

THE HANFORD SITE

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RICHLAND
OPERATIONS OFFICE
United States Department of Energy



Mission Support Alliance Working to Revegetate Areas of the Hanford Site

RICHLAND, Wash. – As cleanup continues on the Hanford Site, ensuring that areas are returned to their natural state is important. As part of the Long-term Stewardship program at Hanford, contractor Mission Support Alliance (MSA) revegetates the land with native plants and shrubs to rebuild the natural environment.

Routine monitoring in 2017 identified 140 acres where revegetated areas were not thriving. Historically, if a location was found to be failing, it was cleared and planted again. MSA has developed an innovative approach to return areas on the Hanford Site back to their natural beauty.

Taking into consideration the different landscapes, current plant life and soil conditions, MSA determined a mixture of seeds that would increase survival rates of certain species. They also used results from a Hanford Site pollinator study to create a specially formulated seed mix to encourage pollination and species diversity. In more than half the areas where revegetation efforts weren't thriving, MSA implemented supplemental planting (in lieu of full-scale revegetation) to save areas of successful growth. In some areas, they opted to plant flower plugs, which are small seedlings with a few inches of growth, soil and a root structure. These plugs act as a seed source for the revegetation site.

"With this project, MSA demonstrated the kind of forward thinking and innovation that we value at the Department of Energy," said Randall Krekel, DOE land management program manager. "Using these new approaches will help to improve the sustainability of these habitats at Hanford."

The 2019 revegetation project will be complete this month, and MSA will closely monitor the results over the next few years to determine success rates and help refine future efforts.

About DOE

The Department of Energy (DOE) is responsible for the federal government's cleanup of the legacy of more than 40 years of plutonium production at the Hanford Site near Richland, Wash. The DOE Office of River Protection (ORP) is responsible for the safe and efficient retrieval, treatment and disposal of the 56 million gallons of chemical and radioactive waste stored in Hanford's 177 underground tanks. The River Protection Project is the largest and most complex environmental remediation project in the nation. ORP oversees the tank waste management mission and the building of the world's largest radioactive waste treatment plant, which will immobilize the legacy tank waste through vitrification. The DOE Richland Operations Office is responsible for all remaining Hanford cleanup and is currently focused on demolishing the high-hazard Plutonium Finishing Plant, excavating and disposing of contaminated soil and waste, treating contaminated groundwater, moving radioactive sludge out of the K West Basin and away from the Columbia River, and configuring Hanford Site infrastructure for the future, with an emphasis on supporting the tank waste mission. The two offices oversee Hanford Site work that is conducted by a federal and contractor workforce of approximately 9,000 personnel. Visit www.hanford.gov for more information about Hanford Site.

About MSA

Mission Support Alliance, a team of [Leidos](#) 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. <https://msa.hanford.gov>



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