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May 14, 1999

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

Dear Mr. Ferns:

I am writing to express my opinion on the proposed Environmental Impact Statement concerning the Hanford Reach.

I would like you to protect the ecologically significant lands at Hanford. The Hanford Site is one of the last places in eastern Washington supporting large areas of native shrub-steppe vegetation and related wildlife.

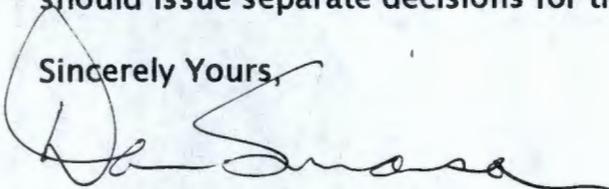
I support the Preferred Alternative, but with some modifications, including:

A. The following adjoined DOE lands should be 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. This will provide a large, continuous "crescent" of protected habitat lands surrounding central Hanford.

B. To ensure long-term protection for key native species and systems located across the Site (including central Hanford), there should be no agriculture, commercial mining, or livestock grazing permitted.

3. To expedite a final decision on management of uncontaminated lands, DOE should issue separate decisions for the areas mentioned above (see 2A).

Sincerely Yours,



Dan Simonson



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