



Rattlesnake Unit Access

Public Scoping Meetings
October 14, 2015
The Hanford Reach Interpretive Center



The poster features a scenic landscape with a body of water in the foreground, a large tree on the right, and a mountain range in the background under a sunset sky. The text is centered over the image. Two logos are located in the bottom right corner: the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service logo and the National Wildlife Refuge System logo.

2015 Defense Appropriations Act

- Public Law 113-291, Section 3081.
- Provide public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, cultural and other purposes.
- Allows for motor vehicle access, pedestrian and other non-motorized access.
- Allows cooperative agreements with others to assist with guided tours, including motorized tours, to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain.



The slide contains a list of four bullet points. A small inset image in the bottom right corner shows a bird, possibly a sparrow, perched on a branch. The background of the slide is a faded version of the landscape image from the poster above.

2015 Defense Appropriations Act

- Does not exempt the FWS or any other party from other applicable laws, agreements, treaties, etc.
 - ✓ National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
 - ✓ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - ✓ Presidential (Monument) Proclamation 7319
 - ✓ National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act
- Does not provide any funding to implement or address repairs, public safety, construction, etc.
- No timeline for access.



Area

- Consider the entire area, not just the mountain top.
 - ✓ Many other interesting resources in the Rattlesnake Unit.
 - ✓ Allows for options and alternatives.
 - ✓ Conforms to the Hanford Reach CCP and EIS, which covers access to the entire unit.



Considerations

- Road Conditions:
 - ✓The road is in poor condition.
 - ✓Parts of the road are at an 18% grade.
 - ✓Much of the road is single lane.
 - ✓Incomplete guardrail system in disrepair.



Considerations

- Biologically Sensitive Area:
 - ✓Arid Lands Ecology Reserve (1967).
 - ✓Rattlesnake Hills Research Natural Area (1971).
 - ✓ALE National Environmental Research Park (1977).
 - ✓Renamed as Fitzner/Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Area (1993).
 - ✓Hanford Reach National Monument (2000).
 - ✓Rare to find areas protected for this long.



Considerations

- Rattlesnake Mountain is within the Laliik Traditional Cultural Property (TCP)
 - ✓ Sacred site for area Native American Tribes
 - ✓ More Info: www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb38/



Considerations

- 18.6 miles round trip with a 3,000-foot elevation gain.
- No safety barriers on the mountain top; becomes dangerous above 25-30 mph winds.
- Far removed from FWS offices; difficult to manage access systems like gates.
- A lot of expensive radio equipment—private property—on the mountain.



Considerations

- Off-road biking cannot be allowed (Proclamation).
- No off-road motorized use (Proclamation).
- Dogs are not permitted (FWS Appropriate Uses).
- Off-road horseback riding cannot be allowed (FWS Appropriate Uses & Compatibility Standards).
- Camping cannot be allowed (FWS Compatibility standards).



From Here

- “Comment” period closes Friday, November 13, 2015.
- FWS will produce a Scoping Report:
 - ✓ Identifies all ideas.
 - ✓ Identifies actions that are feasible.
 - ✓ Note which actions already have NEPA coverage, which need more coverage, and which have no coverage.
 - ✓ Identifies the next steps/actions.



The Rest Of This Open House

- Instead of testimony, speak one-on-one with us.
- We'll record major points, but please send comments via email or regular mail. A form is also available.
- Give us specific ideas for access—types of access, times, locations, numbers, etc.
- This is a scoping process, so please also provide us with your concerns related to the environment.
- Please sign in and note if you'd like to receive a copy of the scoping report
- Questions about cultural resources? Ask Dale Earl.
- Questions about Monument management? Ask Larry.
- Any questions about the process?

Rattlesnake Unit Access

Comments Due November 13, 2015

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 Rattlesnake Access Comments
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