



PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness
Volume 2, Number 4 • July/August, 2006



Facing the New Forest Plan

By Phil Hough

The draft forest plans for both the Idaho Panhandle and Kootenai National Forests were released in May. Here is a very brief review of how these draft plans impact the Scotchman Peaks area.

The Idaho Panhandle National Forest (IPNF) has strengthened their wilderness recommendations for the Scotchman Peaks area. Specifically, the IPNF has re-drawn boundaries for the recommended wilderness which make better geographic sense, and in so doing have added some acreage to the total amount they are recommending for wilderness for the Scotchman Peaks area. Additionally, they have proposed restricting snowmobiling from recommended wilderness. Snowmobiling is an activity suitable to non-wilderness areas.

The Kootenai National Forest has removed the category of recommended wilderness from the entire forest, including areas in the Scotchmans that had been managed since the 1970s as recommended wilderness. They have replaced it with a newly created "wildlands" category. The wildlands category does not contain a recommendation for wilderness from the forest service. By withdrawing their recommendation for wilderness, the Kootenai hinders the process of securing congressional designation of wilderness. This decision contradicts existing forest planning regulations as well as the forest service's own directives. As residents and users of the Scotchman Peaks area we stand to lose our wilderness unless we take action. The Kootenai Forest has the opportunity to correct this egregious error when they write the final plan. In order for this to happen they need to understand we are not satisfied.

A strong community voice, with many people joining the chorus, can create this change. We need to let both forest supervisors know that:

- We fully support the Idaho Panhandle National Forest's wilderness recommendation for the Scotchmans and thank them for setting aside this area to be free from snowmobiles.
- We do not believe that the Kootenai National Forest represented the best interest or desires of ourselves, or our communities, by removing recommended wilderness. We want Recommended Wilderness back in the plan for the Scotchman Peaks!
- We want the Recommended Wilderness boundaries to include all areas identified in the 1987 plan as recommended wilderness as well as all areas identified in the "starting option" as recommended wilderness.
- We are particularly concerned that the "5C" area east of Savage peak (which was recommended wilderness until the draft plan map came out) was carved out of an area with high wilderness values and containing critical habitat for many species. This action slices into the biological heart of the Scotchmans and undermines the wilderness integrity and solitude of the surrounding area. This area needs to be returned to recommended wilderness for the Scotchmans.

Continues on following page

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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Pika - Ochotona Princeps

By Mindy Ferrell

When you come across the talus slopes on most any summer hike, you will hear the high-pitched, tell-tale “eee-eee” of the elusive pika. Although this small rodent is seen by only the most patient of hikers, most everyone knows its cheery persistent call that rings out from the trails of the Scotchman Peaks.

The pika is a small, industrious mammal that lives throughout the Rocky Mountains. They are found in the high country and particularly enjoy the protection of talus slopes. Also called “rock rabbit”, the 8-inch long, 7-ounce pika spends the summer months busily cutting, gathering and drying leaves and grasses. As many as 20 varieties of plants have been found in their haystacks, indicating the diversity of vegetation this rodent can consume. These dried plants are kept as a food source during the long high-altitude winters. The pika is a diurnal animal, meaning that it is active during both day and night.

A relative of the rabbit and hare, the pika is the size and shape of a guinea pig with a stocky, grayish-brown body. It has short legs, round ears, a tiny tail, sharp curved claws and a grayish patch on the neck. The pika is very alert and has excellent hearing and vision which helps protect it from predators like coyotes, weasels, martens and hawks. Pikas emit their sharp, high-pitched chirp to alert other nearby pikas when predators are detected, and sometimes to declare and protect its territory.

Pikas breed during March and April. Females usually bear one or two litters, with two to four young in each. When the young are born, they have no hair and are blind, but within a short time, they grow rapidly and are able to open their eyes. Pikas usually live for about four to seven years.

Perhaps unknown to many, the pika is considered an indicator species of global warming. New research results published in the February 2003 issue of the Journal of Mammalogy show that American pikas are particularly vulnerable to global warming because they reside in areas with cool, relatively moist climates like those normally found in their mountaintop habitat. As temperatures rise, many montane animals are expected to migrate northward or seek higher elevations in an attempt to find suitable habitat. The American pika appears not as well-equipped as other species to handle this environmental shift.

“American pikas are unfortunately like the ‘canary in the coal mine’ when it comes to global



Pika – Ochotona princeps
Photo courtesy Joan MacKenzie/www.PikaWorks.com

warming,” said Jennifer Morgan, director of WWF’s Climate Change Program. “Their disappearance is a red flag that our heavy reliance on dirty fossil fuels is causing irreparable damage to our environment. We must make the switch to clean renewable energy resources like wind and solar now before it’s too late.”

So as you head up the trails of the Scotchman Peaks this summer, enjoy the upbeat, persistent chirp of the pika hidden amongst the rocks. Think

of it as a personal plea to protect this pristine landscape, and to inspire all of us to alter our current consumptive paths that risk this cheery harbinger of wild places.

This coupon entitles the bearer to a discount on **Friends of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Merchandise**

\$2⁰⁰ off T-shirts & \$5⁰⁰ off Sweat Shirts

No limit on number of discounted items that can be purchased with this coupon

Valid until September 5th, 2006

Get your T-Shirts or Sweatshirts at Outdoor Experience in Sandpoint, The Hope Market Cafe in Hope, Huckelberry Thicket in Trout Creek, MT, or our newest outlet, Far North Outfitters in Bonners Ferry. Out of the area, contact, jmellen@imbris.net.

Facing the New Forest Plan, Continues

- We expect both forests to recognize and, through recommended wilderness, to protect all critical habitat in the Scotchmans for threatened, endangered and sensitive species including the Grizzly Bear, Bull Trout, Canada Lynx, Wolverine and Mountain Goat.
- We believe that opportunities for solitude, scenery, biological integrity, quiet recreation, quality hunting and fishing should be the primary concerns in determining boundaries and recommending wilderness for the Scotchman Peaks area.

Make yourself heard and help make recommended wilderness a strong component of both forest plans. Comments on these draft plans will be accepted by the forest service until August 10th. Please send copies of your comments to both:

Kootenai National Forest
KIPZ Revision Team
1101 Hwy 2 W
Libby, MT 59923

Idaho Panhandle National Forest
KIPZ Revision Team
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d’Alene, ID 83815

Also check out an interactive website for comments:
www.nationalforestaction.org

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail and have an email address please help us save postage by sending us your email address.



Peak Views

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. 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. To sign up contact the hike leader listed. For more details go to our website at www.scotchmanpeaks.org.

E = Easy		M = Moderate	S = Strenuous	D = Difficult-Experienced Only
Sat 7/8	E/M	Morris Creek , visit old Growth Cedar and Hemlock, Led by Susan Drumheller 265-9565, sdrumheller@wildidaho.org		
Sun 7/9	S	Goat Mountain with a Scotchman Peak option , very steep trail, strong hikers are rewarded with unique views and an unusual route to Scotchman Peak. Led by <i>Jim Mellen</i> (208) 265-5261 jmellen@imbris.net		
Sun 7/16	S	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. Led by <i>Bill Martin</i> 406-295-5258		
Sat/Sun 7/15-16	D	Sawtooth Overnighter , Bushwhacking fun for adventurous and experience hikers to a remote peak. Led by <i>Sandy Compton</i> 406-847-2396, scenic.route@sandycompton.com		
Sat 7/22	S	Scotchman Peak , This is the grand-daddy of hikes in the proposed wilderness, with those stunning panoramic views. Led by <i>Deb Huniscker</i> (208) 255-2780, nowhere_man97@hotmail.com		
Sun 7/23	E	Delyle Ridge , a level easy trip to breathtaking views of Scotchman Peak and Goat Mountain. Led by <i>Lexie de Fremery</i> , (208) 265-9421 lexie@nidaho.net		
Sat 7/29	D	Spar Peak to Mt Vernon Peak with an overnight option , ridgeline traverse, learn about mountain goats why this habitat is critical. Led by <i>Cesar Hernandez</i> (406) 883-5019, mwanw@wildmontana.org		
Sun 7/30	E	Ross Creek Cedars , this is the perfect family outing to learn more about these ancient trees. Led by <i>Carol Jenkins</i> (208) 265-9204, irvorcarol@imbris.net		
Fri 8/4-5	M	Little Spar Lake day hike or spend the night at this lovely lake. Led by <i>Jim Mellen</i> (208) 265-5261 jmellen@imbris.net		
Sat 8/5	M/S	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. Led by <i>Bill Martin</i> 406-295-5258		
Sat 8/12	M/S	Pillick Ridge , Explore the southwest part of Scotchman Peaks on this out and back trip, length to be determined by the group' interest. Led by <i>Doug Ferrell</i> (406) 827-4341, mferrell_9874@yahoo.com		
Wed 8/16	E/M	Blue Creek Falls , easy to moderate hike to a waterfall in the Scotchmans. Led by <i>Joyce Pence</i> 208-266-1107 konjoy@webtv.net		
Sat 8/19	E/M	East Fork/Thunder Creek , Cedar lined stream banks, remote basins and Bull Trout habitat. Led by <i>Lexie de Fremery</i> , (208) 265-9421 lexie@nidaho.net		
Sun 8/20	D	Clayton Peak , strenuous hike on an Alder choked route only an Elk could love. Led by <i>Sandy Compton</i> 406-847-2396, scenic.route@sandycompton.com		
Wed 8/23	E	Ross Creek Cedars , this is the perfect family outing to learn more about these ancient trees. Led by <i>Carol Jenkins</i> (208) 265-9204, irvorcarol@imbris.net		
Sat 8/26	S	Star Gulch , an alternate route to the top of Star Peak. Led by <i>Doug Ferrell</i> (406) 827-4341, mferrell_9874@yahoo.com		
Sun 8/27	S	Scotchman Peak , This is the "grand-daddy" of hikes in the proposed wilderness, with those stunning panoramic views. Led by <i>Susan Drumheller</i> 265-9565, sdrumheller@wildidaho.org		
Thu 9/7	E/M	Full Moon Antelope Mountain , watch the full moon rise and cast its light upon Scotchman Peak as seen from Antelope Mountain. Led by <i>Joyce Pence</i> 208-266-1107 konjoy@webtv.net		
Sun 9/10	E/M	East Fork/Thunder Creek , Cedar lined stream banks, remote basins and Bull Trout habitat. <i>Carol Jenkins</i> (208) 265-9204, irvorcarol@imbris.net		
Sat 9/16	M/S	The Slow Hike To Scotchman Peak , for anyone wanting to go to the namesake mountain on a slow pace with lots of breaks. Led by <i>Jan Griffiths</i> , (208) 265-4380, jan@looptravel.com		
Fri-Sun 9/22-24	D	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. Led by <i>Cesar Hernandez</i> (406) 883-5019, mwanw@wildmontana.org		
Sat 9/23	S	Goat Peak , very steep trail, strong hikers are rewarded with unique and stunning views. Led by <i>Susan Drumheller</i> 265-9565, sdrumheller@wildidaho.org		
Thu-Sun 9/28-10/1	D	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. Led by <i>Sandy Compton</i> 406-847-2396, scenic.route@sandycompton.com		



From the Top

Summer is a season of celebration for the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, first with the State of the Scotchmans and then with two Fourth of July Parades. Summer is also a time of action as the long awaited Forest Service Draft plan is now available for review and comment. Please take the time to let both forest service supervisors know that you value wilderness and want it preserved for future generations to enjoy. The rainy spring may have dampened the spirits of hikers but summer brings the hope of sunny days. Join us on a hike to a cool waterfall or a mountaintop and check out the wilderness experience for yourself.

Ann Wimberley

Message from the Chair

By Phil Hough

It's summer and the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness campaign is heating up! Our summer hiking series has introduced many new hiking friends to the Scotchmans and we are actively working to try and improve the draft forest plan. The message in this issue will be brief so that we can get out and enjoy our special places. We hope you will come to know and love the Scotchmans and work with us to bring permanent protection to this gem of the northwest!

FSPW Receives Grant

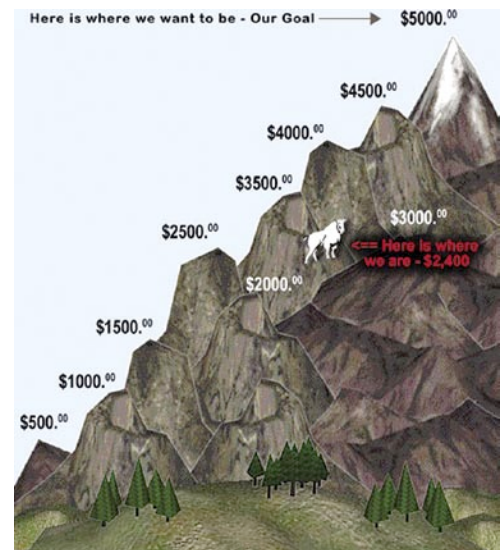
By Carol Jenkins

We are excited to announce that The Cinnabar Foundation has awarded FSPW a \$5,000 grant. Since Len and Sandy Sargent founded the Cinnabar Foundation in 1983, it has had a rich history of distributing resources to grassroots organizations in Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem who embrace conservation ethics through advocacy, education and research. We are truly honored to be recognized by this foundation.

Cinnabar grants are challenge grants. Our challenge is for a dollar-for-dollar match. Our goal is to achieve this by October so that we can put these funds to work as soon as possible.

To date our outreach and education efforts have been supported by the Friends. Your support and our joint accomplishments brought us to this point where we are recognized by a major funding organization.

Their financial support means to us exactly what Friends support has meant, the belief that securing permanent protection for the Scotchman Peaks area is worth our gifts of time, talent, and money. We accepted this challenge grant with full confidence that this community would meet the challenge and bring the protection of the land, the animals, the plants, and the wilderness experience closer to success.



Featured Hike / Trail of the Month - Scotchman Peak Trail #65

By Phil Hough

This is the "grand-daddy" of hikes in the proposed wilderness, an annual pilgrimage for many local hikers. The trail is a little over 4 miles one-way, but the elevation gain is 3,700 feet. This is a short climb, but strenuous because it is steep. The well worn trail tread is usually in good



Hunter Price leads the way on the Father's Day hike on Scotchman Peak.

Photo courtesy Phil Hough

shape and leads to the highest point in Bonner County, the top of Scotchman Peak. Stunning panoramas of Lake Pend Oreille begin at "the meadows", about two thirds of the way up and they continue to unfold as you

reach the summit. The peak looks over, and deep into, the rugged valleys and ridges of the Scotchman Peaks area. Mountain goats are frequently encountered on the surrounding ridges and near the summit. Snow lingers late into the summer of most years.

If you go: Bring good boots or trail shoes and plenty of water, as the route is "dry" with no definitive water source. Snacks or lunch, layers of extra clothing and rain gear are always advisable in the mountains. You will appreciate good binoculars and a camera.

Driving Directions to the Trailhead: Take Highway 200 (east from Sandpoint) and in downtown Clark Fork turn north at the Chevron Station. Go past the school and continue up Mosquito Creek Road #276. Go past the Clark Fork Field Campus / outfitters to the junction of Road #2294. Turn right and go a little over a mile. Watch for signs for trail #65. Turn left on road 2294A and turn left again at #65 sign. Follow this a little over a mile to where the road ends at the Trailhead. Look Up.



Scotchmans deserve security of immediate wilderness designation

"We can never have enough of nature. We must be refreshed by the sight of inexhaustible vigor, vast and titanic features, the sea-coast with its wrecks, the wilderness with its living and its decaying trees, the thunder-cloud, and the rain which lasts three weeks and produces freshets. We need to witness our own limits transgressed, and some life pasturing freely where we never wander." – Henry David Thoreau, "Spring," Walden

Without nature, without a connection to areas little changed since their creation, we are diminished in ways beyond counting. Progress becomes clutter, development becomes an affront and life is less rich, its colors muted and grayed.

We are less than what we should, and could, be.

Just as we need the jumbled diversity of cities and towns, we need places to dream, places where our souls can sour and we can see the majesty of the world – places like the Scotchman Peaks. We need to preserve these areas as they are, as they were meant to be.

Towering high in the Cabinet Mountains, Scotchman Peak looks out over Lake Pend Oreille and the Clark Fork River. At 7,009 feet, the mountain is the highest point in Bonner County, offering unparalleled views of Idaho and Montana.

The 88,000-acre roadless area has changed little over the centuries – its craggy terrain keeping man's influence to a few footprints scattered over its mountains. The scenery today has changed little from its infancy – and that is how it should be.

Protecting the Scotchmans from our selfishness and self-absorption makes sense. Formalizing the protection and turning the Scotchmans into a wilderness area, preserved and cherished, is the least we can – not only for the land we love but for ourselves.

We need areas where we can hike and explore. We need the peace and balance offered by the solitude and quiet, where the only sound you hear is an eagle's shrill cry or the gurgle of a mountain stream. The time I spent camping and exploring with family and friends has enriched my life. I would not be the person I am without those experiences or the specialness of those places.

Areas, like people, have an identity, which must be celebrated and nourished. For the Scotchman Peaks, that identity is found in its wilderness – an identity that allows for a rich and varied number of uses, while protecting the very essence of what makes it special.

But, if you do want to look at things selfishly, Studies have

shown that creation of new wilderness areas also makes economic sense. It boosts property values, stimulates economic growth and because the area's natural beauty is preserved, it draws people, jobs and resources to a region.

The Daily Bee joins its voice to those calling on the federal government to protect the Scotchman Peaks region and designate it as a wilderness area. There is no other answer, no other solution which makes sense.

If you would like to know more, if you would like to help, Friends of Scotchman Peaks will hold its first "State Of The Scotchmans" on Thursday. The open house event is set for 5-7 p.m. at the Pend d'Oreille Winery. Or go online to www.scotchmanpeaks.org

Caroline Lobsinger is the managing editor of the Bonner County Daily Bee.

Reprinted with permission from the Opinion Page, June 18, 2006

The Future Looks Bright

July 4 - FSPW will participate again this year in the Sandpoint Lions Club Independence Day Parade. Please wear your Scotchman Peaks shirt and walk with us behind our banner! The parade begins at 10:00 am. Find us in the staging area and celebrate this great land with your friends.

July 4 - Meet the Wimberleys in Clark Fork at the staging area for the parade at 9am to join us for our first participation in the annual parade. Just look for our blue shirts in Joyce and Konrad's Ugliest Truck entry. Following the parade, pick up brochures and other information or buy a T-shirt at our table on the school grounds.

August 11, 12, 13 – FSPW will be in the Annual Trout Creek Huckleberry Festival Parade and will also be sponsoring a booth. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! Gather for the parade in your blue shirts at 10:30 Saturday morning. Sign up for 2-3 hour shifts for Saturday or Sunday. Contact Earnie Scherzer (406)827-4305 for details. Gather with Friends and show your support.

August 23-26 – Volunteers are needed for the FSPW booth at the Bonner County Fair, Wednesday through Saturday to welcome folks who stop by, distribute literature and answer questions. Volunteers will be asked to wear their Scotchmans shirt and review a FAQ sheet to feel comfortable with questions. Volunteers can always refer folks to a board member for further discussion as needed. If you hold wilderness values dear, we could use your help at the booth! Please contact Carol Jenkins for more information or to sign on at 265-9204.



What Grows There Whitebark Pine

By Jon Burkhardt

Most Cabinet Mountains hikers can identify trees like Douglas fir, Larch, Spruce or Lodgepole Pine. A tree that often escapes notice is the Whitebark Pine. Growing at high elevations on rocky ridge tops often in the same type of habitat as Subalpine Fir this imperiled tree survives in an extremely difficult climate zone. Searing sun in the summer and deep snow and harsh winds in the winter create conditions that most trees cannot handle. In some areas the gnarled bleached white skeletons of trees that you see on the open ridges are remnants of the Whitebark Pine. These will last for many years because of the slow decomposition in these conditions.

The Whitebark will have 5 needles per bunch like the Western White Pine. Its name comes from the smooth whitish bark of the younger trees. The needles are clustered at the ends of the twigs and branches and are usually 2 to 3 inches long. When it grows at lower elevations it can be a tall graceful tree but most of them in our area are up high and only grow to 30 to 40 feet tall. Slow growing and long lived; it is typically more than 100 years old before it produces cones. The seeds are large

and a favorite of the Clark's Nutcracker and can also be eaten by humans either raw or roasted. Whitebark stands occasionally grow in high altitude wildfire openings due to the nutcrackers habit of caching seeds in open areas. Modern fire suppression has reduced its potential habitat.

While these trees have never been overly common in the Cabinets, they may soon become rare. They are dying out at a rapid rate due to White Pine blister rust. I've seen the yellow spores of this rust infecting a Whitebark on a 5,500 foot ridge far removed from any White Pine. The next time you are up in this type of habitat keep an eye out for this hardy little tree and take a moment to reflect on its tenacity and ability to survive in these difficult conditions.



Whitebark Pine.

Tales of Scotchman Peaks: A Photographic Memory



Hikers pose for a picture at the top of Scotchman's Peak, circa 1915. The photograph was taken by Henry Van Schravendyk. Photo courtesy of the Bonner County Historical Society and Museum.

Scotchman Peak Lookout 1929, Photo taken by Shorty Kauffman, courtesy of Gary Weber collection.

The Tales column will return next issue.



Along the Trail

Kiwanis Club May 8th – Jan Griffiths and Phil Hough made a presentation about the Scotchman Peaks to the Sandpoint Kiwanis Club.

Chamber of Commerce May 11th – Jan Griffiths presented our slide show on the Scotchman peaks to a packed house at the monthly Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Pend Oreille Pedalers May 16 – presentation by Jan Griffiths

Lake Pend Oreille Cruise May 21st – 28 guests cruised up the Clark Fork River Delta for views of Scotchman Peak on a perfect Sunday afternoon.

Sanders County Ledger June 15 – A front page article reported that the City Council of Thompson Falls voted unanimously to approve a resolution to support

wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks area, making Thompson Falls the first city in Montana to do so.

Spokane Mountaineers June 19th - the FSPW made a timely presentation to the Spokane Mountaineers general membership, focusing on our summer hiking series and the draft forest plan.

State of the Scotchmans June 22nd - old and new friends alike gathered at Pend Oreille winery to celebrate our first successful year and to look at the work that lies ahead in order to bring wilderness designation to the Scotchmans.

A Gathering of Friends June 28th – Friends gathered at the Bull River Campground for hotdogs and hamburgers, to review the Forest Service Draft plans, and to celebrate our progress



Scotchman Rocks

By **Bill Martin**

We owe the existence of Scotchman Peaks to the Atlantic Ocean. For a few tens of millions of years during the latter Paleozoic era, the various land masses floating about like bump'em cars on the planet had all run into each other in a great smashup called Pangaea. There was essentially one continent and one vast ocean. Pangaea split into two super-continents; Gondwanaland in the south, and Laurasia in the north. About 205 million years ago, Laurasia began to separate along what we now know as the mid-Atlantic ridge.

An up-welling of basalt lava continues along the ridge to this day, widening the Atlantic as it pushes out new oceanic crust to each side.

As North America was pushed to the west, the lithosphere broke along the old western margin of the continent, creating a new plate which rode up over the floor of the Pacific Ocean. Picture pushing two rugs together, one

lapping over the other (and throw in a sticky floor). Great slabs broke off the edge, and were over-ridden, stacking up into towering mountains, in a process called thrust-faulting. These early Rockies are thought to have reached to 20,000 ft, and to have resembled the current Andes Mts. of South America.

As the Pacific plate went under the oncoming continent and sank into the mantle, it heated up enormously, turning its moisture into intense steam, melting rock into magma, which rose up, pushing against the tall mountains above and mostly to the east, until they slid off to the east, wider, but not as tall as before, like a stack of poker chips being pushed over, creating the overthrust belt.

This is a simplistic explanation that leaves a lot out, but it's the basic story, and I'm sticking to it. Except for some finish work to be done by glaciers in the next issue of this newsletter, the Rocky Mountains are complete.

HAWKS

By **Earl Chapin**

Some hawks have short tails and some have long tails. There are four species of long tailed hawks in our area and with a little study you will be able to identify them. Color and size are the easiest way to identify them.

The Northern Goshawk is the largest of the four, being 21 inches long and has a heavy body. It lives in old growth forest and is quite scarce. Most Goshawks that I see are at higher elevation, usually above 4000 ft. It is blue-gray, with a white underneath and has a rounded tail. The Goshawk is large enough to prey on squirrels and grouse. I usually see four or five each year while hiking into the mountain lakes to fish.

The Coopers hawk is 16 inches long with a slim body and is very fast. It lives on forest margins and hunts by dashing through the forest for squirrels, birds, and snakes. Coopers hawks are scarce. The body is brown with a heavily streaked, orange-brown underneath. The head is quite large in proportion to the body. The tail is rounded on the end.

The Sharp Shinned hawk is 11 inches long and is very similar to the Coopers hawk, including the orange-brown belly. It lives in open woodland and forest margin. It is a common hawk and the head is small in proportion to the the body. The end of the tail is square. This hawk feeds almost entirely on birds up to the size



Red Tail Hawk.

Photo courtesy Jay Mock

of pigeons. It is often seen chasing small birds near feeders. I have seen them catch starlings in flight.

The Northern Harrier is 17 inches long and has a very long tail. There is a large white spot on the top of the tail where it joins the back. It is a common hawk of farm fields and wetlands. Harriers fly low and slow over fields in search of rodents and insects. Males are white-gray and females are brown.

Two species of short tailed hawk are found in this area. The Red Tailed is very common, but has declined in number because of the loss of ground squirrels. This hawk circles an area looking for rodents, snakes, and insects. Most Red Tailed hawks are brown, but also are seen in white phase (very white), and dark phase (very dark brown). All three have the red tail.

Rough Legged hawks migrate south to this area in winter. They are the size of the Red Tailed, but have a white tail with a large black band. They are also found in white and dark phase.

New Scotchman Peaks Merchandise On-line

We are excited to introduce you to our new on-line store run by Café Presse! A wide variety of merchandise is available in several Scotchman Peaks Wilderness designs. There is a gift for every occasion. And we will be adding more items including books, calendars, posters and additional designs in the near future. Proceeds will benefit our efforts to preserve the Scotchman Peaks area as wilderness.

You can start your online Scotchmans Shopping experience at: www.scotchmanpeaks.org/store.html

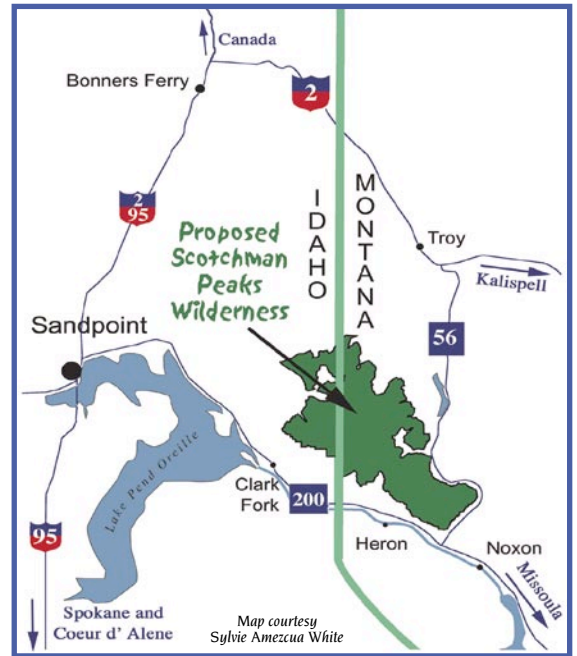
Happy shopping!



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