

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMAN PEAKS WILDERNESS

2018 Annual Report

Message from the Director

In the last 14 years our group, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, has changed a lot. We've grown from a newborn and become more like an adult or at least an older teen. Mostly, we've enjoyed getting older. We've had fun times, happy memories and proud moments. We have also had our occasional setback. We have learned a lot from both, especially in the last year.

Along the way we've made a lot of friends. We try to keep in touch

with them all. Our circle of friends makes us stronger. We now have over 8,300 friends from all walks of life and have many different interests. They all want to save the wild Scotchmans.

In 2018, current and former county officials, local business leaders from timber guys to mom and pop shop



owners, hikers, mountain bikers, hunters and anglers all spoke up in favor of the incredibly wild Scotchman Peaks.

We continue to train volunteers in traditional skills. They carry on putting in time and sweat to keep trails open and safe now and in the future.

We have learned a lot in the last year about what needs to be done to save these wild, free and unfenced lands.

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Winter Tracks 2018



Students "ooo" and "aaa" over an avalanche beacon during the 2018 Winter Tracks season.

In 2018, Winter Tracks built on the success from the previous year. By the end of the season, over 350 students from 12 schools in three states learned about topics like

- Tree Identification
- Winter Birding
- Animal Tracking
- Leave No Trace
- Skulls & Pelts
- Avalanche Awareness
- Orienteering

Thank you to the army of volunteers who spent over 800 hours teaching, cooking hot dogs, serving hot cocoa, and keeping groups of students warm and safe.

Interested in being a part of the 2020 season as a volunteer or a participating school? Email winter-tracks@scotchmanpeaks.org

New fleece hats in 2018

Why is this emoji smiling? Because he's (she's?) wearing our new fleece hat, arrived in time for winter. Warm, soft and stylin', they're only \$20! Look for them at Outdoor Experience or write to info@scotchmanpeaks.org





Sandy and ICL Exec Rick Johnson

Compton wins ICL's Axline Award

In 2018, Sandy Compton was awarded the Keith and Pat Axline Award for Environmental Activism for his work in the Scotchman Peaks. The award was presented during Idaho Conservation League's (ICL) Wild Idaho Conference in Stanley. It is ICL's highest award for environmental activism.

"I felt very honored," Compton said. "I'm sure there are others who deserve the award more than me, but I'm very grateful to have received it."

Compton has been working for Wilderness in the Scotchmans since before the Friends existed and has been on staff for 9 years. His writing about the Scotchmans and other wild places can be seen in multiple regional publications and in many of his own books.



Britta and daughter Thea

Mireley promoted to Deputy ED

Britta Mireley was promoted to the newly created position of Deputy Executive Director in 2018. In her new role, Britta will help FSPW achieve our goals and objectives. This full-time position aligns with FSPW's organization needs and Britta's growth as a leader. FSPW is excited at the opportunities this promotion offers for both the organization and Britta.

Brown joins staff in Sanders County

Ray Brown started as FSPW's part-time Sanders County Outreach Coordinator in April. Ray hit the ground running organizing several successful outreach events in Western Montana throughout the year.

Ray is passionate about outdoor education and has led FSPW's involvement with Project ASCENT, an outdoor education program based in Thompson Falls. He also coordinates FSPW's Winter Tracks program for Sanders County.

Ray's other job is the Behavioral Intervention Specialist at Thompson Falls High School with Western Montana Mental Health Center.



Ray Brown and Noxon scholarship winner Phalyn Fickas

Gassmann shines in Lincoln County

Annie Gassmann took on some big tasks in Lincoln County in 2018, including helping organize a very successful Harvest Festival in Libby and coordinating Winter Tracks for Lincoln County. She plans outreach events in Libby and Troy and loves going on hikes in the Scotchmans.



Annie Gassmann is a force for FSPW in Lincoln County



The whole staff enjoys a hike on Trail #999 in the Scotchman Peaks.

Working together to get kids outside

In Summer 2018, FSPW deepened a partnership with Thompson Falls-based Project ASCENT.

"It's all about getting the kids outside," said Rob Christianson, founder and CEO of the non-profit. "It's important that our local youth get a chance to experience camping in Montana and understand that there

are opportunities to work in natural resources."

The program hosted two Bull River base camps for local teenagers over the summer. These are four-day, three-night trips aimed at growing the campers' knowledge of area recreation options, plants and animals, and to learn an appreciation for natural areas.

In 2018, FSPW became more involved and led day-long outings with the students. We're excited to partner with Project ASCENT into 2019 and beyond!

"I've never done anything like this before! I didn't know I could do anything like this."

Ethan, 12-year old from Troy

How the Friends kept busy in 2018

Celebrations

13th Anniversary with Rich Landers - January 13: Friends came together at a packed Panda Theater to hear Rich Landers talk about 40 "Rich" years as Outdoor reporter and editor for the Spokesman-Review.

Extreme Plein Air Art Reception - April 20: Evans Brothers hosted FSPW as their non-profit of the month during April. They also showcased art by participants of the Extreme Plein Air, featuring beautiful paintings and pictures of the Scotchmans. The show included a party where people could talk with the artists about their work.

