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MAY 1977
SPRING BIRD MOUNTAIN CREEK
MAY 1977

DISHMAN HILLS NATURAL AREA ASSN., INC., E. 10820 Maxwell Ave., Spokane, WA 99206
May 1977

NEARBY HILLS SHOW SURPRISING VARIETY OF LIVING THINGS WELL WORTH PRESERVING
MANY COLLECT RECYCLABLES FOR LAND FUND

Many friends of Dishman Hills are continuing to collect recyclables to add to the land acquisition fund. Our thanks to them! Newspaper is now \$20 a ton in amounts of 500 pounds or more at Spokane Recycling Products, E. 3407 Main and "colored" ledger is \$25. Kaiser Aluminum, E. 210 Sprague, and Reynolds Aluminum, E. 2515 Trent, are paying 17 cents a pound for aluminum cans, TV dinner and similar trays and foil. Alaska Steel and Pacific Fur and Hide buy a variety of metals including old car batteries. B & B Distributors, N. 1004 Ruby, take Lucky Lager and Heidelberg bottles; Rake's Mountain Distributors, N. 1800 Langley, take Olympia, Hamm's and Tuborg and Joey and Nick August, E. 3038 Trent, take Rainier, Rheinlander and Highlander. All pay 50 cents for a case of 24. Clean cotton rags bring 25 cents a pound. Contact Bernice Ammons, phone 924-0077 during the noon hour.

When you take in paper, please tell them it is for our Dishman Hills account there and leave your name so we'll know whom to credit.

A. D. (Sam) Angove, director of Spokane County Parks and Recreation Dept., has informed us he expects to have an appraisal in June of land in the Dishman Hills south of and adjacent to the 80-acre Nature Conservancy Preserve, with a view to acquiring it by matching funds. The Nature Conservancy and our organization expect to be involved in this also, and are also looking into the possibility of obtaining land on Tower Mountain a few miles to the southeast. We are particularly interested in saving the little mountain forest that lies along the creek on the east side. See story in adjacent column.

CONSERVANCY HOLDS MEETING AT CAMP CARO

ACTION NEEDED NOW TO SAVE NATURAL AREAS

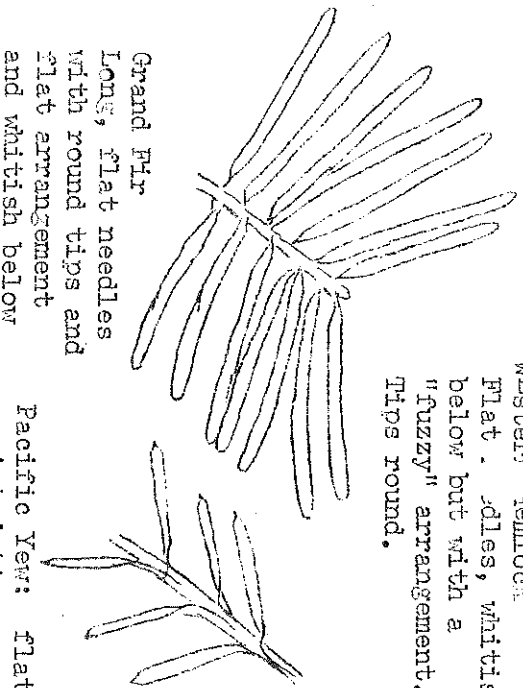
We of the Dishman Hills Natural Area Association and The Nature Conservancy are deeply interested in preserving areas containing a variety of plant and animal communities. In the Spokane area Dishman Hills Natural Area contains a number of such communities. Ponderosa pine-torchgrass is the most prominent, characterized also be a variety of wildflowers and showy flowering shrubs such as serviceberry, mountain spray, mock orange and deerbrush, plus some Douglas fir. Cotton-tail rabbits, chipmunks, pine squirrels, white-footed mice and coyotes live there. Among the birds are juncos, chipping sparrows, California quail and ruffed grouse, chickadees and nuthatches.

The many granite outcroppings support a life community dominated by tiny lichens and mosses and several kinds of ferns. In the crevices rock wrens build their nests.

