

1           **Resolution Adding Additional Uncontaminated Lands to**  
2           **the Hanford Reach National Monument**

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

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

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

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

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

20 **WHEREAS** the Department of Interior further stated in their letter of February 26<sup>th</sup>, that  
21 they “...treasure this landscape and we are deeply invested in the existing monument lands  
22 and the conservation values realized in central Hanford lands are remediated and  
23 preserved for the benefit of future generations.”

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

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

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

7 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Audubon Conservation  
8 Committee call for the Honorable Senator Patty Murray and the Honorable Senator Maria  
9 Cantwell to support inclusion of these additional central Hanford lands into the Hanford  
10 Reach National Monument as envisioned by President Clinton by memorandum dated June  
11 9, 2000 and requested by the Department of the Interior in its letter dated February 26,  
12 2014;

13 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Washington State Audubon Conservation  
14 Committee write letter(s) of support, and encourage individual state chapters to do the  
15 same, urging the Honorable Senator Patty Murray and the Honorable Senator Maria  
16 Cantwell to request of President Barack Obama that by Presidential Proclamation he adds  
17 additional remediated lands to the Hanford Reach National Monument without delay.

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19 *Submitted by Dana Ward of the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society to the Benton County*  
20 *Democratic Central Committee 3/17/2016.*