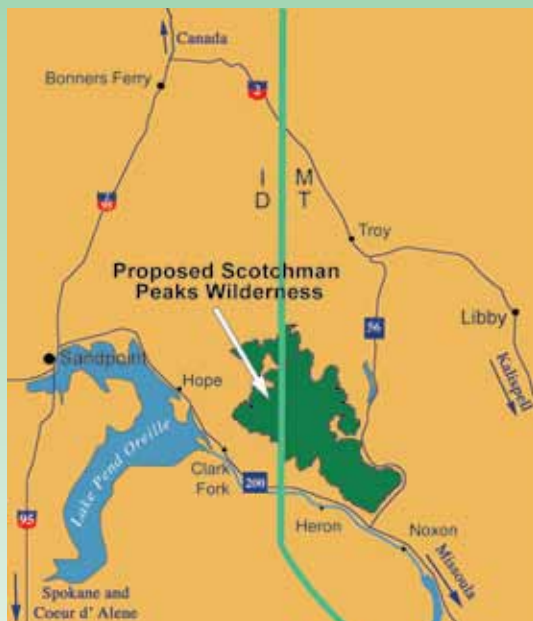


# Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness 2014 Annual Report



## 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.



**Trail 999 was dedicated on September 21, 2014, marking the end of three years of work on reclaiming the Historic Star Peak tread. Shown here are (back row) Holly Clements, Cabinet District Ranger John Gubel, Intern Joe Zimmerman, Mark Sheets, FSPW Exec Phil Hough, Ken Thacker (front row) Phil Degens, Trail supervisor Golden Canine, FSPW staffer Sandy Compton, USFS Liason Joel Sather and sons, and Irv McGeachy.**

### By Phil Hough, Executive Director

At the close of 2014, our tenth anniversary is less than a month away. With a decade under our belts, we have learned a lot. And we've grown in size and sophistication. While we still depend on volunteers for several key staff functions and for all of our many outreach and stewardship projects, we now have a full time Executive Director, 3 permanent part time program and outreach positions, a summer backcountry ranger, and various formal internships and informal mentoring programs.

We continue to work to gain support from a great diversity of individuals and organizations, representing a large cross section of the community. We are changing the conversation and have built a constituency for conservation, for preserving special places like the Scotchman Peaks. A shared love for special places brings diverse people together. Perhaps the one and only common link among our "friends" is that they supported the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness.

Our new supporters continue to grow at a rate of about 40 new friends each month; in December we added our 5000th friend, Karen Robinson, and are closing in on 2,000 Facebook fans! Over 80% of our friends live within a couple hours drive of the Scotchman Peaks, although we do have friends in 47 states and Washington DC. (We'd like to have more in DC!)

*Continued on Page 2*

**2014, from page 1**

Our newsletter is now in its 10th year with 57 editions published and counting. It's distributed at over 85 local businesses and reaches an estimated minimum of 10,000 thousand people.

We now have 3 offices – one in each county where we host, co-host, and sponsor or participate in dozens of events each year.



Among the highlights this year were three events we hosted or co-hosted to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act and celebrate the vision and hope which it provides for our own efforts. These events combined brought over 500 people together to celebrate Wilderness!

In Libby Montana we have partnered with over a dozen businesses and organizations to put on a series of "Community Prosperity" Forums, examining how Lincoln County can create a forward looking vision for creating a vibrant and prosperous community!

We help people to contribute to "Voices in the Wilderness", a monthly column in the Western News (Libby MT) focusing on local, personal connections to Wilderness. These voices cover a wide range of experience, personalities and perspectives, strengthening our notion that Wilderness is a shared value.



**TIPS kids learn about the woods first hand from Kristen Nowicki.**

In the last year we've led over 20 hikes or field trips engaging over 200 people in a firsthand experience with the Scotchmans. Our summer hike series included several hikes for the first year of our Community Kids hike program. We took at risk kids from the Transitions in Progress program into the woods — and watched lives change right in front of our eyes.



**We share an office with Montana Wilderness Association in Libby**

We've built a dedicated group of volunteer stewards with skills and experience in trail maintenance, weed control, citizens' science, wildlife biology, botany and other skills. We have learned more about the nature of our local wild lands from Whitebark Pine to Wolverines, engaging over 100 volunteers on our stewardship projects in the last year.

Our stewardship work included the completion of 3 miles of new trail up Star Peak, improving the trail experience. In its third year, our backcountry ranger-intern program, a partnership with the Idaho Panhandle and Kootenai National Forests, expanded its focus to include more on backcountry education.

