

Dishman Hills Natural Area Assn., Inc.  
E. 10820 Maxwell Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99206

Non-profit Org.  
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### MILD WINTER EASY ON WILD THINGS BUT WHAT ABOUT NEXT SUMMER?

Our mild, nearly snowless winter thus far should be easy on wildlife, cutting down on energy needs and making it easy for ground feeders. Mice probably haven't had it so good, for lack of snow makes them vulnerable to hawks, owls and coyotes. Warm, moist conditions have favored an inch-high elfin forest of lichens and mosses over the slopes and cliffs in the Dishman Hills and mushrooms have popped up through the pine needles. Freezing and thawing of the soil because of no snow cover does not seem to bother the wild plants, as it does the winter wheat.

If a low snowpack in the mountains causes a water shortage this summer, wild plants will survive, though likely producing less new growth and fewer flowers, seeds and fruit. This could affect animals depending upon them. The severe drought of 1977 caused no lasting damage in the Hills. Even the coralroot orchids and Christmas ferns, moisture-lovers, appeared again after having gone dormant during the dry spell.

Our artificial communities of lawn grass, domestic flowers and big, leafy trees require large amounts of water, pumped by electricity from the aquifer and adding to any electrical shortage resulting from low runoff from the mountains. We could help get around this if we would shift to (Please turn to page 2, column 2)

### ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 28

Our annual meeting for election of officers and directors is set for Wednesday January 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Kiwanis Camp Caro, S. 625 Sargent Road, Dishman. You are cordially invited. All paid up members can vote. See you there!

### APPEAL OF LAWSUIT UNDERWAY AGAINST COMMISSIONERS' DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL

After long and thoughtful deliberation our board of directors decided to appeal Judge Thomas E. Merriman's Spokane Superior Court decision upholding the county commissioners' approval of "The Meadows" housing development in an open space next to Dishman Hills. The decision, in effect, said that if there is "adequate public advantage" to a development, it is not spot zoning, even if incompatible with the surrounding land use.

We fail to see how the building of \$100,000+ houses, one per acre, in a completely undeveloped natural area a half mile from much lower density housing on one side only, and posing a serious threat to the community's natural and unique heritage, the Dishman Hills, is "adequate public advantage." We believe the approved development fits perfectly the definition, recited by Judge Merriman, of spot zoning as "zoning for private gain designed to favor . . . a particular individual or group and not the welfare of the community as a whole."

Our board decided that to fail to appeal the decision would be a bright green light to development of the entire Dishman Hills area south of the present natural area owned by The Nature Conservancy and Spokane County, and ensure its being surrounded on all sides, pinched into a (Please turn to page 2, column 2)

### COUNCIL FOR LAND CARE AND PLANNING CHALLENGES PARTS OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Council for Land Care and Planning has decided to consider a Superior Court challenge to Spokane County's land use plan as approved last month by the lame duck board of commissioners. (Please turn to page 2, column 1)

Please use this form when sending contributions to save the Dishman Hills and the Tower Mountain corridor. Your dues and/or gifts are income tax deductible.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dishman Hills Assoc. annual dues (\$5 per person) Now? \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal? \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dishman Hills Land Purchase Fund  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dishman Hills Legal Defense Fund  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Memorial gift to Land Fund in remembrance of \_\_\_\_\_  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Bulletin expense fund (\$1 or more)

Please make checks payable to Dishman Hills Natural Area Assn. and mail to David E. Lentes, Treasurer, E. 10922 23rd Ave., Spokane, WA 99206. Many thanks! To cut down on expense, no receipt or acknowledgment will be sent unless requested.

COUNCIL CHALLENGES (cont. from page 1)

While the council agrees that the county needs a plan--a good plan--it disagrees with details of the plan, which it charges is heavily biased toward development in disregard for the wishes of citizens.

Our own objection to the plan as it affects our goal, is the designation of "urban" placed upon the land lying directly adjacent to the west side of the Dishman Hills and the one fourth mile wide corridor toward Tower Mountain. "Urban" means that up to seventeen housing units per acre can be built. What sort of protection for the Dishman Hills and the corridor is that? A four block wide corridor in which the wild animals will have to run the gauntlet of people, dogs, cats and perhaps all-terrain vehicles, from both sides. We asked for rural zoning but came away emptyhanded. The only recourse is to support the Council's suit, if it so decides, and to let the new board of county commissioners know that this sort of density is unacceptable. Mr. McBride and Mr. Shepard, the new commissioners, will, we believe, listen to us. Hopefully we can get for our natural area the real protection it deserves.

LIGHTS & SHADOWS FROM THE DISHMAN HILLS  
Published by  
DISHMAN HILLS NATURAL AREA ASSN., INC.

Helen E. Lininger, President  
Thomas H. Rogers, Vice-pres. & editor  
William F. McMillan, Secretary  
David E. Lentes, Treasurer

Directors (in addition to officers)  
Doris Allgood LeRoy Hook  
Roger W. Burwell William F. Marchand  
Omar E. Carroll Dale Pemberton

(Continued in next column)

APPEAL OF LAWSUIT DECISION (cont. from p. 1)

small island of nature with heavy use pressure on all sides. Hence our decision. Needless to say, it will cost money, several thousand dollars' worth. Your contributions to the legal fund are urgently requested. Please send your check for whatever you can afford. We're in this fight to the end.

MILD WINTER (Cont. from page 1)

native trees such as ponderosa pine and Douglas fir, and attractive native shrubs like serviceberry, mock orange, wild rose, chokecherry and deerbrush, to mention a few. A number of native wildflowers are worthy of cultivation. Such are the

bright orange gaillardia, woolly sunflower, blue lupine, wild geranium, beardtongue, wild phlox, mariposa lily and wild asters. They require no watering or other care and provide a refreshing variety throughout the summer. Several native grasses, such as Idaho fescue, bluebunch wheatgrass, Junegrass and oatgrass, can be used to cover unused areas, or, interspersed with the flowers, provide something uniquely enjoyable. Contact us if you would like more information.

Directors (cont. from col. 1)

Marvin D. Emerson Ambrose Priestley  
Bernice Hahn Larry Thieman  
Margaret Haggin

Monthly meetings are at Kiwanis Camp Caro at 7:30 p.m. the fourth Wednesday. You are cordially invited to attend.

SAVE THOSE NEWSPAPERS AND THAT ALUMINUM.  
CALL US IF YOU WANT THEM PICKED UP,  
926-7949.