



PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness
Volume 2, Number 3 • May/June, 2006

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

Donations are tax deductible.

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The Trip of a Lifetime

By Ann Ferguson

I've only hiked once to the top of Scotchman Peak, when I was 14 years old. It was a cool, foggy day in August of 1983 that my father, uncle, brother and I found our way to the trailhead and started on a hike that we would still talk about more than twenty years later.

It was after reading an article in the newspaper about the hike to Scotchman Peak that my uncle suggested we try it. It was an accomplishment for him to even consider going for a hike at all because just the year before he had had quadruple heart bypass surgery. His recovery had been long and difficult, and I suppose that a hike may have seemed like a small challenge compared to what he had just overcome.

We started up the trail on that day in 1983 with no thoughts of illness, however, just the happiness of spending time with family in the beautiful forests of northern Idaho. Through the first steep pitch in the trail until it opened out into rock fields near the peak, I remember lots of laughter, the encouragement of one another to reach the top, and the fact that my dad barely broke a sweat.

Continues on following page

What Grows There

By Jon Burkhardt

Although all of the spring flowers in the Cabinets are a welcome sight after a long winter, a true favorite is the Fairy Slipper

(*Calypso Bulbosa*). These beautiful little orchids grow in moist, fairly shady areas primarily under conifers. The single elegant slipper shaped flower grows on a short stalk from a corm that is slightly under the surface of the forest duff. These diminutive beauties are worth getting down on hands and knees to enjoy the complexity of the blossom. In our area they are usually purple



Calypso Bulbosa

Photos courtesy Marilyn George

Continues on following page



Please Invite Us to Speak to Your Group

We are available to do a 10 minute or longer Power Point Presentation and discussion for businesses, service organizations, clubs, and groups of friends and neighbors.

Please contact us if you are interested.

In Idaho or Washington, contact Jan Griffitts at 265-4380 or jan@looptravel.com or

Phil Hough at 255-2780 or nowhere_man97@hotmail.com

In Hope/East Hope/ Clark Fork, contact Neil or Ann Wimberley at neilwim@yahoo.com or afwim@yahoo.com

In Montana, contact Doug Ferrell at mferrell@yahoo.com

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The Trip of a Lifetime... *Continues from previous page*

At the top we enjoyed the opportunity to rest our weary legs as the dense fog lifted and we were treated to the spectacular view, but what I remember most is the trip down the mountain and that at the end of the day, we ALL made it back to the trailhead. As we started down, my brother and I took advantage of the easy descent and ran down part of the trail, stopping to wait for our dad and uncle after we had gone a short distance. It was a long wait, and just after starting back up out of concern, there came the two of them, my father bearing the weight of his brother as they came slowly down the trail. My uncle's heart was strong, but his body had not completely healed from the surgery. Only a few hundred yards from the top, his legs had given out. So my father carried him—all the way down.

My brother remembers wondering who we would have to get to bring our uncle down off the mountain, but dad was never one to give in or give up. We always knew that he could out-hike us on his worst day and he certainly proved it that day by getting his brother down the mountain, and if I remember right, in pretty good time as well.

My father passed away in 1993, after living with lymphoma for seven years, but I'll be seeing my uncle in a few days. He has traveled all over the world, but I've heard him recount memories of that trip to Scotchman Peak, and back down, more than any of his other travels.

What Grows There...

Continues from previous page

to pink but can vary and normally bloom in late April or May. They are usually solitary but can be found in clusters.

The plant has a single oval shaped leaf that comes out in late summer and then overwinters. The leaf withers after flowering and the stalk remains holding the seed pod up off the ground. They are pollinated by several species of bumble bees and the flower fades quickly after pollination. The seed pod holds hundreds of tiny seeds which look more like spores. The seed pods dry by late June or July and are then dispersed by the wind.

The Fairy Slipper grows in conjunction with a fungus and requires fairly specialized growing areas. They are easily damaged by human and animal activity and one should be cautious when traveling in their habitats.

While these little flowers are not endangered it is recommended not to pick or try to transplant them. Enjoy them where they are and you will be treated by their beauty in the same area year after year.

