

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness 2017 Annual Report

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

PHIL HOUGH

One year ago, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness campaign entered a new phase. In the final weeks of 2016, Idaho Senator James Risch introduced the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Act (S.3531), which would designate 13,960 acres of Wilderness in Idaho. Our focus evolved from trying to get a wilderness bill introduced, to working towards its passage.

During the summer of 2017, the Senator's staff hosted two local "Open House" public meetings. Approximately 300 people attended each session, a very large majority leaving comments. The

Senator's staff said that the vast majority of those comments were favorable, as are the many letters, emails, and phone calls that his offices receive. The diversity of voices supporting the bill are as important as the volume. We are grateful for the 13 years of conversation and community building which made possible this outpouring of public support!

Support from diverse stakeholders brings about community consensus, laying the foundation for good public lands policy. Wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks is endorsed by many businesses, civic groups, con-

A NEW MISSION STATEMENT

In 2017, we streamlined our mission statement to read **"To protect the Scotchman Peaks for future generations through Wilderness designation, ongoing stewardship and education."**

The simplified statement does not change who we are, but more succinctly says what we are about.

servation and wildlife groups, as well as community organizations, recreational groups and other stakeholders in public lands management. New support came from many corners including the Pend Oreille Pedalers and the Panhandle Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

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STAFF UPDATE: MOVING RIGHT ALONG

Annie Gassmann became Lincoln County Outreach Coordinator in March and has become a force for FSPW in northwestern Montana and the larger world. In addition to excelling at her outreach duties in Libby, Troy and the surrounding area, she has taken on the *FSPW Insider*.



Annie works cooperatively with Montana Wilderness Association, the Libby Chamber of Commerce and local schools to further FSPW's community involvement.

Our 2017 backcountry ranger/outreach intern was Sam Olson, a student at the University of Montana. Sam was with us from late May until August 22. His good humor and independent nature, as well as his ability and willingness, made him a big asset on trail work and outreach tables alike.



Nancy Schmidt is 2017-18 Winter Programs Coordinator. Nancy came on board in November, and will work until Spring, keeping track of and facilitating the FSPW Winter Tracks Program.



Assistant Program Coordinator Britta Mireley is balancing being a new mom with increased responsibilities in the grant-writing arena and overall programs. She spearheaded recent successful fundraising efforts and has become a bit indispensable, bringing order where chaos once existed.



Mary Franzel, Mountain Goat Ed Coordinator, very successfully led the program through its second year in 2017. Mary has possibly hiked Scotchman Peak more than any other person.



BY THE NUMBERS: THE 2016-17 STEWARDSHIP SEASON

2016-17 VOLUNTEER TOTALS

144 Unique Volunteers,
2,602 Volunteer Hours

Value of volunteer time - \$62,818.64

OUTREACH & FUNDRAISERS

IPA Tap Takeover (1/4), 12th Anniversary (1/27), Sip & Shop at Pend d'Oreille Winery (2/23), MickDuff's fundraiser (4/2), Thompson Falls Beautification Days (4/6-8), Cabinet Health Fair (4/8), Libby Pint Night (4/20), Idaho Gives (5/4), STOKR (5/13), State of the Scotchmans (6/1), Pend Oreille Bay Trail Fun Run (6/11), CHaFE 150 (6/17), Libby Logger Days (6/22-24), Road to the Buffalo (6/24), 7B Sunday (6/25), Troy Farmers Market (July-August), Independence Day events (Sandpoint, Clark Fork, Noxon, Troy), Kootenai River Stampede rodeo (8/4-5), Bonner County Fair (8/7-12), Trout Creek Huckleberry Festival (8/11-13), Kootenai Harvest Festival (9/16), Winter Ridge Customer Appreciation Day (9/17), Apple Festival (9/22), ALDHA West Fall Hiker Fest (10/14), Fall for Sandpoint with Larson's (10/14), MickDuff's Goat Hop Ale (10/26), George Wuerthner presentation (11/15)

30 Events (counting Troy Farmers Market as one event) 80 Unique Volunteers, 450 Volunteer Hours, Countless maps distributed and questions answered

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Winter Tracks

Thompson Falls Junior High, Libby Elementary, Troy Junior High, Kootenai Valley Christian School, Noxon School, Forrest M. Bird Charter School, Sagle Elementary, Clark Fork Junior/Senior High, East Farms STEAM School (Spokane)

9 Schools, 353 Students, 49 Unique Volunteers, 438 Volunteer Hours

Outdoor Ed classes with Brian Baxter

Winter Birding (4/1), Tracking (4/8),

Spring Birding (5/20), Wetland Wanderings (8/14)

Other Outdoor Ed

Libby Alternative HS films (3/14), Outdoor Education Day at Noxon (5/25-26), Thompson Falls 1st graders Ross Creek Cedars field trip (5/25), Project ASCENT at Bull River Campground (7/10-14), Trail Work presentation at CFHS (9/8), Leave No Trace presentation at Green Mountain Conservation District Water Festival in Thompson Falls (10/3)

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Wolverine stations put up near Lunch Peak and East Fork Creek (1/12 & 1/15) (taken down spring/early summer), St. John's Wort biological control training day (6/29), White Bark Pine seed sowing (7/10-12, 9/27-28)

15 Unique Volunteers, 489 Volunteer Hours

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Plein Air painting class (7/7), Watercolor classes (11/11 and 12/9)

Students taught - 14

WILDERNESS FIRST AID

Three sessions (5/6-7, 6/3-4, 10/21-22), 7 renewed, 16 new certificates.

