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15465 Virginia Loop Rd.
Poulsbo, WA 98370
May 17, 1999

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DOE-RL/DIS

Mr. Thomas W. Ferns
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352-0550

Dear Mr. Ferns:

We must protect the Hanford Reach and adjacent areas. These areas still retain an intact shrub-steppe ecosystem that supports many species of plants and animals including rare and endangered species. The Hanford Reach is the last free-flowing stretch of the once mighty Columbia River and a crucial area for chinook salmon. There are also over 100 archaeological sites in the Reach.

In reference to the Department of Energy draft environmental statement, I support the Preferred Alternative. In addition these DOE lands should become a permanent National Wildlife Refuge: the Arid Lands Ecological Reserve, the entire Wahluke Slope, the McGee Ranch, and the Columbia River Islands. These areas will surround and protect the Hanford site. There should be no agriculture, commercial mining, or livestock grazing on these lands.

I wish these comments to be a part of the Hanford Remedial Action EIS.

Sincerely,


Ann C. Sleight