate existing research and monitoring data for all aquatic and riparian habitats and identify information gaps and research needs within one year of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 2C2) Based on data gap analysis, inventory biological needs for aquatic habitats, beginning where development or use will occur first, within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 2C3) Within three years of the CCP being adopted, identify and propose rehabilitation treatments for those land-based threats or actions adversely impacting the aquatic environment.

(Objective 2C4) Monitor the effects of water quality, quantity and flow on aquatic communities, including invertebrates and aquatic plants in river, lakes, ponds and springs, within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 2C5) Conduct a comprehensive baseline inventory, beginning where facilities and use are concentrated, of riparian plant and animal habitats within three years of the CCP being adopted. Use inventory results to develop a monitoring and protection plan for aquatic and riparian habitats and plant/animal populations.

(Objective 2C6) Implement annual restoration treatments on at least seven percent of identified at-risk riparian and aquatic areas within three years of the CCP being adopted.

**Alternative D**

(Objective 2D1) Cooperate with other stakeholders and Tribes to evaluate existing research and monitoring data for all aquatic and riparian habitats and identify information gaps and research needs within one year of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 2D2) Based on data gap analysis, inventory biological needs for aquatic habitats, beginning where facilities and use will occur first, within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 2D3) Within three years of the CCP being adopted, identify and propose rehabilitation treatments for those land-based threats or actions adversely impacting the aquatic environment.

(Objective 2D4) Monitor the effects of water quality, quantity and flow on aquatic communities, including invertebrates and aquatic plants in river, lakes, ponds and springs, within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 2D5) Conduct a comprehensive baseline inventory, beginning where facilities and use are concentrated, of riparian plant and animal habitats within three years of the CCP being adopted. Use inventory results to develop a monitoring and protection plan for aquatic and riparian habitats and plant/animal populations.

(Objective 2D6) Implement annual restoration treatments on at least five percent of identified at-risk riparian and aquatic areas within three years of the CCP being adopted.

**3) Enhance Monument resources by establishing and maintaining connectivity with neighboring habitats.**

**Alternative B**

(Objective 3B1) Establish working groups to identify habitats and species with high potential to benefit from connectivity with areas outside the Monument within one year of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 3B2) Work with partners to identify conservation and funding strategies for protection and acquisition of connected habitat within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 3B3) Meet annually with adjacent landowners, other agencies, tribes, sportsmen and environmental groups to discuss common habitat/management objectives and future possibilities.

(Objective 3B4) Actively participate in planning efforts for off-site projects that could affect the Monument as issues arise.

**Alternative C**

(Objective 3C1) Establish working groups to identify habitats and species with high potential to benefit from connectivity with areas outside the Monument within one year of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 3C2) Work with partners to identify conservation and funding strategies for protection of connected habitat within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 3C3) Meet annually with adjacent landowners, other agencies, tribes, sportsmen and environmental groups to discuss common habitat/management objectives and future possibilities.

(Objective 3C4) Actively participate in planning efforts for off-site projects that could affect the Monument as issues arise.

**Alternative D**

(Objective 3D1) Establish working groups to identify habitats and species with high potential to benefit from connectivity with areas outside the Monument within one year of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 3D2) Work with partners to identify conservation and funding strategies for protection of connected habitat within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 3D3) Meet annually with adjacent landowners, other agencies, tribes, sportsmen and environmental groups to discuss common habitat/management objectives and future possibilities.

(Objective 3D4) Actively participate in planning efforts for off-site projects that could affect the Monument as issues arise.

**4) Protect the distinctive geological and paleontological resources of the Monument.**

**Alternative B**

(Objective 4B1) Inventory and evaluate the regional significance of known geological and paleontological resources within five years of the CCP being adopted.

Identify threats and develop protection strategies for distinctive geological and paleontological resources within three years of the inventory being completed.

