



PEAK EXPERIENCE

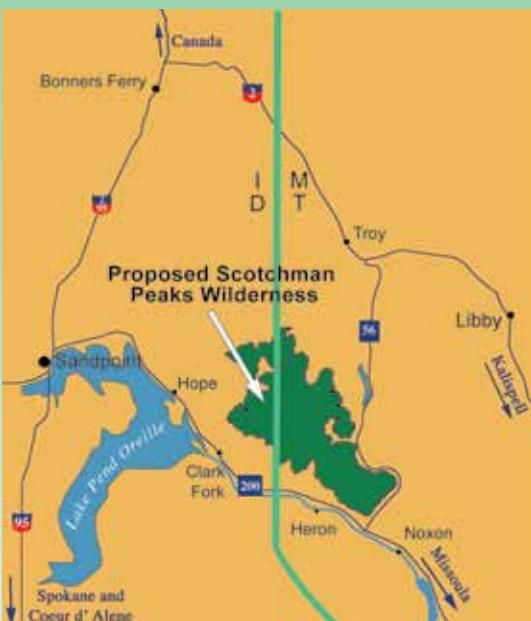
The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.

Volume 9, Number 5 • September/October 2013



Mission Statement

"Spanning the Idaho/Montana border, the Scotchmans are one of the last, and largest, wild areas in our region. We conduct education, outreach and stewardship activities to preserve the rugged, scenic and biologically diverse 88,000 acre Scotchman Peaks Roadless Area. We believe the Scotchman Peaks deserve congressional designation as Wilderness for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations."



Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc. (FSPW) is a non-profit organization. The proceeds from all events and sales benefit our wilderness preservation efforts.

Donations are tax deductible.

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail and have an email address please help us save postage by sending us your email address.

Editor: Ann Wimberley

Layout and design: Celeste Grace

Scotchman Past: Imagining Lake Missoula



**David Thompson 1823, Map of North America from 84° west,
Sheet 7 (detail)**
Public Record Office (London)

By Jack Nisbet

Editor's note: Jack Nisbet is a Spokane naturalist, teacher and author.

In the early part of the 21st century, the baseline story for the vast and varied landscape that sweeps across northwestern Montana and the Idaho Panhandle clear to the Pacific Ocean is the saga of the Ice Age Floods. Everyone from fourth grade students and backyard gardeners to visual artists and road engineers has learned that to gain any sense of the place where we live, you have to visualize a Cordilleran ice sheet creeping down from the Far North thousands of years ago. You have to stretch your fingers out to emulate lobes of this ice sheet following north-south tectonic trenches west of the Rocky Mountains. You have to focus on the way that one of them, called the Purcell Lobe, crept down from the run of the lower Kootenai and across what is now Lake Pend Oreille to form a huge ice dam at the mouth of the Clark Fork River. That dam backed up what geologists call Glacial Lake Missoula all the way across modern Flathead Lake and the Bitterroot Valley. As the climate warmed on a stuttered cycle, the ice dam eroded to a certain point, rose like a cork, and then

Continued page 10



Message from the Chair: Celebrate Your Public Lands

The fourth Saturday of every September (this year it falls on the 28th) we celebrate National Public Lands Day. FSPW will mark the day with a trail stewardship project on Morris Creek in partnership with the Idaho Panhandle National Forest and the National Forest Foundation!

National Forests, National Parks, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Reserves, Wilderness Areas, National Recreation Areas, State Parks, County Parks – all these, and more, are PUBLIC lands. The various government agencies which administer them do not own them; you and I do. Agencies manage these lands as a public trust, as a service to benefit the public at large. More lyrically, Woody Guthrie reminds us:

*"This land is your land This land is my land
From California to the New York island;
From the red wood forest to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and Me."*

Along with ownership comes obligation. Since these public lands are OUR lands, we not only benefit from them, but we own a piece of the responsibility for taking care of them. We are responsible for civic engagement: showing up at public hearings, commenting on proposed actions, being a part of the public input into the decisions about how our public lands are managed. We get to have our say and we should say what we want from these lands.



Star Peak Allstars: A Star Peak trail crew still smiling at the end of the day
Photo by Sandy Compton

We also need to partake in taking care of our lands, of being good stewards. If we want trails to hike on we need to go out and help to build, maintain, and care for those trails. If we want to preserve habitat for wildlife, we need to be part of citizens' science projects which help inform the folks who make decisions impacting that habitat. We can all learn to identify weeds and report them.

The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness is here to help you become good stewards of your public lands. In fact, this summer we hired Kristen Nowicki, a projects coordinator to facilitate volunteer involvement. Come down to our office sometime and meet Kristen.

Come swing a Pulaski on Sept 28th, learn more about our

botanical and weed survey projects and get on a list for future volunteer opportunities. Learn more about our winter Rare Carnivore study and sign up to help set up and maintain a monitoring station. Or just come out and learn more from a naturalist led walk, so that you can be more informed when you speak up.

We have a general volunteer sign-up sheet on our website where you can let us know about your interest and availability. If you are time challenged, or physically constrained, or allergic to weeds, dirt and critters you can still help – consider using the donate button on our website and make a contribution to help us continue to offer our stewardship programs. Remember **these lands are your lands!**

—Phil Hough

Cinnabar Challenge Grant is on again!

Once again, the Cinnabar Foundation has awarded a challenge grant to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. If you want to assist us in our efforts to protect the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness, and particularly in continuing our involvement the Multispecies Baseline Initiative, aka the Wolverine Study, this is the perfect time to send in a contribution - Cinnabar will provide matching funds for up to \$3,000 in donations. Your donations to either our general budget or the Wolverine study will qualify for matching funds from Cinnabar, up to their limit.

This is a great opportunity for you to double your money!





Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans

River Otter (*Lutra canadensis*)

By Mindy Ferrell

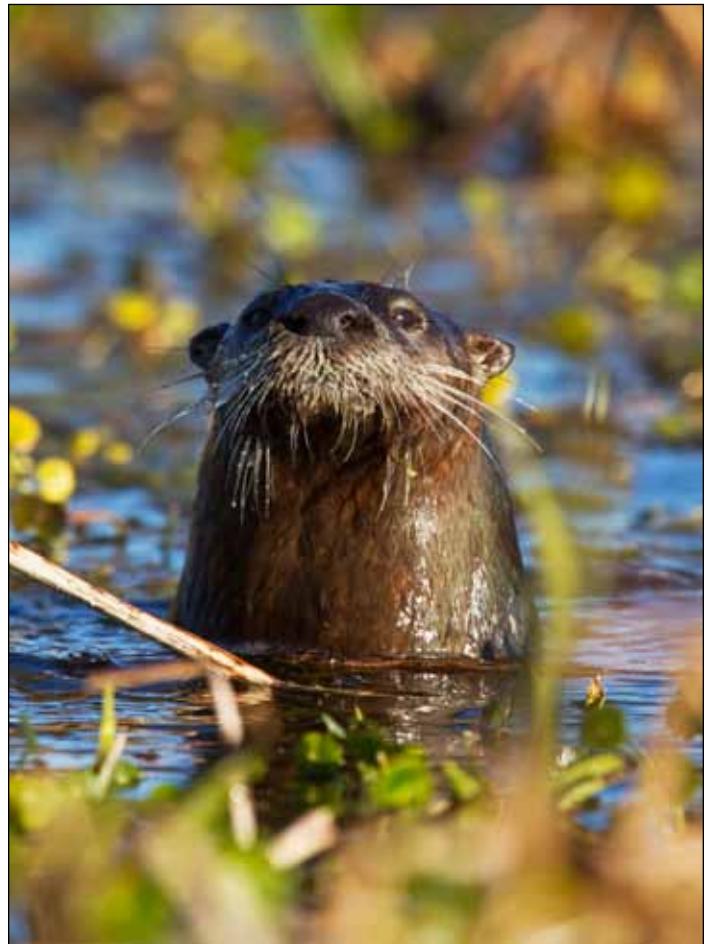
Energetic, comical, curious, and ... okay ... ruthlessly carnivorous. It's all a balancing act with the engaging river otter. These social animals simply love to play! Lunging down the snowy river banks, they can reach speeds up to 18 miles per hour. In the water, they will call out to each other with a variety of squeals, chirps, chatters, chuckles, and whistles while spy-hopping, cavorting and somersaulting. How can we help but be captivated?

These semi-aquatic relatives of weasels, badgers, and skunks are permanent, active, year-round residents in all of western Montana and northern Idaho. As their name implies, they live along the rivers, but also live next to lakes and streams. Their dens in riverbanks are usually taken over from other animals such as beaver. The entrances to them are found below the waterline. Otters prefer non-turbid water, vegetated banks with sloughs and side channels near-by. Mostly aquatic, they can be spotted on land when making their way from one body of water to another, playing on muddy or snow-covered banks, or when seeking out a mate.

Short legs, fully webbed, 5-toed feet, and an amazingly thick tapering tail allow them to undulate, steer and move quickly through the water. They can stay underwater for up to 4 minutes, closing their ears and nose while underwater. Most often nighttime feeders, they use their mouth, 36 teeth and 4 canines to catch their prey. They will, if needed, bring a larger catch to shore, and sometimes will roll over in the water and eat their prey like corn-on-the-cob. Their diet mainly consists of fish, but includes crayfish, frogs, salamanders, snakes, clams, snails, turtles, birds, and even insects. Otters have a high metabolic rate, and their food passes through them in about an hour. Although fishermen sometimes complain about otters eating too much, they mostly eat trash fish, and rarely dine on the select trout in this area.

River otters can measure anywhere from 35 – 53 inches from tip to tail, and they will weigh in at 15 – 25 pounds. Long, sleek bodies are highly adapted for cold, watery environments. Their soft, thick fur has traditionally been prized by the industry. Except for the wolverine, no other fur-bearing animal has more durable fur, with fully pliable guard hairs, even in severely cold conditions. Their dense underfur traps air to insulate it in water. While swimming, they will close their ears and nose to protect them from frigid exposure.

Although mating occurs in the summer months, there is a delay before implantation of the egg. Gestation is generally 9 ½ to 10 months, with 1 – 5 young born in April or early



River Otter

Photo by Don Jones, <http://www.donaldmjones.com/>

May. The male is evicted for a short time, but returns to help raise the young. These furred, blind young are somewhat helpless for about 6-8 weeks, but soon thereafter are coaxed into the water to become playful hunters, and by 8 months can fend for themselves. It is thought that adults breed every 2 – 3 years.

Otters are always on the move, and a glimpse of their antics should be considered a special event. In the summer, their range is within a 20 square mile range, but in the winter that range can extend up to 60 square miles if food is scarce. Enjoy them for what they are – boundless bundles of wild energy

From the Top

Summers go by so fast! And that has especially been true for FSPW this year with all the volunteer projects plus lots of fun hikes. And fall is looking pretty busy too. Please join us as we give back to this beautiful land that we are working to preserve for those who will follow us.

—Ann Wimberley



Along The Trail

July 4: Friends of Scotchman Peaks marched in parades in Noxon, Heron, Clark Fork and Sandpoint. The FSPW float with The Cougar Creek Band won best float honors in Clark Fork. Our "Old Goat of the Year," volunteer Phil Degens, rode in the Sandpoint parade on the Republican Committee Float honoring Bonner County Volunteers.

July 8 - 10: Project Coordinator Kristen Nowicki and FSPW Executive Director Phil Hough and a host of volunteers assisted in a botanical survey backpack in Lightning Creek National Forest Foundation (NFF) "Treasured Landscape."*

July 12: Nine Montana Conservation Corps crew members and seven FSPW volunteers cut a quarter mile of new tread on the Star Peak Historic trail reconstruction; Botanical survey day in Lightning Creek NFF "Treasured Landscape."*

July 13: Botany field trip to Black Peak with botanist Peter Lesica. Co-sponsored by Montana Wilderness Association and Montana Native Plant Society.

July 13: FSPW volunteers manned an info table at the Wooden Boat Show in Sandpoint.

July 17: FSPW volunteers conducted a botanical survey in the Lightning Creek NFF "Treasured Landscape."*

July 24: Botanical survey day in Lightning Creek NFF "Treasured Landscape."*

July 25: Noxious weeds survey day in Lightning Creek NFF "Treasured Landscape."*

July 29: FSPW volunteers helped the Montana Conservation Corps haul food, water and tools to their camp at Star Peak. The crew worked on Star Gulch and Pillick Ridge trails.