State of the Scotchmans - May 31: People at the yearly event learned about mountain goats from Gayle Joslin. During her career as a wild-life biologist, Joslin became an expert on mountain goats and studied the goats living in the West Cabinets.

Brews for Benefits @ Big Eddy's - June 13: Big Eddy's Deck Bar kicked off the Scotchmans summer with a brews for benefits event featuring Draught Works brewery.



plus a kid's zone with straw pit, sack races, tug-o-war, face painting, and other games. There was even a harvest dance put on by Karin Hancock Dance.

Wild Night for Wilderness - November 8: It was a wild good time. Sandpoint's newest brewery was packed with folks to celebrate wild places and enjoy some fine Matchwood Brewing beer.



Kootenai Harvest Festival - September 14: The 4th annual event was a huge hit with live music, Farm-to-Table community meal, beer from Cabinet Mountain Brewing, farmer's market and unique craft vendors,

benefits event at Cabinet Mountain Brewing. The following evening, Poz spoke at the Maki Theater .

John Gatchell on 60 years of working for Wilderness - December 11 & 12: Montana Wilderness Association's Senior Conservation Advisor, joined Friends in Thompson Falls and Libby for evenings discussing 60 Years of Fighting for Wilderness.



Outdoor Education

Libby Elementary Outdoor Ed - June 12: As part of the Libby Elementary fifth grade outdoor education day, FSPW staff members had a cross-cut station. They taught students about the art of traditional tools.

Wilderness & Remote First Aid - October 20 & 21: Carol Jenkins certified another group of volunteers in Wilderness & Remote First Aid and CPR/AED.

Adventures

Extreme Plein Air - August 16-19: On the ninth Extreme Plein Air, the artists hiked into the Montana Scotchmans and to Vertigo Basin. Much of the art they created was displayed and sold at the November 8 Wild Night For Wilderness.

Presentations

Jack Nesbit on David Thompson - March 31: FSPW hosted author and historian Jack Nisbet at the Beardmore in Priest River. Nisbet entertained the audience with tails about David Thompson and his journey across western North America.

Jim Posewitz - April 6: Author Jim "Poz" Posewitz presented his latest book, *My Best Shot - Discovering and Living the Montana Conservation Ethic*, at FSPW's brews for

Volunteers gave back big



Just how big? Volunteers donated over \$60,000 worth of time in 2018; 2,506 hours! The 195 folks accomplished a lot.

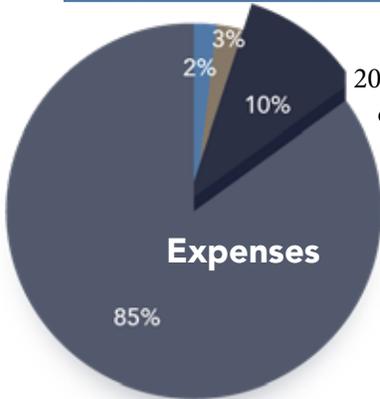
Winter Tracks

Outdoor education is important, but we often don't think about it in the winter. A hearty group of

volunteers helped over 350 kids have fun (and learn) while being outside in the winter.

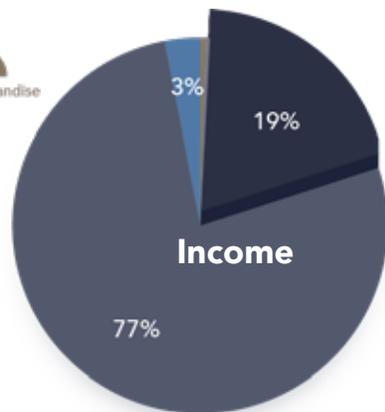
Trail Work

Do you ever wonder who keeps the trails you use in good shape? In the Scotchman Peaks, it's because of hard work by volunteers. In 2018, volunteers did work on eight different trails,



In FSPW's fiscal year 2018, over 200 individuals gave a financial contribution to save the wild Scotchmans. FSPW received grant funds from multiple foundations as well.

Thank you to everyone who donated their time, money or an item for a silent auction or raffle.



Together, we'll save the wild Scotchmans for our children and grandchildren.



including Scotchman Peak. If you see them out there this summer, say thank you. Or better yet, sign up to help.

Trail Ambassadors

Did you hear the one about the person that was bitten by a mountain goat? We did too. For the third year in a row, volunteer Trail Ambassadors hiked Scotchman Peak during the summer and talked to literally hundreds of hikers about safety in mountain goat territory.

Hikes & Outdoor Ed

Spend some time in the Scotchman Peaks, and you will know why the area needs saved. FSPW's volunteer-led hike and outdoor education programs get people of all ages outside to fall (deeper) in love with nature. This season there were 15 hikes and 8 adult outdoor education field days.



STOKR & Chafe150 Rest Stops

For the second year in a row, the #1 Break Stop for the Chafe150 bike race went to FSPW.

That's not the only bike ride we like to be a part of. We also sponsor a rest stop for the STOKR (Scenic Tour of the Kootenai River) bike tour.

Thank you to all the volunteers that make both days fun!



Director's Report, from page 5

Support from all corners of the community grows for saving some wild country, in our backyard, in the Scotchman Peaks. Many people agree that we need places to roam. We need places where we can be alone in our thoughts. Our children and grandchildren deserve to be able to have these same chances to find wild places.

—Phil Hough

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