

Non-profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

Spokane, Wash.
Permit no. 546



LIGHTS AND SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS

NOVEMBER 1992

ASSOCIATION GETTING TITLE TO LAND

The Nature Conservancy is turning over to us the title to the eighty acres in the Dishman Hills. We are running the papers past a lawyer to be sure everything is in order.

In 1966 our organization started the drive to buy the land. TNC bought it with the understanding that we repay them, which we did, thanks to your support. (Obviously you loved a bit of nature more than money!) The rules for the use of the land will remain the same: foot traffic only; no shooting, fires or camping; stay on the trails, no disturbance of plants, animals, rocks or soil. Thanks again to you people who enabled us to purchase the preserve and are helping us to protect it.

Personnel from the Department of Natural Resources and Washington Natural Heritage Program are recommending management policies that agree essentially with our own. Their recommendations still have to be approved with the state DNR however.

We welcome the appointment of Daved Moffitt from the Inland Empire Association of Mountain Bikers, to the Dishman Hills Natural Resource Conservation Area Advisory Committee. He assures us that his group is eager to abide by the rules of landowners. We also welcome Mark Wayne of the Spokane Indian tribe, to the committee. We expect he will bring with him the Native American love of and respect for the land.

Our president, Lawrence Thieman, and board member Mike Hamilton are busy replacing the signs that vandals have removed or destroyed in the Hills. We suspect that just one person is responsible for the damage. (Replacing of the signs is costing us over \$366).

Income from donations, recycling and interest amounted to \$400.83 for October. Expenses were heavy, mostly because of the cost of replacing signs to protect our property. Other expenses were: \$100 to Spokane Valley Business Association to help stop the arterial which would destroy part of Dishman Hills Natural Area. Other expenses were routine: administrative and bulletin expense. The total came to \$620.84, leaving us in the red for the month.

The following contributed money, recyclables and/or services during the month and have given permission to be listed here: James F. Conaty, Mary M. Eller, Margaret M. Fellows, Dr./Mrs. Kenneth Gudgel, Michael Hamilton, Dorothy A. Hartung, Irene G. Gilbert, Carol A. Hines, Shiran Lee, Rick Nelson, Ernest F. Pike, Tom Rogers, Linda J. Siverts, Hazel L. Smith, Ed Tietjen, Lawrence Thieman and Jeanne H. Wilson. Our thanks to all of you!

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 Thieman, Vice President: Tom Rogers, Secretary: Helen Lininger, Treasurer: David Lentes

Our monthly meetings starting in September will be at Opportunity Elementary School, South 1109 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.

EARLY WINTER IN HILLS A DELIGHT

A recent hike into the invigorating freshness of early winter in the Dishman Hills found sparkling snow and gleaming frozen drops on trees and bushes. There were even a few buttercup leaves but they will have to wait! Coyote, deer and squirrel tracks crisscrossed the area. A squirrel at Lost Pond pondered why a big biped was trying to sound like one of his kind.

A little flock of red crossbills afforded an unusual treat: five bright adult males. Also down from the mountains was a pine grosbeak, whose melodious voice fell happily on the ear. A flock of about forty house finches there was unusual and three mourning doves still lingered. Of course the red-breasted nuthatches seemed to be everywhere, but few chickadees appeared. Two of the trusting little fellows did discuss my presence at close range from a willow by West Pond. A raven croaked overhead. Delightful were two wedges of Canada geese flying over, the larger numbering about forty birds. One flicker still remained but the juncos are all down at our feeders in the Valley.

A pleasant surprise was the meeting up with Troy Alderson, who, until November 1 was hired by the DNR to patrol the area. He is doing it on his own time now, which we appreciate. Hopefully he will be rehired when financing becomes available.

It appears that County Commissioner Steve Hasson, who opposes the South Valley Arterial that would destroy an acre of Dishman Hills Natural Area and impact the area next to it, has been reelected. Skip Chilberg, who won the commissioner position vacated by John McBride, is, we understand, also opposed to the arterial. So far as we know, Pat Murney, the third commissioner, still approves it. Although it looks likely that this destructive project can be stopped, it would be well to drop a line or make a phone call to each of the commissioners, including commissioner-elect Chilberg. All may be reached at the Courthouse, West 1116 Broadway, Spokane 99201. 456-2265 will reach all but Skip, whose number is 456-5746. Urge continued opposition to the arterial. Meanwhile take the bus whenever you possibly can. One bus can take the place of twenty or thirty cars. Then where would the traffic congestion be? And the air would be cleaner, the community quieter, and the disruption to the Hills, people's homes and businesses stopped.

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

Account No. **06513**

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.