

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness 2015 Annual Report



BIG PROGRESS TOWARD DESIGNATION

By Brad Smith, Phil Hough and Sandy Compton

The long-awaited release of the Land Management Plans for the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forests recommend that Congress designate approximately 61,800 acres of the Scotchman Peaks as wilderness. Of this, approximately 13,900 acres are within the State of Idaho, and 47,900 acres are located within the State of Montana.

2015 MIGHT STAND OUT IN THE MINDS OF SOME AS YEAR OF THE FIRES OR YEAR OF THE GOATS, BUT IT MIGHT BETTER BE CALLED YEAR OF THE ENDORSEMENTS. HUGE LEAPS WERE MADE IN THE POLITICAL REALM.

Support Grows in 2015

In Montana, our Lincoln County Community Prosperity Forum series and Voices In the Wilderness project have helped to build community conversations and support for Wilderness. In Idaho, the Lightning Creek Treasured Landscapes project as well as numerous outreach events continued to build community consensus needed to achieve Wilderness Designation.

Over 6,000 individuals have expressed their support for the Scotchman Peaks as designated wilderness by becoming Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Eighty-five percent of these people live within two hours of the Scotchman Peaks.

In the last year we have gained notable new resolutions and endorsements in the last year.

Resolutions From Governing Bodies

On March 24, 2015, the Bonner County Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution, asking Idaho's congressional delegation to sponsor wilderness legislation for the Idaho side of the Scotchman Peaks.

Other noteworthy resolutions of support have come from the cities of Sandpoint, Idaho, Ponderay, Idaho, and Thompson Falls, Montana.

Endorsements

Year 2015 saw three important endorsements for the Scotchman Peaks. On February 11, the **Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce** endorsed the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.

Montana Governor, Steve Bullock endorsed the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness on March 17, 2015. In September 2015, the **Idaho Forest Group** endorsed the Idaho side of the Scotchman Peaks and called upon the state's congressional delegation to take action on the proposed wilderness.

Other noteworthy endorsements include Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Bull Lake Rod and Gun Club, Federation of Western Outdoor

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PERSISTENT FIRES AND PESKY GOATS MARKED SUMMER



We saw fire, but not much rain.

Fires began with a lightning event on August 13 and burned well into October. Approximately a third of the proposed wilderness was affected, including many of the trails in the east half of the wilderness. The good news is that the fire behaved "nicely," creating a mosaic burn in most places that Forest Service personnel and others feel will be beneficial to the forest over time. FSPW plans a follow-up project in which photo monitoring of forest recovery will be implemented.

Scotchman goats were getting into packs and the news.



In September, Scotchman Peak trail #65 was closed at the request of Idaho Fish and Game because of repeated reports of human-goat confrontations involving food and

other resources. At least one person was bitten after letting a mountain goat lick perspiration off their legs.

FSPW has been and will continue conducting educational outreach regarding the danger of habituating wild animals by feeding them, and goats in particular. FSPW is hopeful that Trail #65 will reopen soon.

Progress, from page 5

Clubs, Pend Oreille Chapter of Idaho Master Naturalists, Kinnickinnik Native Plant Society, Idaho Panhandle Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Montana Backcountry Horsemen, Montana Wildlife Federation, Plains and Paradise Chamber Commerce, Plains Grange, Sandpoint Kiwanis, Sandpoint Rotary Club, Spokane Mountaineers, and Wildhorse Plains Backcountry Horsemen.

Perhaps our most hopeful moment from 2015 was at a Congressional Committee hearing in May when **Senator Jim Risch of Idaho** proclaimed that after the Boulder White Clouds bill passes he would most likely turn his attention to working on Wilderness for the Scotchman Peaks!

Media Endorsements

In 2015, the editorial boards of the Bonner County Daily Bee, Missoulian, River Journal, Sanders County Ledger, the Sandpoint Reader, and Spokesman Review have all endorsed the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.



Web Resources

Friends of Scotchman Peak Wilderness maintains an extensive website. Our entire list of endorsements and resolutions can be viewed at <http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/about-the-friends/endorsements/>

Looking to the future

YOUR voice has been heard in the halls of congress! As noted earlier, a large and diverse group of individuals, business and community leaders as well as everyday constituents have expressed the idea that Scotchman Peaks should be wilderness. And our congressional representatives are listening. We are finally at that point where our forward momentum has us talking less about “whether” and more about “when and how” to put together a congressional bill that will designate the Scotchman Peaks in Idaho as Wilderness. We are looking to 2016 to be a breakout year for the Scotchman Peaks.

There is nothing certain in politics - the process can move slowly and then suddenly lurch forward, but support from the Idaho delegation for a bill that would designate the Idaho portion of the Scotchman Peaks is, we believe, on the near horizon.

