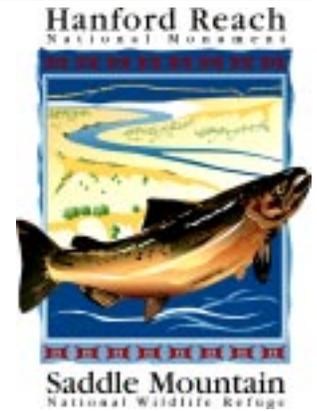


River Corridor Unit

Fact Sheet • August 2002



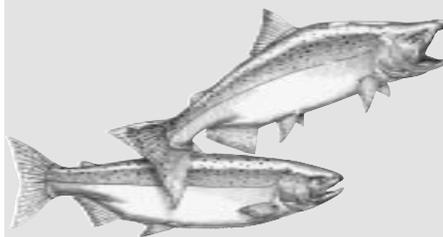
FWS photo: William Radke

Unit Size

25,000 acres

History and Administration

Since 1943 the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has held title to the lands that make up this and all other units that became part of the Hanford Reach National Monument in 2000. Administration of this unit is multijurisdictional and complex with DOE, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, various Washington State agencies, and the Benton, Franklin and Grant county sheriff's departments all playing specific roles.



FWS illustration: Ken Morris

Address/Phone

Hanford Reach NM
3250 Port of Benton Blvd.
Richland, WA 99352
509-371-1801
509-375-0196 fax

Location

This unit includes most of the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River, a 1/4 mile wide corridor on the south and west sides of the River, river islands, and the 6,320 acre Hanford Dune Field.

Habitats

The Hanford Reach is the only non-tidal, free flowing stretch of the Columbia River within the United States. The river, islands, gravel bars, sloughs, riparian areas, and dune field provide many habitats that are now rare along the Columbia River due to the extensive reservoir system.

Rare Plants

Columbia yellowcress grows in the gravelly river shore of the Reach. Potential habitat for northern wormwood, a federal candidate species, exists on many of the islands.

Fish

Conditions in the Reach promote spawning success for salmonids, sturgeon, and bass. The Hanford Reach supports the largest spawning population (up to 90 percent) of fall Chinook salmon on the mainstem of the Columbia River. Three federally threatened salmonid populations, Upper and Middle Columbia River Steelhead, and Upper Columbia River Spring Chinook, use the Hanford Reach for migration.

Wildlife

Riverine habitat along the Hanford Reach is used extensively by migrating waterfowl, shorebirds, and water birds. The island shorelines serve as prime nesting areas for great blue herons, Canada geese, ring-billed and California gulls. Deer use the islands when having their fawns in

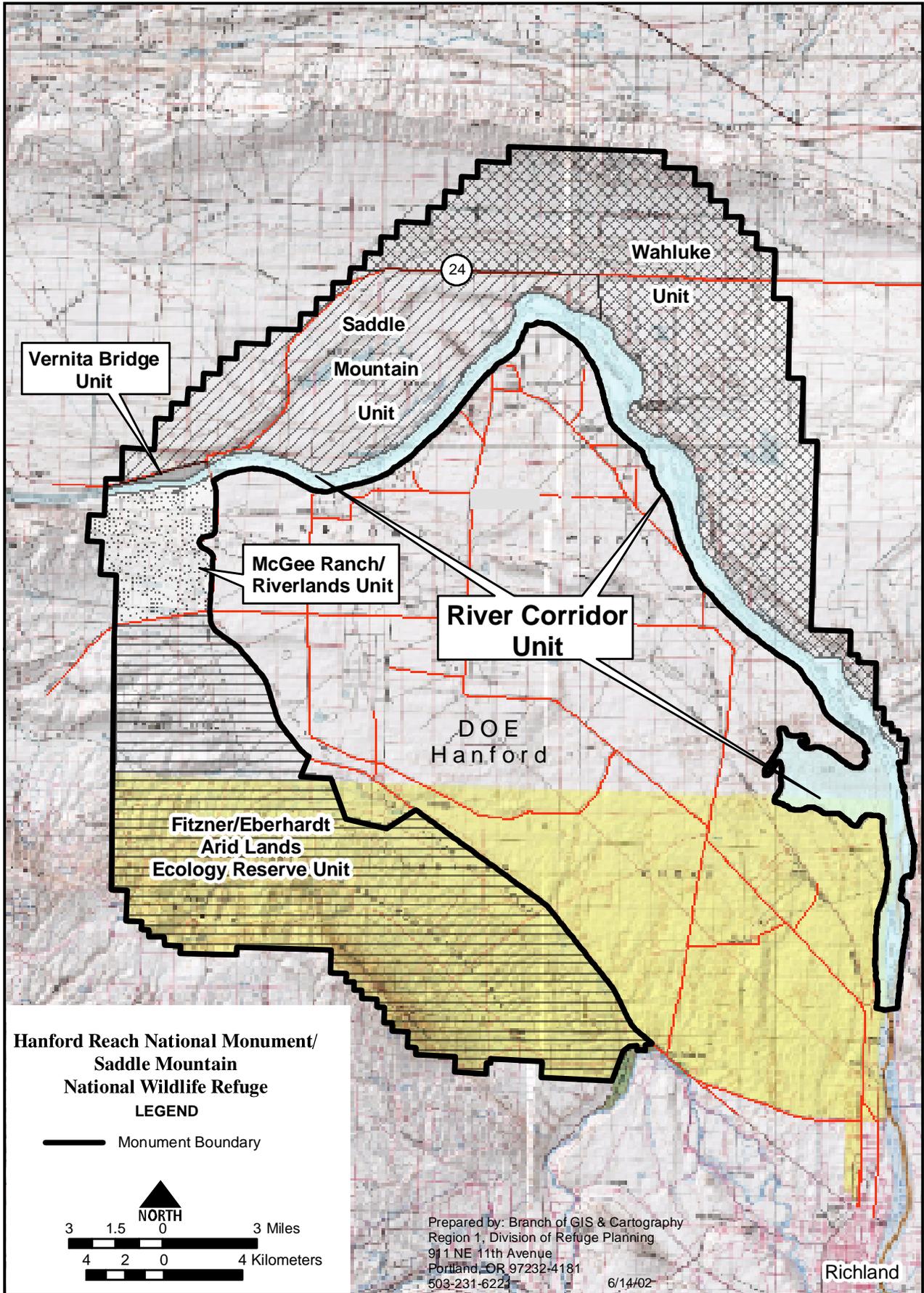
order to escape predators. The islands are also one of the few places in Washington where state endangered American white pelicans can commonly be seen. Bald Eagles concentrate along the Hanford Reach during the winter months because of the salmon and other fish resources.

Public Uses

The Hanford Reach surface waters and some shoreline are open year-round. The southwest shore from Vernita Bridge to River Mile 343, and all islands between Vernita Bridge and the Bonneville Power line crossing (River Mile 351) are closed to the public. The Reach supports a variety of recreational activities, especially boating, fishing, and hunting.

Cultural Resources

The inter-relationship between people and rivers, give this unit the most concentrated and diverse cultural resources on the Monument. The area was a crossroads and traditional use area for many Native Americans. Numerous pithouse villages, and fishing, gathering, and processing sites have been identified. In the 1850s, Smohalla, the spiritual leader of the Wanapum people, envisioned the "Seven Drums" religion at Coyote Rapids. The historic towns of Hanford and White Bluffs as well as several ferry crossings were located in this unit. Evidence of early irrigation efforts prior to the Columbia Basin Project are still visible including the Hanford ditch and Allard pump house.



River Corridor Unit