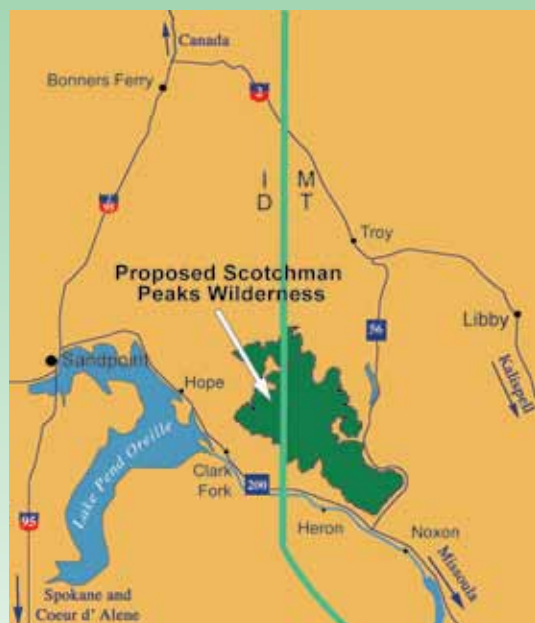


Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness 2013 Annual Report

Mission Statement

“Spanning the Idaho/Montana border, the Scotchmans are one of the last, and largest, wild areas in our region. We conduct education, outreach and stewardship activities to preserve the rugged, scenic and biologically diverse 88,000 acre Scotchman Peaks Roadless Area. We believe the Scotchman Peaks deserve congressional designation as Wilderness for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations.”



Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc. (FSPW) is a non-profit organization. The proceeds from all events and sales benefit our wilderness preservation efforts. Donations are tax deductible.



Three years in the making, Grass Routes: Changing The Conversation was released on March 14, 2013. This film from Wildman Pictures, produced with funding and staff help from the Friends, not only showcases the Peaks, but also demonstrates the innovative methods the Friends use to build consensus in local communities.

By Phil Hough, Executive Director.

Support for wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks is growing. As of the end of 2013, we are distributing our newsletter to our over 4,500 supporters 6 times per year; and to over 85 businesses throughout the region. We now have over 1,750 Facebook Fans!

During the last year we sponsored a number of other events in all three counties, “tabled” at a dozen other public events others and made over a dozen presentations to community groups. We opened an office in Libby to be more effective in planning programs to change the conversation in Lincoln County.

In March of 2013, FSPW and Wildman Pictures released the movie *Grass Routes: Changing the Conversation*, which documents our unique ways of building consensus and highlights our collaborations with and support from non-traditional allies such in the timber and mining industries.

Our stewardship work last summer included completing a mile of new trail construction on the historical “Big Eddy” Star peak trail. This trail will



Montana Conservation Corps joins FSPW volunteers on Star Peak Trail.

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About the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc. (FSPW) was formed in January, 2005 by residents of northern Idaho and northwest Montana who believe the Scotchman Peaks roadless area deserves permanent protection as wilderness. In the 9 northern counties of the Idaho Panhandle there are no acres of designated wilderness. Additionally, the Kootenai National forest has the smallest percentage of wilderness (less than 4%) of any national forest in Montana.

Wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks would offer the highest level of protection for key habitat, in the heart of the Yellowstone to Yukon corridor (Y2Y.net), vital to the conservation of a number of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species including: grizzly bear, bull trout, west slope cutthroat trout, Canada lynx, wolverine, mountain goat and grey wolves. This botanically rich landscape includes mid-level cedar-hemlock forests and some of the southernmost occurrences of interior rain forest, neither of which are well protected in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Our primary goal is conservation of this landscape through Wilderness designation.



Wilderness First Aid training for key volunteers, including hike leaders and crew bosses

Our local communities will benefit from the unparalleled recreational and economic opportunities which wilderness provides. Studies have indicated that there is a strong link between protected public lands and diverse, vibrant economies. As we shift from extraction-based industries to a more diverse and vibrant economy based, in part, on the natural beauty and outdoors “quality of life”, our communities benefit from preserving and protecting our natural resources.