**Alternative C**

(Objective 4C1) Inventory and evaluate the regional significance of known geological and paleontological resources within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 4C2) Identify threats and develop protection strategies for distinctive geological and paleontological resources within three years of the inventory being completed.

**Alternative D**

(Objective 4D1) Inventory and evaluate the regional significance of known geological and paleontological resources within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 4D2) Identify threats and develop protection strategies for distinctive geological and paleontological resources within three years of the inventory being completed.

(Objective 4B2) Based on significance and threat, monitor resource conditions and address at least two threats annually.

(Objective 4B3) Continue to participate in and promote efforts to achieve long-term resolution to White Bluffs degradation. Within one year of the USGS White Bluffs sloughing study being completed, implement feasible recommendations that protect the integrity of the White Bluffs.

(Objective 4B4) Develop cooperative partnerships to mitigate island and shoreline erosion within one year of the White Bluffs study being completed.

(Objective 4C3) Based on significance and threat, monitor resource conditions and address at least one threat annually.

(Objective 4C4) Continue to participate in and promote efforts to achieve long-term resolution to White Bluffs degradation. Within one year of the USGS White Bluffs sloughing study being completed, implement feasible recommendations that protect the integrity of the White Bluffs.

(Objective 4C5) Develop cooperative partnerships to mitigate island and shoreline erosion within one year of the White Bluffs study being completed.

(Objective 4D3) Based on significance and threat, monitor resource conditions and address at least one threat annually.

(Objective 4D4) Continue to participate in and promote efforts to achieve long-term resolution to White Bluffs degradation. Within one year of the USGS White Bluffs sloughing study being completed, implement feasible recommendations that protect the integrity of the White Bluffs.

(Objective 4D5) Develop cooperative partnerships to mitigate island and shoreline erosion within one year of the White Bluffs study being completed.

**5) *Protect and acknowledge the Native American, settler, atomic and Cold War histories of the Monument to ensure present and future generations recognize the significance of the area's past, incorporating a balance of views.***

**Alternative B**

(Objective 5B1) Review and evaluate existing cultural/historical resource databases; develop and implement a cultural/historical resource management plan with stakeholder and Tribal involvement within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 5B2) Develop and implement an ongoing oral history program on settlement and use of the Monument.

(Objective 5B3) In addition to mandated cultural resource surveys, identify data gaps and survey a minimum of 1,000 acres annually, beginning within two years of the CCP being adopted.

**Alternative C**

(Objective 5C1) Review and evaluate existing cultural/historical resource databases; develop and implement a cultural/historical resource management plan with stakeholder and Tribal involvement within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 5C2) Develop and implement an ongoing oral history program on settlement and use of the Monument.

(Objective 5C3) In addition to mandated cultural resource surveys, identify data gaps and survey a minimum of 750 acres annually, where facilities and use are concentrated, beginning within two years of the CCP being adopted.

**Alternative D**

(Objective 5D1) Review and evaluate existing cultural/historical resource databases; develop and implement a cultural/historical resource management plan with stakeholder and Tribal involvement within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 5D2) Develop and implement an ongoing oral history program on settlement and use of the Monument.

(Objective 5D3) In addition to mandated cultural resource surveys, identify data gaps and survey a minimum of 500 acres annually, where facilities and use are concentrated, beginning within two years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 5B4) Develop agreements and implement inventory, monitoring and protection programs for cultural resources between the FWS, other agencies and tribes within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 5B5) Monitor a minimum of 15 National Register eligible archaeological sites and historic structures semi-annually.

(Objective 5B6) Evaluate potential Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) in collaboration and consultation with affected tribes within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 5B7) Develop and implement a protection strategy/plan for cultural resource sites at risk for potential damage through erosion and vandalism within one year of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 5B8) Within two years of the CCP being adopted, establish policies and procedures for recovered artifacts and inadvertent discovery of human remains.

(Objective 5C4) Develop agreements and implement inventory, monitoring and protection programs for cultural resources between the FWS, other agencies and tribes within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 5C5) Monitor a minimum of 10 National Register eligible archaeological sites and historic structures semi-annually, concentrated in areas of public use.

