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May 19, 1999

RECEIVED

**MAY 25 1999
DOE-RL/DIS**

Mr. Thomas W. Ferns
U. S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P. O. Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland, Wa. 99352-0550

Dear Sir:

My husband and I add our support of The Nature Conservancy position to manage a permanent National Wildlife Refuge including the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the McGee Ranch, the DOE's entire Wahlake Slope, the Hanford Reach and the Columbia River islands. We must give the natural habitats a chance to continue, as we have so little left. While we do need agriculture, we do also need the salmon, and all the birds, animals and minute creature, and the plant life that sustains them.

Respectfully

Iris M. Strehlow