

The treasure of the Scotchman Peaks lies in a diversity of flora, fauna, geology and habitat.



The Scotchman Peaks are carved almost entirely out of one block of stone that began twisting eons ago on an axis dictated by the collision of the North American and Pacific tectonic plates. As one corner rose, the other sank; until the difference in strata along the Hope Fault (marking the southwestern edge of the Scotchmans) is now measured in tens of thousands of feet. The end of the Wisconsin Ice Age, just 12,000 years ago, put the finishing touches on the peaks and canyons between Bull River in Montana and Lightning Creek in Idaho. (In 2012 Lightning Creek was designated a Treasured Landscape by the National Forest Foundation.)

This base of glaciated Precambrian stone — some of the oldest on the planet — is the foundation for a diverse and beautiful place full of things wild and lovely, animate and not. Mountain hemlock, whitebark pine and alpine larch dominate the forest canopy near the ridge tops. Water-laden draws hold some of the largest trees of the Inland Northwest, including Douglas fir, western white pine, larch and cedar. The Ross Creek Grove, the largest trees in Montana, is part of an exemplary temperate rainforest where Western red cedars more than 10 feet in diameter still grow beside golden thread, devil's club, thimble-berry, maiden-hair fern, pesky mountain alder and tiny woodland orchids.

On high, south-facing slopes are scree fields, ponderosa and lodgepole pine forest and meadows bedecked with beargrass, Indian paintbrush, yarrow, mariposa lily, pearly everlasting, arrowleaf balsamroot, wild chives and huckleberries, Idaho's state fruit.

Thriving here among the plants and upon the rocks are hundreds of creatures of all sizes. Mule deer. Canyon wren. West slope cutthroat trout. Moose. Ptarmigan. Red-Tailed hawk. Elk. Coyote. White tail deer. Pileated woodpecker. Bushy-tailed wood rat. Black bear. Rainbow trout. Marten. Weasel. Wolverine. Flicker. Mountain lion. Golden eagle. Hummingbird. Grizzly bear. Chipmunk. Mountain goat. This is a very abbreviated list.

These mountains, too, are the source of billions of gallons of clean water, "manufactured" annually by Mother Nature and delivered via dozens of streams into the Clark Fork, Bull and Kootenai Rivers.

For humans, the resources of the Scotchmans are irreplaceable. Beside water and hunting and gathering opportunities are the priceless benefits of solitary recreation, silence and that rarest commodity, the chance to be self-reliant and self-directed in a world sans the trappings we have come to depend on almost automatically.

In wilderness, we can — and find we need to — stop taking things for granted, including ourselves.

About Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness (FSPW) is a grassroots, volunteer-driven, 501(c)3 organization formed in January, 2005, by citizens of Montana and Idaho to preserve one of the last and largest wild areas in our region — the Scotchman Peaks roadless area.

We believe that the 88,000-acre Scotchman Peaks roadless area, spanning the Idaho/Montana border roughly 60 miles south of Canada, deserves permanent protection as wilderness. Since the 1970s, when the U.S. Forest Service carried out extensive evaluations of lands suitable for wilderness, this rugged, scenic and biologically diverse portion of the West Cabinet Mountains has been managed for its wilderness potential. We conduct education, outreach, and stewardship to preserve the wilderness character of the Scotchman Peaks. Faced with growth and change, we want to make sure that this special place remains the same.

Our local communities will benefit from the unparalleled recreational, environmental and economic opportunities which wilderness provides. Our goal is to increase awareness within our communities about the value of wilderness designation for the Scotchmans. We hope you will use this map to explore the Scotchmans and discover first hand this special area!

Become a Friend online at

www.scotchmanpeaks.org/subscribe or write to
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This map funded in part by the Idaho Conservation League
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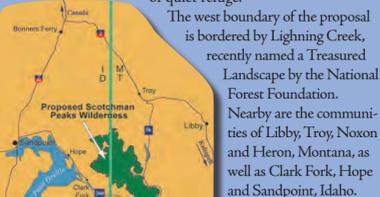


What is a Wilderness Area?