August 6: FSPW foalks took a film crew from Idaho Public Television's *Outdoor Idaho* up Scotchman Peak to shoot scenes and interview to be part of their "Summit Idaho"

August 9: Six volunteers and staff cut 200 yards of new tread on the Star Peak Historic trail reconstruction

August 10 – 11: Project Coordinator Kristen Nowicki, Doug and Mindy Ferrell and Ernie and Marty Scherzer and a dozen other volunteers participated in the Huckleberry Festival parade in Trout Creek and signed up many new Friends at the FSPW booth.

August 12 - 15: Project Coordinator Kristen Nowicki and FSPW ED Phil Hough and a host of volunteers attended a botanical survey camp in Lightning Creek "Treasured Landscape."*

August 16: Workday in upper South Fork of Ross Creek.

August 17: FSPW had an info table at the Pend Oreille Chapter of the Idaho Master Naturalist Water Life Discovery Center Open House featuring Jack Nisbet

August 20 – 24: FSPW volunteers worked in the booth at the Bonner County Fair, signing up many new Friends.

August 23: FSPW volunteers cut new tread on the Star Peak Historic trail reconstruction.

August 27 & 28: Botanical survey days in Lightning Creek NFF "Treasured Landscape." *

*All events in the Treasured Landscape are in cooperation with National Forest Foundation, US Forest Service, Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society and the Idaho Master Naturalists Pend Oreille Chapter.

Time for the 2013 Annual Scotchman Peaks Photo Contest!

Send us your best shots.

If you were in or around the Scotchman Peaks sometime since November 1 of last year, and you took a picture you think is really cool, attach it to an e-mail, tell us where you took it, when you took it, and maybe even why you took it and send the whole kit and caboodle to sandy@scotchman-peaks.org

High-resolution (2-megabyte or higher in jpeg format) are preferred. Pictures should have been taken within the wilderness or of the wilderness from outside (pictures taken within the wilderness are preferred.)

Only send what you think is the very best, because you can only submit one picture to this contest. We begin taking sub-



The winner of the 2012 photo contest was Douglas Lynch with "Scotchman Sunset"

missions on September 1, 2013 and stop taking submissions at midnight on Halloween.

The pictures will be judged by that highly qualified panel of Facebook Friends of Scotchman Peaks, who will vote with their "likes" on pictures posted in a special album. Ties will be decided by FSPW staff.

Prizes: Top four photo takers will be awarded a swag package from FSPW including a hat, bandana and t-shirt.

The grand prize: Your picture professionally framed by Ward Tolbom of Hen's Tooth Studios in Sandpoint. Ward is an expert framer, as well as a renowned water color artists and huckleberry picker.

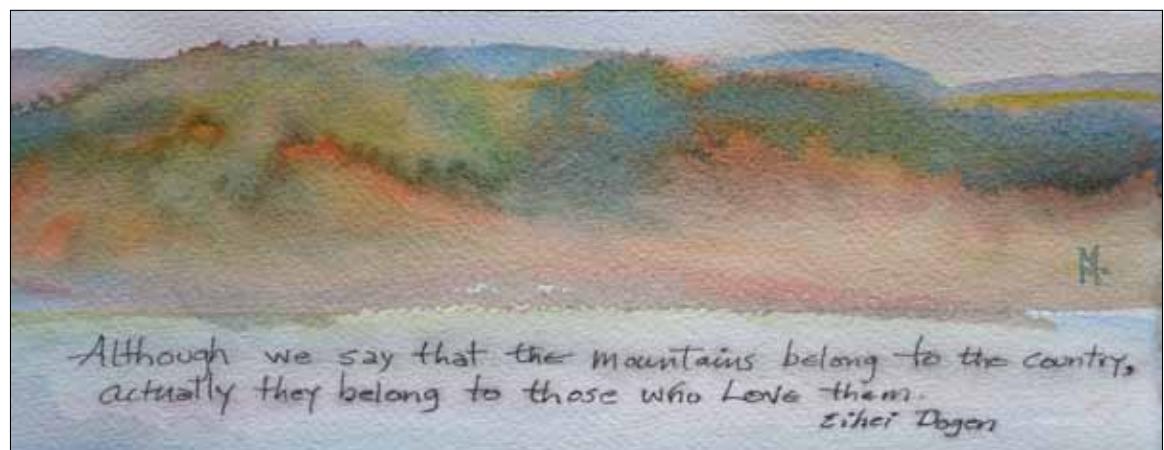
The way to win: Send those pictures in and invite your friends to vote for your photo(s) on the Scotchman Peaks Facebook page Beginning November 1!



Plein Air Paint Out and The Folio Return

The 6th Annual Scotchmans Plein Air Paint Out comes to Hope, Idaho, the first weekend of October (4th-6th). Two dozen artists will fan out in and around the Wilderness on Friday and Saturday, returning with fresh oil and watercolor creations to be framed, hung, viewed, judged, and sold on Sunday afternoon from 1-4PM at the Hope Marketplace.

Marilyn McIntyre, who won the first place prize last year, will judge this year's event, and the artists will also choose their favorite painting. In addition, it is well worth the drive to Hope this year to look through the Folio, an inspirational creation by Marilyn at last year's show. Each artist generously donated



Watercolor By Marilyn McIntyre from Folio

Photo by Neil Wimberly

a painting with a favored quotation that assembled together have created an unique book that beautifully and eloquently shows their passion for nature and our treasured wilderness.

On behalf of the artists, Marilyn will donate the completed Folio to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness at 1:30PM prior to the awarding of the prizes and the opening of the show – don't miss it!

The Future Looks Bright

September 3 - 6: FSPW ED Phil Hough travels to Seattle for presentations at Woodland Park Zoo and a showing of *Grass routes: Changing the Conversation and En Plein Air*.

