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4118 N. 38th St.
Tacoma, WA 98407
May 17, 1999

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

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DOE-RL / DIS

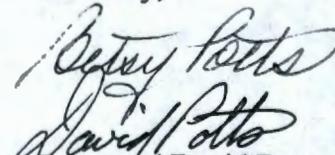
Dear Mr. Ferns;

We strongly support your adoption of the "Preferred Alternative" regarding the Hanford Reach. The best of what remains of shrub steppe ecosystem in eastern Washington is there. Leaving the largest amount of land intact and continuous will insure its health for the healthiest diversity of plant and animal life. This includes protecting an important stretch of the Columbia River, which provides a migration corridor and critical spawning habitat for fall chinook salmon.

We believe, in addition, that:

1. Adjoined DOE lands should be managed as a permanent National Wildlife Refuge to protect central Hanford, including: Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, McGee Ranch, DOE's entire Wahluke Slope, Hanford Reach, and the Columbia River islands;
2. Such protection should exclude agriculture, commercial mining, or livestock grazing, as is happening to considerable land surrounding Hanford.

Sincerely,


Betsy and David Potts