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187 N. Valley Rd.
Naselle WA 98638
4 June 1999

Mr. Thomas W. Ferns
U.S. Dept. of Energy
Richland Operations Off.
PO Box 550, MSIN H0-12
Richland, WA 99352-0550

Dear Mr. Ferns,

My husband and I strongly ~~suprop~~ support the protection of the ecologically significant lands at Hanford. I have read with great interest about the rare flora & fauna that has been discovered on these lands. My husband was fortunate to visit the Ale Reserve when a student at the University of Washington. He still speaks of his fascination with the place & its unique ecology.

We support the Preferred alternative with some modifications: the ALE Reserve, The McGee Ranch Wahluke Slope, Hanford Reach & the Columbia River Islands should be managed as a permanent Nat. Wildlife Refuge to provide a continuous chunk of protected habitat

surrounding the Central Hanford. DOE should issue separate decisions for each area previously mentioned.

This area truly represents an important part of the state's natural heritage that has been mostly destroyed. Here is a chance to preserve this shrub-steppe ecosystem with its diverse flora & fauna.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Cathy & Ed Maxwell

Maxwell
187 N. Valley Rd.
Naselle WA 98638

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