September 9 - 12: Kristen Nowicki and FSPW volunteers will assist with a botanical survey backpack in Lightning Creek NFF "Treasured Landscape." *

September 18-20: Botanical Survey of Upper Mud Creek. *

September 21-22: Wilderness Ranger Apprenticeship Weekend. A campout for high school kids focused on learning wilderness trail building skills, leave no trace and safety; all on the historic Star Peak trail reconstruction project. This is a free activity. Meals provided. Space is limited. Write to sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org

September 28: FSPW, in cooperation with the Forest Service and the National Forest Foundation, will celebrate National Public Lands Day with a workday in Morris Creek. Write to trails@scotchmanpeaks.org to volunteer for this project. *

October 5: Highway 200 "Adopt-A-Highway" cleanup day. Contact jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org

October 4 – 6: Sixth Annual Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout, headquartered at Kally Thurman's Outskirts Gallery in Hope, will be held in and around the Scotchmans. Write to neilwim@yahoo.com for more information.

October 13: FSPW Volunteer Appreciation Day. 2 to 6 pm. To thank you for a big year of big accomplishments, the burgers, brats

and baked beans are on us! Bring your own beverages, utensils and plate (or bowl, if you prefer). Location to be announced soon.

October 24: Idaho Public TV kicks off their 30th Season with the broadcast of "summit Idaho"

October 24 – 27: Program Coordinator Sandy Compton and FSPW ED Phil Hough will attend the National Wilderness Stewardship Conference in Big Bear California.

***All events in the Treasured Landscape are in cooperation with National Forest Foundation, US Forest Service, Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society and the Idaho Master Naturalists Pend Oreille Chapter.**

FSPW swag for the changing seasons

Check out our bandanas, tees (long and short sleeved, in 3 colors), sweats and hats available at Mountain Meadows in Libby, Mt. Huckleberry Thicket in Trout Creek, MT, The Hope Market Place in Hope, ID and Foster's Crossing, Eichardt's, and Outdoor Experience in Sandpoint, ID. Out of the area, contact jimnsandii@gmail.com. Limited edition sweatshirts saluting



Team Laughing Dog in the Race Across America are available at Greasy Fingers Bike Shop in Sandpoint. Other Scotchman merchandise is available in our online store run by Café Press at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/store/html



Scotchman Tales

Group-A-Ness

By Sandy Compton

My friend Karen hired me for several years to cook for U of I field camps, part of which the participants spent in tents and part of which were spent in the comfort of the bunk-house at Clark Fork Field Campus. I worked with the tent portion.

The first year, the kids split into two groups which became known over time as Group A and Group B. Group A was such that if we needed something done (it was the kids' responsibility to help us), all we had to do was say, "Boy, it sure would be nice if . . .," and it would be done. Group A did their own dishes (and kitchen dishes) without a single gripe, ate what we cooked enthusiastically and lined up for breakfast ten minutes early.

Group B did not. Group B griped, moaned and rebelled. They didn't like the food. They didn't want to do their *own* dishes. They didn't like sleeping in tents, yet they were still in bed 10 minutes *after* breakfast was ready. Each morning, it was my duty (and somewhat perverse pleasure) to walk down their little Group B "street" of tents with a large spoon and a cast-iron fry pan issuing their wakeup call. Group B might have been Group F.

When camp was over, Karen and I cornered one of the organizers and asked how they had picked who would be in Group A and Group B. She started laughing. The instructors had noticed the difference in groups, also.

"We just asked who wanted to go camping first." Ah hah!

It was a Group A kind of group that hiked to the Andrew Spring in the headwaters of Ross Creek in July. In spite of heat, mosquitoes, a lost trail (at least twice), brush galore, little black flies and big blisters, there was no griping, no whining and absolutely no regrets.

This trip is simple enough to line out on a map. But reality is on the ground.

Day One: It's easy to walk from Ross Creek Cedars to the end of Trail #142, where the necessity for Group-A-ness kicks in. From that point, we trekked west-by-southwest — and up — to the top of The Wall. (If you wonder why it's called The Wall, you haven't scaled it). At the top of The Wall — after some serious recon — we found a way through the jungle of tag alder, vine maple, devil's club and mountain ash that populates the edge of the upper basin. Hint: the way is a big, burly elk trail slightly improved by a fire crew about 8 years ago. It's 100 yards north of a rock-bottomed water chute (mostly dry in July) that is awesome and unascendable.



The cliffiest cliff in the crags

Photo by Sandy Compton

After lucking out and finding the trail and climbing another 150 vertical into the upper basin, we caught our breath, sighted on the cliff above the Andrew Spring (the cliffiest cliff in the Crags) and kept walking on elk trails (most of the time) until we hit the spring. After we got there, and had killed our first pound of mosquitoes, we checked watches and the GPS. 10 miles. 10 hours. Perfect synchronization. Oh, and 2700 feet gained, most of which happened between hours 5 and 7.

After hanging the heaviest bear bag ever (it might kill a bear it fell on), we retired to camp and discussed how many ways Meriwether and William spelled "mosquitos" in the Journals (26, by the way).

Day Two: We took it easy. Sort of. Most of us climbed another 1000 feet to the top of the Amanda Crag to get spec-

tacular views of the West Fork of Blue Creek and upper Ross Creek, an entirely different perspective of Scotchman itself and some relief from the "misquestors." Later in the day, a number of us went around the cliffiest cliff in the Crags to the Emily Tarn and found it frozen solid (almost). One of our Group-A folk took a dip in the 30 square feet of open water anyway. Just to say he did. After he could speak again.

We returned to camp and killed "muskeetors" throughout dinner and took a vote about which way to exit Ross Creek the next day. In typical Group A fashion, it was decided that we would climb out, rather than going down the way we had come.

Day Three: After a relatively "misquitor" free breakfast, we sighted on 24-Hour Pass, the notch between Ross Creek and the East Fork of Blue Creek, and began another 10-mile day. This would only take us 9 hours.

Beginning at the Andrew Spring, we followed a long arc through the basin, staying to the right and assiduously away from the jungle growing along the top of the Wall. We successfully avoided jungleness for most of the day, with a few patches thrown in just for practice. The journey over the top and down into East Fork was highlighted by significant hours of rock-hopping, 4300 feet of vertical, counting up and down, a short stroll through mifi and scrubby sub-alpine fir on a 100-percent slope (we missed the elk trail by a long way), trail-side blister repair on a woman who is so Group-A she kept going with blisters on her calluses, some stellar huckleberries and a collective sigh of relief and shouts of jubilation when the pickup waiting at the bottom of the "trail" was sighted.