Thanks for Help from Our Friends

Hot Shots Video Productions in Sandpoint has offered to take hikes and snowshoe trips into the Scotchmans and video the area. They will then show the tapes on their regular programs including the Sandpoint Fun Guide, Ski Flakes, and Sandpoint Home and Garden Show via Northland Cable. The Home and Garden Show features an adventure travel segment of the show, "Get out of the Garden", which goes on the road to explore unique gardens, destinations, and outdoor activities. Shows are on Channel 5 in Sandpoint and Channel 8 at Schweitzer. This fall it will be on Cable Channels in Coeur d'Alene and Spokane.

Thanks to the many new friends who have joined our numbers. Special thanks for the generous donations we have recently received.



From the Top

Spring has been busy for FSPW as our campaign for official wilderness designation has accelerated. Much remains to be done to make this a reality and we continue to need both community and wider support. The Forest Service will be making some far reaching decisions in the upcoming months.

The longer days also beckon us outside for hikes not possible on short winter days. The natural beauty of the Scotchmans is now being highlighted by the constantly changing mix of flowers. Soft spring air soothes the rough edges of life. Quiet places need to remain for future generations to enjoy.

Join us both to experience the wonder of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area and to help us in our efforts to preserve its majesty.

Ann Wimberley

Message from the Chair

By Phil Hough

Momentum continues to build towards Wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks. The Bonner County Commissioners support was on the front pages of our local newspapers in March. This story was picked up by the Associated Press and republished by several other regional news services, taking the story of the Scotchmans to a wider audience! And back here at home, in April, both Sandpoint City Council as well as the Ponderay City Council passed resolutions supporting Wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks. These are great steps forward, but challenges still lie ahead.

The latest word from the forest service is that the draft forest plans for the Idaho Panhandle and Kootenai National Forests will be sent out May 12th. While we anxiously await the details we know that the draft plan does not include any recommended wilderness anywhere on the Kootenai National Forest. We will be developing strategies to bring recommended wilderness back into the final plan.

On June 22nd we will host a “State of Scotchmans” event. This will be an opportunity for you to come out and show your support for wilderness and share some camaraderie with other Scotchman supporters. We will celebrate our campaign’s progress and recent endorsements and take a look at what lies ahead. We will provide a brief overview of the draft forest plan and how your comments can help bring positive changes to the final forest plan. Mostly, we will have fun and share our passion for this special place.

In this issue of the newsletter you will find a list of our summer hike series – these trips are the best way to get to know the Scotchman. We hope you will come join us on a hike, or check out the website for details on how to hike the Scotchmans on your own.

Scotchman Rocks

By Bill Martin

There doesn't seem to be enough known about the mysterious Antler Mountains to say much about them, yet it doesn't seem right in telling the geological tale of this place not to mention the first mountains to rise here, 350 million years ago, in the late Devonian period of the Paleozoic or “old life” era.

It's called the old life era because at the end of it, 230 million years ago, came the great Permian extinction, when it seems that over 90% of all life forms on earth (excluding bacteria) died out. Popular theory at present is that enormous volcanic activity in western Siberia caused a massive increase in carbon dioxide which triggered a major greenhouse effect, reduced the amount of oxygen in the atmosphere to the point that most terrestrial species suffocated and made the oceans somewhat acidic, killing off much of the marine life. Big time global warming.

After the Paleozoic era came the Mesozoic, or “middle life”, era, which ended 65 million years ago when, it is now believed, a huge meteor slammed into earth and snuffed

out the dinosaurs and about two thirds of everything else. Then began the Cenozoic, or “recent life” era, in which we now tenuously reside. But I digress; back to the Devonian (named after the county of Devon, in England).

Back then, the future site of Scotchman Peaks was still practically beachfront property, as it had been ever since the western part of the continent had split off and floated away, two issues of this newsletter ago. It was also at the time a tropical place, down near the equator.

