

March 6, 1995

Mr. John Wagoner, Manager
U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Mail Stop A7-50
Richland, WA 99352

Subject: ESTABLISHING A NATIVE PLANT NURSERY AND SEED BANK FOR HANFORD

Dear Mr. Wagoner:

The Hanford Site contains a large amount of relatively intact native shrub-steppe habitat. This habitat is being destroyed and degraded region-wide at a rapid rate. At Hanford, activities such as remediation and the construction of new facilities pose a serious threat to this resource.

Protection and restoration of natural resources is a necessary component of successful CERCLA remediation and restoration and is in keeping with the U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office's (DOE-RL) trust responsibilities. For successful restoration at Hanford, additional information is needed about techniques for gathering, growing, propagating, storing, planting, maintaining, and monitoring shrub-steppe plants. For example, the sodium dichromate and riverland sites have been remediated, but restoration attempts at these sites have failed. Larger remediation projects, such as the 100 Area cleanup and the ERDF, will require restoration on a much broader scale. In order to meet these future demands, the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council (NRTC) encourages DOE-RL to take steps to identify the necessary facilities and techniques that will enable DOE-RL to fulfill its restoration duties efficiently.

An essential component of this effort must be a Hanford-based native plant nursery and seed bank. Locally derived native seed has the best ability to survive, is more beneficial to native wildlife, and requires less maintenance. Yet, such seed is not currently available from commercial suppliers. To acquire and propagate seed in sufficient quantities to meet Hanford's restoration needs, the NRTC suggests that DOE-RL work with businesses and other interested parties to establish a local nursery and seed bank. Such a facility would be relatively inexpensive, and its timely operation would greatly reduce DOE-RL's future restoration costs and its potential natural resource damages. Moreover, DOE-RL can use this nursery and seed bank to meet its other, non-CERCLA needs.

The NRTC fully supports the development and operation of a native plant nursery and seed bank for Hanford. We request that DOE-RL pursue the steps necessary to establish such a facility. We are available for consultation on this matter and are willing to contribute our technical expertise to the development of this capacity. We request a meeting with your staff to discuss these matters in further detail. Please respond via Paul Kube, DOE-RL, within ten days of the date of this letter, to set a time and place for this meeting.

Sincerely,

The Hanford Natural Resource Trustees

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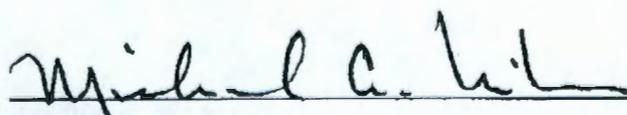
HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE SIGNATURE PAGE

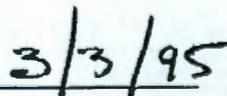
Signature indicates concurrence with the following:

Subject: Accompanying letter
Date: Letter will be dated prior to mailing
To: Mr. John Wagoner
From: The Hanford Natural Resrouce Trustees

Regarding:

- Loss of native shrub-steppe habitat
- Importance of protecting and restoring natural resources during CERCLA remediation and restoration
- Request for assistance in establishing a native plant nursery and seed bank for Hanford
- Request for a meeting to discuss these issues





Mike Wilson, Manager
Nuclear Waste Program
Washington State Department of Ecology

Date

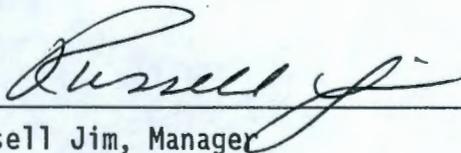
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2-1-95

Russell Jim, Manager
ER/WM Program
Yakama Nation

Date

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Michael J. Farrow

February 28, 1995

Michael J. Farrow
Director, Department of Natural Resources
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Date

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671		# of pages > 1
To <i>Linda Tunmill</i>	From <i>Chris</i>	
Co.	Co.	
Dept.	Phone # <i>276-0105</i>	
Fax # <i>372-9447</i>	Fax #	