

May 1978

COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION TURNS DOWN HOUSING DEVELOPMENT NEXT TO DISHMAN HILLS

APPRAISAL OF 140 ACRES IN HILLS STARTED

Appraisal of 140 acres of wild land in the Dishman Hills adjacent to the Nature Conservancy Preserve, with view to acquisition this year was begun last week when the appraiser, accompanied by our vice-president, visited the area. Adding this land has been the object of efforts by our association and Spokane County Parks and Recreation Department for many years. The Nature Conservancy has proposed using the value of the 80 acres which it owns, for the local half of funds needed to fulfill requirements for receiving federal matching funds. TNC land would then belong to Spokane County with strict provisions keeping the area undisturbed. It appears that it would be wise for TNC to keep title to at least a portion of the 80 acre preserve so it could still have a voice in protecting the general Dishman Hills area, as it did during the recent housing development hearing.

ARE YOU A NATURE CONSERVANCY MEMBER?

The cause of saving wild areas like the Dishman Hills would be greatly helped if you join The Nature Conservancy, which worked with us to buy the first land in the Hills. TNC opposed the recent development threat to the Hills and is working with Spokane County to buy additional land adjacent to the present natural area. Annual dues start at \$10 (\$5 for students). Please make your check payable to The Nature Conservancy and send it to that organization, c/o Wildland Recreational Management Program, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83843. Thanks!

Add area to Dishman Hills Preserve?

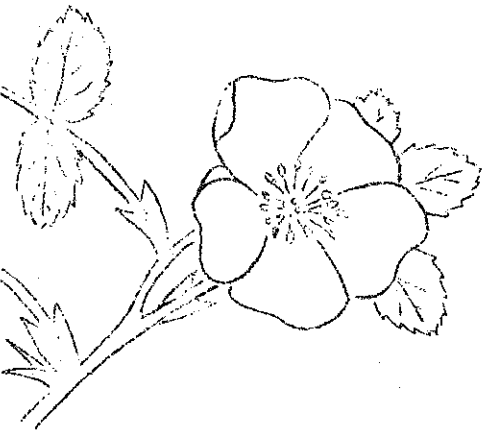
Spokane County Planning Commission recently rejected the housing development proposal bordering the Dishman Hills, as described in the March issue of Lights and Shadows. All commission members voted "No" except for one abstention, by William W. Main. Commission member Glen Outgley remarked, "It was a good proposal but it's in the wrong place."

About fifty people showed up at the April 28 hearing, which was continued until the next Tuesday evening to allow all persons time to speak. Only the developers and their representatives spoke for the project, which was strongly opposed by residents of the Park Road-18th Avenue area, Dishman Hills Association and A. D. (Sam) Angove of Spokane County Parks and Recreation Department. The Nature Conservancy wrote the planning commission urging rejection of the proposal.

Commission chairman Ted McCroury commented in closing that "You can't stop progress", that eventually the land in question would be lost. The murmur from those opposing the development indicated they didn't believe him. However, applause followed Dishman Hills vice-president Tom Rogers' remark that he would be willing to work toward buying the area to add to the natural area already acquired. The meeting adjourned shortly after midnight.

The development was proposed by Peter D. Rayner, a local attorney. Involved in the planning was Mike Senske, a member of the county Republican platform committee. Senske was described by Dr. Dexter Amend as an "environmentalist" in a recent Spokane Valley Herald news story. Other members of the planning commission are Abby Byrne, Kenneth Kennedy

ROSES IN JUNE



Wild roses in the Dishman Hills usually beat the traditional flowering time by a few days. The most common species there has so far defied identification for the flowers show much variation from place to place in the hills, but a rose by any name is just as sweet.

The other species in the hills is the Woodland Rose, distinguished by smaller flowers and a small, oval fruit from which the sepals have dropped, unlike other roses. The fruits of both kinds are rich in vitamin C, in case you are lost and have to live off the country. Chipmunks relish the seeds and some birds eat the fruits.

DISHMAN HILLS NATURAL AREA ASSN., INC.
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A non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of some of the natural environment of the Spokane area for people to enjoy and learn from.

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Thomas H. Rogers, vice-pres. & editor
Bernice Ammons, secretary
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Monthly meetings are at Kiwanis Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road, Dishman. Board meeting is at 7 p.m. and general meeting is at 8 p.m. the fourth Wednesday. You are cordially invited to attend both the board meeting and the General, which usually includes a slide or film program on the out-of-doors.

RECYCLING ADDING TO HILLS LAND FUND

So far your bulletin editor has been able to pick up over \$200 this year for the land fund, by picking up newspaper from many Dishman Hills supporters.

If you wish to drop it off at the recycling places directly, better call ahead, to be sure they are taking it, and for their hours. Prices just now range between \$20 and \$30 a ton. Call Spokane Recycling Products on E. Main

MANY GROUPS USE HILLS, SEE SLIDES

So far this year ten group hikes that we know of have used the Dishman Hills-Tower mountain area. They included groups from the YMCA, elementary schools, Spokane Recreation Department's program and the Washington Native Plant Society. This use of the Hills is definitely on the increase.

In 1978 our association has given eight slide talks on the Hills, ecology and birds. If your group or school class would like a presentation, please give us a call at 926-7949. There is no charge but we greatly appreciate donations to help buy more land for the nature preserve.

UPLAND SANDPIPER HABITAT THREATENED

The only known nesting area for the Upland Sandpiper in the Pacific Northwest in the Spokane Valley on both sides of the Idaho border, is being studied by Washington State Department of Game with a view to protecting the colony. The Nature Conservancy, Spokane County and Spokane Audubon Society are also much interested in the colony. However,

according to a farmer who leases part of the land, developers are planning high density housing for part of it, though no plans have yet been submitted to the county for approval. The area is native grassland and wildflowers in quite good condition. The only reason it still exists is because it is too rocky to plow. Besides the sandpipers, the area also has Gray Partridges, Ring-necked Pheasants, Horned Larks, Vesper and Savannah Spar-