Then came the Antler orogeny (which means “mountain building event”). Something was pushing hard from the west, pushing up mountains. No one seems to have a clear idea of what happened, except that it did. Pieces of the Antlers can still be found in Nevada, and a bit in central Idaho, but most evidence of the Antlers was obliterated by the orogeny of the late Mesozoic era, 175 million years later, which led to the formation of the Rocky Mountains, which will finally be firmly established by the end of this column in the next newsletter.



Along The Trail

Endorsements:

April 17: City Of Ponderay

April 19: "The City of Sandpoint supports the designation and management of the Scotchman Peaks as a wilderness area to ensure our public lands continue to offer the quality of life that our residents desire while protecting its unique qualities for future generations.

April 26 edition of the River Journal: "It's time to protect the Scotchmans" (Trish Gannon, owner and publisher)

February 26 and **March 4:** FSPW -MWA led back-to-back snowshoe hikes into the Ross Creek Cedars. On the first hike, a contingent from Gonzaga University consisting of eight students and three faculty members arrived slightly late due to ice and snow on the way from Spokane, but had no trouble catching up with the old codgers on the long 3 mile pull up to the parking lot and trailhead. Despite the low snow conditions in the valleys this winter, there was plenty in the Cedars, providing a majestic playground for all to explore. Also, the students generated some interesting ideas for research projects they could pursue in and about the Scotchmans Wilderness. On the second hike, a couple of travelers nicely demonstrated the advantages of cross county skis for the return trip to the cars at the end of the day. In the accompanying picture, Jim Mellen was captured emulating the students from



Photo courtesy Neil Wimberley

Introducing Jim Mellen, FSPW Merchandise Coordinator.

Gonzaga in a giant leap for older mankind. After a day of winter fun, the obligatory pit stop at the Boar's Breath Saloon for refreshments was enjoyed by all.

March 6: FSPW was proud to be a part of the mountain sports experience with an information table at Radical Reels at the Panida Theatre in Sandpoint.

March 15: Carol Jenkins would like to thank the members of the Community Assistance League (CAL) for the opportunity to present the mission of FSPW and beautiful photos of the proposed wilderness area at their meeting. The CAL members were most enthusiastic and generous in their response. FSPW received many new supporters and donations from the CAL members in attendance.



Photo courtesy Phil Hough

Gonzaga students in the Ross Creek Cedars.

March 16: Cesar Hernandez made a presentation to the 24 member Noxon Senior Citizens audience.

March 18: Nine people started and 6 made it to the top of Star Peak in the 3rd in the series of FSPW-MWA winter walks. The other three were more interested in searching the lower slopes for antler sheds than in pushing for the summit. The clouds limited the views but lent a lot of drama and parted occasionally for glimpses of the valleys. The summit is under a LOT more snow than last winter. The stone cabin just below the summit was so completely covered with snow that there wasn't even a bump or ripple to indicate anything was underneath.

March 25: Members of FSPW joined the crowd of about 80 people attending the Cabinet Resource Group Annual Meeting at the Big Horn Lodge. Montana State Senator Jim Elliott reflected that this is one of the biggest annual group meetings in the county. The meeting marked CRG's 30th anniversary and included some amusing and inspiring remarks by founding member Bill Martin. The evening featured a pot luck dinner, a keg of beer, and a marvelous presentation by Doug Chadwick, a wildlife biologist and writer. Doug has written many articles for "National Geographic" and is the author of the book "A Beast the Color of Winter: The Mountain Goat Observed". Doug stressed that conservationists who are naturally focused on protecting wildlife habitat, population numbers, etc. not forget the essence of the animal.



Hikes Schedule for FSPW Summer 2006

With spring in full swing and the mountain snow pack melting fast, the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness is proud to present our summer 2006 hiking series! We have a hike for everyone, from easy family hikes to overnight trips for experienced bushwhackers. For an introduction to the Scotchmans choose from one of our classic destinations. Or follow us on a unique trip, off trail and "cross country," to one of our favorite hidden places. Come join us

for one of our organized hikes and see first hand why the Scotchmans are so special. Group size is limited and reservations are required. For more details and to sign up contact the hike leader listed. For more information about any of the hikes listed below, please go to our website at www.scotchmanpeaks.org. And, for those preferring to hike on their own, our website also contains basic information, including directions to trailheads, for some of the more popular hikes.