We are helping to teach that Mountain Goats are not the friendly creatures they seem to be; that they are wild and need to be left alone.

Our Wolverine/Rare Forest Carnivore Study (part of Idaho Department of Fish and Game's "Multi Species Baseline Initiative") wrapped up its 4 years of data collection in the spring of 2014. As we enter the winter of 2014-2015, we are taking the cameras and volunteer knowledge and enthusiasm for wildlife monitoring back into the field with our "Winter Tracks" program,

focused on engaging youth in a better understanding and appreciation of the natural world.

As we celebrate our first decade, our work goes on. Through our hikes, field trips, outreach, education and stewardship programs we continue to build community consensus and commitment for Wilderness. In October two



**FSPW took two of the Bonner County Commissioners to the top of Scotchman Peak. We expect an endorsement from the Commission in early 2015.**

of the Bonner County Commissioners climbed to the top of Scotchman Peak to unfurl a banner proclaiming the county's support for Wilderness!

We have built a community, connecting people with different backgrounds and perspectives who all call themselves Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness!

## 2014 by the numbers — a nonstatistical look at some of our statistics

**5,042 Friends/Supporters, 1976 Facebook friends**, as of January 2015

**12,000-plus unique visitors** to our website

**Media coverage** has been regular across a region of 750,000 people.

**Our newsletter** now reaches an estimated audience of 10,000 people

**Winter and summer stewardship projects** in 2014 engaged over 100 volunteers.

**8 camera stations** were set and monitored during the 2013-14 winter wildlife studies.

**28 unique volunteers** and five staff and interns worked approximately 640 total hours on trail survey, construction and maintenance.

**1.25 miles of new trail** was surveyed for a realignment of Scotchman Peak Trail #65.

**1 mile of tread** was reestablished on Star Peak Trail #999, completing the three mile trail.

**3-plus miles of general maintenance and repair** on Spar Peak, Star Gulch and Morris Creek Trails.

**9 patrol and maintenance trips** to our three most popular destinations by our summer intern.

**3 patrol and maintenance** trips to remote trails **3-plus** miles of trail treated for weeds.

**20 volunteers spent 200 Hours** in the National Forest Foundation Treasured Landscape of Lightning Creek. 120 Trees or shrubs were planted, 320 acres Whitebark Pine habitat surveyed. 3 miles of trail maintained or improved and 2 miles of trail work on habitat restoration

**Staff and volunteers hiked approximately 1200 miles** during 2014 on projects and leading hikes **40-plus** youth experienced wild country





## Board and Staff

### The Board

#### CHAIRMAN & MONTANA DIRECTOR

**Doug Ferrell**, Trout Creek, MT  
(406) 827-4341 • [doug@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:doug@scotchmanpeaks.org)

#### SECRETARY

**Carol Jenkins**, Sagle, ID  
(208) 265-9204 • [carol@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:carol@scotchmanpeaks.org)

#### TREASURER

**Jacob Styer**, Sandpoint, ID  
(828) 989-8095 • [jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:jacob@scotchmanpeaks.org)

#### EAST BONNER COUNTY DIRECTOR:

**Neil Wimberley**, Hope, ID  
(208) 264-5379 • [neil@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:neil@scotchmanpeaks.org)

#### BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

**Bill Martin**, Troy, MT  
(406) 295-5258

**Will Valentine**, Sagle, ID  
(208) 255-1114 • [will@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:will@scotchmanpeaks.org)

**Maggie Schenk**, Coeur d' Alene, ID  
(208) 818-7875 • [maggie@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:maggie@scotchmanpeaks.org)

### The Staff

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

**Phil Hough**, Sagle, ID  
(208) 946-9127 • [phil@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:phil@scotchmanpeaks.org)

#### LINCOLN COUNTY COORDINATOR

**Molly Kieran**, Troy, MT  
(406) 293-2934 • [molly@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:molly@scotchmanpeaks.org)

#### PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

**Sandy Compton**, Heron, MT  
(208) 290-1281 • [sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org)

#### PROJECT COORDINATOR:

**Kristen Nowicki**, Sandpoint, ID  
(208) 627-2448 • [kristen@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:kristen@scotchmanpeaks.org)

#### LINCOLN COUNTY PROGRAM ASSISTANT

**Ashley South**, Yaak Valley, MT

### Seasonal Interns

#### 2014 SUMMER INTERNS/RANGERS

**Joe Zimmerman**, Walla Walla, Wash.  
**Caleb Church**, Chicago Illinois

#### 2015 SUMMER INTERNS/RANGERS

**Brita Olson**, Sandpoint, Idaho  
**Justin Randall**, Troy, Montana



Volunteer weed specialist Ken Thacker (right) talks invasive species at our the 2014 Trails Training class at Eddy Creek Campground.



