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1825 22nd Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
June 1, 1999

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

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Dear Mr. Ferns:

I want to urge you to do everything in your power to protect the Hanford Reach and surrounding lands. The Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the McGee Ranch, the D.O.E.'s entire Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, and the Columbia River Islands should all be managed as a permanent National Wildlife Refuge. No agriculture, mining, or livestock grazing should ever be permitted

As a botanist (I have a master's degree in plant ecology) I am particularly concerned about preserving some of the last native shrub-steppe vegetation in eastern Washington.

Thank you,

Howard L. Harris