It is federal land protected under the 1964 National Wilderness Preservation System. This Act states: "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."

Where are the Scotchman Peaks?

Looming above Lake Pend Oreille and the Clark Fork River in the Cabinet Mountains, Scotchman Peak is the highest point in Bonner County, Idaho, at 7,009 feet. Straddling the Idaho/Montana border, the Scotchman Peaks offer a place of quiet refuge.



The west boundary of the proposal is bordered by Lightning Creek, recently named a Treasured Landscape by the National Forest Foundation. Nearby are the communities of Libby, Troy, Noxon and Heron, Montana, as well as Clark Fork, Hope and Sandpoint, Idaho.

Logo: Jared Johnston
Brochure Design: Sandy Compton & Blue Creek Press
Inset map: Silvie Amezcua White; Large map (other side): Brad Smith
Photography by Sandy Compton, Monte Dodge, Phil Hough, Jim Mellen and Lauren Mitchell

Hikes in the Scotchmans

① **East Fork Creek Trail #134** In 2011 the IPNF finished what flooding several years earlier began — converting the former East Fork road to a trail. Ascend this trail for 8 miles on the south slope of Lightning Peak or use it to access East Fork Peak Trail #563. **Group size limit: 12**

② **Morris Creek Trail #132** On a hot summer day the shaded canopy of Morris Creek will keep you cool. The modest rise in elevation is far less demanding than some of the "Peaks" but will still make you earn your rewards. Wildflowers, mushrooms and a good look back at Beetop are a delight. **Group size limit: 12**

③ **Regal Creek Trail #556** begins with a steady climb, crossing rock fields within the first mile with open views of Lightning Creek Valley. It continues on across Regal Creek and then switchbacks its way for another 2 miles up to an old mine. **Group size limit: 12**

④ **Goat Mountain Trail #35** is arguably the steepest trail in Idaho — or anywhere — gaining 4,000 feet in less than 3 miles. Loose sand, gravel, grass and brush compound the challenge on the lower trail. Navigation skills and good knees are required. This trail is a knee buster — no wonder that it's called "Goat Mountain!" **Group size limit: 8**

⑤ **Scotchman Peak Trail #65** is the "grand-daddy" of all hikes in the Scotchmans, a relatively short (4 miles), steep climb up the namesake peak. A well-worn tread is usually in good shape and leads to the highest point in Bonner County (7,009 feet). Stunning panoramas of Lake Pend Oreille begin two thirds of the way up and continue to unfold as you reach the summit. Snow can linger late into summer. **Group size limit: 12**

⑥ **Big Eddy Trail #998** is the easiest access to Star Peak. Big Eddy Trail starts near MP 6 on MT Highway 200 near the Clark Fork River and climbs 4,000 feet. The elevation gain is comparable to Scotchman Peak, but spread over 5 miles (one way), the grade is slightly more forgiving. Pillick Ridge Trail #1036 offers another — much longer — route option to the summit of Star Peak. This is a dry trail. **Group size limit: 8**

⑦ **Blacktail Creek Trail #997** may look like it leads nowhere, but it's a great out and back hike for anyone with a little time to look into the wild Scotchmans. A well-maintained tread and some nice views make it worth the work. If you are feeling adventurous, bushwhack up the fall line to Trail #1036. **Group size limit: 8**



⑧ **Pillick Ridge Trail #1036** is Star Peak the hard way, 11 miles beginning with a three-mile, 3400-foot hump through heavy timber from Bull River to the top of Pillick Ridge. From there, the ridge rolls west another 8 miles to Star, affording spectacular views of Star Ridge, Bull River Valley, the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness and the Clark Fork River. For a great open loop, combine Trails #998 and #1036 in any order. Pack lots of water. **Group size limit: 8**

⑨ **Dry Creek Trail #1020** is an easy to moderate route leading to strenuous trails. From the intersection of MT Highway 56 and Dry Creek Road, the tread winds south five miles between Bull River and the eastern edge of the proposed wilderness to Napoleon Gulch Trail #1035, passing Hamilton Gulch Trail #1019 and Star Gulch Trail #1016 along the way. #1035 connects to Pillick Ridge #1036; #1015 leads to Star Peak; and #1019 takes hikers toward — but not to — Billiard Table. **Group size limit on #1021: 12; Limit on #1019, #1016 and #1035: 8**

