

**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FLIP CHARTS**  
**Hanford Reach National Monument EIS**

**MATTAWA - August 28, 2002 Public Scoping Meeting**

**Monument Orientation / Valid Existing Rights Comments**

- 300K acres/ft of water involved in Columbia Basin Project on Wahluke to water 40K acres out of red zone area. Give these to Port of Mattawa to allocate to development.
- Close off River during waterfowl season – To Richland water plant.  
Grant County equity. 45% of land base.  
Wanapum Indian claims to reach area/corridor.

**Public Use and Access Comments**

- Ban jet-skis
- Incorrect signs near WB/Lot 7?
- WILD & Scenic River – if created ban all boats
- Public access on Saddle Mountain-River is open but land is closed?
- Interpretive Center – Hwy 24 & Co. Rd 24
- “Nodes of Activity”
- B Reactor Access
- WB boat landing access on Benton County side of memorial
- Boat landing – Grant County
- Loop trail (foot) on S.M. – S.M. Lake, etc.
- Vernita Bride/McGee degradation – fix boat launch
- Lock it up and throw the key away
- Info / Visitor kiosk at SR 24 / Rd 24 SW intersection
- Trail system originating at SR 24 / Rd 24 SW intersection

**Wildlife, Habitat and Fisheries Comments**

- Noxious weed control needed – Salt cedar taking over
- Investigate the ground so wildlife have something to eat & drink

**Fire Management Comments**

- Fire station at SR 24 / Rd 24 SW intersection
- Have control burn every year

**Cultural Resources Comments**

- Priest Rapids Valley 1943 Memorial  
- Construct at White Bluffs landing at Hanford site side. Access from River.

**Geological and Paleontological Resources Comments**

*No comments*

**Federal Advisory Committee / Monument Visions Comments**

*No comments*

## **SEATTLE – September 5, 2002 Public Scoping Meeting**

### **Monument Orientation / Valid Existing Rights Comments**

- FWS is now an important player at Hanford and should be part of the long-term stewardship planning process. Information management relating to wastes, cleanup, decisions and residual contamination needs to be developed in an inclusive and systematic way

### **Public Use and Access Comments**

- Fact sheets good but need maps
- We need wilderness type boat camp sites (human powered?). Washington water trails type (*seconded by additional participant*)
- At put-in warning signs to describe how far & how long, headwinds, lack of facilities – handout
- Sanitation for people coming off the water positive signage – where to land campsites – non-motorized boats/primitive
- Partner with nonprofits (e.g., Audubon) to make nature appreciation more accessible

### **Wildlife, Habitat and Fisheries Comments**

- Protect & restore ecosystem to allow native vegetation and species to be re-introduced and thrive
- Control & manage access to Vernita Bridge Unit. Put in proper boat ramp, porta-potty. Stop lease w/ WDFW & give USFWS more money to manage the unit.

### **Fire Management Comments**

- Get on DOE's case to remove the tumbleweeds along WA240 through Hanford
- Ask Benton Clean Air Group how fire affected clean air?

### **Cultural Resources Comments**

- B Reactor museum
- B Reactor and/or visitor center as curation center for cleanup, cultural resources, institutional control and other information through time

### **Geological and Paleontological Resources Comments**

*No comments*

### **Federal Advisory Committee / Monument Visions Comments**

- Include B Reactor in the Monument
- Help folks appreciate the desert's beauty
- Need wilderness campsites for boaters (canoes, etc) along areas not accessible by car.
- Camping and development should be limited to the entrances to the monument. Leave the interior undeveloped.

## **RICHLAND – September 9, 2002 Public Scoping Meeting**

### **Monument Orientation / Valid Existing Rights Comments**

- Check with Boyd H. on all existing BPA agreements.
- Make sure telescope with power source are secured rights in planning.