We are a grassroots, non-profit, 501c3 with a small staff, supported by passionate and dedicated board and several key volunteers who assist us in vital programs. In addition we have a large cadre of volunteers who lead hikes, swing Pulaskis, set winter camera stations to look for wildlife or simply show up at events to assist us with outreach. Our single focus is protecting the Scotchman Peaks Roadless area through Wilderness designation and good stewardship practices which will preserve these unique assets for current and future generations.

Through education and outreach we are building community awareness and support, making wilderness designation politically inevitable for the Scotchmans. Our most effective outreach strategies include a coordinated media presence,



Stewardship is the purest form of advocacy. Nothing develops a sense of place like working to help preserve it. The Star Peak Allstars are still smiling at the end of the day

Photo by Sandy Compton

a dynamic website and social media presence, publication and distribution of our free newsletters and hiking maps. We remove the myths about wilderness through educational events and presentations done by ourselves and resource specialists. On the ground we make a difference with our year round guided hikes and stewardship activities including trail maintenance series, wildlife and botanical habitat surveys.

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A few days in the back country is good for the soul, and gives FSPW staff and volunteer hike leaders opportunity to teach wilderness values and etiquette to old and young alike.

Photo by Sandy Compton



Board, Staff and Key Volunteers

The Board

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The Staff

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Phil Hough, Sagle, ID
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Max Zuberbuhler, our youngest volunteer. He and newsletter production volunteer Celeste Grace show that volunteering isn't all about work, but when it's time . . . look out!



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2014 SUMMER INTERN/RANGER

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INVASIVE WEED SPECIALIST

Ken Thacker, Sagle, Idaho

Partners: Agencies, NGOs and Companies we are working with . . . for wilderness!



Joel Sather, USFS Rec Tech on the Kootenai National Forest gives saw pointers to vols.





2013 Calendar: A sampler from “Along the Trail”



January 12

January 5: 40-plus volunteers took part in training with IDFG, ICL and SOLE for the winter rare forest carnivore study

January 12: Fourteen students enjoyed a winter tracking class with Brian Baxter.

February 8: FSPW and ICL presented the Winter Wildlands

Film Festival at the Eagles Club in Coeur d' Alene.

February 23: Fourteen students enjoyed a winter ecology class with Brian Baxter.

March 14: 250 people attended the Sandpoint premier of Grass Routes, the movie about FSPW and the Scotchman Peaks at the Panida Theater. En Plein Air was also shown.

April 5: Kristen Nowicki joined the FSPW staff as projects and program assistant

April 6: Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness signed up 17 new Friends at the Libby Health Fair in the Memorial Center.

May 10 – 12: FSPW staff and volunteers received chainsaw, crosscut and trail building skills training at Bull River Campground.

May 31: The State of the Scotchman was held at Eureka West in Sandpoint with a presentation from Ruffwear spokesman Whitney La Ruffa and his hiking companion Karluk the dog.

June 9: Volunteers from FSPW, Cabinet Resource Group and the Forest Service joined forces for National Trails Day work at Bull River Campground prior to the annual Sanders County Picnic.

June 12 – 14: FSPW, Master Naturalists and Native Plant Society volunteers joined FSPW and Forest Service staff training in botanical survey techniques and identification of native plants for a botanical study project in the Lightning Creek “Treasured Landscape.”

June 24 – 26 and 28 – 30: FSPW staff and volunteers took part in Wilderness First Aid Classes with Long Leaf Medical instructing

July 4: Friends of Scotchman Peaks marched in parades in Noxon, Heron, Clark Fork and Sandpoint.

July 12: Montana Conservation Corps and FSPW volunteers cut a quarter mile of new tread on the Star Peak trail

July 25: Noxious weeds survey day in Lightning Creek .

July 29: FSPW volunteers helped the Montana Conservation Corps haul food, water and tools to their camp at Star Peak. August 6: FSPW staff and vols took a film crew from Idaho Public Television’s *Outdoor Idaho* up Scotchman Peak.

August 9: Six volunteers and staff cut 200 yards of new tread on the Star Peak Historic trail reconstruction.

August 10 – 11: Volunteers marched in the Huckleberry Festival parade in Trout Creek and signed up new Friends.

August 17: FSPW had an info table at the Idaho Master Naturalist Water Life Discovery Center Open House featuring Jack Nisbet

August 27 & 28: Botanical survey days in Lightning Creek .