It's easy to draw a line on a map, but it's Group-A-ness that traces it successfully through the backcountry of the Scotchman Peaks. In Group A fashion, each hiker expressed their gratitude for a grand adventure. This bunch could even be Group A Plus.



Tales of the Scotchmans: Anthropomorphisation

By Sandy Compton

Author's note: "anthropomorphism" is the attribution of human characteristics to non-humans animal or forces of nature. This story anthropomorphizes the big billy goat that lives at the top of Scotchman. Nonetheless, as this story stresses, he is not human, does not have human thoughts, and does not benefit by habituation to human contact.

Hello, two leggers. I'm a mountain goat, the biggest goat on this mountain. Some call me "Monty," but I have no real name. My concept of me is incomprehensible to you, and I can't understand you. We are aliens to each other.

You've called me cute, handsome, shy, reclusive, majestic and regal; stupid, stubborn and aggressive. These are two-legger perceptions. In my mind, I just am.

Goat decisions aren't based on anything you can understand except the basic tenets of survival: What will I gain or lose by certain actions? In the short term, will I live or die by my acts, will I struggle or thrive? Will it make me stronger or weaker?

For all goats, some of the answers are contained in our DNA. Others are learned and reinforced by experience, some beneficial, some detrimental. It is experience that dictates whether we repeat an action or refrain. We've no moral questions to struggle with, only this place and others who live in it.

We live in a hard place; steep, rocky, arid in summer, given to sudden lightning strikes and winters of huge snowfalls, high winds, subzero temperatures. We are well adapted, but the place has given us nothing we don't work for, and nothing we work for has come easily. This has made us strong, able to survive here under conditions that other creatures, including two leggers, cannot long stand without some sort of assistance.

That is changing. When two-leggers visit our mountain, in one way or another, they bring something with them that we need to survive and they bring it in abundance: salt. It is mixed with other things, often, but still it is the salt in the things they leave — and sometimes give to us — we are most interested in. So, we associate two leggers with salt and other not-so-natural things (for mountain goats) like apples, carrots, cookies and even chocolate.

This association, and the willingness of two-leggers to share salt and other food with us, has caused me — and the rest of my band — to lose our shyness. We will walk up to you and take something out of your hand, should you let us. If you leave your pack on the rocks, we will chew on the straps for the salt. If you urinate on the rocks or in the trail, we will lick it up for the salt.

For me this is neither bad nor good. It just is. But we are trading something for this, something hard to define. Self-reliance might be one way of describing it. Wildness might be another, or surely



"Turn your back and I get your pack"

Photo by Jay Krajic

in the face of this hard place with just ourselves to depend on.

The two-leggers also give something away with their salt. A sense of the sacred, perhaps. A chance to visit this place without being harassed by my band. Security in relationship with my kind; we no longer know to keep our distance, but that doesn't make us tame or more predictable. Habituation makes us more dangerous, not less.

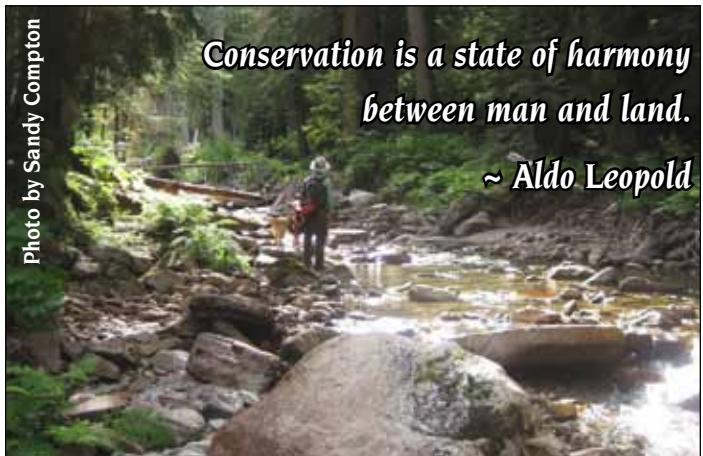
We are still not pets. We are still wild. Two-leggers still can't comprehend our intentions or what we might do to get what we want.

Both my band and two-leggers who encourage our approach lose freedom, for any relationship forged by dependence dilutes the freedom of its participants. Short term, we might benefit by this relationship.

Long term, feeding us and providing us with salt — intentionally or unintentionally — will not make us stronger.

I'm ancient now. I don't count winters, but I've been through many. A younger billy has his eye on "my" ewes, for which he has gotten a hole in his shoulder. But, he will get them one day. Or another like him. And I will feed a lucky bear or coyote, or maybe a wolf or wolverine.

Likely, no two-legger will eat me; no two-legger will use salt or an apple to lure me in so they can make a meal of me. But, that I would understand. If that were the case, it wouldn't take long for us to learn, once again, to keep our distance. In the meantime, it might be good if the two leggers learned better to keep theirs.





Over the Top Volunteer(s)

Summer has been a sizzling season for Scotchman Peaks Volunteers.

On all sides of the Scotchman Peaks, FSPW volunteers have been working for wilderness. From the National Forest Foundation's "Treasured Landscape" in Lightning Creek, all the way around the proposed wilderness to the South Fork of Ross Creek, the Friends and friends of Friends have been stepping up to work with our agency partners in learning more about and taking care of the Peaks.

"It's been our busiest stewardship season ever," says FSPW exec Phil Hough, "and it won't slow down for a while yet."

Volunteers have been swinging Pulaski's, documenting weeds and whitebark pine (see Kristen Nowicki's report on the botanical surveys in the National Forest Foundation Lightning Creek Treasured Landscape on page 10) and helping other groups get things done in the Scotchmans.

"On July 12, we had our biggest day ever on the Star Peak trail rebuild," says program coordinator Sandy Compton. "With nine Montana Conservation Crew members and eight FSPW volunteers, we cut about 1700 feet of new tread. It was awesome to watch the progress."