Sun 5/21	Ross Creek Cedars and Falls , This is the perfect family outing to learn more about these ancient trees. <i>Led by Jan Griffiths, (208) 265-4380, jan@looptravel.com</i>
Sun/Mon 5/28-29	Scotchman #2 Research Natural Area , Rated "most difficult" this 2-day off trail hike will explore the rugged terrain north of Scotchman #2. <i>Led by Phil Hough, (208) 255-2780, nowhere_man97@hotmail.com</i>
Tue 6/6	East Fork/Thunder Creek , Cedar lined stream banks, remote basins and Bull Trout habitat. <i>Led by Phil Hough, (208) 255-2780, nowhere_man97@hotmail.com</i>
Sat 6/10	Spar Lake Spring Flowers , join botanist Mike Arvidson as we explore the unique flora of Spar Creek valley. Cosponsored by the Native Plant Society. <i>Contact Joyce Pence 208-266-1107 konjoy@webtv.net</i>
Sun 6/18	Scotchman Peak , This is the "grand-daddy" of hikes in the proposed wilderness, with those stunning panoramic views. <i>Led by Phil Hough (208) 255-2780, nowhere_man97@hotmail.com</i>
Fri 6/23	Bear Mtn, Twin Pks, and Drift Mtn , three seldom visited peaks in the northern Scotchmans, only for the strong, seasoned, and adventurous hiker. <i>Led by John Harbuck (208)263-9894, harbuck@norlight.org</i>
Sat 6/24	Little Spar Lake , The Scotchmans largest lake, filled with trout, in a valley filled with flowers. <i>Led by Susan Drumheller 265-9565, sdrumheller@wildidaho.org</i>
Sun 6/25	Spar Peak to Mt Vernon Peak , a ridgeline traverse, learn about the goats that inhabit this region and why this habitat is critical. <i>Led by Cesar Hernandez (406) 883-5019, mwanw@wildmontana.org</i>
Wed 6/28	Webb Canyon , a moderately strenuous walk to a waterfall. <i>Led by Joyce Pence 208-266-1107 konjoy@webtv.net</i>
Sat-Mon 7/1-3	Scotchman 2 and Savage Saddle , 2-night trip to explore a remote basin dotted with tiny lakes, side trips to "bag" either or both peaks. <i>Led by Phil Hough, (208) 255-2780, nowhere_man97@hotmail.com</i>
Sat 7/8	Morris Creek , visit old Growth Cedar and Hemlock, <i>Led by Susan Drumheller 265-9565, sdrumheller@wildidaho.org</i>
Sat 7/9	Goat Mountain with a Scotchman Peak option , very steep trail, strong hikers are rewarded with unique views and an unusual route to Scotchman Peak. <i>Led by Jim Mellen (208) 265-5261 jmellen@imbris.net</i>
Sat 7/16	Star Peak , Visit the historic fire lookout with sweeping views of the Scotchmans, and the Cabinet Mountains. Ask Bill about geology and he will talk "rocks" for hours. <i>Led by Bill Martin 406-295-5258</i>
Sat/Sun 7/22-23	Sawtooth Overnighter , Bushwhacking fun for adventurous and experience hikers to a remote peak. <i>Led by Sandy Compton 406-847-2396, scenic.route@sandycompton.com</i>
Sun 7/23	Delyle Ridge , a level easy trip to breathtaking views of Scotchman Peak and Goat Mountain. <i>Led by Lexie de Fremery, (208) 265-9421 lexie@nidaho.net</i>
