

## DISHMAN HILLS NATURAL AREA



### **Site Information**

Location: S. 625 Sargent Rd.

Acquisition Date: 1967-1993

Size: 534.0 Acres

Improved Area:

### **Facilities**

Trails

Parking

### **History**

The Dishman Hills Natural Area (DHNA) is located in the Spokane Valley south of Camp Caro (see Camp Caro under community parks). The entire Dishman Hills Natural Area encompasses nearly 534 acres and extends south towards Tower Mountain.

The DHNA was designated a Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) in 1987, by the state legislature. This site is recognized as one of the most biologically diverse areas in Eastern Washington. Cliffs and ravines of billion-year-old granite define the Natural Area, supporting more than 530 different species of plants and animals. Eight miles (1/2 mile is ADA accessible) of nature trails wind through the finest representation of undisturbed Ponderosa Pine and native fescue grass habitat in Eastern Washington. Plants on the endangered list are found within this natural area. Ponds and seasonal springs contribute to the ecological community.

The preservation of the Dishman Hills Natural Area was possible due to concern of several user groups within the area who recognized the sites value as open space. Tom Rogers, a high school biology teacher, conducted county park sponsored summer nature programs on this site for children starting in the early 1960's. Mr. Rogers also led the Dishman Hills Association, which organized to protect the area. Fund raising drives gathered wide support and included groups such as the Scouts, garden clubs, service organizations and individuals.

The first 80 acres were purchased in 1967, with assistance from The Nature Conservancy. Using a combination of grants and generous donations, one being Ina Hughes Johnston, the county was able to assemble 228 acres of the natural area. The Dishman Hills Association and the Department of Natural Resources under the Natural Conservation Areas Act purchased the remaining acreage. The park is managed by a partnership between Spokane County Parks, the Dishman Hills Natural Area Association and the Department of Natural Resources.