



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

OCTOBER 1992

VANDALISM, MANAGEMENT ARE CONCERN

Vandalizing of the signs we have placed to protect our property in the Dishman Hills is compelling us to spend an estimated \$350 to replace the damage. Several signs have been stolen and others damaged. We suspect that just one person is doing it. We are reporting the damage to the sheriff. Our strategy now is to hang the signs high up between trees so that reaching them will be difficult. We note, however, that, judging from the tracks, bikers continue to ignore the signs, riding right past them.

We are for the most part pleased with the recommendations of the Department of Natural Resources for protecting the Dishman Hills Natural Resources Conservation Area. Among them are the establishment of a DNR staff position for a full-time, on-site manager to patrol the NRCA; the prohibiting of motorcycles, mountain bicycles, horses and unleashed dogs; the establishment of a weed control program, and restrictions on human use of East and West Ponds. We do believe, however, that complete denial of access to these ponds is neither necessary, desirable, nor feasible.

Fire management is a concern. About fifteen fires, all human-caused, have occurred since 1957. (We have seen evidence of only three lightning strikes, none of which caused fires.) The suggestion has been made by the DNR that controlled burning may be needed to maintain the ponderosa pine community. We seriously question the need for this, since Douglas firs seem unable to invade the drier areas where the pines thrive.

By and large, the management of a natural area involves managing people. Natural areas, if it weren't for us humans and our exotic animals and weeds, are generally able to take care of themselves very well.

Donations for September were \$345.95, \$91.78 of which was for recyclables. Interest income (for the third quarter of the year) came to \$469.07 (Money Market and CD). Expenses were \$216.20. (Replacing of signs in the Nature Preserve will greatly increase October expense.)

Our thanks to the following who have contributed cash, recyclables and/or service during September and have given permission to be listed here: Ferne E. Dahlstrom, Frieda Foth, John Gardner, Michael Hamilton, LeRoy Hook, Stan Kreschel, Bill Marchand, D. Gilbrech-McGown, Barbara L. Mann Morkill, Rich Nelson, Joy Peterson, Madeline A. Phelps, Tom Rogers, Dennis L. Sanders, Ed Tietjen, Lawrence Thiemann, Maryann Wilharm and Jeanne H. Wilson.

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

President: Lawrence Thiemann, Vice President: Tom Rogers, Secretary: Helen Lininger, Treasurer: David Lenten

Our monthly meetings starting in September will be at Opportunity Elementary School, South 1105 Wilbur, the third Monday at 7 p.m. You are cordially invited to attend.

Please send donations to our box number, shown at top of this bulletin.

OPPOSITION TO ARTERIAL GROWS

The campaign to stop the construction of the destructive, expensive South Valley Arterial is heating up. A number of concerned businessmen in the path of the proposed project and along Sprague Avenue met last week and laid plans to oppose it. During this week and the next the plan is to buy advertising space in the Spokane Valley Herald and the Spokesman-Review-Chronicle telling of the impact the arterial would have on our community. People will be urged to contact the county commissioners, the engineer in charge, Governor Gardner, Tom Foley and some members of the Legislature. The cost of the ads is estimated at \$7500. Pledges of about \$2800 were made at the meeting so it is obvious that more are needed. Although the commissioners have extended the comment period to October 30, quick response is obviously needed. Our Board of Directors voted Monday evening to contribute \$100 to the effort, since the arterial would impact the Dishman Hills Natural Area. We suggest you also make donations and/or pledges, making them out to Spokane Valley Business Association (which has set up a bank account to receive the money) and send them to Pilgrims Nutrition, P.O. Box 14686, Opportunity, WA 99214.

If you haven't already done so, we urge you to write to each of the county commissioners at Spokane County Courthouse, West 1116 Broadway, Spokane, WA 99201 and to James S. Haines, Spokane County Department of Public Works, Engineering Division, N. 811 Jefferson, Spokane, WA 99260.

Commissioner Steve Hesson opposes the arterial, Commissioner John McBride is for it and Commissioner Pat Mumey is to our knowledge also for it. It is ironic that just one of our elected representatives holds the fate of our community in her hands. We wonder why, when she is on the Board of Directors for the Spokane Transit Authority, she endorses the arterial, which would encourage more private autos, when the Board wants people to ride the bus to relieve traffic congestion and clean up the air.

Our association and The Nature Conservancy have written to the commissioners and to the engineer in charge, opposing the arterial, which would impact the Natural Area. Spokane County Parks Department also opposes the project, which would take away about an acre of a portion of the natural area bought with funds administered by the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation. According to Parks Superintendent Sam Angove, this would be illegal.

Please use this form when sending contributions
(Contributions are income tax deductible)

Account No. **06513**

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