



PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness
Volume 1, Number 1 • September, 2005

Friends of the 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.

Board members are:

- Lexie de Fremery
Sagle, Idaho
- Doug Ferrell
Trout Creek, Montana
- Jan Griffiths
Sandpoint, Idaho
- Cesar Hernandez
Heron, Montana
- Phil Hough
Sagle, Idaho
- Carol Jenkins
Sagle, Idaho
- Bill Martin
Troy, Montana
- Neil Wimberley
Hope, Idaho

Editor: Ann Wimberley
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From The Top

Welcome to Volume 1 of "Peak Experience", the newsletter of the Friends of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness (FSPW). The purpose of this newsletter is twofold: 1) to inform current Friends of progress made since the kickoff Jack Gladstone concert, and how they can help in ongoing projects. 2) to attract new Friends.

The original steering committee has been condensed to an Executive Board as the number of Friends has grown. One area of focus at this time is educating the public about the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and its value to the surrounding communities and to the wildlife living within its boundaries. Another focus is beginning the political process that will be necessary to make the proposed wilderness a federally protected wilderness. This will be a lengthy project, requiring help from many more people. Volunteer needs and fund raising information will be posted in each issue.

The newsletter will be published on an "as needed" basis. Current plans include an issue in November to showcase merchandise that can

be purchased for Christmas gifts. A January issue will focus on plans for winter snowshoe trips into the proposed wilderness area and spring hikes. The column, "Tales of Scotchman", will focus on personal stories of how this magnificent wilderness has affected the lives of people living in this area. We would like for you to send us your stories to share. Other regular columns will cover animals, geology, and plants. Please let us know if there are additional topics you would like to see covered.

Come with us into the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and help us preserve it for our grandchildren's grandchildren.

Ann Wimberley, Editor



Photo courtesy Marilyn George

The Future Looks Bright

Wednesday, September 14: **Power Point Presentation** scheduled for the Lake Pend Oreille Idaho Club.

Saturday, September 24: **"Shoot the Bull"** – sponsored by the Bull River Outdoor Program will feature Sandy Compton and his personal connection to the Scotchman Peaks, Growing Up Wild. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. (Mountain Standard Time) at the Old Guard Station on the East Fork of the Bull River. For more information contact Kari Harker at: hkblue_99@yahoo.com.

Saturday, October 15: **"Wild Idaho North"** – sponsored by the Idaho Conservation League at the City Forum in Sandpoint. Agenda details are still being finalized but this all day forum will include workshops and panel discussions on Wilderness Potential in North Idaho, Ecology of North Idaho and Trans-boundary Conservation Issues. The Scotchmans may play a role in each of these discussions. For more details contact Jonathan Oppenheimer at: joppenheimer@wildidaho.org.



Help Wanted

Please call Lexie de Fremery at (208) 265-9421 to learn about assisting us as the Friends List Coordinator.

Contact Phil Hough at (208) 255-2780 or nowhere_man97@hotmail.com if you are interested in assisting us in Website development.

Call Jan Griffitts at (208) 265-4380 for information on taking the lead on printed materials, T-shirts, and other items.

We also need help with programs, events, and other activities. If you have an idea, please pass it along. Contact us at info@scotchmanpeaks.org or call any of our board members.

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

Who We Are

By Jan Griffitts

Mission Statement: We believe that the 88,000-acre Scotchman Peaks roadless area deserves permanent protection as wilderness. Faced with growth and change we want to make sure that this special place stays the same. It is our aim to preserve one of the last and largest wild areas in our region.

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness was formed in January, 2005 as a grassroots group with members from Idaho, Montana, and across the USA. Our goal is to educate people on the benefits of wilderness designation for Scotchman Peaks. Wilderness does not mean closing an area. Hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing and camping are all permitted.

Since 1987 the US Forest Service (USFS) has managed the Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness area for its values, protecting its threatened habitat for endangered species (grizzly bear, lynx, and bull trout) and other sensitive species such as mountain goat and wolverine. Roadless land such as this is vanishing at breakneck speed. Timber in the Scotchman Peaks area is not included in the current timber inventory because timber extraction is not economically viable. The case for mining in the area is dubious at best, both economically and environmentally. In the 1970's, when the USFS evaluated lands suitable for wilderness designation, the Scotchman Peaks area received more letters of support than anywhere else in the nation.

By creating the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, we are adding value to our homeland. The Sonoran Institute has an excellent and comprehensive study one can download demonstrating the increasing economic vitality of western counties which support designated wilderness (www.sonoran.org).

