

Pine Lakes Protection Society
t-Trans
American Association of University Women
Association of Bainbridge Communities
Capitol Bicycling Club
Cascade Bicycle Club
Center for Environmental Law and Policy
Center for Wildlife Conservation
Chehalis River Council
Chums of Barker Creek
Citizens for Clean Air
Clark County Citizens in Action
Clark County Natural Resources Council
Clark-Skamania Fly Fishers
Clean Air Coalition c/o American Lung Association
Columbiana BioRegional Education Project
Consumers United for Food Safety
Dawn Watch
Dishman Hills Nat'l Area Assoc
Dolphin Database
Everett Garden Club
Evergreen Islands
Federation of Fly Fishers, Steelhead Committee
Floating Homes Association
Friends of Chuckanut
Friends of Discovery Park
Friends of Grays Harbor
Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Friends of the Loomis Forest
Friends of the Methow
Friends of the San Juans
Friends of the West Hylebos Wetlands
Hood Canal Environmental Council
Issaquah Alps Trails Club
Kettle Range Conservation Group
Kitsap Audubon Society
Lower Columbia Basin Audubon
Marine Environmental Consortium
Methow Valley Citizens Council
Mountaineers
Nisqually Delta Association
North Cascades Audubon Society



WASHINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

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068723

May 20, 1999

U.S. Department of Energy
Hanford, WA

Dear Sirs:

The Washington Environmental Council is Washington State's largest environmental organization. It represents nearly 200 environmental groups, many of them units of national environmental organizations.

We wish to commend Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson and the Clinton Administration for the plan to protect the Wahluke Slope of the Hanford Reach as part of a national wildlife refuge.

That single step will preserve much but not all of the shrub-steppe ecosystem through which the Hanford Reach--the last free-flowing stretch of the Columbia River in our nation--flows to provide unique spawning and rearing habitat for wild fall Chinook and summer steelhead and a critical migratory and resting habitat for wild salmonids otherwise.

Thus Washington Environmental Council supports the preferred alternative of the Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement, but with modifications and additions:

1. We urge that all of the following Department of Energy lands be included as part of the national wildlife refuge: The Wahluke Slope, the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the McGee Ranch, the Riverland area and all of the Columbia River Islands.
2. We ask for a ban on the entire Hanford site of all agricultural uses, commercial mining and cattle and other grazing because each of these activities for private gain will destroy native plants and animals and disrupt the general

North Cascades Conservation Council
North Central Washington Audubon Society
Northwest Energy Coalition
Northwest Fly Anglers
Oak Harbor Garden Club
Okanogan Highlands Alliance
Olympic Environmental Council
Olympic Park Associates
Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society
Organization to Preserve Agricultural Lands
Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute
Pend O'Reille Environmental Team
Point Roberts Heron Preservation Committee
PRO - Salmon
Protect the Peninsula's Future Ptarmigans
Puget Soundkeeper Alliance
Rivers Council of Washington
Save A Valuable Environment
Save Lake Sammamish
Save Our Summers
Save the Woods on Saratoga
Seattle Audubon Society
Seattle Citizens for Quality Living
Skagit Audubon Society
Spokane Audubon Society
Spokane Progressive Alliance
Tahoma Audubon Society
The Bicycle Alliance of Washington
The Lands Council
Vancouver Audubon Society
Washington Fly Fishing Club
Washington Kayak Club
Washington Native Plant Society
Washington Ski Touring Club
Washington Trollers Association
Waste Action Project
Watershed Defense Fund
WEAVE
Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers
Wilderness Society
Yakima Valley Audubon Society

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workings of the natural ecosystem, to the detriment of the public as whole.

- 3. Because the Hanford Reach will someday become part of the U.S. Wild and Scenic Rivers system, we ask for a ban on commercial developments on lands now under DOE control within a half mile of the river's edge within the proposed Wild and Scenic Hanford Reach corridor.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. If you have questions, I would be pleased to answer them.

Sincerely,

John (Jack) de Yonge
Statewide Board Member at Large
Washington Environmental Council

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