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.
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:
   - Rattlesnake Hills Research Natural Area (1971).
   - 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.
- 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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