

# Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

*For Our Families, For Tomorrow*



The *Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness* is a volunteer driven group of concerned residents from North Idaho and Western Montana with over 2,700 supporters who believe that our region would benefit from protecting the 88,000-acre Scotchman Peaks roadless area through wilderness designation.

## **Ecological Benefit of Wilderness Designation for the Scotchmans:**

- Protect water quality, rare, endangered and sensitive flora and fauna (including grizzly bears, Canada lynx, mountain goat, wolves, bald eagles and bull trout).
- Additional habitats not well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System (low elevation boreal forests and cedar/hemlock communities.)

## **The Scotchman Are Well Situated for Wilderness because:**

- Less than 4% of the Kootenai Forest is presently protected as wilderness.
- No new wilderness has been designated on this forest since 1964.
- The Kootenai has less wilderness than any other national forest in Montana.
- There are 0 acres of designated wilderness in the five Idaho Panhandle counties.

## **Dispelling Myths - Wilderness Designation for the Scotchmans Does NOT:**

- Close any existing roads
- Limit hunting, fishing, hiking, berry picking or any non-mechanized activities (in fact it enhances these activities).
- Impact any existing, or proposed, timber or mining jobs.

## **Economic Impact – What Wilderness DOES do:**

- Local communities will benefit from the unparalleled recreational and economic opportunities which wilderness provides.
- Many studies have indicated a strong link between protected public lands and diverse, vibrant western economies.
- We are shifting from extraction-based industries to business dependant upon natural beauty and “quality of life” which wilderness can provide.

## **We Have Received Resolutions of Support or Endorsements From**

*Governor Schweitzer of Montana*

*City of Thompson Falls*

*Plains & Paradise Chamber Commerce*

*Sanders County Ledger*

*River Journal*

*Libby Rod and Gun Club*

*Bull Lake Rod and Gun Club*

*Montana Wildlife Federation*

*Montana Backcountry Horsemen*

*Bonner County Commissioners*

*Cities of Sandpoint and Ponderay*

*Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce*

*Sandpoint Kiwanis*

*Idaho Native Plant Society*

*Bonner County Daily Bee*

*Spokane Mountaineers*

*MT Chapter Backcountry Hunters/Anglers*

*Federation of Western Outdoor Clubs*

Wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks makes both ecologic *and* economic sense for our region, for our families, for our future. For more information visit us at:

**[www.ScotchmanPeaks.org](http://www.ScotchmanPeaks.org)**

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