Irv McGeachy is our 2014 "Old Goat"



Troy volunteer Anthony South won our 2013 Photo Contest.



Volunteer Ben Olson caught a youngster's delight on one of our youth hikes.



Volunteer John Hastings and staffer Kristen Nowicki lead kids down Trail #999

## Volunteers

#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**Ann Wimberley**, Hope, ID

#### NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

**Celeste Grace**, Sandpoint, ID

#### MERCHANDISE MANAGER

**Jim Mellen**, Sandpoint, ID

#### WEBMISTRESS

**Trisha Miller**, Scottsdale, AZ

#### INVASIVE WEED SPECIALIST

**Ken Thacker**, Sagle, Idaho

#### CAMPAIGN INFORMATION SPECIALIST

**Brad Smith**, Sandpoint, Idaho

#### US FOREST SERVICE LIASON

**Joel Sather**, Cabinet RD

#### KOOTENAI COUNTY OUTREACH SPECIALISTS

**The Joa Harrison Family**

### Some of our Stellar Volunteers

Bill Arnold, Diane Brockway, Melissa DeMotte, Irv and Michelle McGeachy, Phil Degens, Matt Davidson, David Vosen Family, Dan Simmons, Margaret Harker, Celeste Grace, Golden Canine, Rod Barclay, Rodd Galloway, John and Susan, Harbuck, Clem Yonkers, Lori Getts, Dave Pietz, Mark and Karen Sheets, John Hastings, Chuck Gross, Irv Jenkins, Holly Clements, Mary Franzel, Sandii Mellen, Randi Lui, Brian Baxter, Judy Hutchins, Shane Sater, Mike Wolcott, Jake Ostman, Aaron Theisen, Ron Mamajek, Karen and Ed Robinson, Denise Zembryki, Dave and Suzie Kretschmar, Mark Cochran, Gary Payton, Tim Patton, Chris Bachman, Marie Valentine, Pete and Fiona Hicks, Jeff Pennick, Scott Rulander, Justin Randall, Bonnie Jakubos, Chris Compton, Cate Huisman, Eric Grace, Ben Olsen, Kate and Erick Walker, Susan Conway-Kean, Becky Reynolds, Mindy Ferrell, Jon Isacoff, Gayle Bolin, Mark McFadden, Valle Novak, Todd Dunfield, Ashley and Anthony South, Marjorie Trulock, Ward Tolbom, Kally Thurman, Vera Gadman, Don Clark, Charlie Clough, Ernie Scherzer, Jean and Ohani Polequaptewa, Dan Krabacher, Donald M. Jones, Randy Beacham, Marilyn Macintyre, Kenny Olson, Aaron Johnson, Jared Shear, Jeff Nizzoli, Linda Mitchell, Matt Stauble, Joe Foster, Jake Simon, Tim Lindsey, Molly O'Reilly, Steve Lockwood, Lexey DeFremercy, Jan Wasserburger, Max and Jim Zuberbuhler, Deb Hunsicker, Pat McLeod, Jack O'Brien, Melissa Thompson, Kelsie Brasseur, Greg Peters, Bev Newsham, Diana Moses Botkin, C. Rod Bacon, Doug Scott.



## 2014 Calendar: A sampler from "Along the Trail"

**January 8:** 60-plus Friends attended the winter hike season and rare carnivore study kickoff party at the Idaho Pour Authority.

**January 28:** FSPW exec Phil Hough and program coordinator Sandy Compton traveled to the Lubrecht Center east of Missoula for the Annual Region 1 Wilderness Trails meeting, where they and FS partner Joel Sather gave a joint presentation.

**February 20:** The first Community Prosperity Forum of 2014 is held in Libby, sponsored by FSPW, MWA, Idaho Forest Group, Revett Minerals, and other Lincoln County businesses and agencies.

**March 19:** Little Olive Restaurant hosted a successful evening dinner fundraiser for FSPW.



**April 5:** FSPW volunteer Justin Randall signed up 30 new Friends at the Health Fair in Libby.

**April 8:** Thirty Wolverine Watch volunteers gathered at Eichardt's Pub in Sandpoint for an end of season awards party.

