

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 26th, 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.*