That pencils out at about 100 feet of tread per volunteer per day, a figure Compton says seems to be pretty standard. "On August 9, we had six folks working and we cut 600 feet of trail. Crews grow and shrink, depending on the weather and what other summer activities are going on, but someone always seems to show up, and when they do, they get things done."

July 29, Rob Pierce and friends both human and equine packed 160 pounds of water as well as foodstuffs to Star Peak for an MCC crew who worked for 10 days on the Pillick Ridge trails. Also helping that day were Ryan Fields and six young men from Mountain Meadow Youth Ranch.

On August 16, Compton and volunteers Phil Degens and Irv McGeachy hiked into the South Fork of Ross Creek and cleared a massive mess of fallen hemlocks that have blocked the trail at Ross Creek Falls for a number of years. On August 23, a group of 7 volunteers brought the Star Peak Historic Trail 500 feet closer to being finished. A Star Peak work and camp weekend on September 21 and 22 is planned as a Wilderness Steward/Ranger Apprenticeship class for high school students (write to sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org for more information). We have cut nearly two miles of new trail in the past two summers, a tribute to a lot of enthusiastic Friends and our Forest Service partners on the Cabinet Ranger District.

It's not all about building trail or hiking for plants, of course. Over 50 Friends marched in 4th of July Parades from Noxon to Sandpoint and 16 folks showed up in Scotchman Peaks t-shirts and hats to march in the Huckleberry Festival parade in Trout Creek in August. The volunteers in the booth at the Bonner County Fair, which was resplendent in Dr. Seuss decorations thanks to Bonnie Jakubos and Kristen Nowicki, signed up many new Friends.

Eight Friends, including Brad Smith of ICL and Sandpoint district ranger Erick Walker, also accompanied a duo from Idaho Public Television to Scotchman Peak on August 6 for an all-day round of filming for later productions.

"Getting the story of the Scotchmans in front of the public is an important part of advocacy," says Hough, "and we're grateful to Sauni Symonds and Jay Krajic of Idaho Public Television for taking the time to come north and film in the Peaks."

Coming up, outdoor educator Brian Baxter has volunteered to lead a wetlands ecology class on September 7 beginning at the Heron Community Center (write to b_baxter53@yahoo.com).

com to sign up). The National Forest Foundation and FSPW are also teaming up for National Public Lands Day on September 28th for a workday in Morris Creek. To sign up to help on this or any trail project, write to trails@scotchman-peaks.org.

Thanks to all of our great volunteers, we have had and continue to have a great summer of stewardship and education. We will be saying thanks on Sunday, October 13 with a volunteer appreciation party. Watch the web site and our Facebook page for details.



Irv McGeachy and Phil Degens on a fresh bit of tread in the South Fork of Ross Creek

Photo by Sandy Compton

6th Annual
Plein Air Paint Out
Oct 4, 5, 6

Buy for the legacy!

Sunday, Oct 6
View artwork noon to 4 pm
Sale begins at 2 pm

Outskirts Gallery
in the historic Hope Marketplace
next to the Hope Post Office

Information 208.264.5696
www.outskirtsgallery.com

to benefit
FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMAN PEAKS





Scotchman Birds: Migration Comes Again

By Jon Isacoff, PhD

Where did summer go? Sure there's still some left but the days are shortening and the evenings are getting darker and cooler sooner. And birds are starting migration. During the months of August and September, most of the Scotchman's migratory breeding birds will take off. Other birds will arrive, and yet more will pass through. Who's going where and when?

As this is written already shorebirds (aka "sandpipers") are migrating through the Scotchman's area from their arctic breeding grounds. The Scotchman's proper doesn't have a lot of shorebird habitat though birds will stop off at any area with extensive exposed mud, especially along bars in the larger creeks and rivers and of course, near Lake Pend Oreille. Some birds such as the aptly named Solitary Sandpiper will stop off on the least likely, smallest patch of mud, even at high elevations.

During the next 6-12 weeks, most of the migrant passerines (aka "songbirds") that breed in the Scotchman's will be gone. This includes all the breeding Warbler, Vireo, and Flycatcher species, and most of the Sparrows and Blackbirds. At the same time, waves of migrant passerines from the great boreal forests of Canada will come through. In particular, look for large flocks of Chipping Sparrows followed later by White-crowned Sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. As autumn moves on, don't be surprised to see large flocks, possibly many hundreds or even a thousand Robins feeding in trees (especially Mountain Ash or other fruit-bearing species). Robins migrate in large numbers through the Scotchman's region, though most folks don't pay them too much heed since they are after all "just Robins." But

a fall migrant flock of Robins is more exciting than your local pair eating worms in the yard during spring!

Though the Scotchman's and greater Inland Northwest region are not known as a major raptor flyway,

hawks and falcons will migrate through in the next couple of months in small numbers. This is a great time to see a Merlin or a Peregrine Falcon chasing migrant shorebirds or ducks. Actually Merlins will chase just about anything; they're angry, mean little birds! Look also for accipiters, which include the diminutive Sharp-shinned Hawk, the crow-sized Cooper's Hawk, and the relatively rare but tremendous and surprisingly bold and aggressive (when seen) Northern Goshawk.

One need not be a Ph.D. in ornithology to know that with the arrival of autumn come waterfowl: ducks, geese, and swans. By the hundreds of thousands to millions. Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho's largest lake, is also one of the finest for migrant waterfowl. Millions will stop over as a rest stop and some will actually spend the entire winter. But we get ahead of ourselves... A fun game anyone can play is to keep an eye skywards and note when the first early-bird Geese or Swans pass through. Could be any day.



