

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

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