



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Hanford Reach National Monument
Saddle Mountain National Wildlife Refuge
... protecting the last of the free-flowing Columbia River



June 21, 2004 Comprehensive Conservation Plan Reaches Milestone

The Hanford Reach National Monument planning team has reached a milestone in their two year journey to meld together the protection of Monument resources, the public's demand for increased access, and the advice of local constituents that make up our Federal Advisory Committee, into a range of potential management alternatives. The four draft alternatives range from a focus on restoration efforts to a focus on increased visitor services. The draft alternatives were presented to the Federal Advisory Committee during a workshop session on June 16 and 17. After hearing a presentation by the planning staff outlining the management scenarios of the four options, the Committee members hammered out a compromise alternative that fit closely to their views on how management of the Monument should proceed over the next 15 years.



Most agreed that the majority of facilities and development should occur around the perimeter of the Monument, keeping the interior in a more natural state to maintain a sense of solitude for visitors. The Committee supported the concept of restructuring management units around resources with similar habitats, thereby allowing previously closed lands to be opened to the public in the future. The Committee agreed



that management controls would be needed to protect seasonal nesting areas and sensitive biological and cultural resources. The planning team is discussing the Committee's proposed management alternative to determine whether it will be included as a new management alternative in the draft Environmental Impact Statement or whether a preexisting alternative will be modified to incorporate the Committee's advice. Government to government consultation efforts will continue to solicit input from the tribes and the State of Washington. A draft CCP/EIS is due out for final public review in late fall of this year.