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**Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council
FY 2006 Accomplishments**

- The environmental study design for the 100/300 Areas and Central Plateau region ecological risk assessment were improved through trustee participation in workshops and documents review
- Three senior trustee meetings were planned and held where high-level policy issues such as restoration and trustee working relationships were discussed
- Work was completed on the Cost Account Plan which defined scope, budget, schedule and deliverables for enhanced trustee participation in cleanup decision-making
- The DOE-Richland budget request included an “above-target” developed by the Council
- Work continued on trustee supported work on the Data Matrix to identify additional, specific data needs for ecological risk assessments
- A Finding was completed that describes the definitions and criteria for reference sites, and reference site activities were influenced
- Good progress was made in writing Action Plans to address Council strategies and priorities, budget and resource utilization, and governance
- The Council met regularly and worked effectively even though natural resource litigation was occurring
- An Ecology regulator and trustee letter on reference sites was issued
- Many trustees participated in the unplanned river corridor “Inter-Areas” ecological risk assessment workshops

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HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE COUNCIL
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND
CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROTECT HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE

(rev. 4/9/97)

- ☆ *Mitigation Language in Record of Decision (ROD).* Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council (NRTC) recommended that language in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) ROD acknowledge where there may be impacts to natural resources. Recommended mitigation be addressed in the remedial design/remedial action phase of the projects. USDOE-RL included mitigation language in the ERDF ROD.

- ☆ *Mitigation Action Plan, ERDF.* NRTC worked closely with USDOE-RL to reduce the size of the project footprint, relocate it to reduce loss of shrub steppe habitat, and salvage the bunchgrass for use on the North Slope.

This project and others helped establish awareness that entire project footprints and their habitat consequences must be considered when designing and implementing actions.

- ☆ *Sagebrush Salvage and Native seed collection.* NRTC worked closely with Unit Managers to enhance understanding of the value of shrub steppe habitat and the species that depend upon it. Using creative solutions at the 11th hour, NRTC brought together volunteers from the Trustee Council, USDOE, and contractors who donated time and labor to save both seed and plants.

The effort resulted in sagebrush and 10,000 native bunch grasses and cryptogam saved to replant other disturbed areas. In addition it provided an opportunity for a diverse group of volunteers to work together and learn from one another, strengthening relationships needed for other future projects.

This project also gave NRTC the opportunity to model its objective of ecological restoration: to reestablish high diversity, self-perpetuating native plant communities that exist in dynamic equilibrium with the natural environment.

- ☆ *Native seed bank nursery.* NRTC is working with USDOE-RL to establish a permanent nursery, on-site or contracted, to collect and increase native seed and raise native shrubs for restoration purposes.

- ☆ *Mitigation on cross-site transfer line.* In March, 1997, NRTC consulted with USDOE and contractors to learn from the problems in revegetating sagebrush on the cross-site transfer line. Revived discussions on Native seed bank and nursery.

- ☆ *Pump and Treat.* NRTC is one of many advocates for pumping and treating groundwater in the 100-KR-4 and 100-HR-3 areas.

- ☆ *100 Area Cleanup.* NRTC worked closely with USDOE-RL to include mitigation language in the BC-1/DR-1/HR-1 Record of Decision.
- ☆ *BRMiS, BRMaP.* Trustees worked with USDOE-RL to identify and evaluate the natural resource impacts from remediation activities and other current projects. Proposed that early mitigation of the impacts be planned. USDOE-RL responded by providing mitigation action plans (MAPS) where appropriate and drafted a sitewide Biological Resources Mitigation Strategy. Draft BRMiS and BRMaP were released for comment in March, 1997.
- ☆ *Tradeoff for damage caused with 240 Access Road.* NRTC worked closely with USDOE-RL to find tradeoffs for the resource damage caused during the construction of the 240 access road. A 3:1 mitigation ratio was established. This dialogue drove the sitewide Biological Resources Mitigation Strategy.
- ☆ *Habitat mitigation in NEPA process.* NRTC worked closely with USDOE-RL to facilitate habitat mitigation in planning for the solid waste retrieval complex, cross site transfer line, and safe interim storage EIS, all NEPA projects.
- ☆ *Habitat evaluation.* Trustees recommended that a habitat evaluation method be developed to identify the quality of the habitat on the Hanford Site. USDOE-RL is developing a habitat evaluation procedure model for the sage sparrow.
- ☆ *Protected genetic integrity of seed supply.* NRTC worked closely with USDOE-RL to revegetate Horn Rapids Landfill. As a result, genetic contamination from off-site seed was prevented.
- ☆ *North Slope restoration efforts.* NRTC worked closely with USDOE-RL to coordinate North Slope restoration efforts.
- ☆ *Information sharing.* NRTC brings together technical experts and policy makers with a common purpose -- protection of the natural resources on the Hanford Site and those affected by activities at Hanford. A great deal of information must be considered to be well informed on Hanford cleanup activities. The synergy of the Council allows each Trustee to process more information than any one member could alone. This allows the NRTC to better understand trade-offs and effects of decisions and to be better advocates for the natural resource.

Because of diverse responsibilities and roles, the NRTC is not always able to respond to an issue as a whole Council. However, this information exchange enhances the ability of individual members to advise their respective managers in developing agency positions.

