



DISHMAN HILLS NATURAL AREA ASSOCIATION
 3415 S. LINCOLN DRIVE, SPOKANE, WA 99203, 509 747-8147

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LIGHTS AND SHADOWS from the Dishman Hills, September, 2001

DH FIGHTS TERRORISM

While the Dishman Hills cannot fight terrorism directly, they can help you fight it. The atrocious attacks on our Country are meant to be a form of psychological warfare aimed against every American. The targets were probably picked to produce maximum fear, anger, and despondence amongst us, causing each one of us doubts whether our way of life is safe or not. With the media as advanced as is today, we have all experienced this tragedy in an unprecedented intensity.

Well, when you feel the overload of gloom and doom unbearable, we suggest you head for your closest natural setting to unwind and regain your perspective in a world that seems to have gone crazy. As the cool, shady forest of the Hills surround you, one can feel a noticeable relief from some of the effects of terrorism, and one might find that a dose of an hour or two every week can be a very fine antidote to the disturbing details of the nightly news. In times like these, we need our natural spaces more than ever. With Fall upon us, some of the best hiking weather of the year is here, so get out there and start feeling better!

ICE AGE COMING

Next month the Dishman Hills will be visited by members of the Ice Age Floods Institute on a field trip of significant glacial flood features in the Spokane area. This group has been working with the National Park Service and a number of organizations throughout the northwest to establish a National Geologic Trail that follows the path of the huge floods that roared through the Spokane Valley when large glacial lakes catastrophically drained. This group has just finished their study of project Alternatives and Environmental Assessment and have submitted the whole plan to Congress for approval and funding. Under every alternative trail location Spokane and the Dishman Hills are included. If given final approval by Congress the project will include visitor centers, interpretative sites, signage, brochures, and tours. The path will start in Missoula, Montana, and end at the mouth of the Columbia River.

These Ice Age floods poured from large lakes that backed up behind ice sheets that filled up the north-south valleys in the Rocky Mountains. A number of floods occurred as the ice-dams broke and then reformed. The Dishman Hills are made up of tough granite and metamorphic rock that extends out into the Spokane River valley. Floods up to 500 feet deep topped over the northern end of the Dishman Hills ridge, carving the topography into what makes up the Natural Area as we see it today. On the west or lee side of the ridge huge boulders accumulated from the larger floods. Scoop-out holes and plunge pool structures from these floods make up the pothole ponds that provide the water for the special ecology of native plants.

High above the valley floor there is a strand line of rocks from Idaho and Montana that were deposited there when the icebergs that carried them beached after the surge waves rolled up the sides of the valley. The rolling, flood-scoured terrain, coupled with lots of trails, also makes the Dishman Hills a easy place to get lost. We hope that this Ice Age Floods Pathway trail is soon completed and people from around the world will get to share some of the very special geologic feature that are part of our own backyard.

HOLDING

There still is no word as to when the hearing will be scheduled for the appeal on commercial rezonation on the northside of the Natural Area. The process is not structured to encourage appeals. The filing fee for the appeal form was \$247, and we have been informed that there will be additional hundreds of dollars of "secretarial" cost due at the hearing time. We will be patient and stay the course no matter what.

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 have a October meeting the third Tuesday of the month at Opportunity Elementary School, in the teacher's lounge, S. 1109 Wilbur, 7pm.

The following are our August donors that have consented to be listed: Bank of New York Employees, John Cobb, William Greene, Camille Kovarik, Helen Lininger, Margaret Mortz, Craig Prupis, Jane Rogers, Jon Shelton, Dorothy Torney, Robert Trevison, Martha Vogt, Barney & Jeane Wilson, and three anonymous donors. Thank you one

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