### **Public Use and Access Comments**

- Boat launch – big enough for peak usage; mixed feelings about increasing use
- Conflict with jet skis – keep them out
- Likes Vernita launch as is – keeps riff-raff out.
- Coordinate Vernita access with Grant County FERC relicense
- Horse trails – more access
- ALE centennial trail – connection over Saddle Mtn with John Wayne trail
- Keep WB boat launch
- Encourage trail use (foot)
- Change “zoning” for small businesses
- Leasing of lands for small businesses and concessionaires
- More access to Rattlesnake
  - level is negotiable
  - possibly day hiking
- Leave overlook road closed (section currently closed for safety)
- Leave Hwy 24 access to overlook open
- Improved boat launch between Ringold Hatchery & P.L.#8. Don't mess up current bank fishing at hatchery.
- Keep & improve boat launch area at Vernita
- Access at Hanford town site
- No gill nets
- Open road on Franklin County side to access Grant County (Ringold Road)
- Continue public access for hunting & fishing
- Add boat launch facility at Vernita
- Add/improve restroom facilities at key points throughout Reach for boating/canoeing/driving tours
- Add interpretive kiosks at key sites throughout Monument
- Access -
  - likes combo of “official” multi-use roads and primitive roads
  - Jeep/cycle use – on roads and trails
  - Saddle Mtn – N. to BLM – provide access
  - Open E. side road to lookout
  - Access to historic sites – includes Nike sites
- Add/consider primitive camping at Wt. Bluff boat launch
- Concerns about impacts of ORV on plants/vegetation – Consider better enforcement of off-road vehicles
- Horseback riding access
  - Include parking lots
  - Interested in trail maintenance
  - Interested in helping w/horse manure mgmt (has ideas)
    - . Purple Sage riders
    - . Rattlesnake Ridge riders

- Consider use of horses w/hunting program
- Consider trail access across Rattlesnake and over to N. slope
- Maintain public access – both recreational and commercial e.g. boat tours on river
- Consider regulating # boat tours
- Maintain quality of recreational boating experience
- Where appropriate consider expansion of river use, e.g. kayak tours
- Consider primitive camping for canoe/kayak users – in vicinity of parking lot #7
- Open currently closed road on east side
- Open, but keep gravel road
- Improve Ringold River Road
- Consider multi-use (no vehicles) trail access loop trail from rattlesnake to N. slope and lower to Wahluke
- Consider access for horses over Saddle Mtn to BLM land on north side. Need water for horses; consider wells, tanks, or volunteers to help maintain water supplies
- Hiking along the entire length of river (51 miles) with primitive shelters for backpackers. Use composting toilets; also need water in a few places for drinking
- Also provide for kayaks/canoes – primitive camping, e.g., Wt. Bluffs, Ringold, P.L. #7
- Provide access / launching for boating (not jet skis) for fishing, recreational use
- Look at mountain bike issues – for both road and trail use
- Consider areas designated for mountain bike use
- Continue to allow personal water craft
- Locate Visitor Center within Tri-Cities
- Locate access/viewpoints at key places, e.g., Wt. Bluffs overlook, Wt. Bluffs landing, B/L recreational pull-out on SR 24
- Limit access / preserve quality of experience
- Locate Information Center in the monument – NOT in town
- Interested in equestrian access:
  - Likes conditions now
  - Okay with organized trails
  - Need good parking areas for truck/trailers
- Rattlesnake consider limited access such as permits
- Overnight camping for dog field trials
- Provide sites for field trials (including camping)
- Concern to preserve Rattlesnake Mountain Observatory and provide for its continued use
- Provide access as needed for observatory maintenance and operations
- Keep ALE as “wilderness” – limit public use / access on ALE to scientific / educational / research activities
- Power access needed for observatory site
- Observatory staff needs additional control room / facility for operations / safety
- Preserve existing access to Nike site (Gravitational Physics Laboratory) and the Rattlesnake Mountain Observatory areas for research and educational outreach
- Preserve access to top of Rattlesnake Mountain (via Gate 106) for placement and testing of geologic, atmospheric, etc. instrument research packages
- Need better maps to show county roads / access to east side

