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June 5, 1999

Thomas 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:

Please consider this letter part of the public hearing regarding the future of Wahluke Slope and the Hanford Reach.

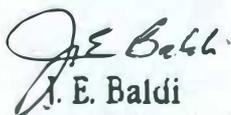
We have visited this area many times and have great feelings for its uniqueness. It should be preserved forever for the Chinook salmon spawning beds, and the slope for the wildlife to which it provides habitat. There is no other place in the world like it!!

Therefore, we thank the DOE for the work it has done and support the preferred alternative designating the Wahluke Slope for preservation with the following changes:

1. Include all the public areas (ALE, Hanford Reach, adjoining riverlands riparian habitat, McGee Ranch) under designation as a National Wildlife Refuge--issuing a separate recorded designation naming each of these areas specifically to be included at this time. If they are protected now the Hanford area can still receive its clean-up procedures.
2. Oppose all grazing and mining (except necessary for clean-up) to the entire area. Domestic animals and disruption from mining procedures take too much from wildlife, while the process itself allows some ranchers/miners economic advantages over those who do not have permits for private use of public lands.
3. Designate the Reach a Wild and Scenic River.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the HRA EIS.

Sincerely,


J. E. Baldi

1403 Brick Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926


Gloria E. Baldi