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25409 NE Manley Rd
Battle Ground, WA 98604
June 3, 1999

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

Dear Thomas Ferns,

I am writing to express my support for protection of the Hanford Reach. I support the U.S. Department of Energy's revised draft of Hanford Remedial Action Environmental Impact Statement and Comprehensive Land Use Plan but with the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society's proposed amendments:

Designate all public lands on the Wahluke Slope, The Hanford Reach, its islands, the McGee Ranch, and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve as a National Wildlife Refuge (176,000 total acres);

Oppose grazing on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation;

Support restricting all mining operations to those essential to completing clean-up and remediation on the Hanford Reservation;

Issue a separate Record of Decision for all the areas mentioned above. These areas are prime fish and wildlife habitat, uncontaminated by Hanford operations, and should not have to wait for protection until the complex decisions involving clean-up in the central Hanford area are made.

The time is now to do what we can to protect our environment. By allowing the Hanford Reach to remain in a natural condition will allow us to help maintain the ecological balance that is required for life.

Respectfully,



Ann Langer, DVM