Merlin

Photo by Jon Isacoff

Peak Views

Exertion Ratings: E = Easy, M= Moderate, S= Strenuous

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/Hike Name	Leader(s)	Hike Descriptions
9/7/13	M	Riparian and Wetland Ecology Class	Brian Baxter	<p>Contact info: b_baxter53@yahoo.com</p> <p>Join our excellent outdoor instructor Brian Baxter for a day of fun and learning about the wet and wild places around the Scotchman Peaks. Brian has 35-plus years of outdoor experience to share. Meet at the Heron Community Center at 9 a.m. Pacific Time, 10 Mountain, for a short classroom session, then transition to shorelines and wetlands along the Clark Fork and Bull Rivers. Bring lunch, camera, wading shoes and your curiosity.</p>
9/7/13	E/M	Kid's Hike in the East Fork of Blue Creek	Celeste Grace	<p>Contact info: celestegrace@gmail.com</p> <p>Explore the base of Practice Mountain. Find the secret spring. Bring your lunch and your Mom and Dad if you want (or leave them behind). Car pooling available. About five hours. Parent release required</p>
9/19/13	M	Full Moon over the Scotchmans	Mindy Ferrel	<p>Contact info: 406-827-4341 or mferrell_9874@yahoo.com</p> <p>On Thursday, September 19th, we will carpool to within 1 1/2 miles of Loveland Peak and its adjacent ridge system. Moonrise is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. and it will illuminate the south slopes of the Scotchman and Cabinet Wilderness. We'll howl and feast and dance before returning to the valley floor sometime around midnight. Meet in "downtown" Noxon at the park at 5:30 p.m. Mountain Time.</p>
10/5/13	E/M	Highway 200 Cleanup Hike	Jacob Styer	<p>Contact info: jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org</p> <p>Join Jacob Styer and other FSPW volunteers on the annual cleanup of our adopted two miles of Idaho 200, beginning at the drift yard at the east end of Lake Pend Oreille and proceeding east toward Clark Fork. Lunch is provided by FSPW.</p>
10/12/13	S	Scotchman Peak	Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker	<p>Contact info: 208-946-9127 or phil@scotchmanpeaks.org</p> <p>This is the classic hike up the namesake peak for our proposed wilderness. It's short but steep. We will go at a slow pace so that steady effort is rewarded with great views of the surrounding peaks and stunning views of lake Pend Oreille, along with fall colors and possibly late season huckleberries will be highlights. This hike is currently full, but check back for cancellations. 4 miles one way, a round trip with an elevation gain of 3,800 feet.</p>



Treasured Landscapes: Unforgettable Experiences

By Kristen Nowicki

Huge trees, with trunks over 24 inches in diameter, lay collapsed into Lightening Creek and its tributaries, their tangled roots towering above them in an awkward vertical orientation. Soccer ball sized cobbles lay tossed on stream banks. Land slumps over trails, exposing vulnerable mineral soil to erosion and invasion. Shifting environmental conditions pulse through brilliant mountaintops, squeezing the headwater cornerstones that support the region's rapid streaming into the Clark Fork River delta. Without a bit of a helping hand, this flood-prone watershed (flanking the western border of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness) may become victim to accelerated erosion and habitat degradation. To those who have explored this area north of Clark Fork, Idaho, those who have witnessed firsthand the incredible hydrologic capabilities of its canyons, those who have sweated and labored up its 80 degree slopes to crest upon a peak of rock under which the whole world folds away in every direction at once, those who have meandered through its trees and wildflowers and who have



FSPW Exec Phil Hough and USFS Botanist Jennifer Costich-Thompson, discuss logistics for backcountry wilderness travel and research plot location

Photo by Kristen Nowicki

tasted its fruits, those who have moved and stilled with the birds and mammals scurrying hither and yon, a strong inclination exists to protect this extraordinary area. It is an area worth preserving. What is even more amazing, the community who calls this area home is ready and willing to work to save our wilderness.

In May, the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, the Idaho Master Naturalists, and the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society (partnering with the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and United States Forest Service (USFS) in the Treasured Landscapes, Unforgettable Experiences conservation campaign) collaborated

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quickly disintegrated, allowing all of Lake Missoula's water to pour out with devastating speed.

Then, sometimes within decades, the weather swung back to the cold side. The Purcell Lobe reversed direction to reform the ice dam on the lower Clark Fork. A new Glacial Lake Missoula filled up. In time, you have to visualize another warming trend and catastrophic ice failure, followed by another chaotic deluge pounding its way to the sea. You have to imagine this happening over and over again.

There is no better place to work on these concepts than the west Cabinets. Whether you are hopping up Antelope Mountain for a picnic or making the all-day trek to Scotchman Peak, any view down into the Clark Fork Valley reveals obvious features left behind by thick ice and fast-moving water. After you get a feel for those powerful forces, the steady stream of ever-finer details that geologists continue to add only spurs the imagination. Any drive through the heart of the Clark Fork, looking up at the looming presence of Scotchman Peak along the way, conjures up a vision of our last Ice Age from inside the ice itself.

This kind of fantasy works only with a fully developed story, and leads to the obvious question of how it was ever assembled in the first place. Certainly J Harlan Bretz, who first published his notion of "Lake Missoula and the Spokane Flood" in 1929, stands out as a dogged central player. But Bretz did not appear

out of thin air. In 1910, geologist J. T. Pardee produced a beautiful watercolor map that showed the breadth of Glacial Lake Missoula. And as early as 1899, a U. S. Geological Survey forest reporter named John B. Lieberg not only accurately described the southern reaches of the great lake, but also guessed that the source of its impoundment was an ice dam. "[The Bitterroot Valley] appears to have been at one time a depression holding a lake, or rather, an arm of a much larger lake lying to the northward which covered to a large extent the present head of Clarks Fork," Lieberg wrote. "The existence of the lake was probably due to a blocking of the valley trough of Clarks Fork by ice masses."

John Lieberg was a trained geologist who spent several years in the high country of the Bitterroot and Cabinet Mountains, looking down to study clues that were part of a very large puzzle. David Thompson was a fur trade agent who worked in our region from 1807-12, before geology was even codified as a scientific discipline. His job was to transport trade goods one way and pelts the other, so he seldom climbed when he did not have to. And yet Thompson, simply by plotting the way water flowed through the drainages he was crossing, managed to draw recognizable boundaries of Glacial Lake Missoula on a map. He accomplished this by trekking back and forth across the region multiple times; by taking countless sextant shots; by listening to tribal guides who explained the most efficient way to get from one place to the next; and by observing how local people

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to assemble volunteer citizen scientists into restoration crews. In June, training began as community members from varied disciplines and backgrounds convened with natural resource professionals at the USFS Sandpoint district. Several lectures, discussions and field trips brought the goals and methods of the restoration work into focus. Our volunteers divided into teams; a plan was set. From the middle of June forward, the crews have been out in the watershed, collecting data regarding several botanical objectives. We have been 1) Investigating and mapping the spread of noxious weeds in disturbed tributaries, 2) Identifying, analyzing and recording areas suitable for whitebark pine rehabilitation, and 3) Locating and mapping rare plants found in sensitive aquatic niches throughout the watershed.

