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Thank you, Michael! As you may have noticed, we recently rolled out our new

newsletter, Explore. We love what Michael has done for more than 20 years single-handedly producing Lights and Shadows, and we are glad that he has agreed to continue writing a column in Explore. As the DHC grows and changes, we thought it was a good time to try a new look. We hope you like it!

Halfway There!

Thanks to the great response from our supporters, we were able to raise nearly \$41,000 in our 2013 year-end appeal! Every penny went directly towards making a down payment on an additional 19 -acres in the Dream trail corridor. While we have not crossed the finish line yet, we still have until March 4th to raise the other half and make it official. Today we are one step closer to realizing the goal of a single, unbroken conservation area stretching from Appleway to the Palouse. So thank you.

If you haven't had a chance to help yet, there is still time before the March 4th deadline. With your support we'll have much more to celebrate in the coming months.



SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE IMPORTANT

- **SUPPORTERS** New Priorities Foundation
- Mountain Gear
- Carol Ellis
- Paula Bauer
- · Hal, & Kathy Holte Barbara Morkill

THIS JUST IN! The DHC will be part of STCU's "Who Do You Love" competition starting Feb. 14. So go to our Facebook page and help us finish in the top 3 to receive a \$2,500 grant!

LIGHTS & SHADOWS

A new year is upon us, and the Conservancy is looking forward to one of the most active in some time. The challenges appear daunting, the opportunities are stacked high, and the possibilities are unlimited. As with most "resolution" packages there are categories: 1) continue and finish stuff inherited from the past; 2) generate and find new opportunities; and 3) work on how to be efficient and have fun doing all this (after all we are volunteers!). Our committees have been working on plans, budgets, and schedules, so here is a "trailer" for the production of DHC-2014. For Conservation we will be moving forward with land and access acquisitions. With our limited resources we have had to work hard to develop opportunities and methods that match our funds. This year we will be using land purchases, conservation and trail easements, and partnerships with both private and government groups to accomplishing our mission to connect and expand the conservation areas in the Dishman Hills. The continuing program of capacity building will be working on reaching out to new sources of support. For Stewardship and

Education we want to repeat the teacher's workshop that was such a success last year. One of the major current programs is what you are looking at, the new newsletter. While the costly spring Service Day will not be scheduled this year, a number of smaller service projects will work on forest projects. Recreation will hopefully include several nature walks per month in the hiking season, the Buttercup Hike (April 12), and special hikes to highlight recent and potential land acquisitions. Plans are afoot for social events, possibly in the spring and the fall. Sure, there will be another fund raising and membership campaign during the year. The plate is very full. We are bigger and better and expect continued success this year. We move forward keeping in mind that most everything we plan to do this year will allow us to spend time enjoying the nature spaces we are working with. No doubt, a thing or two will be flying out of the blue to disrupt our well-made plans, but hopefully these will be beneficial. Join us for a wonderful year.

Michael Hamilton, Treasurer







PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As President, I reap the reward of protecting the Dishman Hills. The community celebrates our success. I also have the responsibility of building a sustainable organization to care for the land. DHC is taking firm steps in both land conservation and long-term viability as described below.

Land Conservation: DHC will buy a 19-acre parcel on March 4 for \$80,000. I call it the Cliffs and it is located in the corridor between the Natural Area and the Glenrose Conservation Area (see Photograph). The Cliffs are the surface effects of three fault lines and is perfect for education and fun.

Access: Be aware that the Cliffs are not accessible without escort at the present time. More land or easements are needed to connect the Cliffs to existing conservation areas. DHC can strategically acquire land that is part of the puzzle even if the connection for recreation use is uncertain. The acquisition will assure permanent protection and we will work together on Connecting People to Nature via the Dream Trail concept.

Other ways to contribute

Fundraising: The end-of-the-year fundraising was successful and raised \$41,000. The purchase price of the Cliffs property is \$80,000. In addition, I have proposed a DHC Sustainability Fund for the long-term stewardship of the Dishman Hills. The Sustainability Fund goal is 20% of each property acquisition. In the case of the Cliffs, the goal is \$16,000 that results in a fundraising goal of \$96,000 for the Cliffs. My goal is to quickly raise the remainder or about \$55,000 so DHC can move to the next acquisition.

Recognition: I have proposed permanent recognition for major donors including trail naming, trail cairns, trail markers and similar. The recognition is offered to individuals, corporations and community organizations. Contact me if you are interested in discussing the details. I hope to have my recognition program approved soon so Cliffs donors at or above \$2500 will be permanently recognized.

More Acquisitions: DHC is planning on more acquisitions in 2014. Your contributions will dictate how quickly land is acquired because the biggest limitation is financial. Now is the time to donate to the DHC.

Jeff Lambert, President Cell - 509 999-5100 | President@DishmanHills.org

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