

1 The Columbia River flows through the northern part of the Hanford Site and, turning south, forms
2 part of the eastern Site boundary. The Yakima River runs near the southern boundary of the Hanford Site,
3 joining the Columbia River at the city of Richland that bounds the Hanford Site on the southeast. Rattle-
4 snake Mountain, Yakima Ridge, and Umtanum Ridge form the southwestern and western boundaries.
5 Saddle Mountain constitutes the northern boundary of the Hanford Site. Two small east-west ridges,
6 Gable Butte and Gable Mountain, rise above the plateau in the central part of the Hanford Site.
7 Adjoining lands to the west, north, and east are principally agricultural and rangeland. The cities of
8 Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland (Tri-Cities) and the city of West Richland constitute the nearest
9 population centers and are located south-southeast of the Hanford Site.

11 4.2 Land Use

13 DOE completed the Hanford Comprehensive Land-Use Plan Environmental Impact Statement
14 (HCP EIS; DOE 1999) in September 1999. A Record of Decision (ROD) was issued on November 2,
15 1999 (64 FR 61615), which adopted the Preferred Alternative as discussed in the EIS. The purpose of
16 this land-use plan and its implementing policies and procedures is to facilitate decision-making about
17 Hanford Site uses and facilities over at least the next 50 years. The Preferred Alternative map from the
18 Final Hanford Comprehensive Land-Use Plan EIS ROD shown in Figure 4.2 represents the DOE future
19 land-management values, goals, and objectives. The land-use plan consists of several key elements that
20 are included in the DOE Preferred Alternative in the Final HCP EIS (DOE 1999). These elements include
21 a land-use map that addresses the Hanford Site as five geographic areas—Wahluke Slope, Columbia
22 River Corridor, Central Plateau, all other areas of the site, and the Fitzner/Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology
23 Reserve (ALE). The key elements of the Hanford Comprehensive Land-Use Plan include a map that
24 depicts the planned future uses, a set of land-use designations defining the allowable uses for each area of
25 the Hanford Site, and the planning and implementing policies and procedures that will govern the review
26 and approval of future land uses. Together these four elements create the Hanford Comprehensive Land-
27 Use Plan. Much of the land is undeveloped, providing a buffer area for the smaller operations areas.
28 Public access to most facility areas is restricted.

30 The key features of the Hanford Site that form the basis for the five geographic areas used in the
31 environmental impact analysis and land-use plans are summarized as follows:

33 **Wahluke Slope.** The area north of the Columbia River and the Hanford Site proper encompasses
34 approximately 357 km² (138 mi²) of relatively undisturbed or recovering shrub-steppe habitat
35 managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for DOE. These lands consist of two overlay
36 wildlife management units within the Hanford Reach National Monument/Saddle Mountain National
37 Wildlife Refuge, the 130 km² (50 mi²) Saddle Mountain Unit, and the 225 km² (87 mi²) Wahluke
38 Unit. Portions of the Saddle Mountain Unit, which is closed to public access, still serve as buffer
39 areas for the Hanford Site. The Wahluke Unit is open to public recreational access. A small strip of
40 land approximately 1.62 km² (0.63 mi²) located between State Route (SR) 243 and the Columbia
41 River west of SR 24 is managed by the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.



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Figure 4.2. DOE Preferred Alternative for Land Use on the Hanford Site from the Final Hanford Comprehensive Land-Use Plan EIS Record of Decision (64 FR 61615)

1 **Columbia River Corridor.** The 111.6 km² (43.1 mi²) Columbia River Corridor, which is adjacent to
2 and runs through the Hanford Site, is used for boating, water skiing, fishing, and hunting of upland
3 game birds and migratory waterfowl. Although public access is allowed on certain islands, access to
4 other islands and adjacent areas is restricted because of unique habitats and the presence of cultural
5 resources.
6

7 The area within the Columbia River Corridor known as the Hanford Reach includes a quarter mile
8 (402-m) strip of land on either side of the Columbia River, as well as the islands and water surface
9 area. Along the southern shoreline of the Columbia River Corridor, the 100 Areas occupy approxi-
10 mately 68 km² (26 mi²). The facilities in the 100 Areas include nine retired plutonium production
11 reactors, associated facilities, and structures. In the vicinity of the 100-H Area, closure permit
12 restrictions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) of 1976 (42 USC 6901 et seq.)
13 that are associated with the 183-H Solar Evaporation Basins have been instituted. Institutional
14 controls are expected for the RCRA post-closure and Comprehensive Environmental Restoration,
15 Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) remediation areas.
16

