



April 14, 2016

U.S. Senator Mike Crapo  
U.S. Senator Jim Risch  
Representative Raul Labrador  
Governor Butch Otter

Gentlemen,

We are pleased to lend full support to Wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks area in northern Idaho's Panhandle National Forest. Having grown up in and hiked much of northern Idaho, I can personally attest to the appropriateness of Wilderness designation for this beautiful area, which lies east and south of our family's Gold Creek Ranch, founded by my grandfather, Charles Albertson, and his brother, Bill, in 1925.

Of the area's many attributes, none seems more ideal than its proximity to Sandpoint and Coeur d' Alene, hub cities for northern Idaho's long robust tourist sector.

We are well acquainted with the organizations that are advocating for designation – having interviewed all of them as part of our year-long effort to learn more about Idaho's forest collaboratives and the restoration work they are doing in the IPNF. Simply put, we trust their judgement, and look forward to our long-standing invitation to hike the area with Phil Hough, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks for many years.

Best wishes,

Jim Petersen  
Founder and President