(Objective 5C6) Evaluate potential Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) in collaboration and consultation with affected tribes within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 5C7) Develop and implement a protection strategy/plan for cultural resource sites at risk for potential damage through erosion and vandalism within one year of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 5C8) Within two years of the CCP being adopted, establish policies and procedures for recovered artifacts and inadvertent discovery of human remains.

(Objective 5D4) Develop agreements and implement inventory, monitoring and protection programs for cultural resources between the FWS, other agencies and tribes within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 5D5) Monitor a minimum of five National Register eligible archaeological sites and historic structures semi-annually, concentrated in areas of public use.

(Objective 5D6) Evaluate potential Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) in collaboration and consultation with affected tribes within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 5D7) Develop and implement a protection strategy/plan for cultural resource sites at risk for potential damage through erosion and vandalism within one year of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 5D8) Within two years of the CCP being adopted, establish policies and procedures for recovered artifacts and inadvertent discovery of human remains.

**6) *Provide a rich variety of educational and interpretive opportunities for visitors to gain an appreciation, knowledge and understanding of the Monument, compatible with resource protection.***

**Alternative B**

(Objective 6B1) Within two years of the CCP being adopted, develop and implement a multi-disciplinary interpretive plan, incorporating a variety of interpretive opportunities to appeal to a broad spectrum of interests, learning styles and abilities, concentrating facilities only in the least-sensitive areas.

(Objective 6B2) Create at least 10 interpretive sites over the duration of the CCP, beginning within two years of the CCP being adopted.

**Alternative C**

(Objective 6C1) Within two years of the CCP being adopted, develop and implement a multi-disciplinary interpretive plan, incorporating a variety of interpretive opportunities to appeal to a broad spectrum of interests, learning styles and abilities, concentrating facilities at the perimeter of the Monument.

(Objective 6C2) Create at least 15 interpretive sites over the duration of the CCP, beginning within two years of the CCP being adopted.

**Alternative D**

(Objective 6D1) Within two years of the CCP being adopted, develop and implement a multi-disciplinary interpretive plan, incorporating a variety of interpretive opportunities to appeal to a broad spectrum of interests, learning styles and abilities, with developed facilities across the Monument.

(Objective 6D2) Create at least 20 interpretive sites over the duration of the CCP, beginning within two years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 6B3) Over the life of the CCP, create up to two interpretive trails.

(Objective 6B4) Within one year of the CCP being adopted, develop and distribute educational materials on proper recreational use practices for the protection of Monument resources.

(Objective 6B5) Within six years of the CCP being adopted, develop and implement a multi-disciplinary environmental education program with curricula aligned with national and state educational standards.

(Objective 6B6) Offer at least one on-site interpretive or educational program per year.

(Objective 6B7) Conduct at least six off-site interpretive or educational presentations to the community per year.

(Objective 6C3) Over the life of the CCP, create up to four interpretive trails.

(Objective 6C4) Within one year of the CCP being adopted, develop and distribute educational materials on proper recreational use practices for the protection of Monument resources.

(Objective 6C5) Within four years of the CCP being adopted, develop and implement a multi-disciplinary environmental education program with curricula aligned with national and state educational standards.

(Objective 6C6) Offer at least two on-site interpretive or educational programs per year.

(Objective 6C7) Conduct at least eight off-site interpretive or educational presentations to the community per year.

(Objective 6C8) Develop a volunteer program to facilitate assistance with resource protection and environmental education efforts.

(Objective 6C9) Provide one education training program per year that focuses on Monument-specific resources and issues for educators, FWS staff, partners, and volunteers.

(Objective 6D3) Over the life of the CCP, create up to six interpretive trails.

(Objective 6D4) Within one year of the CCP being adopted, develop and distribute educational materials on proper recreational use practices for the protection of Monument resources.

