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HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE COUNCIL

FINDING 97-02

The Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council (NRTC) strongly supports the U.S. Department of Energy's (USDOE) planned mitigation for the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF) Phase 2 expansion. Under the plan, fire damaged shrub-steppe habitat on the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve will be enhanced using locally derived sage seed and tubelings. We find this to be acceptable mitigation for the loss of shrub-steppe habitat from construction of ERDF expansion.

This will be another in the increasing number of actions being taken by USDOE to mitigate for natural resource impacts from new construction. Such actions are consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the principals of stewardship embodied in USDOE's Secretarial Land and Facility Use Policy. Specifically, the ERDF Phase 2 expansion mitigation meets the project goals of integrating NEPA values into the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) decision making process. The mitigation is also consistent with the Hanford Site Biological Resources Mitigation Strategy.

More than good practices for new construction, the success of this enhancement will clearly compensate for the loss of habitat and related services that will result from the Phase 2 expansion. That, in turn, will lessen any damages for which USDOE may be liable under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment provisions of CERCLA. By consulting with the NRTC and undertaking the mitigation, USDOE is furthering the trustees' mutual goal of reducing natural resource injuries early and cooperatively. In taking these actions, USDOE's Richland Operations Office is also complying with the recent Policy on Integration of Natural Resources Concerns into Response Actions.

The trustees look forward to the success of this and future mitigation and restoration projects.

CERTIFICATION

Finding 97-02 was adopted by consensus of the Hanford Natural Resource Council on _____ with _____ abstentions and _____ separate opinions (attached).

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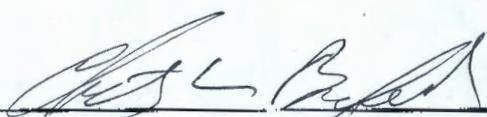
EDMC

HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE COUNCIL

SIGNATURE PAGE

FINDING 97-02 supporting the ERDF Phase 2 mitigation.

- Support
- Object
- Abstain
- Support with separate opinion (below)

Signature: 

Name: Christopher L. Bartford

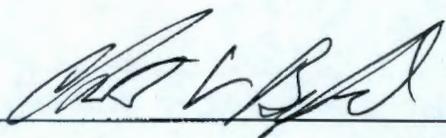
Trustee Organization: C. T. U. I. R.

Date: 12/4/97

HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE COUNCIL
SIGNATURE PAGE

FINDING 97-02 supporting the ERDF Phase 2 mitigation.

- Support
- Object
- Abstain
- Support with separate opinion (below)

Signature: 

Name: Christopher L. Burford

Trustee Organization: C. T. U. I. R.

Date: 11-24-97

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again

HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE COUNCIL

SIGNATURE PAGE

FINDING 97-02 supporting the ERDF Phase 2 mitigation.

- Support
- Object
- Abstain
- Support with separate opinion (below)

Signature: *Donna L. Powankee* Group

Name: Donna L. Powankee

Trustee Organization: NEZ PERCE TRIBE - ERUM

Date: 12/3/97

Post-It® Fax Note	7071	Date	12-5-97	# of pages	▶
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Co./Dept.		Cc.			
Phone #		Phone #	208-843-7375		
Fax #		Fax #			

HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE COUNCIL

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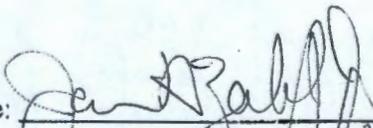
FINDING 97-02 supporting the ERDF Phase 2 mitigation.

Support

Object

Abstain

Support with separate opinion (below)

Signature: 

Name: James A. Zelsdorf Jr

Trustee Organization: DOE

Date: 11/24/97

HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE COUNCIL

SIGNATURE PAGE

FINDING 97-02 supporting the ERDF Phase 2 mitigation.

Support

Object

Abstain

Support with separate opinion (below)

Signature: _____



Name: Geoff Tallent

Trustee Organization: State of Washington

Date: December/2, 1997

HANFORD NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEE COUNCIL

SIGNATURE PAGE

FINDING 97-02 supporting the ERDF Phase 2 mitigation.

Support

Object

Abstain

Support with separate opinion (below)

This is a conditional approval, for the following reasons:

1. Our recommendation remains that destruction of mature, prime sagebrush habitat should be mitigated at a 5:1 ratio to account for the duration of lost use (recovery time of the ecosystem functions and services of mature habitat), and
2. The location of mitigation should be as close as possible to the destroyed area so that the displaced fauna can return as soon as the habitat is mature enough to allow recolonization. ALE is NOT to be used as the preferred mitigation area for habitat lost on the main body of Hanford, and future mitigation plans should replace habitat within the same geographic area as it was lost. The labor costs of revegetation on the main body of Hanford is not an excuse to divert restoration activities to ALE.

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Trustee Organization: _____

Date: _____