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Soap Lake, Washington 98851

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Tom Ferns-HRA-EIS Document Mgr.
US Dept of Energy
Richland, WA 99352-0550

June 2, 1999

The Soap lake Chamber of Commerce supports multiple use of the Hanford Reach lands.

These lands were forcibly taken from private property owners in 1942, during WW2. These lands were to be returned Columbia Basin Project and the tax rolls, when no longer needed. We find it un-acceptable that the US Government would renege on this promise.

The Soap Lake Chamber of Commerce supports the Hanford Reach Protection and Management Plan (2 April 1999) prepared by the Boards of Commissioners of Benton, Franklin, and Grant Counties. This plan was developed with the input of a " Citizens Advisory panel", numerous public hearings, and the assistance of professional planning staff of Benton, Franklin, and Grant counties.

This plan took many years of planning and preparation, included an opportunity for input from all the various interested and affected parties. It is truly the result of a "grass roots" planning and public participation process.

This plan is the only regional, grass roots, mufti-jurisdictional comprehensive plan to date. It is the blueprint for a management strategy developed in an open and local manner, with true public participation.

We urge the adoption of the Hanford Reach Protection and management Plan developed by the three counties as the governing document for the Hanford Reach.

We are opposed to the lands being turned over to the US F&W Service for permanent protection as a wildlife refuge.

We are opposed to the lands being designated as Wild & Scenic.

We are opposed to Federal Control of the Hanford Reach Lands.

Sincerely,



Susan K. Riley
Secretary/ Treasurer