



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

JULY 1993

LETTERS TO COMMISSIONERS NEEDED

Thanks to those of you who have written letters to the County Commissioners telling of your opposition to allowing horses and cyclists in the Dishman Hills. David Moffitt, who heads a local bicycling group and is a member of the advisory board for the Dishman Hills Natural Resource Conservation Area, has indicated that his group does not wish to use an area where it is not wanted. There still are, however, mountain bikers, apparently mavericks, who continue to ride in the Hills, even riding right through the breezeway at the Camp Caro lodge! We need many more letters to the commissioners, opposing these undesirable uses. We are up against a well organized, local group that is pressuring the commissioners to allow horses. Such a group can overwhelm the will of the majority, if that majority just remains silent. To preserve the original intent to protect the land as a natural area for careful use, we need an outcry from its advocates, which means all of us! We urge you to write a short note to the commissioners without delay. We would appreciate you letting us know when you have done so. Their address: Spokane County Courthouse, West 1116 Broadway, Spokane, 99201. We can win this if we just put forth the effort!

THANKS TO JUNE CONTRIBUTORS

June contributions to our land fund and operating expense came to \$344.41 (\$80 from membership dues, \$40 for memorials, \$39.41 from recyclables and \$27 for bulletin expense.) Interest on our land purchase fund amounted to \$295.40. (We hope to put this to work before much longer.) Expenses for the month were: \$116.52 for the bulletin and \$40 for administrative expense.

Our thanks to the following who donated money, recyclables and/or services and have given permission to be listed here: Margaret A. Becker, James W. Berry, Ferne E. Dahlstrom, Carol L. Ellis, Grace C. Fellows, Paula Fisette, John Gardner, S.R. Gerimonte, Dorothy A. Hartung, Glen W. Kivett, Dorothy M. Knechtel, Helen Lininger, Rich Nelson, Gloria M. Nicol, Aroa A. Ohme, Trowel Queens, Hazel Richard, Tom Rogers, Paul G. Smith, Laurence Thieman, Ed Tietjen 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: Michael Hamilton, Vice President: Tom Rogers, Secretary: Helen Lininger, Treasurer: David Lenten, Board of Directors: Omar Carroll, Michael Hamilton, Francis Potter, June Potter, and Ray Staley

Our meetings are held every third Monday at 7 P.M. at Opportunity Elementary School, South 1109 Wilbur. During the summer we will be meeting at Camp Caro, 625 South Sargent Road, Dishman but only on call this summer. You are cordially invited to attend.

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

CUB SCOUTS ENJOY THE HILLS

A steady, gentle rain did not deter a happy group of Cub Scouts from Cub Pack 430, their cubmaster Lamar Nichols and several parents from tromping the Dishman Hills last Saturday. Their smiles proved that you don't have to have webbed feet and waterproof feathers to enjoy wet weather, though raincoats did help. The boys and one little girl learned to identify four kinds of trees and some of the wild flowers, though animals were hard to find, apparently not so anxious to be about in the rain. (A few robins did search for earthworms on the grass at Camp Caro, however.)

Dave Gorton, with his knowledge of the area, including insights into its geologic history, led the group, which made the loop to East Pond. However, none of the little creatures in the pond could be seen in the rain-dimpled water. Ample rain promises to keep water levels in the ponds good, unlike previous years.

The flowers knew that Spring is over and summer is here, even though we don't know it! Gone were the spring flowers, their place taken by lavender mariposa lilies, bright yellow cinquefoils, white and yellow hawkweeds and the creamy clusters of mountain spray. Serviceberries were ripe and chokecherry fruits were beginning to show color. Even the goldenrods showed buds, foretelling Autumn. But let's have summer first!

TOWER MOUNTAIN LOGGED AGAIN

Sadly, logging has resumed on Tower Mountain. Slash is dumped in and along the creek but two piles of logs still await the logging trucks, which have been unable to reach them since the creek was allowed to run down the road, eroding it up to four or five feet deep and silting up parts of the creek below. The road has just been reconstructed but apparently is still too soft to permit logging trucks.

We hope to be able to protect this area in the future, perhaps in cooperation with the Spokane County Department of Parks and the Department of Natural Resources, both of which have shown an interest in this choice area. We are looking into the possibility of acquiring a corridor from the Dishman Hills Natural Area to Tower Mountain.

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

Account No. _____

Your Name _____
Please put your account number on your check.

\$ _____ Land purchase fund

\$ _____ Memorial for _____

\$ _____ Annual Dues (\$10) New? ___ Renewal? ___

\$ _____ Student or Living Lightly (\$5)

\$ _____ To cover bulletin expense (\$2)

_____ Check here if you do NOT want your name listed as a donor.