Sat 7/29	Spar Peak to Mt Vernon Peak with an overnight option , ridgeline traverse, learn about mountain goats why this habitat is critical. <i>Led by Cesar Hernandez (406) 883-5019, mwanw@wildmontana.org</i>
Sun 7/30	Ross Creek Cedars , this is the perfect family outing to learn more about these ancient trees. <i>Led by Carol Jenkins (208) 265-9204, irvorcarol@imbris.net</i>
Fri 8/4-5	Little Spar Lake day hike or spend the night at this lovely lake. <i>Led by Jim Mellen (208) 265-5261 jmellen@imbris.net</i>
Sat 8/5	Spar Peak , 360% views from this high peak above Spar Lake. On a nice, but steep, trail. Ask Bill about geology and he will talk "rocks" for hours. <i>Led by Bill Martin 406-295-5258</i>
Sat 8/12	Pillick Ridge , Explore the southwest part of Scotchman Peaks on this out and back trip, length to be determined by the group's interest. <i>Led by Doug Ferrell (406) 827-4341, mferrell_9874@yahoo.com</i>
Wed 8/16	Blue Creek Falls , easy to moderate hike to a waterfall in the Scotchmans. <i>Led by Joyce Pence 208-266-1107 konjoy@webtv.net</i>
Sat 8/19	East Fork/Thunder Creek , Cedar lined stream banks, remote basins and Bull Trout habitat. <i>Led by Lexie de Fremery, (208) 265-9421 lexie@nidaho.net</i>
Sun 8/20	Clayton Peak , strenuous hike on an Alder choked route only an Elk could love. <i>Led by Sandy Compton 406-847-2396, scenic.route@sandycompton.com</i>
Wed 8/23	Ross Creek Cedars , this is the perfect family outing to learn more about these ancient trees. <i>Led by Carol Jenkins (208) 265-9204, irvorcarol@imbris.net</i>
Sat 8/26	Star Gulch , an alternate route to the top of Star Peak. <i>Led by Doug Ferrell (406) 827-4341, mferrell_9874@yahoo.com</i>
Sun 8/27	Scotchman Peak , This is the "grand-daddy" of hikes in the proposed wilderness, with those stunning panoramic views. <i>Led by Susan Drumheller (208) 265-9565, sdrumheller@wildidaho.org</i>
Sun 9/10	East Fork/Thunder Creek , Cedar lined stream banks, remote basins and Bull Trout habitat. <i>Carol Jenkins (208) 265-9204, irvorcarol@imbris.net</i>
Sat 9/16	The Slow Hike To Scotchman Peak , for anyone wanting to go to the namesake mountain on a slow pace with lots of breaks. <i>Led by Jan Griffiths, (208) 265-4380, jan@looptravel.com</i>
Sat 9/23	Goat Peak , very steep trail, strong hikers are rewarded with unique and stunning views. <i>Led by Susan Drumheller 265-9565, sdrumheller@wildidaho.org</i>
Fri-Sun 9/22-9/24	Savage Mountain Adventure - Starting near Spar Lake this very strenuous 2 to 3 day back-pack trip will visit several basins near Savage Mountain. Experienced backpackers only. <i>Led by Cesar Hernandez (406) 883-5019, mwanw@wildmontana.org</i>
Thur-Sun 9/28-10/1	Compton Crags fall tour - 4 days, from Little Spar Lake to Blue Creek along the spine of the Scotchmans. Backpacking, boulder hopping and bushwhacking - and awe-inspiring. Not for the novice. Very limited space. <i>Led by Sandy Compton 406-847-2396, scenic.route@sandycompton.com</i>



