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email
THIS LETTER SENT VIA FAX, WITH A SIGNED COPY TO FOLLOW IN THE MAIL.

0050995

June 6, 1999

Thomas Ferns
US DOE
Richland Operations Office
PO Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352-0550

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DOE-RL / DIS

RE: Hanford Remedial Action EIS

This nation has a rare opportunity to protect the best of what's left of Washington State's native shrub-steppe ecosystem. Only a small fraction (I believe less than 10%) of this ecosystem remains intact. It is critical that we act now to protect the Hanford site for future generations.

I support DOE's preferred alternative WITH MODIFICATIONS.

The following should be designated and managed as a permanent National Wildlife Refuge: the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, the McGee Ranch, DOE's entire Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, and the Columbia River islands. To expedite a final decision on management of uncontaminated land, DOE should issue separate decisions for these areas.

I said before we should protect the site for future generations. But it is also essential for the present. Salmon and bullhead trout within the Columbia River system are at risk, not to mention other water dependent species. We have an impending war over water allocations on our hands. Commercial activities such as grazing, mining and agriculture threaten to overwhelm the needs of native species. It would be a grave mistake to open any of the Hanford site to these kinds of activities, which would most likely lead to economic hardship on taxpayers in the long-run (environmental remediation costs). Consequently, **the final EIS should be modified to prohibit agriculture, commercial mining and livestock grazing on the entire site, including central Hanford.**

Sincerely,



Kammie Bunes
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