

3.0 The Hanford Site in 2035

What will it mean to have “cleaned up” the Hanford Site? What will the site look like and what will be left? What activities might remain? Who will benefit?

Successful Hanford cleanup will mean eliminating a major threat to human health and the environment. It will mean permanent protection of the groundwater and the Columbia River. It will mean freeing up large stretches of land – much of it along the Columbia River shoreline and part of the Hanford Reach National Monument – for conservation, Tribal, recreational and industrial uses. It will mean the end of DOE’s Environmental Management (EM) cleanup mission at Hanford and a major taxpayer liability – currently around \$2 billion each year.

The “shrinking” of active Hanford cleanup operations to the Central Plateau is depicted in Figure 2

Figure 1. Shrinking the Hanford Site.