- ☆ *Early Consultation, Involvement.* The NRTC recommended that natural resource values and the impacts and potential impacts on the resource be integrated at the beginning of the planning process. Identifying the critical resources aids the project managers in avoiding, minimizing, restoring, and rectifying the impacts of their work. USDOE-RL has begun to involve the NRTC in project planning, using the NRTC consolidated comments and concerns on several issues.
- ☆ *Structure, procedures, records.* NRTC has grown from a loosely defined group of interested parties who met periodically in 1993 to a clearly defined group with a clearly defined purpose. The Council meets monthly with basic administrative support from USDOE-RL to coordinate meetings, agendas, and record the NRTC activities and decisions.
- ☆ *Memorandum of Agreement.* The NRTC was formalized with a Memorandum of Agreement signed on _____, 1997.
- ☆ *By-Laws.* The By-Laws were adopted by all Trustees _____, 1997.
- ☆ *Pre-Assessment Screen, 1100 Area.* Implemented agreement for first formal pre-assessment screen, contracted with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- ☆ *Revegetation Manual.* Worked with USDOE contractor to publish Revegetation Manual for Environmental Restoration Contractor, released 2/97.
- ☆ *Hanford Site Technology Coordinating Group* invites Trustee participation, March, 1997.
- ☆ *Creative actions to fill data gaps.* Trustees recognize vast needs for information on impacts to Hanford's natural resources. And we recognize existing budget limitations. We look for ways to acquire information, fill data gaps, through support of research grants as well as internal USDOE data gathering projects. (example: Charles Brandt's EPA grant Uptake by Aquatic Biota of Metals/Radionuclides in Groundwater Plumes: Mechanisms of Action.)
- ☆ *300-FF-1, -3, -5.* Worked with USDOE and contractors to develop Data Quality Objectives for remedial action in these operable units.

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HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE COUNCIL

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCE DURING HANFORD CLEANUP

rev. 3/7/95

- ☆ *Mitigation Language in Record of Decision (ROD).* Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council (NRTC) recommended that language in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) ROD acknowledge where there may be impacts to natural resources. Recommended mitigation be addressed in the remedial design/remedial action phase of the projects. USDOE-RL included mitigation language in the ERDF ROD.

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The effort resulted in sagebrush and 10,000 native bunch grasses and cryptogam saved to replant other disturbed areas. In addition it provided an opportunity for a diverse group of volunteers to work together and learn from one another, strengthening relationships needed for other future projects.

This project also gave NRTC the opportunity to model its objective of ecological restoration: to reestablish high diversity, self-perpetuating native plant communities that exist in dynamic equilibrium with the natural environment.

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- ☆ *100 Area Cleanup.* NRTC worked closely with USDOE-RL to include mitigation language in the BC-1/DR-1/HR-1 Record of Decision.

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- ☆ *BRMS, BRMP.* (NEED HELP WITH THESE TERMS. SAW ONE REFERENCE TO "BASELINE RESOURCE MITIGATION PLAN???) Trustees worked with USDOE-RL to identify and evaluate the natural resource impacts from remediation activities and other current projects. Proposed that early mitigation of the impacts be planned. USDOE-RL responded by providing mitigation action plans (MAPS) where appropriate (??) and drafted a sitewide Biological Resources Mitigation Strategy.
- ☆ *Tradeoff for damage caused with 240 Access Road.* NRTC worked closely with USDOE-RL to find tradeoffs for the resource damage caused during the construction of the 240 access road. A 3:1 mitigation ratio was established. This dialogue drove the sitewide Biological Resources Mitigation Strategy. (IS THIS A TRUE STATEMENT? NEED CLARIFICATION ON THIS ONE)
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- ☆ *Native seed bank nursery.* NRTC is working with USDOE-RL to establish a permanent nursery, on-site or contracted, to collect and increase native seed and raise native shrubs for restoration purposes.
- ☆ *Sacred sites eliminated from HRA EIS.* NRTC worked closely with USDOE-RL to ensure sites sacred to Indian Nations be protected from decisions made in the HRA-EIS. (IS THIS RIGHT? ELIMINATED FROM WHAT ACTION, PROTECTED FROM WHAT ACTION?)
- ☆ *116 C-1 demonstration restoration project.* (NEED SOME HELP HERE, WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?)
- ☆ *North Slope restoration efforts.* NRTC worked closely with USDOE-RL to coordinate North Slope restoration efforts. (WHAT WAS DIFFERENT OR GOOD ABOUT THIS COORDINATION? WHY IS IT AN ACCOMPLISHMENT?)

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- ☆ *Information sharing.* NRTC brings together technical experts and policy makers with a common purpose -- protection of the natural resources on the Hanford Site and those affected by activities at Hanford. A great deal of information must be considered to be well informed on Hanford cleanup activities. The synergy of the Council allows each Trustee to process more information than any one member could alone. This allows the NRTC to better understand trade-offs and effects of decisions and to be better advocates for the natural resource.

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- ☆ *Increased visibility.* Through these accomplishments shown above, the NRTC is increasingly visible among Hanford managers and contractors as well as the Tri-Parties. Our reputation as a valuable partner is growing.
- ☆ *Early Consultation, Involvement.* The NRTC recommended that natural resource values and the impacts and potential impacts on the resource be integrated at the beginning of the planning process. Identifying the critical resources aids the project managers in avoiding, minimizing, restoring, and rectifying the impacts of their work. USDOE-RL has begun to involve the NRTC in project planning, using the NRTC consolidated comments and concerns on several issues.
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- ☆ *Memorandum of Agreement.* The NRTC was formalized with a Memorandum of Agreement signed on _____, 199_.
- ☆ *Core Values.* The NRTC completed a Core Values statement on _____, 199_.