### **Wildlife, Habitat and Fisheries Comments**

- Maintain current access and opportunities for hunting & fishing
- Allow coyote hunting
  - Current regulations too restrictive
  - Shot gun hunts (bird then deer) conflict for quality deer hunt experience
- Elk hunting by the public
- Allow the building of trails for horses and mules with trail heads; parking lots with restrooms
- Allow rifle for big game
- Allow field trials/camping at select areas
- Protection of salmon spawning grounds with allowances for sport fishing
- No commercial fishing, excluding guides/outfitters (nets)
- Increase parking lot size A+ lot #7
- Consider e.g. use on ALE
- Provide for public tours on monument to share beauty with public
- Allow research projects to be continued by PNL scientists
- Keep area restrictions in place with use by scientists, classes, special education tours

### **Fire Management Comments**

- Why not restore 500 yards from any public road to reduce cheat grass cover to reduce fire risk. Plant or allow fire resistant plants to establish. Plant sagebrush when fire risk is low. Plant as seed. – Steven Link
- Keep fires from damaging DOE/PNNL facilities and maintain access to them for maintenance & research.

### **Cultural Resources Comments**

- Opportunities & Concerns:
  - Protection of arch. sites from looting by increasing surveillance especially at night. More public education and announcements for protection and monitoring program. Institute a public watch group for CR.
- The location of a cultural history center in close proximity to the B Reactor would benefit both monuments access by the public.
- B Reactor museum

### **Geological and Paleontological Resources Comments**

- Permit more educational access (college courses)
- Stop the landslides (a disaster in slow motion)
- I'm concerned that research projects by Battelle scientists have been curtailed on A.L.E.

### **Federal Advisory Committee / Monument Visions Comments**

- Open the road from near the Vernita Rest area to B Reactor for ease of tours. B Reactor needs to be saved as a museum whether under USFWS or hopefully NPS.
- Interim Management Rules
  - Need to be publicly discussed and communicated (signs posted showing changes)

## YAKIMA – September 17, 2002 Public Scoping Meeting

### **Monument Orientation / Valid Existing Rights Comments**

- Confusion – Are the islands open for hunting or not?
- Drifting rule of thumb 1½ hour per stop

### **Public Use and Access Comments**

- Open all islands for hunting at white bluffs – deer and elk
- Fence 240 to keep elk in
- Falconry (hunting with raptors)
- Arid lands permits – foot traffic only
- Access should be secondary to preservation of the resources (*comment seconded by another party*)
- Keep ALE restricted – use for research
- On the river - Consider access by permitting, i.e., canoe & kayak trips – provide overnight sight with toilet (boat-in only)
- Continue jet boat tours, fishing season
- No new roads and no off-road use
- Public access and use should be compatible with the biological, cultural, ecological attributes of the Reach. Access should be confined to restrict noxious weed invasions, fire, and uses other than recreational (i.e., agricultural and urbanization). Restrict new development of roads, boat launches that might impact important habitats
- Support development of campsite at Gateway (Vernita and Ringold) – keep interior pressure w/possible paddler only overnight site at White Bluffs
- No ski-dos allowed
- No access other than scientific research – to ALE / Saddle Mountain NWR

### **Wildlife, Habitat and Fisheries Comments**

- Keep Monument open for public use
- Don't restrict access
- Monument provides wide open spaces that are becoming rare for activities such as falconry
- Protection of threatened, endangered species of animals, birds, plants – priority over human use or recreation
  - “To Above Comments” -  
Restoration of native plant and animal species of the unique shrub steppe (sage grouse, pygmy rabbit, sharp-tailed grouse) should be emphasized in the management of the habitat. Reintroduction of native species suggestion.
  - Do nothing to harm Columbia River wild salmon spawning in the Reach. This is one of our best investments in Salmon Recovery of T&E Pacific Salmon.

### **Fire Management Comments**

- Develop techniques to reduce fuel build-up or the area will burn again (use green strips or other methods)
- Support efforts to reduce human caused hazardous fuel (manage invasive species, etc.). A fire regime of pre-1950s (low frequency) will assist in the restoration/conservation of the landscape

**Cultural Resources Comments**

- Don't make the Monument into a government "project" and close access to public
- Use historic or NA names for places in the Monument

**Geological and Paleontological Resources Comments**

*No comments*

**Federal Advisory Committee / Monument Visions Comments**

*No comments*