**April 10:** FSPW volunteer Joa Harrison and kids tabled at the Telluride Mountain Film Festival at North Idaho College

**May 10:** FSPW sponsored the STOKR race in Lincoln County to benefit Kootenai Valley Partners Habitat for Humanity

**May 14:** 90-plus folks attended the State of the Scotchmans.

**May 16 – 21:** Two sessions of Wilderness First Aid training were given to nine FSPW volunteers with Carol Jenkins instructing.

**May 27:** FSPW intern Joe Zimmerman assumed his duties

**May 31 - June 1:** Annual Trails Skills and Hike Leader Training.

**June 7:** Eleven staff and volunteers took part in a National Trails Day on Star Peak trail, achieving a tenth of a mile of new tread

**June 8:** FSPW volunteers signed up new Friends at the Pend' Oreille Bay Trail Fun Run.

**June 13:** FSPW staff and volunteers led the first of six Community Kids Hikes cosponsored by Transitions In Progress (TIPS)

**June 14:** Patagonia employee Caleb Church began a month of volunteer work.

**June 22:** Sanders County Picnic was held at Bull River Campground.

**July 4:** FSPW walked for Wilderness in Clark Fork, Sandpoint, Heron and Noxon; and tabled at the Troy Fourth.

**July 11 - 13:** FSPW, Cabinet Resource Group, USFS, and MWA hosted a fun and successful three-day celebration of wilderness and the Wilderness Act at the Bull Lake Rod and Gun Club.

**July 19:** FSPW volunteers were on hand for outreach at the Yaak Valley Forest Council's Wilderness Festival

**August 1 - 3:** A three-day work weekend on the Star Peak

Historic Trail during which Trail #999 was connected to Trail #998.



**August 8 -10:** FSPW volunteers and Joe Zimmerman were on hand for the The Huckleberry Festival at Trout Creek.

**August 19 – 23:** FSPW staff and volunteers signed dozens of new Friends at a booth at the Bonner County Fair.



**August 22:** Staff and volunteers took kids from the TIPS program in Sandpoint for a hike on the new Star Peak Trail #999

**August 23:** FSPW and MWA presented fun family activities and Wylie and the Wild West Show in Libby in celebration of the 50th.

**September 5 & 6:** FSPW and Idaho Conservation League celebrated the 50th in Sandpoint, with a panel on Wilderness,

hikes and a party at Evans Brothers Coffee Roasters.

**September 9 – 11:** FSPW volunteers and staff participated in a Whitebark Pine Study in the Lightning Creek Treasured Landscape.



**September 21:** Dedication of Star Peak Historic Trail #999

**September 27:** Fourteen volunteers and FS staff spent National Public Lands Day on a work project in Morris Creek

**October 3 - 4:** Artists took part

in the Annual Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout held at the Outskirts Gallery in Hope, Idaho.

**October 5:** Annual FSPW Highway 200 Cleanup near Clark Fork.

**October 7:** Forty people attended the Community Prosperity Forum on Healthcare held at the Cabinet Peaks Medical Center in Libby.

**October 8:** FSPW volunteers and FS staff planted dozens of willow plants in the Mud Creek drainage in the Lightning Creek NFF Treasured Landscape.

**October 11:** Phil Hough led two Bonner County commissioners and other hikers on a hike to Scotchman Peak.

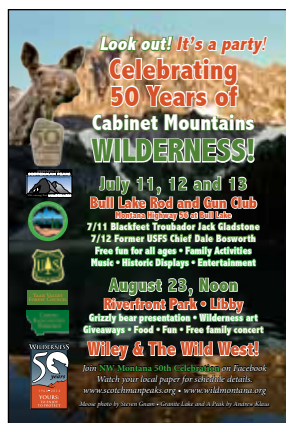
**October 13 - 20:** Phil Hough, Sandy Compton, Justin Randall and Joel Sather, USFS, attended the National Wilderness Conference in Albuquerque, NM.

**November 13:** FSPW project coordinator Kristen Nowicki presented to kids at East Bonner County Public Library

**November 18:** A Community Prosperity Forum, "Making Sense of Business Loans, Grants and other Incentives" was held in Libby.