(Objective 6D5) Within two years of the CCP being adopted, develop and implement a multi-disciplinary environmental education program with curricula aligned with national and state educational standards.

(Objective 6D6) Offer at least three on-site interpretive or educational programs per year.

(Objective 6D7) Conduct at least twelve off-site interpretive or educational presentations to the community per year.

(Objective 6D8) Develop a volunteer program to facilitate assistance with resource protection and environmental education efforts.

(Objective 6D9) Provide two education training program per year that focuses on Monument-specific resources and issues for educators, FWS staff, partners, and volunteers.

(Objective 6D10) Within eight years, initiate a study to determine the need, location and scope of a second interpretive center serving people to the north of the Monument.

(Objective 6D11) Cooperate with local, state and federal partners to facilitate heritage tourism initiatives.

**7) *Provide access and opportunities for high-quality recreation compatible with resource protection.***

### **Alternative B**

(Objective 7B1) Develop and implement a visitor services plan within five years of the CCP being adopted, concentrating use and developed facilities only in the least-sensitive areas.

(Objective 7B2) Institute a permit system for commercial outfitters and guides on Monument lands within one year.

(Objective 7B3) Develop and implement a monitoring plan that assesses visitor satisfaction, recreational demand, and the impacts of recreational activities on natural and cultural resources within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7B4) Within five years of the CCP being adopted, seek partnerships/cooperative management agreements with those agencies with jurisdiction on the Columbia River to determine mutually agreeable surface use regulations.

(Objective 7B5) Within five years of the CCP being adopted, develop a fishing plan that provides for high-quality fishing opportunities on the Monument in accordance with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations.

(Objective 7B6) Provide for day use and an undeveloped boat launch in the Vernita Bridge area, with activities confined to a limited area.

(Objective 7B7) Coordinate with partners to provide a developed boat launch near the Ringold Fish Hatchery within five years of the CCP being adopted.

### **Alternative C**

(Objective 7C1) Develop and implement a visitor services plan within three years of the CCP being adopted, concentrating use and developed facilities along the perimeter of the Monument.

(Objective 7C2) Institute a permit system for commercial outfitters and guides on Monument lands within one year.

(Objective 7C3) Develop and implement a monitoring plan that assesses visitor satisfaction, recreational demand, and the impacts of recreational activities on natural and cultural resources within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7C4) Within three years of the CCP being adopted, seek partnerships/cooperative management agreements with those agencies with jurisdiction on the Columbia River to determine mutually agreeable surface use regulations.

(Objective 7C5) Within three years of the CCP being adopted, develop a fishing plan that provides for high-quality fishing opportunities on the Monument in accordance with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations.

(Objective 7C6) Provide for day use and an undeveloped boat launch in the Vernita Bridge area, with activities confined to a limited area.

(Objective 7C7) Coordinate with partners to provide a developed boat launch near the Ringold Fish Hatchery within three years of the CCP being adopted.

### **Alternative D**

(Objective 7D1) Develop and implement a visitor services plan within two years of the CCP being adopted, concentrating use and developed facilities across the Monument.

(Objective 7D2) Institute a permit system for commercial outfitters and guides on Monument lands within one year.

(Objective 7D3) Develop and implement a monitoring plan that assesses visitor satisfaction, recreational demand, and the impacts of recreational activities on natural and cultural resources within two years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7D4) Within two years of the CCP being adopted, seek partnerships/cooperative management agreements with those agencies with jurisdiction on the Columbia River to determine mutually agreeable surface use regulations.

(Objective 7D5) Within two years of the CCP being adopted, develop a fishing plan that provides for high-quality fishing opportunities on the Monument in accordance with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations.

(Objective 7D6) Provide a camping area and developed boat launch in the Vernita Bridge area.

