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NW Council of Governments & Associates

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Tom Ferns, HRA-EIS Document Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland, Wa. 99352-0550

3 June 1999

RECEIVED

JUN 04 1999

Re: Hanford Reach land use.

DOE-RL / DIS

Dear Sir:

The NW Council of Governments & Associates Board of Directors supports the multiple use of the Hanford Reach area. We believe strongly that this land, which was taken by the federal government during the 1940s to be used in the war-effort, needs to be returned to the Columbia Basin Project, as promised.

We support the April 1999 "Hanford Reach Protection and Management Plan" Written by the Boards of Commissioners of Benton, Franklin and Grant Counties. This plan was developed with direct input from a Citizens Advisory panel, various public hearings and from professional planners from Benton, Franklin and Grant Counties.

We urge the Energy Department to honor the commitment by the federal Government to return the land back to the people, to the control of the three county governments. This is what the people have asked for and deserve. Let the local people and governments control their destiny.

We urge adoption of the Hanford Reach Protection and Management Plan. We are against a land take-over by USFWS for protection as a wildlife refuge. We are also against this land being designated as Wild and Scenic and/or being controlled by the federal government.

Respectfully,

Robert D. Lonn, Consultant/Planner
NWCOGA

"We hold these Truths to be Self-Evident.....Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness!"