



# Lights and Shadows from the Dishman Hills, March, 1997



## ROAD THREAT AGAIN



Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the woods, there is another road heading our way. County engineers are again drawn towards our lovely undeveloped acres that have no businesses or residents that could impeded transportation progress. Year after year, we have tried to educate the road builders that there is really something there, an unreplacable natural area that is one of the "crown jewels" of Spokane's Natural Endowment. As Spokane grows we need more of what the Dishman Hills has to offer, not less.

On March 12 the latest plan was unvailed at a public meeting, the Valley Couplet, a plan that would build a new four-lane road south and parellel of Sprague Ave. that would be oneway east, leaving Sprague as a oneway westbound road. This plan is the recycled dead Spokane Valley Arterial Plan with the limited access removed to appease local businessmen who feared losing customers if cars could not stop. We opposed the Arterial since it would certainly have damaged the area's natural setting, the plan involved blasting part of the Natural Area away with explosives! Well, in all fairness, the Couplet was moved north a bit to avoid the blasting, but the continious access of the eastbound road along Second Ave. could mean commercial, industrial, or high density development right along the northern boundary of the Natural Area. We don't think this is good planning, and if you agree write your County Commissioner and/or write to:

James S. Haines  
 Spokane County Public Works Dept.  
 Division of Engineering and Roads  
 1026 West Broadway Ave.  
 Spokane, WA 99260-0170



## 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 about the Association. Our monthly meetings are at Opportunity Elementary, South 1109 Willbur, the third Tuesday at 7 PM, **You are cordially invited.**

Last Februrary there was a generous sum of \$1,146 in donations to our land purchase and expense funds. Many thanks to you loyal supporters who donated and agreed to be listed here:

L. Ackerman, J. Berry, R. Bishop, C. Bratten, R. Bouroughs, S. Currier, R. Damon, N. Edge, D. Goeden, L. Hannink, A. Haynes, E. Heggem, J. Lentes, H. Lininger, Hobnailers, J. Mahoney, A. Ohme, A. Ray, T. Rogers, L. M. Smith, L. Smith, P. Spohn, St. Mary's Garden Club, R. Staley, F. Sylvester, J. Talbot, F. Thayer, J. Thorson, G. Ward, W. Warren, Whitworth Belles Garden Club, and J. Wilson. If you should have been listed and we missed doing so please call Tom Rogers, 926-7949.



## NEW TRAIL PLAN



The last of winter's snow and ice is slowly melting off the shady parts of the Hills, the springs are flowing, and water is all over the place; and a new trail plan for the Hills is nearing completion. The plan includes a brochure with trail map and descriptions, a new set of trail signs, and a trail restoration program. The brochure should be available in May. In the last five years or so there has been an increase of new trails that are redundant and are degrading the natural setting. Watch for "trail restoration" signs this spring and please stay off this "shortcuts and bypasses" so that the area can do some healing. Ice Storm has done half the work for us since downfall will be left in place where there is trail closure. Clearing work should start in April. Early season hikers should be careful around downed and leaning trees that are still over trails. Also please avoid creating new bypass trails in the wet, muddy ground on either side of the main trails. Some of the other things in the works include some new trails in the northeast part of the Hills, and, just possibly, a new interpretative nature trail along the main trail behind Camp Caro.



## BUTTERCUP HIKE



The annual Buttercup Hike is scheduled for Sunday, April 20th. at 1:30 pm at Camp Caro. This year the Hike is later than usual to take advantage of some of the trail work that will be done in April, and to snug the Hike up to Earth Day on the 22nd. Don't worry, there will still be plenty of buttercups, and maybe by then lots more!

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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