Kootenai Forest Stakeholders take a big step forward

In December, after many years of work, the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition (including representatives

from the timber industry, wilderness and conservation groups, small business owners, hunters, recreation groups and local officials) came together and took a huge step forward to resolve long standing conflicts over best management of our natural resources. The KFSC voted unanimously to approve an agreement for timber harvest guidelines, motorized and non-motorized areas and wilderness designations for key roadless areas in the Yaak, Cabinets, and Scotchman Peaks!

Further work needs to be done for these agreements to be adopted. But a strong path forward has been charted and important progress made towards these eventual goals. We hope this big endorsement will help us protect some of the precious wild country of the Kootenai!

FINANCIALS

These financial statements are based on our most recently completed fiscal year, Fiscal 2015 which began Oct 1, 2014 and ended Sept 30th, 2015. Because our accounting is handled on a cash basis, we report expenditures and receipts at they are actually transacted.

2015 Revenue	\$215,051	
Grants	192,102	89.3%
Donors	14,383	6.7%
Merchandise	1,101	0.5%
Events/Other	7,171	3.3%
Interest	294	< 0.1%
 2015 Expenses	 \$193,213	
Programs	158,906	82.2%
Admin	25,062	13.0%
Fundraising	9,245	4.8%

In Fiscal 2015 we received \$215,051 in support from individual donors, merchandise sales, fundraisers, and foundation grants. The following foundations provided support: Cadeau Foundation, Campion Foundation Clif Bar Family Foundation, Community Foundation, Community Foundation / Equinox , Confidence Foundation Forest Service, High Stakes Foundation, PEW Charitable Trusts, Kendeda, Maki Foundation National Environmental Education, National Forest Foundation, The Cinnabar Foundation, The New-Land Foundation, Inc., Wilburforce Foundation, and the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation

Our expenses totaled \$193,213. We started the year with a cash balance of \$99,468. We ended the fiscal year on Sept 30 with \$121,153.

January 9, 2015: A gala celebration of the 10th anniversary of Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness was held at Tango Café in Sandpoint. A sell-out crowd enjoyed a wonderful evening of fun, food and fine entertainment.

February 18: Lincoln County Prosperity Forum on the recreation economy with feature speaker Lee Boman was held in Libby, with 72 in attendance. Ashley South started as a shared employee with Montana Wilderness Association in our Libby office.

February 28: Winter Tracks Class open to area youth and their parents was held at Sandpoint Community Hall and at Trout Creek in the Pack River Delta; Jack Nisbet gave a talk to Kinnickinnick Native Plant Society and Idaho Master Naturalists, co-sponsored by FSPW at the Community Hall in Sandpoint.

March 5: 60 eighth graders from Forrest M. Bird Charter School in Sandpoint traveled to Round Lake State Park for a day of tracking fun as part of the FSPW Winter Tracks program.

March 11: Lincoln County Prosperity Forum on Tourism Marketing was held in Libby with more than 50 in attendance. The focus was tourism.

March 17: We received a letter of endorsement from Governor Bullock of Montana

March 24: Bonner County Commission unanimously passes a resolution asking the Idaho Congressional delegation to introduce legislation to designate the Idaho portion of the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness!!!

March 27: A Tenth Anniversary Celebration was held at the Venture Inn in Troy, featuring Jack Nisbet, speaking on David Thompson. Approximately 50 pounds of food and \$175.00 were donated by attendees.

April 9: At a FSPW fundraiser, MickDuff's Brewing released Goat Hop Ale at their Brew House on Cedar with 60 folks in attendance. New Assistant Project Coordinator Nathan

Mynatt was introduced.

May 4, 6 and 8: FSPW Board member Carol Jenkins taught a wilderness first aid class to volunteers

May 18 – 22: FSPW Exec Phil Hough, Brad Smith of Idaho Conservation League and Sandpoint Chamber Exec Kate McCallister traveled to Washington, D.C. and met with Congressional delegates from Idaho and Montana.

June 6: FSPW and the Forest Service hosted National Trails Day and FSPW Trails Skills and Hike Leader Training Day at Eddy Creek Campground and Trail 999;

June 10: FSPW Staff, Three Rivers USFS Trail Crew, Montana YCC and kids from Forest Bird Charter School under the guidance of Selkirk Outdoor Leadership combined to build one-half mile of new trail in a reroute of the first part of Ross Creek Trail #142

June 19: First Take-A-Kid-Hiking Day of the season took place in Morris Creek; Doug Ferrell made

a presentation to the Thompson Falls Chamber of Commerce.

June 26: The kickoff for our 2015 Trail Stewardship Season took place at Scotchman Peaks Trail #65 as we began the realignment of the lower mile of trail.

July 4: FSPW volunteers and staff marched in parades in Sandpoint, Clark Fork, Heron and Noxon.