September 9 - 12: Kristen Nowicki and FSPW vols assisted with a botanical survey in Lightning Creek NFF “Treasured Landscape.”

September 13: Sandy Compton and volunteer Brad Smith began a realignment of the lower portion of the Scotchman Peak trail.

October 4: FSPW, in cooperation with the Forest Service and the National Forest Foundation, celebrated National Public Lands Day with a workday in Morris Creek and Mud Creek in the National Forest Foundation’s Treasured Landscape in Lightning Creek; Jacob Styer led volunteers on the annual highway cleanup day on Highway 200.

October 4 – 6: Sixth Annual Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout, headquartered at Kally Thurman’s Outskirts Gallery in Hope.

October 13: FSPW Volunteer Appreciation Day at Beyond Hope Resort. Volunteers were honored for their summer service.

October 24: Premier of Summit Idaho on Idaho Public Television featured a 6 minute segment on Scotchman Peak.

View the video online at <http://video.idahoptv.org/video/2365102528/>



October 13

October 24 – 27: Sandy Compton and Phil Hough attended the National Wilderness Stewardship Conference in Big Bear California.

November 15: FSPW and Idaho Conservation League teamed up to show A Fierce Green Fire and Grass Routes: Changing the Conversation. Sandpoint Events Center.

November 20: Open House at our new office in Libby at the corner of Mineral Avenue and Fourth Street in Libby.

November 23: Phil Hough and Kristen Nowicki presented to the Kinnickinnick Native Plant Society about the results of the 2013 Treasured Landscape project in Lightning Creek.

December 7: Rare Carnivore research station training was held at the Sandpoint Ranger District Office for 25-plus volunteers on Ontario near Highway 2 in Sandpoint.



November 15



Looking Forward to 2014

When President Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law 50 years ago on September 3rd, 1964, he noted: **“If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it.”**

To commemorate the Wilderness Act's 50th anniversary our country will celebrate this lasting legacy of lands. However, the vision of the wilderness act is not yet complete; it continues to inspire actions from citizen and congress alike. Many areas, like the Scotchman Peaks, continue to beat with a wild heart, have been recommended for wilderness and are fixed squarely in the eyes and hearts of those who have a special connection to these places.

Brian Schweitzer, former Governor of Montana, has agreed to be our keynote speaker at a 3 day celebration of 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act in July at the Bull Lake Rod and Gun Club! This weekend is part of a series of events this summer to commemorate this 50th Anniversary and its vision, celebrations filled with speakers, entertainment, displays, workshops, hikes, trail projects and activities for kids of all ages! In addition we will also hold 50th anniversary celebrations in Libby August 23 with Wiley and the Wild West in concert and in Sandpoint on September 6.

We are excited about our upcoming second annual trail skills class where we will train both volunteers and project leaders as stewards for the Scotchman Peaks. And we are delighted to host renowned long distance hiker and holder of the Fastest Known Time on the Pacific Crest Trail, Heather Anderson, to talk at our annual “State of the Scotchmans” in May.

Watch for our series of monthly columns for the Western News featuring Lincoln County residents and their relationship with wild lands.

And if you are from the Libby or Troy area, you will be interested in attending one or more of our Community Prosperity Forums. We are partnering with a variety of community organizations and businesses to put in a series of forums to look at how to create a more vibrant economy and culture in rural communities that are in transition. We want to foster a forward looking vision in which conservation is valued as one of the many underpinnings of communities that prosper.

From compelling speakers, to hikes, trail work and more, we have a fun year planned for both our current friends as well as new supporters! Come join us and bring your neighbor, friends or out of town guests!

We anticipate that the release of the Final Forest Plan this spring or summer will contain strong recommendations for Wilderness for the Scotchman Peaks and provide the vision which will increase support for designating the area as Wilderness.



Financials

These financial statements are based on our most recently completed fiscal year, Fiscal 2013 which began Oct 1, 2012 and ended Sept 30th, 2013. Because our accounting is handled on a cash basis, we report expenditures and receipts at they are actually transacted.