17 **Central Plateau.** The 200 East and 200 West Areas occupy approximately 51 km² (19.5 mi²) in the
18 Central Plateau (the 200 Area Plateau) of the Hanford Site. Facilities located on the 200 Area Plateau
19 were built to process irradiated fuel from the production reactors. The operation of these facilities
20 resulted in the need for treatment, storage, and disposal facilities for radioactive and hazardous
21 wastes. Unplanned releases of radioactive and non-radioactive waste have contaminated some parts
22 of the 200 Areas. The U.S. Navy also uses Hanford nuclear waste treatment, storage, or disposal
23 facilities. Institutional controls are expected for the Central Plateau.
24

25 A commercial LLW disposal facility, operated by U.S. Ecology, Inc., currently occupies 0.4 km²
26 (0.16 mi²) of the 200 Area Plateau. The facility is located on a portion of the 100 ac (originally
27 1000 ac) leased by the State of Washington from the federal government and subleased to
28 U.S. Ecology, Inc.
29

30 **All Other Areas.** All Other Areas comprise 689 km² (266 mi²) and contain the 300, 400, and
31 1100 Areas, Energy Northwest facilities, and a section (2.6 km² [1 mi²]) of land currently owned by
32 the State of Washington for the disposal of hazardous substances.
33

34 The Hanford 1100 Area and the Hanford railroad southern connection (from Horn Rapids Road to
35 Columbia Center) have been transferred from DOE ownership to Port of Benton ownership to support
36 future economic development. Although the 1100 Area is no longer under DOE control, it was
37 included in the HCP EIS to support the local governments with their State Environmental Policy Act
38 (SEPA) EIS analyses of the Hanford sub-area of Benton County under the State of Washington
39 Growth Management Act.
40

41 The 300 Area is located just north of the city of Richland and covers 1.5 km² (0.6 mi²). The 300 Area
42 is the site of former reactor fuel fabrication facilities and is also the principal location of nuclear
43 research and development facilities serving the Hanford Site.
44

1 The 400 Area, located southeast of the 200 East Area, is the site of the Fast Flux Test Facility (FFTF).
2 DOE has decided to permanently shut down this facility.

3
4 Energy Northwest currently operates Columbia Generating Station on land leased from DOE. The
5 land is approximately 10 km (6 mi) north of the city of Richland. The land was leased for the
6 operation of three nuclear power plants. Construction of two of the plants was halted. Other
7 industrial options for the site are currently being considered. Under the terms of the lease agree-
8 ments, DOE would need to approve alternative uses of the land.

9
10 In 1980, the federal government sold a 2.6 km² (1 mi²) section of land (known as Section 1.0) south
11 of the 200 East Area, near SR 240, to the State of Washington for the purpose of non-radioactive
12 hazardous waste disposal. To date, this parcel has not been used for hazardous waste disposal. The
13 deed requires that if it were used for any purpose other than hazardous waste disposal, ownership
14 would revert to the federal government.

15
16 Additional activities in the All Other Areas include:

- 17
18 (1) *A specialized training center:* The Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response
19 (HAMMER) Volpentest Training and Education Center is used to train hazardous materials
20 response personnel. It is located north of the former 1100 Area and covers about 32 hectares
21 (80 acres).
22
23 (2) *A regional law-enforcement training facility:* The Hanford Patrol Training Academy, located
24 adjacent to HAMMER, provides a range of training environments including classrooms, library
25 resources, practice shoot houses, an exercise gym, and an obstacle course.
26
27 (3) *A national research facility:* The Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO),
28 built by the National Science Foundation for scientific research, is designed to detect cosmic
29 gravitational waves. The facility consists of two optical tube arms, each 4 km (2.5 mi) long,
30 arrayed in an L shape, and is extremely sensitive to vibrations.
31
32 (4) *Fitzner/Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology (ALE) Reserve Unit:* The 308.7 km² (119.2 mi²) ALE,
33 a Research Natural Area, is part of the Hanford Reach National Monument and is managed by
34 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). ALE is located in the southwestern portion of the
35 Hanford Site and is managed as a wildlife reserve and environmental research area. The public
36 is generally restricted from the reserve.
37