



Lights and Shadows from the Dishman Hills, July, 1999

ESA WOKSHOP DETAILS

Next month the Ecological Society of America (ESA) will hold its 84th annual national meeting here in Spokane and there are some special events that you readers out there may be interested in.

The ESA was founded in 1915 and is the nation's leading professional society of ecologists with over 7,000 members world wide. ESA members are leaders in ecological education and basic research, and hail from academia, government agencies, industry, and non-profit organizations. We are very lucky to have them visit our city.

The first event of interest will be a rapid assessment of the Dishman Hills ecology on Friday, August 6. The Camp Caro lodge at the end of Sargent Road will be their base of operations. From 9am to 12 noon there will be exhibits and the opportunity to observe ecological research and chat with the scientists as they work. The rapid environmental assessment is a somewhat new process for them to compile detailed information about the plant and animal communities, and their methods should be very interesting. The research team will include scientists from in and around the Spokane area, as well as some nationally known land-use experts.

The second event will be a Land Use Workshop on Saturday, August 7, 9am to 12 noon, at the Agricultural Center at the County Fairgrounds, N. 222 Havana. This workshop is free, open to the public, and requires no advanced registration. Policymakers, science teachers, developers, environmentalist, county officials, land managers, neighbourhood associations, and all those interested in the natural areas of Spokane are encouraged to attend. Speakers will present information regarding research done in and around the Dishman Hills, and local policy makers will be invited to give their perspectives on the future of Spokane County. The workshop will discuss how land use decisions may effect our local environment. The agenda also includes demonstrations of GIS land use software, and presentations on the ecology of the Hills.

This may be the only time ESA comes to visit, so these unique events should not be missed. They have a website at http://esa.sdsc.edu/pac_workshop.htm for more information about these events as well as info on the meeting, and the association.

INLAND NW TRUST IN AREA

The Inland Northwest Land Trust is starting a campaign to contact land owners in the Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain area about placing conservation easements on their land to preserve the natural setting, while leaving ownership alone. These easements will give the land owner a tax break now, and provide a special tool for estate planning. We are honoured that our "neck of the woods" has been spotlighted by the Trust for this campaign.

HILLS ARE HOT

July and August look ominous for fire. People should be extremely careful. We are very concerned about the Dishman Hills-Tower Mountain area as well as other places. The most likely danger is for human-caused fires. Since 1957 there have been no lightning-caused fires in the Hills; a few evidences of lightning strikes have been noted but none caught. But please be extra careful!

Our resident cougar was spotted again on the north side of the natural area. It's nice to know that some large mammals other than us still find the place habitable.

ORGANIZATION NEWS

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to saving natural areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton at 747-8147 with any questions. Another reminder that we will have our summer meetings only on call.

June was a slow month for donations, amounting to only a bit more than \$864. We need an average of about \$1350 a month during July and August to meet our September 6 payment on the land we are buying on Tower Mountain. Our thanks to you who contributed during June and are allowing us to list you here: John Cobb, Jim & Patty Conaty, Glen Kivett, Dr. Kenneth Gudgel, Helen Lininger, Marilyn Miller, Edith Rasmussen, Tom Rogers, S.Schrimshire, Dwight Vance, Mary Ann Wilharm, Jeanne Wilson and two anonymous donations.

We met our June land payment of \$4997.39 plus \$92.43 for the annual escrow payment. Bulletin mailing cost was \$82.68. \$1830 were paid from the special fund donated for the nature trail in Dishman Hills for printing brochures being made available to visitors-TR.

Please use this form when sending **CONTRIBUTIONS or DUES**

All contributions are tax deductible

SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO: DHNAA

E. 10820 Maxwell

Spokane, WA 99206

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\$ _____ ANNUAL DUES due in January (\$10 regular, \$5 student or living lightly, \$2 to cover bulletin expenses)

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