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Ginger & Mike Wireman
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DOE-RL / DIS

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

Dear Mr. Ferns

We fully support the DOE preferred alternative for the final disposition of lands of the Hanford Site and in the buffer zones. Research conducted by The Nature Conservancy has proven what an incredible storehouse the area is for not only remnant shrub steppe, but for nearly 80 newly discovered species.

It is critical that none of this land which was serendipitously gained through our need for national defense be compromised in any way. Please designate all public lands on the Wahluke Slope, Hanford Reach, islands, McGee Ranch and ALE as a National Wildlife Refuge

In addition we strongly oppose grazing on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Though some areas are degraded, much of the original habitat is intact and it is well proven that grazing causes soil erosion and expansion of weeds, as well as imbalances among native plant populations. During wind storms one of the few places in the Tri-Cities that does not experience a brown out is the ALE and Hanford Site. Our air quality is completely unacceptable about 20 days a year, and damaging the fragile cryptobiotic crust with heffer hooves just doesn't make sense.

We absolutely believe that all mining operations should be restricted to those essential to completing clean-up and remediation on the HR. The of possibility of spreading contamination accidentally through mining operations seems a plausible threat.

Please issue a separate Record of Decision for all the areas mentioned above. These are prime fish and wildlife habitat, uncontaminated by Hanford operations, and should not have to wait for protection until the complex decisions involving clean-up in Central Hanford are made.

One more thing, regarding the folks who's lands were taken in 48 hours without due reparations and think they should get them back... First of all they probably all got their land for free through the homestead act, after we stole the land from the Wanapum, Yakima and Nez Perce. Its not like they had huge investments, and since the irrigation wasn't there it wasn't that productive. The U.S. only gave the Japanese Americans, who's lands the Federal Government stole when we put them in internment camps during WWII, a few \$1000 per family. The farms they lost were probably worth hundreds of thousands, even back then.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,


Ginger Baird Wireman


Michael G. Wireman