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May 28, 1999

Hanford Remedial Action EIS  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Richland Operations Office  
P.O. Box 550  
MSIN HO-12  
Richland, WA 99352

**RECEIVED**

**JUN 04 1999**

**DOE-RL / DIS**

Dear Land Manager:

On May 15, 1999 I fulfilled an old dream of mine: under the guidance of Bill Rickert I visited the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. It was my first visit to the Hanford Reach area, and I was not disappointed. I spend a lot of time in the desert steppe of eastern Oregon and over the last few years I have visited several grasslands famous for their near pristine condition. I have not found another place as well preserved as the ALE.

I am writing to support DoE's preferred alternative in the DEIS and land use plan. However, because protection for the Hanford Reach is key to restore Columbia Basin salmon and Steelhead, we must give the best possible protection to all natural and sensitive lands within the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. I urge DoE to include within the national wildlife refuge all of the public lands on the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, including the islands, the McGee Ranch, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. I suggest DoE proceed immediately with a separate Record of Decision in order to establish the national wildlife refuge, and protect these special places and natural values in the Hanford Nuclear Reservation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Irene Vlach

cc: Sen. Patty Murray