Lori Barlow City Senior Planner Spokane Valley, WA

RE: Painted Hills development

Tuesday's Spokesman-Review ran an article on the above subject. We have not read anything about this for several months. Now you want people to respond by this Friday!

Having lived in this area in the 50's, I'm well aware of it being a wetland – a very wet wetland most of the year. The land is a catch basin, collecting runoff from the surrounding hills (which they have already butchered). Our wetlands need to be preserved. Enough of them have been filled in already. The last few years' record droughts should give a clue to the future. Water is one of our most precious resources and the aquifer needs to be kept recharged.

Enough land has been paved over already. That land is better suited for recreation. Also, we live just off Dishman-Mica Road and having three access points off that highway is ludicrous — accidents waiting to happen! Is the city really that desperate for that tax base? Also, as a private citizen, I'm sure I am not the only one who is thoroughly disgusted with the real estate developers dictating their own land use rules. When they built those houses south of Thorpe Road a few years ago I felt like standing by the road with a sign: Caution you may be buying a moldy home! These people have no respect for the land or their customers. High density housing should be put in the core and vertical rather than horizontal.

It's not wise to mess with Mother Nature.

Barlance Column

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