A one-month time frame was established for the Noxious Weed crews to complete their surveys. Weed mapping has now been conducted on Morris Creek, Thunder Creek, Lightening Peak, East Fork Peak, Regal Creek, Porcupine Lake, Gem Lake,

and Scotchman Peak trails. A variety of species were identified, with some areas being more heavily infested than others. The data is now being compiled, an eradication plan is being developed, and contracts for removal are under composition.

Botanical crews have been out on assignment around Blacktail and Moose lakes, as well as among various headwaters in the Scotchman Peak/Goat Mountain, East Fork Peak, and Lightening Peak/North Twin Peaks landscapes. The crews have been collecting a variety of information about these alpine habitats, including plant species composition, whitebark pine regeneration/seed sourcing, and severity of Western Blister Rust fungus infestation. The data is still coming in, with mapping and analysis to follow.

We aim to get preliminary results detailed in our upcoming November/December FSPW newsletter. For more information about the Treasured Landscapes campaign, our members' on-the-ground progress, or how to become involved, visit the Winds in the Wilderness blog on our website, www.scotchmanpeaks.org, or contact Kristen@Scotchmanpeaks.org

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moved through the year. In fact, it is possible to tell the story of the entire Ice Age Flood experience across two sheets of Thompson's remarkable 1823 "Map of North American from 84° West"—a 10-sheet map that altogether stretches 6 feet tall by 10 feet wide, and covers all the territory from Hudson Bay to the mouth of the Columbia River.

On sheet 7 of this map, for example, a dotted tribal trail that Thompson labels "Lake Indian Road" connects Kootenai Lake above modern Bonners Ferry to the north end of Lake Pend Oreille. This trail exactly retraces the push of the Purcell Lobe during the last glacial advance.

Thompson's closely braided depiction of the Clark Fork Delta at the east end of Lake Pend Oreille defines the core of the ice dam that impounded Glacial Lake Missoula. His mountain ridges, artfully depicted by the "caterpillar" cartographic technique in use during Thompson's time, mark the limits of the lake's level upstream along the Clark Fork to Missoula and south up the Bitterroot River, as well as east up the Flathead River through the Mission Valley to Flathead Lake.

To show what happened after the ice dam burst, modern geological field trips often tour flood deposits and giant ripple marks at Montana's Camas Prairie. On his map Thompson applied the Salish term for the plant, "Eet too woy." The same geologists point out features around the town of Plains, where Thompson visited tribal winter camps on what he called the "Horse Plains." The camas and bunchgrass utilized



by the people living in these places both emerged from flood deposits.

On the outflow side, at Sandpoint and beyond, Thompson saw how water flowing from pock lakes into flood gravels "disappears" on Rathdrum Prairie. He traced Ice Age Flood routes along the "Skeetshoo Road" to the Spokane drainage. He noted secondary flood channels that Kalispel people used to travel from Cusick to the salmon fishery on the Little Spokane River as the "Kullyspel Road." In 1811 he rode through the Cheney-Palouse scablands, created by the floods, on what he called "Shawpatin-Palloosees Road" that connects the Spokane and Snake Rivers.

All these features are now available for us to look at on Google Earth, and to experience through field trips sponsored by the Ice Age Floods Institute. But the takeaway from David Thompson's map and its record of tribal trails is that for more than ten millennia, the way people live on the Northwest landscape has been defined by this ancient series of catastrophic floods.

The deluge may read like an origin myth to someone from the outside, but for anyone who looks down on the old lake, or walks within the former ice dam, or travels along the many paths scoured by rushing water, each part of the story remains perfectly real.

Idaho State Geologist Roy Breckenridge will join Jack Nisbet for an Ice Age Floods presentation titled "After the Deluge" on the evening of September 13 at the Sandpoint High School auditorium. The talk is free and open to the public.

For more details, go to <http://www.iafi.org/events.asp>



How You Can Help

Support Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

As concerned citizens, we support protecting and preserving the Scotchman Peaks area for ourselves and future generations. Highway 56, Highway 200, Lightning Creek Road, and Rattle Creek/Keeler Road surround this 88,000 acre scenic area which straddles the Idaho and Montana border. Wilderness Designation for the Scotchmans will protect plants and wildlife, including the endangered grizzly bears, mountain goat, and bull trout; it will protect water quality; and it will preserve a special place for future generations. In addition, local communities will benefit from the unparalleled recreational and economic opportunities such wilderness provides.

Name: _____

Address: _____

e-mail: _____

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Donation enclosed (optional). Donations are tax deductible.
Please make checks payable to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc. Detach & Mail to the address above.

Board Members & Staff:

CHAIR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Phil Hough, Sagle, ID
(208) 946-9127
phil@scotchmanpeaks.org

VICE-CHAIRMAN & MONTANA DIRECTOR:

Doug Ferrell, Trout Creek, MT
(406) 827-4341
doug@scotchmanpeaks.org

SECRETARY:

Carol Jenkins, Sagle, ID
(208) 265-9204
carol@scotchmanpeaks.org

TREASURER:

Jacob Styer, Sandpoint, ID
(828) 989-8095
jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org

**EAST BONNER
COUNTY DIRECTOR:**
Neil Wimberley, Hope, ID
(208) 264-5379
neil@scotchmanpeaks.org

Bill Martin, Troy, MT
(406) 295-5258

Will Valentine, Sagle, ID
(208) 255-1114
will@scotchmanpeaks.org

LINCOLN COUNTY COORDINATOR
Molly Kieran, Troy, MT
(406) 293-2934
molly@scotchmanpeaks.org

PROGRAM COORDINATOR:
Sandy Compton, Heron, MT
(208) 290-1281
sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org

PROJECT COORDINATOR:
Kristen Nowicki, Sandpoint, ID
(208) 627-2448
kristen@scotchmanpeaks.org

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Ann Wimberley, Hope, ID
(208) 264-5379 ann@scotchmanpeaks.org