The FSPW/Cougar Creek Band Float took first place in the Clark Fork parade; FSPW had a booth at the July Fourth celebration in Troy.

July 10: A Field Day Friday workday in Dry Creek/Star Gulch with the Cabinet Ranger District. Staff and volunteers realigned intersection of Dry Creek Trail #1020 and Star Gulch Trail # 1016

July 17: Fifteen volunteers and 3 staff



established 1000 feet of new tread on Scotchman Peak Trail #65 reroute, including a massive effort by the FSPW crosscut crew removing multiple blowdowns.

August 13: A lightning storm started myriad fires in the Scotchman Peaks, including the West Fork of Blue Creek; Piliik Ridge; Hamilton, Star and Napoleon

Gulches; and Sawtooth Mountain.

August 14: Workday on Scotchman Peak Trail #65 reroute. The lower half of the reroute was connected to the old trail, a half mile of new tread being finished.

September 11 and 12: The lower half of the Scotchman Peak Trail reroute opened for traffic as volunteers and staff decommissioned and rehabilitated the lower quarter mile of the old trail.

September 14: Scotchman Peak Trail #65 was closed because of habituated mountain goats.

October 10: The Annual Plein Air Paintout featured three well-attended workshops at the Outskirts Gallery in the Hope Marketplace next the Post Office in Hope.

October 3: Second Annual Bonner County Employees

Wellness Hike went to East Fork Peak, with two Commissioners and three employees,

October 27 – 31: FSPW staff Phil Hough, Sandy Compton and Nathan Mynatt and volunteers Brita Olson and Todd Dunfield attended the NWSA conference in Missoula

December 12: Friends celebrated the holiday season at the Outskirts Gallery in Hope with appetizers, beverages and a look at the display of art from our Plein Air Paintouts. Several paintings were sold.

December 12: Ryan and Kate Sullivan signed as our 6,000th and 6001st friends.



BOARD AND STAFF

CHAIRMAN & MONTANA DIRECTOR

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LINCOLN COUNTY PROGRAM ASSISTANT

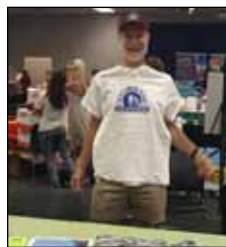
Ashley South, Yaak Valley, MT

2015 SUMMER INTERN/RANGER

Brita Olson, Sandpoint, Idaho



Morris Creek trail crew, September 26, 2015



Eric Ridgway set a record for new Friends signups: 193!!



Don Otis led our first 2015 summer hike.

Matt Stauble, Joe Foster, Jake Simon, Tim Lindsey, Molly O'Reilly, Steve Lockwood, Lexey DeFremery, 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.

VOLUNTEERS

ACQUISITIONS 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

Some of our Stellar Volunteers

Brian McVey, Bill Arnold, Diane Brockway, Erika Finley, Sara Rose, 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 Kretzchmar, Mark Cochran, Gary Payton, Tim Patton, Chris Bachman, Marie Valentine, Pete and Fiona Hicks, Jeff Pennick, Brian Sherry, Scott Rulander, Justin Randall, Bonnie Jakubos, Chris Compton, Cate Huisman, Molly Montana, Eric Ridgway, Kristin Nowicki, Eric Grace, Ben Olson, Kate and Erick Walker, Susan Jodi Kramer, Conway-Kean, Becky Reynolds, Mindy Ferrell, Jon Isacoff, Don Otis, 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, Howard and Coni Shay, Linda Mitchell,

2015 BY THE NUMBERS — A NONSTATISTICAL LOOK AS SOME OF OUR STATISTICS

6,050 Friends/Supporters (a gain of over 1,000 in the past year), **2573 Facebook friends** (up 600+), as of January 2016

13,000-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 12,000 people

Winter and summer stewardship projects in 2015 engaged over 100 volunteers.

Volunteers, staff and interns worked approximately 800 total hours (100 total work

days) on trail construction and maintenance.

Volunteer hike leaders organized and led 16 winter and summer hikes in 2015 (not including three cancelled by fires)

.65 miles of new tread was cut for a realignment of Scotchman Peak Trail #65.

One-half mile of new tread was cut by USFS, FSPW staff and dozens of youth volunteers in a realignment of Ross Creek Trail #142.

3-plus miles of general maintenance and repair on Dry Creek, Star Gulch, Napoleon Gulch and Morris Creek Trails.

6 patrol and maintenance trips to our three most popular desinations by our summer intern. (This program was cut short by fire season)

Two kegs of Goat Hop Ale from MickDuff's Brewing were consumed during fundraising events.

Staff and vounteers hiked approximately 1200 miles during 2015 on projects and leading hikes

100-plus youth experienced wild country and outdoor education through our Winter Tracks and Take-A-Kid Hiking Programs.