GOAT AMBASSADORS

29 Unique Volunteers, 37 Days with Ambassadors Present on Trail #65, 388 Volunteer hours

TRAIL WORK

Trail Leader College (6/2-4), 7 Trail Projects, 10 Trail Work Days,

42 Unique Volunteers, 588 Volunteer Hours, 8-plus Miles Constructed or Maintained

HIKES PROGRAM

Regal Creek (1/7), Ross Creek (1/21), East to West to East Fork Blue Creek (1/28), Ross Creek Cedars (2/6), Goat Mountain Hop (4/1), Scotchman Peak (4/15), 70+ Star Peak Assault (6/27), Sawtooth Mountain (7/17), Moms and Kids at Ross Creek (7/18), Community Kids Hike at Ross Creek (7/19), Regal Creek Family Hike with ICL (8/19), Extreme Plein Air v 9.0 (8/20-25), East Fork Peak (8/26)

FINANCIALS: These financial statements are based on our most recently completed fiscal year, FY2017, which began Oct. 1, 2016 and ended Sept. 30, 2017. Our accounting is managed on a cash basis. We report expenditures and receipts as they are transacted.

In FY2017, FSPW received \$244,724 in support from individual donors, merchandise sales, fundraisers and foundation grants. The following foundations provided support: Brainerd Foundation, Cadeau Foundation, Champion Foundation, Cinnabar Foundation, Confidence Foundation, High Stakes Foundation, Inland Northwest Community Foundation/Equinox, Kendeda, Maki Foundation, New-Land Foundation, Patagonia Foundation, PEW Charitable Trusts, Star Peak Foundation, Wilburforce Foundation, Yellowstone to Yukon Initiative (Y2Y)

Our expenses totaled \$248,620. We started the year with a cash balance of \$140,057 and ended the fiscal year with \$135,865.

FY2017 Revenue	\$244,724	FY2017 Expenses	\$248,620
Grants	\$220,763 90%	Programs	\$198,875 80%
Donors	\$20,522 8%	Admin	\$26,455 10%
Events/Other	\$1,724 <1%	Marketing	\$10,467 4%
Merchandise	\$1,281 <1%	Newsletter	\$8,102 3%
Interest	\$433 <1%	Merchandise	\$4,720 2%



A Winter Tracks Winter: FSPW hosted 350-plus students from 9 different schools

in Idaho, Montana and Washington between December and March in the FSPW outdoor education program.

January 11: 160 people attended an informational meeting at Clark Fork High School led by Senator Risch's aid Sid Smith

and FSPW executive director Phil Hough.

January 12 & 15: FSPW volunteers set wolverine stations near Lunch Peak and East Fork Creek in the West Cabinets.

January 27: 80-plus Friends attended the FSPW 12th Anniversary celebration at the Little Panida in Sandpoint.

March 2: FSPW received a special recognition award from Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society for FSPW's role in the Multi-Species Baseline Initiative.

March 8: FSPW hosted two showings of wildlife films at the Maki Theater in Libby.

March 15: Partners, volunteers, board members and staff attended the FSPW Strategic Planning Meeting.

April 1: Nine people attended birding class with Brian Baxter

April 2: Winter Tracks volunteer appreciation day celebrated at MickDuff's Beer Hall with release of the Red Cedar Red Ale.

April 5: Phil Hough gave a presentation to the Four Counties Natural Resource Group.

April 6 – 8: Jen Kreiner and FSPW volunteers helped during Thompson Falls Cleanup Days.

May 11: Phil Hough gave a presentation to the Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce.

May 13: FSPW volunteers, led by Annie Gassmann, operated a refreshment booth at Yaak Falls for the annual STOKR bike ride.



May 21: Phil Hough shared the podium with Risch staffer Darren Parker about Scotchman prospects at Wild Idaho.

May 26: Jen Kreiner and Intern Sam Olson were at Outdoor Ed Day at Noxon School.

June 1: State of the Scotchmans featured Rick Johnson from ICL

June 2-4: Trail crew leader training college with Idaho Trails Association was attended by FSPW staff and volunteers.

June 3-4: Carol Jenkins taught Wilderness and Remote First Aid

June 6: An open house in Hope hosted by Senator Risch's staff drew over 300 people.

June 10: First day of Goat Education Ambassador program.

June 14: Jen Kreiner and Doug Ferrell participated in a Kootenai Forest Stakeholders presentation at Thompson Falls Chamber.

June 17: FSPW volunteers fed hungry bicyclists at Clark Fork during the CHaFE 150 (FSPW was voted favorite rest stop!).

June 24: Jen Kreiner had an information table in Noxon in conjunction with a Road To The Buffalo event.

