



COLUMBIA BASIN ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

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Tom Ferns, HRA-EIS Document Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland, Wa. 99352-0550

June 3, 1999

Re: Hanford Reach land.

Dear Sir:

The Columbia Basin Environmental Council membership supports the multiple use of the Hanford Reach lands. This land, which was taken by the federal government for national defense purposes, was promised to be returned after the Second World War. This has not been done. The time is now for the promise to be fulfilled.

We support the "Hanford Reach Protection and Management Plan", which was four years in the making and prepared by the Boards of Commissioners of Benton, Franklin and Grant Counties. These are the counties directly affected by this Hanford area. The plan was developed with the coordination and direct input from a Citizens Advisory panel, many public hearings and the professional planners from Benton, Franklin and Grant Counties.

We strongly urge the Department of Energy to do what is right for the rightful owners of this land, the people of the three counties, Benton, Franklin and Grant! The people of the area deserve and expect to be treated fairly and honestly.

We urge the adoption of the Hanford Reach Protection and Management Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

William Riley, Public Affairs Director

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