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**For Immediate Release:** Oct. 12, 2016**MSA Releases Rehabilitated Owl**

RICHLAND, Wash. – On Thursday, Oct. 6 Mission Support Alliance (MSA) wildlife biologists released a rehabilitated barn owl back into the wild. The owl had been discovered by Hanford Site employees in late September on the ground and appeared in distress. The employees called MSA’s Biological Control staff, who were able to safely remove and transport the owl.

The owl was sent to the Blue Mountain Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center in Pendleton, Ore. After less than a week of rehab, the owl was transferred back to MSA’s Ecological Monitoring program and released back on the Hanford Site.

“We were very fortunate the volunteers at Blue Mountain Wildlife were able to fully rehabilitate the owl,” said Justin Wilde, a wildlife biologist with MSA. “Releasing an animal back into its environment is a rare opportunity for us. Today was very exciting.”

MSA’s Ecological Monitoring program is responsible for monitoring, managing, compliance and determining potential impacts to habitats, plants, birds and animals on the Hanford Site. Hanford is home to numerous species of animals such as elk, jackrabbits, and over 200 different species of birds, including owls and bald eagles.

Blue Mountain Wildlife is a volunteer nonprofit organization. Their two main functions include wildlife rehab and environmental education. To learn more about Blue Mountain, including how to volunteer, visit [www.bluemountainwildlife.org](http://www.bluemountainwildlife.org).

A video of the owl being released is available on the Hanford Site YouTube webpage: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqnC47ND4aI>.

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**About MSA**

Mission Support Alliance, a team of [Leidos](#), [Jacobs Engineering](#) and [Centerra Group](#), has responsibility for the Mission Support Contract at the Hanford Site. MSA provides a number of cross-cutting services to the DOE and other contractors at the Hanford Site to facilitate cleanup activities. MSA is responsible for areas such as site infrastructure, utilities, transportation, environmental integration, safety, emergency services and training, external affairs, information management and portfolio management. MSA: Partnering to move the mission forward. <http://msa.hanford.gov/msa>