2013 Revenue

Grants	102,154	81.1%
Donors	21,338	16.9%
Merchandise	2,289	1.8%
Other	122	0.2%
Total	125,903	

2013 Expenses

Programs	128,088	87.8%
Admin	10,922	7.5%
Merchandise	5,907	4.1%
Misc.	870	0.6%
Total	145,787	

In Fiscal 2013 we received \$125,903 in support from individual donors, merchandise sales, fundraisers, and foundation grants. The following foundations provided support: Cinnabar, Campion, Confidence Foundation, Wilburforce, Pew Charitable Trust's Campaign for America's Wilderness, National Forest Foundation, National Environmental Education Foundation, Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative, Endo-Bio, Equinox Foundation. Our expenses totaled \$145,787. We started the year with a cash balance of \$52,125. We ended the fiscal year on Sept 30 with \$32,602.

One of our major funders committed to support during fiscal 2013, but the payment was made shortly after the fiscal year ended, so these funds (approximately \$23,000) will not show as revenue until fiscal 2014. If we were on an accrual basis of accounting and were able to include that amount in our revenue, our revenue for 2013 would have exceeded expenses and our reserves on hand would have grown slightly. However, we will record this revenue in fiscal 2014 and anticipate that by the end of that fiscal our reserves will be made whole.



In Review from page 1

reduce user conflict, provide a less steep and more scenic hike and improve access to the backcountry, helping more people to experience the charms of the Scotchmans.

Treasured Landscapes: Unforgettable Experiences

As part of the National Forest Foundation's designation of the Lightning Creek drainage as a "Treasured Landscape" we partnered with the forest service last summer to conduct surveys on about 3500 acres of White bark Pine habitat which will be used for plans for their reintroduction. We also surveyed for weeds, covering 35 miles on 9 trails helping the Forest Service on weed mitigation plans.

In September, the release of the Final Draft of the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forest's Land Management Plan Updates included strong Wilderness recommendations for the Scotchman Peaks. Several positive media stories were syndicated and carried in newspapers



FSPW Exec Phil Hough and USFS Botanist Jennifer Costich-Thompson, discuss logistics for backcountry wilderness travel and research plot location in the National Forest Foundation "Treasured Landscape."

Photo by Kristen Nowicki

around the region and the country.

This winter we are in our fourth year of partnership with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to deploy wildlife cameras and look for wolverines and other rare forest carnivores. This has been an exciting project, documenting the presence of a significant population of fishers in the West Cabinet Mountains!

Participating in the Panhandle Forest Collaborative and the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders has led to better understanding and increased support from diverse groups, building stronger community consensus, important as we look towards future prospects for legislation that would protect the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness.

About the Friends from page 2

We ask for "supporters" rather than members. Instead of asking people to join us against something negative, we ask people to support us for something positive. This has brought together people reluctant to "join" groups, or who do not ordinarily support environmental causes. The result is positive community dialogue around wilderness values and conservation issues. This has allowed us to grow quickly in size and diversity. The result is a large network through which we can distribute our educational material and alerts and sizable attendance for hikes and other events.

For more information about the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness visit us at www.ScotchmanPeaks.org or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ScotchmanPeaks

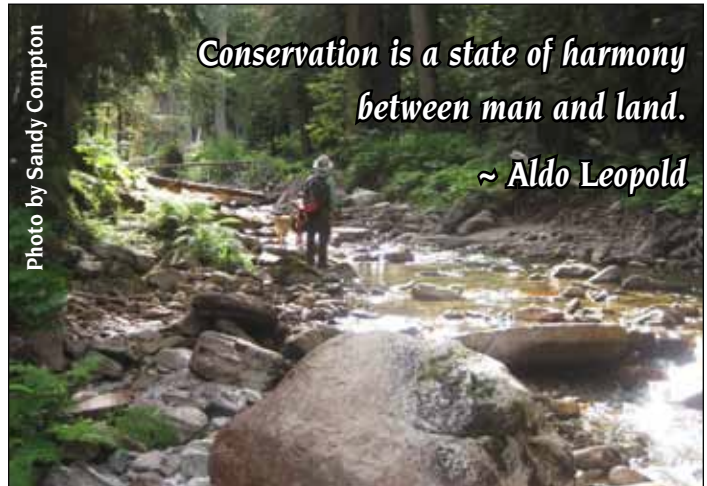


Photo by Sandy Compton

Conservation is a state of harmony between man and land.

~ Aldo Leopold



Vertigo Ridge in the Heart of the Scotchmans