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Lawrence M. Jacobson
2628 - 113th Way S.W.
Olympia, WA 98512

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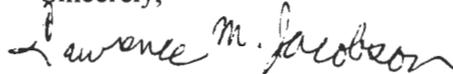
Mr. Thomas W. Ferns
U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352-0550

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EIS. Here are my comments.

1. 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.
2. 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).

Hanford offers a great opportunity to preserve a remnant of the wild Columbia River system. Please see to it that the chosen preferred alternative in the final EIS maximizes this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Lawrence M. Jacobson