June 25: The Sanders County Picnic at Bull River Campground; was attended by Scotchmans "old timers," including CRG cofounders Mike Comola and Bill Martin.

June 29: Field training for St John's wort biocontrol with USFS.

July 10-13: Whitebark pine direct sowing on Scotchman Peak with USFS. 2300 seeds were planted over 30 acres.

July - August: Annie Gassmann tabled at Troy Farmer's Market every other Friday.

July 18: About 300 people attended an open house hosted by Senator Risch's staff and USFS personnel in Clark Fork.

July 19: Annie Gassmann led a Moms and Kids Hike on Ross Creek Trail #142.

July 21-23: Volunteers and staff participated in a trail work weekend at Spar Lake on Three Rivers Ranger District.

August 7-12: FSPW had a booth at Bonner County Fair.

August 11-13: FSPW volunteers and staff signed up new Friends at the Trout Creek Huckleberry Festival.

August 25: Volunteers and staff worked on Hamilton Gulch Trail.

September 8: FSPW Program Coordinator Sandy Compton gave a presentation on trail-building at Clark Fork High School.

September 10: Thirty people attended the Thompson Falls Picnic.

September 16: Kootenai Harvest Festival was held at the Riverfront Park in Libby with 500-plus people in attendance.

September 17: FSPW had a table at Winter Ridge Customer Appreciation Day.

September 22: Annie Gassmann and volunteers had an outreach table at the Troy Apple Festival.

September 25: Twenty-two "Pirates" cruised Lake Pend Oreille with FSPW staff aboard the good ship Shawnodese.

September 30: National Public Lands Day. FSPW staff and volunteers worked on Morris and Regal Creek Trails.

October 1-6: Sandy Compton and Phil Hough traveled to the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance conference.

October 3: Annie Gassmann taught Leave No Trace at

Green Mountain Conservation District's Water Festival at Thompson Falls.

October 21: FSPW staff and volunteers led students from University of Montana's Wilderness and Civilization track on a trail maintenance trip on Piliik Ridge Trail #1036.

November 11: Artist in Residence Karen Robinson taught watercolor techniques to eight students.

November 15: FSPW and ICL hosted environmental writer George Wuerthner at the Coeur d'Alene Eagles Club.

December: Phil Hough made presentations to Sandpoint High's History Class

December 9: FSPW donated a living Christmas Tree to the silent auction in the Cabinet Peaks Medical Center Festival of Trees.



FREINDS OF SCOTCHMAN PEAKS: THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT WORK

The Board of Directors

CHAIRMAN & MONTANA DIRECTOR

Doug Ferrell, Trout Creek, MT
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Gene Reckin, Libby, MT

Jen Stone Kreiner, Thompson Falls, MT

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MOUNTAIN GOAT EDUCATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Mary Franzel, Clark Fork, ID
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2017 SUMMER INTERN

Sam Olson, Missoula, MT



FSPW board chairman Doug Ferrell congratulates outgoing board member Bill Martin on his FSPW Lifetime Conservation Award. FSPW welcomed new board member Gene Reckin of Libby in January. **Marjolein Groot Nibbelink photo**

Some of Our Key Volunteers

MERCHANDISE MANAGER

Jim Mellen, Sandpoint, ID

WEBMISTRESS

Trisha Miller, Sandpoint, ID

INVASIVE WEED SPECIALIST

Ken Thacker, Sagle, Idaho

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION SPECIALIST:

Brad Smith, Sandpoint, Idaho

US FOREST SERVICE LIASON:

Joel Sather, Cabinet RD

OUTDOOR EDUCATION SPECIALIST:

Brian Baxter, Libby, Mt

2017 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Karen Robinson, SANDPOINT, ID

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Broad community support does not mean there is unanimity. On important issues, there will always be diverse opinions. The bill introduction woke up some opponents who had previously been quiet. By listening and responding to diverse viewpoints, questions and concerns, misunderstandings can sometimes be cleared up. Different perspectives also improve Forest Service management, public policy and legislation.

We anticipate that the Senator will seek re-introduction in 2018, using public input he has gathered to improve the bill and its chance for passage. Congress seldom acts quickly. 2018 will be a year for patience and perseverance.

Not every Friend can swing a Pulaski to dig new tread so we provide a variety of stewardship opportunities including trail maintenance, weed monitoring and eradication, white-bark pine habitat restoration, wildlife monitoring and outdoor education. Our Trail Ambassadors/Mountain Goat Education program enters its

third year and our Winter Tracks program is now in its fourth season and on pace to surpass 2017 in which we hosted over 350 students!

Volunteer stewards and educators become passionate advocates; they are crucial to helping us gain designation from Congress and maintaining wilderness characteristics both before and after designation. We engaged over 150 unique volunteers this past year.

In Montana, there is growing support from business and civic groups who see value in conserving public lands. The Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition (KFSC) agreement includes support for Wilderness in the Scotchman Peaks and has recently garnered several important endorsements. As legislation for Idaho advances, Montana's congressional delegation is watching with interest; our continued outreach in Montana lays groundwork for them to act.

We will continue to foster public dialogue that increases community support for wilderness and continue to inspire and empower wilderness advocates and volunteer stewards.