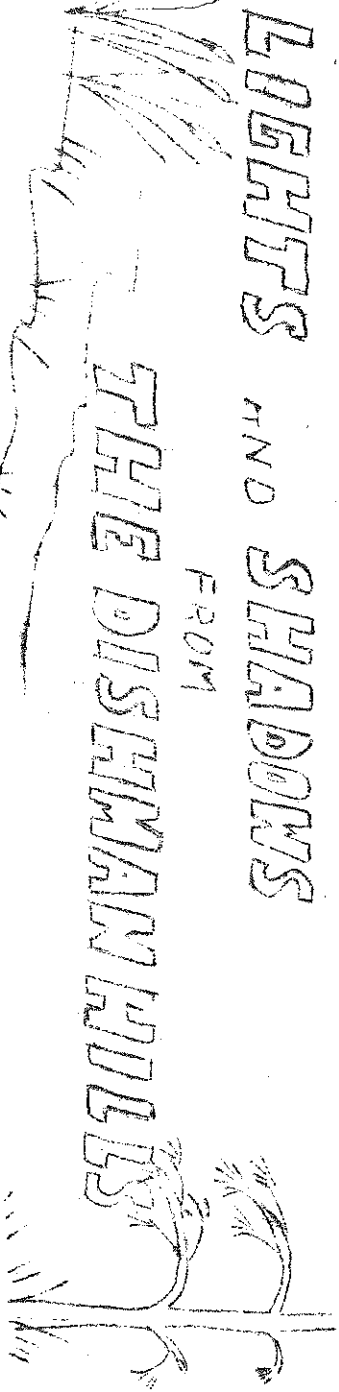


LEIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM

THE DISHMAN HILLS



September 1977

MORE LAND IN HILLS STILL IN OFFING

STUDY OF COUNTY'S PLANTS, ANIMALS UNDERWAY

The acquiring of the land adjacent to the south border of The Nature Conservancy's Dishman Hills preserve still holds the interest of Spokane County Parks and Recreation Department, according to Suot, Sam Angove. However, no money is available this year, he said, for appraising the land. The value of part of the Conservancy land probably will be used as the local 25 per cent needed to obtain state and federal matching funds. The appraisal could cost as much as \$2500. Our association could offer to pay this cost to get the process going this year, but should we? We urge you to come to our September 28 meeting at 7 p.m. at Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road, Dishman, to help us decide, or otherwise give us your viewpoint.

PARTS OF TOWER MOUNTAIN LOGGED

Logging has taken place in four areas on Tower Mountain south of the Dishman Hills recently--in three places just this summer. We consider much of the logged area only marginal for lumber production and still hope that the area will some day become part of the wild parkland of which the 300-acre preserve in the Dishman Hills is the beginning. While logging has destroyed part of its value for this, the area, properly cared for, will slowly recover its beauty. We intend to work for its acquisition by one means or another.

Most of several unusual plants in the area apparently have escaped total destruction, with the possible exception of the brittle fern (*Cestopteris fragilis*) uncommon in eastern Washington. The one western red cedar escaped, as did the little patch of the scarce squawberry (*Viburnum edule*). Some birds which inhabited the denser forest may be adversely affected. The new logging road has made motorcycle access, although

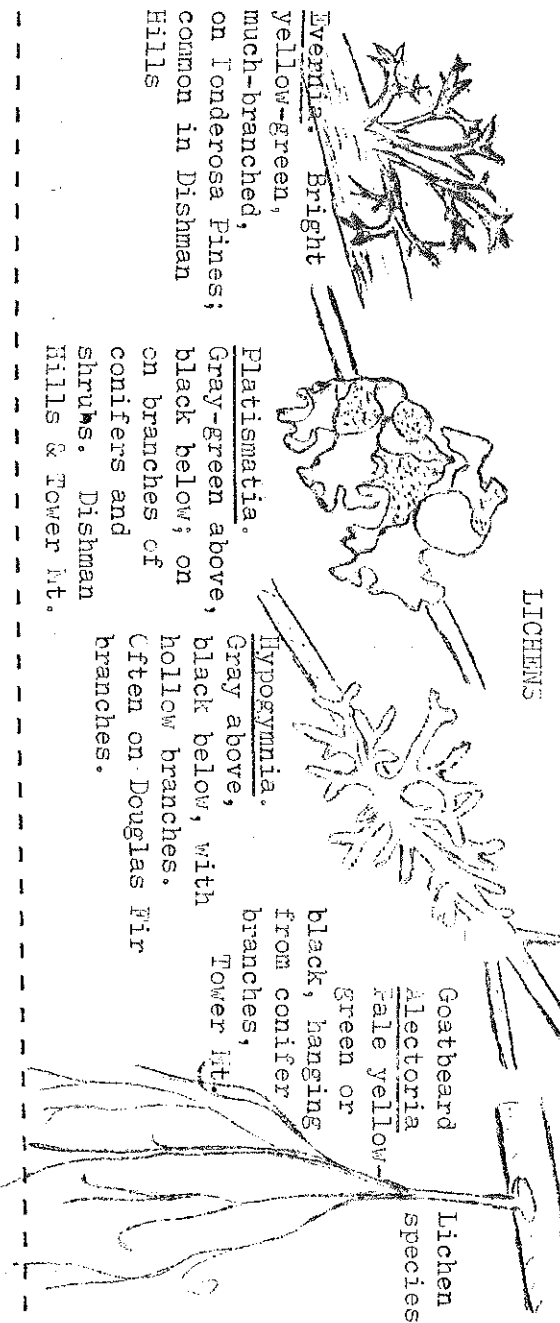
Principal plant and animal communities in Spokane County are presently being mapped, with initial emphasis on natural areas, as part of the updating of the countycomprehensive land use plan. Les Bruess of the planning department is directing the work, assisted by Doug Pinedo of the State Game Department and Ivan Lines and Dennis Phillippi of the Soil Conservation Service. Your bulletin editor is volunteering his assistance in identifying the plants. In future years we may be able to obtain a fairly complete biological survey of the county.

