

THE MOOSE CALL



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF MT. SPOKANE STATE PARK

SPRING 1999

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

By: Cris Currie, President
Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park

During 1998, the Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park completed its initial task of collecting and organizing data about the Park to be used in the management planning process. We tentatively divided the Park into 9 subareas and described possible management issues for each. Various maps were collected and created which included a detailed boundary map showing neighboring ownerships and a current trails map.

In September, the Friends and the Mt. Spokane State Park Advisory Committee met with Daniel Farber and Peter Herzog of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission who were newly assigned the task of organizing a Classification and Management Plan (CAMP) process for Mt. Spokane State Park. Data collection was the main topic for discussion at that meeting as well. From that point, the regular monthly meetings were called as meetings of the Mt. Spokane

State Park Advisory Committee with additional members of the Friends also in attendance.

The main event for the year was an old growth tour of the Park, led by Dr. Arthur Partridge, a retired University of Idaho Professor of Forest Pathology and Entomology. About 50 people participated in this 4.5 mile walk in the Park to listen to Dr. Partridge explain how old growth forests work, why they are so important, and how modern forest practices alter nature's delicate balance.

The professor took a core sample from a Douglas Fir which measured about 9 feet in circumference and determined that it was approximately 300 years old.

One additional project for the year concerned **Quartz Mountain**, an inholding that is completely surrounded by Park property and currently owned by the Talmo Corporation. During the summer, the Friends Group learned that Talmo had filed a Forest Practice Act application with the Washington Department of Natural Resources for approval of plans to harvest timber on this 160 acre property. Friends obtained a copy of the original application as well as an updated version. Upon discovering in mid-August that a two week comment period would begin August 19, members of the Friends put together three separate detailed response letters in opposition to Talmo's plans. An additional letter from the Spokane Mountaineers, a neighboring property owner to the Park, was also submitted to the DNR. These comment letters were based on the extensive knowledge Friends members have of the area and the ecological and recreational effects such a harvesting project would likely entail. Fortunately, after reviewing these comments, the DNR withdrew consideration of Talmo's proposal until additional issues are addressed.

For 1999, the Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park plan to continue working with the park planners, the Advisory Committee, and the general public to finish the CAMP process.

The Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park

Suite 509 621 Mallon
Spokane, WA 99201

(509) 467-9343



Mt. Spokane State Park - a Very Special Place

The Park

Mt. Spokane is the largest park in the state system. It represents 15% of the total acreage under the Washington State Parks Commission management.

The User

Mt. Spokane State Park provides a diversity of recreational opportunities: alpine & nordic skiing, snowmobiling, equestrian riding, cycling, hiking, picnicking, camping, sight seeing... and to many, is simply a sanctuary of natural beauty.

The Friends

Park management and maintenance is not just the state's job, it is the responsibility of all those who use and care about this priceless resource. The Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park is a non-profit organization of local citizens who are working to insure a balance between recreation and preservation for now and for generations to come.

Your Help

You can be a Friend by volunteering your time or by making a tax deductible contribution. You might also consider applying for membership on the Board of Directors, which meets regularly to plan events and work on projects to maintain and enhance the public facilities within the Park.

Mt. Spokane Appreciation Day

On Sunday, July 18, 1999 from 1:00-5:00, the Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park will hold Mt. Spokane Appreciation Day at the CCC cabin in Mt. Spokane State Park. Dr. Arthur Partridge, a retired professor of forest pathology and entomology will again be on hand to talk about how the forest works and about how modern forest management practices interfere with forest health.

Other experts will be available to talk about the area's natural and cultural history. We will also have a number of displays set up in the cabin including detailed maps of the Park, Tread Lightly information, updates on the management plan, and labeled forest specimens. The cabin is on the national historic register and it was recently torn down and completely re-built.

Those wishing to attend can drive up the summit road and turn left down the Kit Carson Loop Road near the summit (not at the hairpin turn). The CCC group camping area is a very short drive down this dirt road. Parking, water, and a vault toilet are available near the cabin. Liquid refreshments will be on hand, and a potluck supper is planned for 5:00. Bring your favorite dish to share and guitar or other favorite instrument for a fun filled feast!

So come spend a day in appreciation of Mt. Spokane!

Please call our hot line and leave a message if you plan to attend to help us in our planning.

Please support your park and join today !

The Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park

621 W. Mallon, Suite 509 WA 99201

Friends Hotline **509-467-9343**

Individual Membership: \$25 or 5 hrs of volunteer service per year.

Family Membership: \$40 or 10 hrs of volunteer service per year

Corporate Membership: \$100 per year. or more!

The Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization dedicated to the preservation, maintenance and responsible use of Mount Spokane State Park. Remember, your membership / contribution is tax deductible!

name: _____

address: _____

phone: _____

email: _____



A Message from the President. "Support the Quartz Mountain Purchase"

Dear Friends: Now is the time to contact your state legislators regarding appropriating the money to purchase Quartz Mountain. The details are all worked out between State Parks and Talmo Corporation for the sale, but the legislature has to authorize the money. The fund that Parks uses for land acquisitions is the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. A request for \$825,500 has been included in this program and is part of the governor's requested state budget. Please encourage your legislators to support this acquisition. If the purchase is not completed by the end of the year, Talmo is intending to log the property. While there are ways to fight this, it will all be much easier if we can just purchase the property now. Bob Morton is on the Parks & Rec Committee. The Senate Ways and Means and the House Capital Budget Committees are where the initial decisions will be made. Lisa Brown is Ways and Means Vice-Chair. Mark Schoesler is on Capital Budget.