(Objective 7D7) Coordinate with partners to provide a developed boat launch near the Ringold Fish Hatchery within two years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7B8) Coordinate with partners to improve off-site primitive camping opportunities/facilities near the Ringold Fish Hatchery within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7B9) Coordinate with partners to provide developed, off-site camping opportunities/facilities downstream of the Priest Rapids Dam within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7B11) Maintain boat access at White Bluffs.

(Objective 7B12) Within five years of the CCP being adopted, develop a hunting plan that provides for high-quality hunting opportunities in accordance with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations on the Wahluke and River Corridor (downstream of the old wooden power lines) Units.

(Objective 7B14) Develop and implement an equestrian plan—limiting use to selected roadways and addressing allowable seasons of use—within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7B15) Provide hiking opportunities on designated trail systems on the Wahluke Slope and river corridor, with seasonal and area restrictions.

(Objective 7C8) Coordinate with partners to develop semi-primitive off-site camping opportunities/facilities near the Ringold Fish Hatchery within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7C9) Coordinate with partners to provide developed, off-site camping opportunities/facilities downstream of the Priest Rapids Dam within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7C10) Establish three to six boat-in camp site(s), with necessary resource and use restrictions, within six years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7C11) Close White Bluffs boat launch, focusing access at Ringold or Vernita.

(Objective 7C12) Within five years of the CCP being adopted, develop a hunting plan that provides for high-quality hunting opportunities in accordance with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations on the Wahluke and River Corridor (downstream of the old wooden power lines) Units.

(Objective 7C14) Develop and implement an equestrian plan—limiting use to selected roadways and trails and addressing allowable seasons of use—within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7C15) Provide hiking opportunities on designated trails and cross-country on the Wahluke Slope and river corridor, with seasonal and area restrictions.

(Objective 7D8) Coordinate with partners to develop off-site camping opportunities/facilities near the Ringold Fish Hatchery within two years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7D9) Coordinate with partners to provide developed, off-site camping opportunities/facilities downstream of the Priest Rapids Dam within two years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7D10) Provide up to three developed camping opportunities in the Monument river corridor and uplands, within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7D11) Improve the White Bluffs boat launch.

(Objective 7D12) Within five years of the CCP being adopted, develop a hunting plan that provides for high-quality hunting opportunities in accordance with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations on the Wahluke, Saddle Mountain and River Corridor (downstream of the old wooden power lines) Units.

(Objective 7D13) Provide for limited special elk hunts on ALE if needed, based on scientific resource management data, within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7D14) Develop and implement an equestrian plan—allowing for use on roadways, trails and cross-country and addressing allowable seasons of use—within two years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7D15) Provide hiking opportunities Monument-wide on designated trails and cross-country consistent with expanded road access, with seasonal and area restrictions.

(Objective 7B16) Within 10 years of the CCP being adopted, develop up to six wildlife observation sites, ensuring that major habitats and target species are represented.

(Objective 7C16) Within 10 years of the CCP being adopted, develop up to eight wildlife observation sites, ensuring that major habitats and target species are represented.

(Objective 7D16) Within 10 years of the CCP being adopted, develop up to twelve wildlife observation sites, ensuring that major habitats and target species are represented.

(Objective 7B17) Augment law enforcement by developing and implementing a FWS-managed “Monument Watch” program to protect cultural and natural resources, within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7C17) Develop up to two wildlife photography sites within six years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7D17) Develop up to three wildlife photography sites on the Monument within six years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7C18) Augment law enforcement by developing and implementing a FWS-managed “Monument Watch” program to protect cultural and natural resources, within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 7D18) Augment law enforcement by developing and implementing a FWS-managed “Monument Watch” program to protect cultural and natural resources, within three years of the CCP being adopted.