Birds Found on the Scotchman Peaks - Mountain Bluebird

By Earl A. Chapin

Not only is the Mountain Bluebird the Idaho state bird, but it is also the favorite bird for many people. Even folks that don't watch birds will notice a bluebird. The male is very bright blue over most of its body, with a whitish blue belly. The female is a pale blue.

They are about 7 inches long and breed in open forest and alpine meadows, usually above 7,000 feet. They lay four to eight pale blue eggs in a cavity nest, often an abandoned woodpecker hole. However, bluebirds are attracted to bluebird houses and birds that have nested in a bluebird house will usually return to the same house year after year, regardless of elevation. They have two broods a year. Insects are the favored food, but they do eat fruit, especially in winter. The young are always fed insects.

Bluebirds defend the nest hole from Swallows, House Wrens, House Sparrows and Starlings. They have declined steadily the last century. They winter in central and south Mexico. I have often seen flocks of 20 or 30 birds gathering in the high country, such as Scotchman Peak, in late fall. I have seen them as late as November and as early as March.

I am going to briefly mention the Western Bluebird because we also see this bird every year. This bird is darker blue on the back with a reddish orange on the breast. Its habits are similar to the Mountain Bluebird, but it nests in burned over or cut over forest usually below 5,000 feet. I see them in this area every year, but have never seen them in migration in the high country. The Western Bluebird is more in decline than the Mountain Bluebird.



Mountain Bluebird

Check Out the Shirts on Our Website

- T-shirt** (Scotchman blue) \$15
- Long-sleeved T-shirt** (black) \$25
- Sweatshirt** (black) \$35
- Hooded sweatshirt** (black) \$40
- Zippered hooded sweatshirt** (black) \$45

Outlets are Outdoor Experience in Sandpoint and The Hope Market Café in Hope. For out of the area orders, contact Jim Mellen at jmellen@imbris.net. All proceeds benefit our wilderness preservation efforts.

The Future Looks Bright

May 8 at Noon: Jan Griffiths and Phil Hough will make a presentation to the Kiwanis at the Elks.

May 11: You are invited to attend the Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce meeting on Thursday, 11:45-1:00 at the Elks on Highway 200 in Ponderay. This presentation given by Jan Griffiths, Vice Chair of FSPW, will take you on a visual tour of the Scotchman Peaks area and the value of wilderness designation. Reservations are required by Tuesday, May 9 at 263-0087 or email info@sandpointchamber.com. Lunch is \$15. You do not have to be a chamber member to attend, but please make reservations.

June 19 at 7pm: Presentation to Spokane Mountaineers at the Corbin Senior Center, 827 W. Cleveland, Spokane.

June 22: State of the Scotchmans: Please join FSPW on Thursday, June 22 from 5 to 7pm at the Pend d'Oreille Winery, 220 Cedar St., for our first State of the Scotchmans get together. We will have a brief overview of our accomplishments and future plans along with great food. Our very own wine will be available for purchase by the bottle or by the case and, of course, we will have

our popular Scotchman shirts there. You can either order items ahead of time or pick them up that night. Contact: Jan Griffiths (208)265-4380 or jan@looptravel.com for wine or Jim Mellen (208)265-5261 or jmellen@imbris.net for the shirts. Please feel free to bring a friend or two.

July 4: Please join FSPW as we walk with our banner in the Sandpoint July 4th Parade. Meet us in the downtown staging area around 5th and Church streets by 9:30 am. You will find us in our Scotchman shirts. Join us after the parade in the courtyard of the Pend d'Oreille Winery to support our supporters and toast the wilderness.

FSPW announces that we have our very own wine label coming out with Pend d'Oreille Winery. You can purchase by the bottle or by the case. The red will be \$15 and a Chardonnay will be \$20 a bottle. \$5 of every bottle sold benefits FSPW. To place orders, contact Jan Griffiths, (208)265-4380 or jan@looptravel.com.



Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans

By Mindy Ferrell

Spring brings a plethora of changes to the natural world. Migratory species return, bringing with them the new season's notes and trills that call to us as we hike into the mountains. Ponds come alive with the sounds of frogs, and the forest floor sprouts its seasonal greenery.

But there are changes that are just as dramatic for many resident species as the days become longer, and the snow melts away. The Canada lynx is one such animal. It no longer needs its large snowshoe feet to ambush its favorite prey, the snowshoe hare, across winter's snow fields. The indicative track shrinks in size and its thick winter coat is shed. What does remain are the tell-tale 2-inch ear tufts that easily distinguish it from its cousin, the bobcat. The legs of the lynx are slightly longer, and it is slightly heavier as well. Both cats, however, have a beautiful facial ruff and a short 4-inch tail tipped with black.



Canada Lynx

The lynx is much more elusive as well, preferring the dark nights of winter for its hunting, but adapting to daylight hours in the middle of summer.