Parks is also requesting \$4,000,000 from the motor vehicle account for 5 different state park road projects. The largest of these projects is the Mt. Spokane road reconstruction. \$1,500,000 is being requested for phase one of this project for the 99-01 biennium. A proper road bed was never made for the road and the engineering assessment predicted that it would completely fail by 2000. Eugene Prince was chair of the Senate Transportation Committee and would have been a supporter, but unfortunately he has resigned. Karen Schmidt is Chair of the House Transportation Committee and will likely vote against this proposal, being in favor of spending more money on the ferry system and other deteriorating highways. Alex Wood, Lynn Schindler and Bob Morton are also on the House Trans Committee.

Also a statewide group called the ***Friends of Washington State Parks*** has recently been formed to pressure the legislature to increase funding for state parks in general. The system's operating budget is about \$25 million short for staff and it is estimated that about \$45 million will be needed over the next 6 years to take care of the maintenance backlog which has accumulated over the past 20 years. Parks are currently .025% of the state budget. Ann Cox Preecs, a former Parks Commissioner formerly from Spokane is leading this effort to increase the allocation in the state budget so that park fees will not have to be raised. Their website is **www.friendsof waparks.org**. Or contact them at

Friends of Washington State Parks

6619 - 132nd Avenue NE #268 Kirkland, WA 98003

Please contact your reps to support our Parks!

The legislative hotline is 1-800-562-6000. Legislators for the 3rd District are Sen Lisa Brown, Rep Alex Wood and Rep Jeff Gombosky. 4th District: Sen Bob McCaslin, Larry Crouse, Lynn Schindler 6th District: Sen Jim West, Rep Brad Benson and Rep Duane Sommers 7th: Sen Bob Morton, Reb Bob Sump and Rep Cathy McMorris 8th Rep Larry Sheahan and Rep Mark Schoesler

Thanks and welcome to the newest members. These generous people have joined the group and have offered their suport. The following is a list of those who have become involved and / or contributed since the last edition of ***"The Moose Call."***

Europa Pizza

Langlauf Association

Deidre Allen

Brad Blegen

Allison Cowles

Clint Evans

Cindy Green

Arch Harrison

Debra and Bruce Howard

Joan Jackson

Phyllis Lamb

Gordon and Jean Larson

Mike and Sue Megaard

Sam Moeller

Patrick Murphy

Charles Owen

Parviz Partovi

Arthur Partridge





The Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization dedicated to the preservation, maintenance and responsible use of Mount Spokane State Park. The Advisory Committee and the Friends Board meet at 6:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month at AVISTA Corporation (formerly WWP) 1411 E Mission, in Room A.

(Summer schedule may vary - call first)

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

SO WHAT DO YOU GET FOR JOINING ?

The most important thing you get (in addition to this sporadically produced, wonderfully informative newsletter) is a chance to send a strong message to Olympia that you think Mount Spokane State Park deserves Better!

It is a chance to join with other Park users in saying, "We want the State to improve and maintain the facilities in the Park for the benefit of ALL users in a way that preserves and protects this incredibly valuable resource and its natural inhabitants for generations to come."

If our message is backed by action, dedication and dollars we stand an excellent chance of getting what this very special "jewel in our backyard" deserves.

FRIEND WANTED !

Must be organized, committed to the "cause", friendly, able to juggle multiple tasks, have some free time and an enormous sense of humor.

Could this be YOU? Our Friends group is searching for a dedicated volunteer to help coordinate and keep track of volunteer work hours.

This wonderful person will maintain membership records and will work directly with our Park Rangers to assign and account for volunteer time spent on tasks and projects on Mt. Spokane.

No training necessary - just need a big heart and a great love for our special mountain. Call Cris Currie for details 466-9450



A sincere **THANK YOU** goes to all of the fine folks who have answered the "CALL" by generously donating time, service and money. They have all become valuable members of **The Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park.**

Friends of Mt. Spokane State Park

1999 Board of Directors

- President,** Cris Currie
- Vice-president,** Sherman Spencer
- Secretary,** Randy Knight
- Treasurer,** Anita Boyden
- Gino Lisiecki Clint Evans
- Phil Bolich Barbee Scheibner
- Avery Peyton Caroline Halley
- Ken Carmichael Sam Moeller
- Tom Frost Sheila Pachernegg
- Duane Zimmerman, Chic Burge
- Diane Evans

FRIENDS' EVENTS

Join us on Sunday, July 18, 1999 for our first **Mt. Spokane Appreciation Day.**



See details this issue.



Trail Days

Lend a hand to the wonderful folks formerly known as, "The Inland Empire Nordic Club" for fun

filled trail clean-up days: June 26, July 10, July 25, Aug. 14, Sept. 11, Sept 19, and Oct. 2.

Bring lots of energy, lunch, water, gloves, and hand tools such as: pruners, clippers and / or a small bow saw. Call Tom Frost at 467-9835 for details, and...

Contact Ken Elliot of the **The Inland Empire Backcountry Horsemen** for a schedule of their "work parties" and trail rides on Mt. Spokane. Call Ken at 467-3725.