**8) *Protect the natural visual character and promote the opportunity to experience solitude on the Monument.***

**Alternative B**

**Alternative C**

**Alternative D**

(Objective 8B1) Complete inventory of visual resources and determine a range of visual classes from low to high sensitivity within six years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 8C1) Complete inventory of visual resources and determine a range of visual classes from low to high sensitivity within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 8D1) Complete inventory of visual resources and determine a range of visual classes from low to high sensitivity within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 8B2) In cooperation with affected agencies and governments, develop a visual resources management plan incorporating objectives and design standards for structures and utilities within seven years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 8C2) In cooperation with affected agencies and governments, develop a visual resources management plan incorporating objectives and design standards for structures and utilities within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 8D2) In cooperation with affected agencies and governments, develop a visual resources management plan incorporating objectives and design standards for structures and utilities within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 8B3) Inventory and evaluate all residual research materials and structures and remove as appropriate within two years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 8C3) Inventory and evaluate all residual research materials and structures and remove as appropriate within two years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 8D3) Inventory and evaluate all residual research materials and structures and remove as appropriate within two years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 8B4) Develop light and noise standards within the Monument within seven years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 8C4) Develop light and noise standards within the Monument within five years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 8D4) Develop light and noise standards within the Monument within three years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 8B5) Participate in planning efforts for off-site projects that could affect the Monument viewshed or solitude.

(Objective 8C5) Participate in planning efforts for off-site projects that could affect the Monument viewshed or solitude.

(Objective 8D5) Participate in planning efforts for off-site projects that could affect the Monument viewshed or solitude.

~~9) Honor treaty rights in accordance with Department of Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Native American policy.~~

**NO LONGER CONSIDERED AS A GOAL. TREATY RIGHTS ARE A MANDATE, AND AS SUCH, SUPERCEDE THE ‘LEVEL’ OF A GOAL. TREATY RIGHTS WILL BE ADDRESSED IN A SECTION PRECEDING THE DISCUSSION OF GOALS. THE SPIRIT OF THIS GOAL WILL BE FULLY HONORED.**

~~10) Foster, support and respect cooperative partnerships that preserve valid existing rights while protecting the purposes of the Monument. Recognize and cooperate with tribal, state and local governments and federal agencies in the discharge of statutory responsibilities. Enhance relationships and partnerships with community organizations and neighbors furthering management goals.~~

**NO LONGER CONSIDERED AS A GOAL. VALID EXISTING RIGHTS ARE A MANDATE—THROUGH POLICY, LAW AND THE ENABLING PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION, AND AS SUCH, SUPERCEDE THE ‘LEVEL’ OF A GOAL. VALID EXISTING RIGHTS WILL BE ADDRESSED IN A SECTION PRECEDING THE DISCUSSION OF GOALS. THE SPIRIT OF THIS GOAL WILL BE FULLY HONORED, INCLUDING THAT OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS, WHICH ARE ADDRESSED IN OTHER GOALS.**

~~H 9) Facilitate research compatible with resource protection, emphasizing research that contributes to management goals of the Monument.~~

**Alternative B**

(Objective 9B1) Establish operations, access and equipment maintenance protocols for the Monument within one year of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 9B2) Within one year of the CCP being adopted, develop research project and prioritization standards with the goal of Monument resource protection.

(Objective 9B3) Form an interagency advisory group that includes scientific and academic interests to assist with review of research proposals.

(Objective 9B5) Conduct an annual review of research results and adapt management accordingly.

**Alternative C**

(Objective 9C1) Establish operations, access and equipment maintenance protocols for the Monument within one year of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 9C2) Within one year of the CCP being adopted, develop research project and prioritization standards with the goal of Monument resource protection.

(Objective 9C3) Seek approval to form a local, representative advisory group that includes scientific and academic interests to assist with review of research proposals.

(Objective 9C4) Request researchers incorporate a public outreach/education component into their activities.

(Objective 9C5) Conduct an annual review of research results and adapt management accordingly.

**Alternative D**

(Objective 9D1) Establish operations, access and equipment maintenance protocols for the Monument within one year of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 9D2) Within one year of the CCP being adopted, develop research project and prioritization standards with the goal of Monument resource protection.