⑩ **Snowshoe Trail Head for Ross Creek Cedars** is the beginning of a great moderate snowshoe hike in the Scotchmans along the road to Ross Creek Cedars, closed in winter. Follow the grade to the cedars and beyond for a great view of winter in the West Cabinets. For profound solitude there is no substitute for a winter walk in this magnificent grove! Snow falling softly on a cathedral of cedars is magical. **Group size limit: 12**

⑪ **Ross Creek Cedars Nature Trail #405** lies under a canopy of cedar, providing cool respite from summer sun, and huge old growth trees offer a measure of solitude even when the parking lot fills. Any small crowds can be left behind by following Trail #142 off the west end of the Ross Creek Cedars Loop and into the backcountry.

⑫ **Spar Peak (Trail #324) and Little Spar Lake (Trail #143)** begin from the same trailhead and lead to beautifully different destinations. A steady climb along #324 through various life zones brings one to the monolithic "thumb" of Spar Peak, with expansive views of the Scotchman Peaks interior valleys and peaks. Continue past the Spar Peak intersection on #142 for a moderate hike through the lush Spar Creek canyon, a fine example of interior rain forest, to sparkling, green Little Spar Lake, one of the best overnight options in the Scotchmans. Snow melt can make an early season crossing of Little Spar Creek difficult. **Group size limit on these trails is 8. Use established camp sites only.**



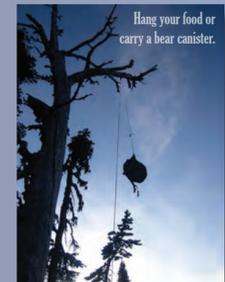
We are Friends of Scotchman Peaks...

Stewardship equals Advocacy

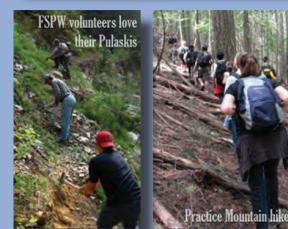
Year around, no matter the weather, people of all ages take part in FSPW stewardship events, from wolverine leads to helping at outreach booths. FSPW volunteers lead hikes both winter and summer, as well as build and maintain trails, help control weeds and assist agency partners. Projects include a highly successful rare carnivore study with Idaho Fish and Game, Idaho Conservation League, Selkirk Outdoor Leadership and Education and other community partners.

On the Cabinet Ranger District, FSPW volunteers are reclaiming two-and-a-half miles of the historic Star Peak trail as well as assisting the Kootenai National Forest in a restoration project aimed at saving the Star Peak lookout, site of the first fire lookout on the Cabinet National Forest. Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness also regularly does trail work on both the Sandpoint and Three Rivers Ranger Districts, as well as sponsoring educational hikes and classes on such diverse subjects as tracking, geology and native plants.

You can become a Friend of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/subscribe



group size limit of eight. Most, but not all, trails in the Lightning Creek drainage have a group size limit of 12. These are voluntary limits that FSPW has agreed with their Forest Service partners. Please respect them. Size limits are listed with the hike descriptions on this page. Leave No Trace: Leaving your mark is overrated. Visit <http://lnt.org/learn/7-principles>



...working for Wilderness in the Scotchmans

Our Part of the Bargain

As stewards of and visitors in this place, there are certain things we must remember.

Food: Protect your food and wildlife by storing rations securely. Mountain goats are easily habituated to human, especially in pursuit of salt and other rare minerals. Both the Panhandle and Kootenai National Forest have food storage orders in place to protect you from bears and bears from you. Do not feed any wild animal, no matter if they are a chipmunk, goat or a grizzly bear.

Visit <http://bit.ly/BearProof> to learn specifics.

