

The Hanford Reach National Monument (Monument) covers an area of 196,000 acres on the Department of Energy's (DOE) Hanford Reservation in south-central Washington State. Of this, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) manages approximately 165,000 acres through a DOE permit (see Appendix F) and other agreements with the DOE. The DOE directly manages approximately 29,000 acres, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife currently manages the remainder (approximately 800 acres) under a DOE permit.

The Presidential Proclamation establishing the Monument (Presidential Proclamation 7319, see Appendix C) directs that it be jointly managed by the DOE and FWS. However, the development of a comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) for management of the Monument (i.e., any lands managed as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System) is solely a requisite of the FWS under the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act (see Appendix E). As such, this CCP is being written to guide the FWS in its management of the Monument, although the DOE may also adopt the final CCP. As this is a FWS document and directs its management of the Monument, throughout the CCP references are made to "FWS management of the Monument" or other similar phrases. It should be understood that this is meant to mean 'FWS management of the Monument through permits or agreements with the DOE.' Further, whatever the context of any particular portion of the CCP, it should be kept firmly in mind that the FWS and DOE are joint managers of the Monument.

Although the DOE is a cooperating agency in the preparation of this environmental impact statement (EIS), this document is the FWS's, and as such, although the differences may not be expressly stated in the text, the document may not in all instances reflect the DOE's views.

Comprehensive Conservation Plans provide long-term guidance for management decisions and set forth goals, objectives and strategies needed to accomplish refuge purposes and identify the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's best estimate of future needs. These plans detail program planning levels that are sometimes substantially above current budget allocations and, as such, are primarily used for strategic planning and program prioritization purposes. The plans do not constitute a commitment for staffing increases, operational and maintenance increases, or funding for future land acquisition.