(Objective 9D3) Seek approval to form a local, representative advisory group that includes scientific and academic interests to assist with review of research proposals.

(Objective 9D4) Request researchers incorporate a public outreach/education component into their activities.

(Objective 9D5) Conduct an annual review of research results and adapt management accordingly.

(Objective 9B6) Develop a dissemination network/system to share findings of research conducted on or for the Monument within two years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 9C6) Develop a dissemination network/system to share findings of research conducted on or for the Monument within two years of the CCP being adopted.

(Objective 9D6) Develop a dissemination network/system to share findings of research conducted on or for the Monument within two years of the CCP being adopted.

***12 10) Establish and maintain a cooperative fire management program that protects facilities, resources and neighbors and fulfills natural resource management objectives.***

**Alternative B**

(Objective 10B1) Within five years of the CCP being adopted, rewrite the existing Fire Management Plan, ensuring that it includes:

- 1) The use of prescribed fire to accomplish resource management objectives.
- 2) A fire prevention and education program component.
- 3) The suppression of fires to the smallest acreage that is feasible for fire fighter and public safety and resource protection.
- 4) The integration of fire management into all Monument programs.
- 5) The identification of capital needs for facilities.
- 6) The reduction of hazardous fuels on the Monument by appropriate means such as prescribed fire, mechanical and/or chemical treatments.

(Objective 10B2) Review, update and execute cooperative agreements every five years, including, at minimum, an annual meeting to discuss the capabilities of each partner.

**Alternative C**

(Objective 10C1) Within five years of the CCP being adopted, rewrite the existing Fire Management Plan, ensuring that it includes:

- 1) The use of prescribed fire to accomplish resource management objectives.
- 2) A fire prevention and education program component.
- 3) The suppression of fires to the smallest acreage that is feasible for fire fighter and public safety and resource protection.
- 4) The integration of fire management into all Monument programs.
- 5) The identification of capital needs for facilities.
- 6) The reduction of hazardous fuels on the Monument by appropriate means such as prescribed fire, mechanical and/or chemical treatments.

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**Alternative D**

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- 4) The integration of fire management into all Monument programs.
- 5) The identification of capital needs for facilities.
- 6) The reduction of hazardous fuels on the Monument by appropriate means such as prescribed fire, mechanical and/or chemical treatments.

(Objective 10D2) Review, update and execute cooperative agreements every five years, including, at minimum, an annual meeting to discuss the capabilities of each partner.

~~13) Provide infrastructure, operations and maintenance capabilities that are in harmony with Monument purposes.~~

**NO LONGER CONSIDERED AS A GOAL. INFRASTRUCTURE AND MAINTENANCE ARE INTEGRAL TO EACH GOAL, PROGRAM AND MONUMENT ACTIVITY AND ARE CONSIDERED WITHIN THOSE ARENAS.**

## ATTACHMENT B

### **Agency's Preferred Alternative. What is the "agency's preferred alternative?"**

A. The "agency's preferred alternative" is the alternative which the agency believes would fulfill its statutory mission and responsibilities, giving consideration to economic, environmental, technical and other factors. The concept of the agency's preferred alternative" is different from the "environmentally preferred alternative", although in some cases one alternative may be both. It is identified so the public can understand the lead agency's orientation. (*Memorandum: Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQs NEPA Regulations*)

### **Cooperating Agency "Brainstormed" List of Criteria for Selecting a "Preferred" Alternative, January 28, 2004**

The preferred alternative:

- should not interfere with any valid existing rights
- should be consistent with Monument Proclamation (purpose) and support the Refuge System mission.
- should be consistent with laws and regulations
- should be consistent with or have the least amount of conflict with other agencies' missions (those with jurisdiction).
- should take into consideration public comments and expectations.
- should be the alternative that best supports/fulfills the Monument goals.
- best addresses issues (balance).
- should be financially realistic.
- is desirable as the environmentally preferred alternative but this is not required.
- should be flexible in its implementation.