

Spine Lakes Protection Society

St-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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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

OLYMPIA

(360) 357-6548

SEATTLE

615 Second Avenue, Suite 380, Seattle, WA 98104-2245

SPOKANE

(509) 328-5077

E-mail: greenwec@aol.com (206) 622-8103 FAX (206) 622-8113

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

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WEAVE

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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

North Cascades Conservation Council

North Central Washington Audubon Society

Northwest Energy Coalition

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