



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

JULY 1985

WE HAVE BOUGHT THE 140 ACRES!

LAND DECISION RESTORES RURAL DENSITY

Spokane County Board of Commissioners has approved our request for returning to rural designation on the comprehensive land use plan a tract of land adjacent to Dishman Hills natural area. This means that not more than one dwelling per 10 acres will be allowed. This land and land formerly included in "The Meadows" development proposal is now being proposed for 10 acre lots. The owners have said they would not further subdivide and do not oppose our request. Other landowners in the area did oppose it, however, at the hearing before the Board of County Commissioners July 9.

A number of our members attended and Larry Thieman, Tom Rogers and Morey Haggin testified for us. A murmur of disbelief went up from our group when one person opposing us said she believed no deer had been seen in the Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain area for many years. We know better. The attorney for the landowners made the incredible statement that the county government should make a study to see whether development at one dwelling per 10 acres is economically feasible. When did it become government's job to decide whether someone is able to make a profit in any undertaking?

(Note: The above - mentioned hearing was originally scheduled for May 28 but was postponed until July 9. Since our May bulletin had already been printed with the May 28 date, we purposely held up its mailing so that none of you would show up and find no hearing.)

A large group of Girl Scouts enjoyed daycamping at Camp Caro and the Dishman Hills in late June. An even larger gathering of Boy Scouts attended a Blazer Campout there July 13. Small group instruction took place in the morning. The afternoon was purely fun time.

We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to saving some of the natural areas of the Spokane Area for people to enjoy and learn from.

Helen E. Lininger, President; Thomas H. Rogers, Vice-President and bulletin editor; Doris Allgood, Secretary; David E. Lentes, Treasurer; Larry Thieman, Legal advisor. Board of Directors (in addition to officers): Bernice Ammons, Gary Brewster, Omar Carroll, Margaret Haggin, Bernice Hahn, Ann Kachinsky, Don Kachinsky, William McMillan, Ambrose Priestley and Larry Thieman.

NATURAL AREA NEARLY 50% BIGGER

Dishman Hills Natural Area is nearly 50 percent larger because of our recent purchase of the 140 acres adjoining The Nature Conservancy's land on the south. This acquisition includes Eagle Peak, a favorite destination of hikers; two springs, and a picturesque array of flowery slopes, lichen and moss covered cliffs and wooded valleys. Our special thanks to board member Larry Thieman for heading the negotiating team which brought about the agreement for purchase. Officers of our association signed the purchase papers.

After the down payment of \$54,000, made possible by your past donations, about \$87,000 remain to be raised. A balance remains in our land fund but we must still raise about \$4300 every three months to meet payments for five years. Thus far we have pledges, mostly from our Board of Directors as individuals, totaling \$1025 per three months, which is about 24 percent of what is needed. We are depending upon you for the remainder. We would greatly appreciate it if you will pledge any amount you can, payable as you wish. If you don't wish to pledge, please send along whatever you can. Many thanks!

Don't forget to visit your Hills. Even though it's hot, there are shady places and it's always beautiful up there. The mariposa lilies are in flower now and young red squirrels are about. Birds are rather quiet now but there are chickadees, nuthatches, red crossbills and even a brilliant western tanager in the pines and firs.

To help pay for the addition to Dishman Hills Natural Area:

Your name _____

Account No. 12450

I pledge \$ _____ a month for one year.

I prefer not to pledge but am enclosing \$ _____.

I will save recyclables (newspaper, aluminum, glass, etc.) _____ (Call us at 926-7949 if you want us to pick up your recyclables.)

Please make checks payable to Dishman Hills Natural Area Assn. and mail to The Treasurer, P.O. Box 141561, Spokane, WA 99214. All contributions are Federal Income tax deductible.