At present the study aims at discovering areas that are unique or scarce because of unusual species of plants or animals, or because they have great diversity of life. The Tower Mountain-Dishman Hills area looks as if it will be rated high for protection. This points up the importance of visiting an area often, studying it closely and recording what is there, which our Dishman Hills Association has been doing for years. If you know of any areas which should be recommended, please let us know at once. Call 926-7949 or drop us a line.

HILLS HAVE RESISTED DROUGHT WELL

The drought of the last year has not affected the Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain area as adversely as one might have expected. After all, the area has likely endured many a drought as severe, the plants and animals being well adapted to enduring such conditions. There is some indication that one pond is growing up to grass but a wet winter could reverse this. The few fall-flowering plants are failing to blossom, the gentians and yambah particularly, but they won't die, but just wait until next year. However, the pine cone crop looks poor and this could affect pine squirrels, crossbills and nuthatches. The wintering bird cen-

LICHENS



Evernia. Bright yellow-green, much-branched, on Tonderosa Pines; common in Dishman Hills

Platismatia. Gray-green above, black below; on branches of conifers and shrubs. Dishman Hills & Tower Mt.

Hypogymnia. Gray above, black below, with hollow branches. Often on Douglas Fir branches.

Goatbeard
Alectoria
Pale yellow-green or black, hanging from conifer branches, Tower Mt.

Lichen species

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DO WE CARE FOR AMERICA'S LAND?

A non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of some of the natural environment of the Spokane area so people can enjoy it and learn from it.

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Thomas H. Rogers, vice-pres. & editor
Bernice Ammons, secretary
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Bernice Hahn Ambrose Priestley
Warren 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, Dishman. Board meeting is at 7 p.m. and general meeting is at 8 p.m. the fourth Wednesday. The September program will feature slides of the Southwest desert. You are cordially invited to both meetings.

TAKE A LOOK AT A LICHEN

For something different, try lichens. A lichen owes its unusual shape to the fungus which makes up most of it and its often green color to the algae living within it. The algae make food and the fungus gets part of it. Lichens grow on trees, rocks or soil, but each species is usually quite fussy as to which. They may serve as food for animals such as caribou, which eat the reindeer moss, really a lichen. A person lost in the wilderness can get some nourishment from lichens. Probably the most important role of lichens is in making

Recently we heard of a young woman who is considering moving to Europe to live. Why? She says people there have a high regard for their lands and have learned to take care of them, unlike us in the United States. Surely some of us care but often it seems we are in the minority. We strew the land with litter and garbage and tear it up with motor vehicles. We pave thousands more square miles each year and then wonder why the rain can't sink into the soil, but causes floods or overfills the storm sewers and carries sewage into the river. Forests continue to be cut, often letting rapid runoff silt up our streams, cause floods and, later, water shortages. Are we really improving the quality of life? Perhaps we could get along with a little less of material wealth and try to fit into Nature instead of disrupting and destroying. Our basic, most crucial environment is not our cities, highways and buildings, but the land, water, air and sunlight which support them and all life on earth. Destroy them and we are all through.

Manito Garden Club is collecting newspaper for recycling, the proceeds to go to the Dishman Hills Land fund. The club met recently at Camp Caro and enjoyed a slide program on the Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain area and hiked in the hills afterward.

Newspaper continues to sell at \$20 a ton and "colored ledger" (ditto, mimeo, writing paper, etc.) is \$25. Envelopes are not acceptable but may be disposed of along with "slick" paper and cardboard, at Spokane Recycling Products, E. 3407 Main, when you haul down your "good" paper. The "waste" will not be wasted but will go into tar paper instead of a