

A storybook of kayaking, canoeing, and paddling the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River

In July, more than thirty of us journeyed from the Vernita Bridge 18 miles down the Hanford Reach, past Hanford's nuclear reactors and the White Bluffs, on our annual Hanford Reach paddle trips. And, it seems we weren't the only ones who paddled the Hanford Reach this summer.

Patti Goodwin also started her 400-mile adventure, kayaking the Columbia River from Northport, Washington, to the Oregon border in July. She just wrapped up her trip with a day on the Hanford Reach. She wrote, "Before turning swiftly south, through the Hanford Reach I finally spot the series of reactors: B, K then N. I've heard plenty over the years and there they were....These moth-balled buildings were just sitting out there in the open desert wind, surrounded by tumbleweeds. There were signs along the Hanford shore WARNING to just stay away. No problem, I just kept moving. The White Bluffs came into full view along the east shore, islands cropped up often. Many birds, deer, foxes and coyotes, the most wildlife I've seen along the river, just appeared."

In late August, Patti crossed paths with the "Source to Sea" expedition, just north of the Priest Rapids Dam. The crew of five river guides left Astoria, Oregon, on August 1st, in a dugout canoe, on an upstream 1,200 mile voyage toward Canal Flats, the source of the Columbia River in British Columbia. "The idea behind the canoes and the river expedition is to bring the salmon back to the upper reaches of the Columbia River." The swift currents of the Hanford Reach, the last free flowing section of the Columbia River, challenged the voyagers for three days.

Rounding out the summer of river expeditions, Matt Honor, a young teacher from Wenatchee, Washington, spent 51 days on the water paddling from Columbia Lake in British Columbia to Hammond, Oregon, on his stand up paddle board. On July 17, he stood up to Hanford.

Have you taken a trip on the Hanford Reach? Send us your stories and pictures, and we'll add them to our storybook. Send to Theresa Labriola, Riverkeeper's Hanford Coordinator, at theresa@columbiariverkeeper.org.

Read more about Patti's journey: <http://columbiareflections.wordpress.com>

Read more about the "Source to Sea" expedition: <http://www.voyagesofrediscovery.blogspot.com>

*Patti Goodwin paddling the
Columbia River*



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