The lynx prefers the sub alpine coniferous forests of mixed age frequently found at higher elevations. Its range in North America starts with the boundary states and moves north into Canada. The bobcat starts its range with the boundary states and moves south towards Mexico. Thus, here in the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, we are lucky enough, and wild enough, to have both.

For denning sites lynx prefer mature forests with many downed logs or windfalls, large woody debris with dense understory coverage that provide cover and protection for the kittens. Its main prey source, the snowshoe hare, however is found more in both old-growth and younger forests with more open space that provide browsing food for the hare and still have enough understory coverage during winter for food and protection. In the northern range, lynx feed almost exclusively on the snowshoe hare. In the southern range, studies have shown that although the snowshoe hare is a main dietary source, the lynx also prey on other small mammals such as squirrels, small rodents and grouse.

Because its primary food sources often have rising and crashing population curves, the lynx's population cycle most often will match these fluctuations, lagging behind one to two years. Most experts agree that the southern lynx populations are more at risk than the northern populations. Research studies on lynx population and habitat have been initiated to better understand how to preserve the species. Although there is much that we do not know about this elusive predator, it seems certain that protecting large chunks of undisturbed lands will help ensure their survival.

Paul Bradford, the Forest Service's acting Budget Director in Washington DC, has recently been named as the new Kootenai Forest Supervisor. Paul begins his new duties June 25th, replacing Bob Castaneda who retires at the end of May.

Winter Travel Planning

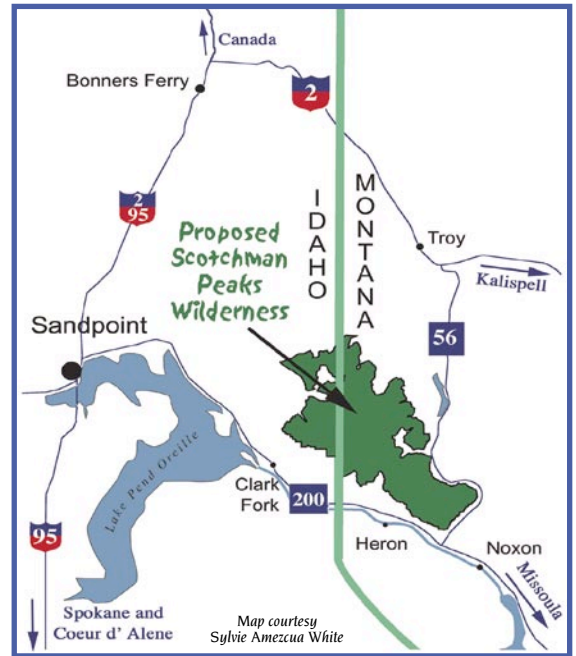
The northern part of the Idaho Panhandle national forest, known as the Kanisku forest, recently began initial steps in their "winter travel planning" process. The formal "scoping" period which solicited public comments ended April 30. While comments will continue to be taken after this date, they may be more effective during future comment periods. The Forest Service will now develop a "proposed action" which will be introduced later this year with another comment period and public meetings. From these public meetings and comment periods, alternatives will be developed and an Environmental Assessment will be drafted. The Forest Service's goal is to have an updated travel plan in place in the winter of 2007/2008. As this process unfolds we will help identify ways in which you can make your concerns for the Scotchmans heard.



How You Can Help

Support Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

As concerned citizens, we support protecting and preserving the Scotchman Peaks area for ourselves and future generations. Highway 56, Highway 200, Lightning Creek Road, and Rattle Creek/Keeler Road surround this 88,000 acre scenic area which straddles the Idaho and Montana border. Wilderness Designation for the Scotchmans will protect plants and wildlife, including the endangered grizzly bears, mountain goat, and bull trout; it will protect water quality; and it will preserve a special place for future generations. In addition, local communities will benefit from the unparalleled recreational and economic opportunities such wilderness provides.



Name: _____

Address: _____

e-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Donation enclosed (optional). Donations are tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Detach & Mail to the address below.



Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness
PO Box 2061, Sandpoint, ID 83864