Group size: Backcountry (off trail) hikes and most trails on the east face of the Scotchmans have a group size limit of 12. These are voluntary limits that FSPW has agreed with their Forest Service partners. Please respect them. Size limits are listed with the hike descriptions on this page. Leave No Trace: Leaving your mark is overrated. Visit <http://lnt.org/learn/7-principles>

Mountain Goats are wild!

- Respect their personal space and presence.
- Don't feed mountain goats. They will associate humans with food, which leads to dependence.
- Don't urinate near the trail. Goats will discover that human urine is a great source of salt.
- Don't leave backpacks unattended. Goats will chew off sweaty straps.

Leave Goats Wild!

Keep a respectful distance from wildlife at all times

The Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

www.ScotchmanPeaks.org
Detailed Map Inside
2013 Edition



The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness invite you to join us in seeking protection for this wild, beautiful place.



The Scotchmans



Star Peak Lookout stands above the stacked rock shelter built in 1910.

Fire lookouts were an important part of Scotchman Peaks and surrounding forests. The first lookout on the Cabinet National Forest was on Star Peak in 1907: a tent below the summit with an alidade on the peak. A stone cabin was built in 1910, joined later by an "L-4" cabin which stands on the summit today.

Scotchman Peak Lookout stood sentinel on the 7,009-foot rocky crag. Beginning with an alidade in 1922 and then a cupola cabin in 1926, this lookout was a fixture for decades.

— Source: Conrad Vogel www.conradlookouts.com

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness is partnered with the Forest Service in restoration efforts of the Star Peak lookout.

David Thompson explored upstream from Lake Pend Oreille along the Clark Fork River in 1811, and likely gazed as we do at Scotchman Peaks rocky rampart. Not much about Scotchman and the surrounding landscape has changed in the two centuries since. Except for a trail climbing its southwestern flank and a lookout that was erected and has subsequently fallen into a small pile of ruins, that part of the West Cabinets known as the Scotchman Peaks has remained pretty much the same for two hundred years — despite the fact that many other areas have been roaded, logged, mined and otherwise developed in some way for the convenience of modern man.

With the opportunity before us to preserve what wildlands are left on the Idaho Panhandle and Kootenai National Forests, the Scotchmans stand out as a premier wilderness, a remnant of what this country looked like long before David Thompson visited the shores of Lake Pend Oreille. For 88,000 acres — 135

square miles — the potential for wilderness protection remains an option in the Scotchman Peaks, an opportunity that shouldn't be lost.

But there is work to do for those who love backcountry places like this. The campaign for Scotchman Peaks Wilderness will be won by people willing to take a stand for its protection. You can do that by, first of all, joining the Friends, and then by writing letters, making phone calls and letting family, friends and neighbors across the United States know how special the Scotchmans are and how important they are for clean water, quality wildlife habitat and as a place of solitude and spectacular beauty.

The big picture is made of many smaller ones.



Resources

Trails of the Wild Cabinets, by Dennis Nicholls. Available at www.sandpointonline.com/general-store

Peak Experience, the newsletter of FSPW Sign up at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/subscribe

USGS Quad maps for the area include: Cabinet, Benning Mountain and Scotchman Peak, Idaho; Heron, Sawtooth Mountain and Spar Lake, Montana

National Forest/Forest Service Offices

Idaho Panhandle National Forest Sandpoint (Idaho) Ranger District 208-263-5111 • www.fs.fed.us/ipnf/sandpoint

Kootenai National Forest Supervising Office (Libby, Montana) 406-293-6211 • www.fs.usda.gov/kootenai

Three Rivers Ranger District (Troy, Montana) 406-295-4693 • 12858 Highway 2 59935

Cabinet Ranger District (Trout Creek, Montana) 406-827-3533 • 2693 Highway 200 58974

The Scotchmans in the Movies

Wildman Pictures (www.wildmanpictures.com) has produced two documentary films about the Scotchman Peaks and the effort to have them added to the national wilderness system. *En Plein Air* (2011) documents the artists and terrain of the Extreme Plein Air, an annual FSPW-sponsored wilderness painting expedition ala Thomas Moran. *Grass//Routes* (2013) focuses on the landscape and the efforts of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness to protect it.