

Resolution Adding Additional Uncontaminated Lands to the Hanford Reach National Monument

WHEREAS President William J. Clinton by Memorandum of Direction dated June 9, 2000 to the Secretary of Energy directed him to manage the ecological resources of central Hanford for the possibility of adding lands to the Hanford Reach National Monument as they are remediated;

WHEREAS while a portion of central Hanford lands is needed for the Department of Energy's continued mission, much of the remaining central area contains unique and vanishing shrub-steppe habitat with sensitive bird species and objects of scientific and historic value that must be preserved as part of our environmental heritage;

WHEREAS the Department of Energy's Comprehensive Conservation Plan Environmental Impact Statement, for central Hanford, designated much of these lands for conservation and preservation which make them suitable for transfer to the Hanford Reach National Monument;

WHEREAS central Hanford lands have been remediated of contaminants and are ready for other uses;

WHEREAS Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Rachel Jacobson, for the United States Department of the Interior by letter dated February 26, 2014, requested of the Secretary of Energy a meeting to discuss final disposition of these central Hanford remediated lands;

WHEREAS the Department of Interior further stated in their letter of February 26th, that they "...treasure this landscape and we are deeply invested in the existing monument lands and the conservation values realized in central Hanford lands are remediated and preserved for the benefit of future generations";

WHEREAS Deputy Assistant Secretary for Site Restoration, Mark A. Gilbertson, for the United States Department of Energy by letter dated March 11, 2016, stated that they "... look forward to working with all interested parties in the evaluation of future uses for the Hanford Site";

WHEREAS by Congressional language in the 2016 Appropriation Bill which has designated Historic Sites in central Hanford to be managed by the National Park Service, it is now only prudent and desirable to complete the process and preserve the integrity of the land by having the remaining adjacent shrub-steppe lands moved into the Hanford Reach National Monument;

43 **WHEREAS** the preservation lands of the Hanford Reach National Monument have
44 been identified as important core wildlife habitat and linkage zone by the Columbia
45 Plateau Arid Lands Initiative (ALI). The goal of ALI is to conserve and restore a viable,
46 well-connected system of eastern Washington's arid lands and related freshwater
47 habitats, sustaining native plant and animal communities, and supporting compatible
48 local economies and communities; and

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50 **WHEREAS** the Washington State Democrats recognize the Yakima Nation's right of
51 first refusal with regard to the Hanford Reservation lands;

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53 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats urge the
54 Honorable Senator Patty Murray and the Honorable Senator Maria Cantwell to support
55 inclusion of these additional central Hanford lands into the Hanford Reach National
56 Monument as envisioned by President Clinton by memorandum dated June 9, 2000 and
57 requested by the Department of the Interior in its letter dated February 26, 2014; and

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59 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats
60 support, and encourage county and legislative district organizations to do the same,
61 urging the Honorable Senator Patty Murray and the Honorable Senator Maria Cantwell
62 to request of President Barack Obama that by Presidential Proclamation he adds
63 additional remediated lands to the Hanford Reach National Monument without delay.

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66 Submitted by the Benton County Convention.

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68 The Platform Committee recommended that this resolution be passed at their June 17,
69 2016 meeting.

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71 The 2016 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 18,
72 2016.

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