

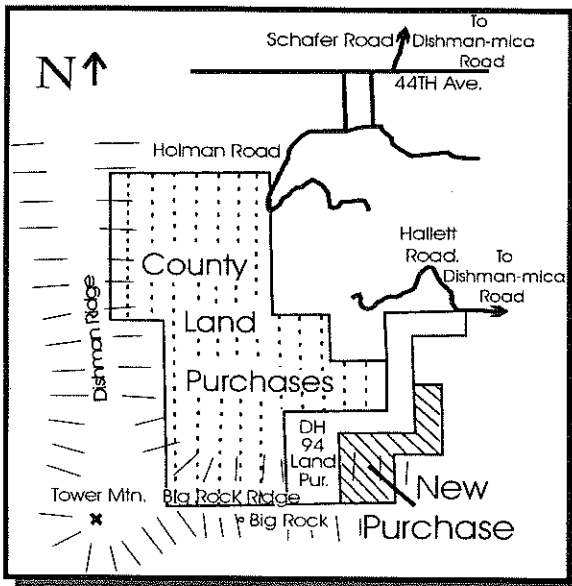
LIGHTS AND SHADOWS

from the Dishman Hills, September, 2002

ASSOCIATION BUYS LAND ON TOWER MTN.

The Dishman Hills Association has taken another major step in saving our natural landscape with the purchase of 100 acres of forest land on Tower Mountain. This land deal provides the acreage needed to consolidate the eastern side of the Rocks of Sharon Nature Area, bringing its total size up to about 1100 acres, enough space to provide ample habitat for the larger mammals such as elk. The land tract is adjacent to our 1994 purchase and is east of the Fire Storm burn area.

The purchase was one of opportunity since the land owner, who lives in another part of the country, was ready to get rid of the land. The deal took about seven years to conclude. For several of those years the owner tested the market for higher prices but failed to attract development interest. The purchase price of \$87.5K or \$875/acre makes it the least expensive of all the land deals that make up the nature area; patience paid off.



As before, our plan is to buy the land on contract, paying off the debt over the next ten years with donations. We can pay down the contract faster if donations increase. With this land acquisition the east, west, and north sides of the Rocks of Sharon Nature Area are about where we feel appropriate; on the south side efforts to obtain additional land will continue.

Those of us working on this project realized the importance of accomplishing land conservation well before the forces of development arrive on the scene. Land prices react very quickly to the process that starts with roads, then new utilities, then rezoning, then subdivision, and then building. In the Dishman area we've seen similar forested, undeveloped land range from our \$875/acre to \$100K/acre, depending on the proximity of development!

The Association would like to manage this land in coordination with Spokane County Park's land holdings, using the same management plan as in the Dishman Hills Natural Resource Conservation Area. We would also like to view the Rocks of Sharon as the southern part and the Dishman Hills as the northern part of the same management unit. The Association is still working with the Spokane Mountaineers on a connecting trail between the two areas.

In the months to come there will be more articles in this newsletter about our new nature area, including such topics as hiking trails, geology, ecology, as well as details of some of the conservation challenges we are facing. We encourage each one of you to discover this wonderful area.

We will need your continuing support to meet this commitment, so please help where you can. Step up and buy an acre or two. We will continue to place natural land acquisition as one of our most important missions. Our efforts allow you to participate with any amount that you can afford in this significant process of making our community a better place to live.

What we save in the next few years is all that would be saved
A. Morgan

ORGANIZATION NEWS

We are a non-profit organization dedicated to saving nature areas in the Spokane region for public enjoyment and education. Call Michael Hamilton, 747-8147, if you have any questions. We meet the third Tuesday of every other the month at Opportunity Elementary School, in the teacher's lounge, S. 1109 Wilbur, 7pm. The next meeting will be November 19th.

The following are our August donors that have consented to be listed: Bob Barbero, Addie Haynes, Helen Lininger, Linda Martin, Mary Ruud, Jeanne Wilson, and two anonymous donor. Thank You!

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

All contributions are tax deductible

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