**December 3:** A successful fund-raiser, Pints for the Peaks, was held at the Idaho Pour Authority with Stone Brewery.

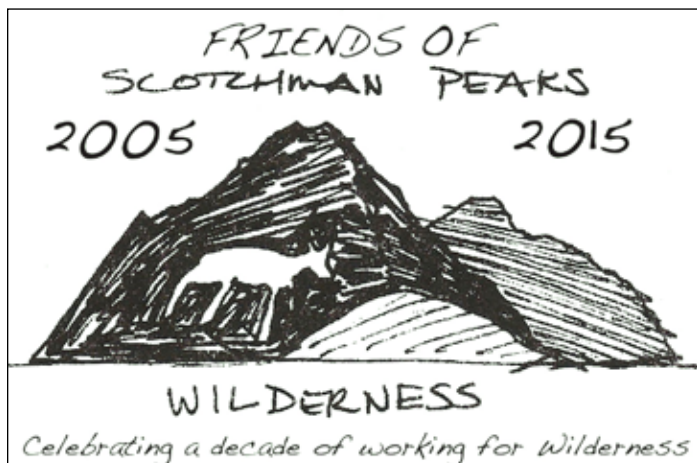
**December 13:** A Winter Tracks educational program with Brian Baxter was held at Heron Community Center and Blue Creek.







## Looking Forward to 2015



**Watch for this version of the original, hand drawn prototype of our now-famous goat and mountain logo as we celebrate our 10th Anniversary throughout 2015**

The long-awaited new National Forest plans arrived in early January. Based on 11 years of public meetings and comment periods, these plans are a product of much public input and represent both compromise and community consensus around most issues. The many friends who have demonstrated support for the Scotchman Peaks over the last decade have helped to assure that they will contain a strong vision for Wilderness for the Scotchman Peaks.

We believe that the forest plan release will allow us to gather additional supporters and will strengthen the voice of those who already support Wilderness for the Scotchman Peaks. With the Bonner County Commissioners hike last October and their continued public statements of support we are seeing a critical mass of support develop for Wilderness designation in Idaho.

The Rocky Mountain Front act passed in January and in Montana Wilderness values are becoming a constructive part of the political dialogue. Collaboration and consensus, which we are engaged in across both states, is increasingly being seen as the pathway to balanced land management solutions which include Wilderness.

We will continue to build community consensus through outreach, education, stewardship and advocacy. Our "Winter Tracks" program will include field trips for youth and hikes for all. Our Community Prosperity Series in Lincoln County will continue on bringing in dynamic speakers, engaging local panelists and developing positive dialogue.

Throughout the year we will host various events where we will celebrate our 10th Anniversary all year long! You will continue to see us at information tables throughout the region throughout the year.

We are hopeful that 2015, which brings a new Congress, will offer a fresh start, a 2 year period in which new lands

## Financials

These financial statements are based on our most recently completed fiscal year, Fiscal 2014 which began Oct 1, 2013 and ended Sept 30th, 2014. Because our accounting is handled on a cash basis, we report expenditures and receipts at they are actually transacted.

### 2014 Revenue

Grants	\$206,531	87.7%
Donors	23,141	10%
Merchandise	2,404	1%
Events/Other	3,149	1.3%
Interest	194	>.01%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$235,419</b>	

### 2014 Expenses

Programs	\$142,248	85%
Admin	17,529	10%
Fundraising	8,496	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$168,273</b>	

**In Fiscal 2014 we received \$235,419 in support from individual donors, merchandise sales, fundraisers, and foundation grants.** The following foundations provided support: Cadeau, Campion, Cinnabar, Confidence Foundation, Wilburforce, Pew Charitable Trust, Kendeda, National Forest Foundation, and Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative and the Equinox Foundation.

**Our expenses totaled \$168,273.** We started the year with a cash balance of \$32,603. We ended the fiscal year on Sept 30 with \$99,468.

bills may be worked on. With Congress passing the Rocky Mountain Front Heritage Act creating the first new Wilderness designation in Montana in over 3 decades we know our congressmen in Montana, as well as Idaho and in DC, have not forgotten how to get Wilderness done. Positive public support for our delegation in Montana will encourage congressmen from both Idaho and Montana to continue their work on Wilderness. We know it encourages us to continue our work on Wilderness!

We are excited about a growing critical mass of support for legislation which would designate the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness. Find out more about our education, outreach, stewardship and campaign at: [www.ScotchmanPeaks.org](http://www.ScotchmanPeaks.org).

For daily updates, join our Friends' Facebook page @ [www.facebook.com/ScotchmanPeaks](http://www.facebook.com/ScotchmanPeaks)



## 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 north-west 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.



***Friends of Scotchman Peaks are multi-generational, cross-cultural, politically diverse and working together for Wilderness.***

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.

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, 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.

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](http://www.ScotchmanPeaks.org) or join us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ScotchmanPeaks](http://www.facebook.com/ScotchmanPeaks).

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



[www.idahoconservation.org](http://www.idahoconservation.org)

Idaho Conservation League



MONTANA WILDERNESS  
ASSOCIATION



Kinnikinnick  
Native Plant Society