Another biotic community inhabits the ponds, most of which are not in the protected area. Here are a rich variety of little animals, including tree toads, bullfrogs, salamanders, tiny crustaceans and water insects. Cattails and bullrushes line the shores. One pond, not yet acquired, has a little plant that has been found nowhere else in eastern Washington.

Tower (Browne) Mountain to the south contains many plant and animal community types not found in the Lower Hills. Much of the mountain has in the past been either logged or burned over and so vegetation is in various stages of coming back. One area is dominated by deerbrush attracting white-tailed deer. It is the nesting area for birds such as towhees, Brewer's sparrows and the uncommon orange-crowned warbler. Other areas are covered with wild rose, ninebark and mountain spray.

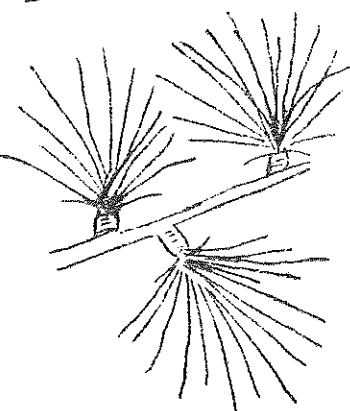
Along the little creek is a dense growth of brush.



Western Hemlock
Flat needles, whitish
below but with a
"fuzzy" arrangement.
Tips round.



Western Red Cedar
~~leaves~~; fall off
fernlike appearance



Western Larch or
Tamarack
Soft needles in
fall off

DISEMAN HILLS NATURAL AREA ASSOC., INC.

A non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of some of the natural environment of the Spokane area for people to enjoy.

Helen E. Linniger, president
Thomas H. Rogers, vice-pres. & editor
Bernice Ammons, secretary
David E. Lentjes, treasurer

Directors (in addition to officers):
Omar E. C-trroll Daniel A. Knierim
Greg Evans William F. Marchand
Bernice Hahn Ambrose Priestley
Karen A. Hall

We invite you to join personally in the work of the organization.

Donations and membership dues are tax-deductible.

Monthly meetings are at Kiwanis Camp Caro, South 625 Sargent Road, Disman. Board meeting is at 7 p. m. and general meeting is at 8 p. m the fourth Wednesday of each month. Programs usually consist of films or slides of natural areas and wildlife. You are cordially invited to both meetings.

DISEMAN HILLS ASSOCIATION JOINS LAND USE PLAN ACTION

Our board of directors at its last meeting voted unanimously to join the Council for Land Use Planning and to become a plaintiff in the pending lawsuit which, among other things, would require Spokane County Commissioners to develop, as required by law, a comprehensive plan for land use. We believe that the suit can help save rugged, unique land of the type we are acquiring, which we believe is best suited for recreational and educational activities.

ACTION NEEDED NOW (continued from page 1)

and grand fir saplings are slowly reclaiming the area. On up the stream the grand firs, joined by western hemlocks, and an understory of Pacific yew, provide a dense shade. Here are found Swainson's thrushes, golden-crowned kinglets, solitary vireos, occasional brown creepers, and Townsend's warblers, usually expected much farther up in the mountains. Along the creek grow graceful lady ferns, trilliums, tall blue monkshood and showy cow parsnip. Here may be heard the bubbling songs of nesting winter wrens and the place is a delight to mushroom lovers. Ladieslipper, mountain mossassin flowers and Indian pipe blossom under the big trees and long streamers of goat beard lichen drape the lower branches. At the spring which feeds the creek is a little patch of squawberry, an attractive and rather rare shrub.

On the ridge above the head of the creek is a recent burn that is bright with flowers of fireweed, arnica and Jacobsladder and healthy foot-high fir trees are restoring the forest. The fire-killed snags are rotting, providing wood soft enough for woodpeckers to make nest holes. Two uncommon woodpeckers, Lewis' and the big pileated, have recently nested there and old holes are eagerly sought by house wrens. This year it appears that a pair of western bluebirds is nesting there.

The massive Rocks of Sharon rise above the ridge here. In crevices of some grow a kind of fern known nowhere else in eastern Washington except Pand Oreille County.

These areas clearly contain a great variety of life within a few miles of Spokane. The rapidly expanding outdoor education programs demand that this richly varied Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain