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Thomas Ferns  
US. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office  
PO. Box 550, MSIN HO-12  
Richland, WA 99352-0550  
June 4, 1999

**RECEIVED****JUN 09 1999****DOE-RL / DIS**

Dear Mr. Ferns:

I am writing in regard to the Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Land Use Plan. I wish to express my support of the Department of Energy's preferred alternative, which would protect critical habitat in the Hanford Reach. Additionally, I support the amendments (listed below) proposed by the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society. The Hanford Reach represents the habitat that once covered this entire region. That habitat is now endangered due to overgrazing, development, and hydroelectric dams. The Hanford Reach is a vital refuge for wild salmon, migratory birds, and many unique plant and insects. We are presented here with a unique opportunity to protect and save a habitat that has been carelessly destroyed over the past 150 years. We have been given a second chance to make up for past recklessness, and it would be a shame to miss this opportunity.

Here is what I would like to see from the DOE: Designate all public lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, its islands, the McGee Ranch, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve as a National Wildlife Refuge; allow no grazing on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation; restrict all mining operations to those essential to completing clean-up and remediation on the Hanford Reservation; issue a separate record of understanding for all the areas mentioned above, not waiting until decisions involving clean-up in the central Hanford area are made.

Sincerely,



Renate Ryan, MS Environmental Science and Engineering