Friends of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness (FSPW) is a nonprofit organization. The proceeds from all events and sales benefit FSPW. Donations are tax deductible. Board members are: Lexie de Fremery, Doug Ferrell, Jan Griffitts, Cesar Hernandez, Phil Hough, Carol Jenkins, Bill Martin, and Neil Wimberley.

Scotchman Rocks

By Neil Wimberley

There's a lot happening in, around, and beneath the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. The four layers of planet Earth begin 4000 miles deep with the inner core, which is roughly moon size



Photo courtesy Phil Hough

and sun hot. Going up through the outer core we reach the mantle, and then finally the thin

surface crust we live on. It is from this crust the rugged Scotchman Peaks Wilderness rises in the southern end of the Cabinet Mountains. The rocks which form these mountains are sedimentary mud and sandstone laid down beneath ancient seas during Precambrian Time (before evidence of fossil life) more than a billion years ago. The Selkirks are mere teenagers! These elderly rocks are known to geologists as Belt Series rocks (named for Belt, MT), and occur in North Idaho and Montana. In more recent times, the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness has seen Canadian glaciers plunge southward, plugging the Clark Fork River to form the immense Glacial Lake Missoula, which eventually emptied catastrophically into the Pacific Ocean. The Scotchman Peaks Wilderness has seen a lot and been around for a very long time, and appreciates our efforts to preserve it.



Peak Views – Fall Hiking Schedule

Sunday, September 18, **EAST FORK AND THUNDER CREEKS**. Moderately strenuous. Contact Phil Hough at (208) 255-2780 or nowhere_man97@hotmail.com. Meet at 9 a.m. (Pacific Time) at the Clark Fork Chevron. We will follow old trail, bushwhacking as needed, into the upper reaches of the East Fork and Thunder Creek drainages. Our distance and final destination will be determined by the difficulty of the bushwhacking as well as the ability of the group. Come explore an area in the northern part of the Forest Service's proposed wilderness, in the shadows of Drift Peak and



Photo courtesy Phil Hough

Twin Peaks, which is currently being considered for changes in management status in the new forest plan. Sponsored by Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.

Friday, September 23, first fall hike! **STAR PEAK** (formerly Squaw Peak) Via Star gulch trail #1016, returning on Napoleon Gulch trail 1035. Meet at the Bull River junction at 8:00 a.m. Mountain time (7:00 a.m. Pacific Time). At 17 miles (round trip) and 3300 ft. of elevation gain, this is a strenuous hike. This is an excellent opportunity to explore the Southern portion of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Contact Jim Mellen at (208) 265-5261 or jmellen@imbris.net. Sponsored by Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.

Sunday, October 9, **SPAR PEAK** Moderately strenuous 6 trail miles. Contact Bill Martin (406) 295-5258 or mwanw@wildmontana.org to sign up by October 5, limit 10. Meet at 10:00 am Mountain Time (9:00 a.m. Pacific Time) at "Little Joes" on Highway 56. This hike features an elevation gain of 3200 ft. from Spar Lake to Spar Peak. Spar Peak is at the heart of mountain goat habitat in the West Cabinet Mountains. From Spar Peak you can look into Little Spar Lake, one of the few lakes within the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. You can also see into the remote wild North Fork of Ross Creek. This hike has some steep stretches, but the magical vistas make it worthwhile. Sponsored by Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.

Bull River Outdoors & Friends of the Scotchmans Present....

16th Annual Shoot The Bull – Growing Up Wild

Enjoy an evening with friends, family, and an inviting campfire with local author Sandy Compton as he tells tales of growing up in the mountains. An inspirational slideshow presentation and live music will trail him on his accounts of the wild. Nan Compton will bestow the history and re-established work of the Bull River Guard station. Tours of the restored guard station start at 6:00 p.m.. Hot food and drink will be provided to warm your spirits. Please bring warm clothing for autumn weather, a chair or blanket to relax in, and a first-class ear.

Saturday, September 24th East Fork Bull River, West of Noxon (Hwy. 56, 8 Mile Marker) 6:00 p.m., Mountain Standard Time
Questions? Directions? Please call Kari: (406) 847-0070



Wish List

A Power Point Projector and a laptop computer would help us get out message out. We always welcome general office supplies as well. Please call any of our board members if you have items to donate.

We also need decorations for our booth, including an 8 foot table, tabletop and/or floor easels, backdrop for walls, and an outdoor canopy for outdoor events.

We have added expense by printing copies of the newsletter for distribution and by mailing a few to friends without email addresses. Any donations to cover these costs would be appreciated.

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, contact Jan Griffiths at 265-4380 or jan@looptravel.com or Phil Hough at 255-2780 or nowhere_man97@hotmail.com. In Montana, contact Doug Ferrell at mferrell@yahoo.com.



A Little Help From Our Friends

While phoning supporters to update mailing information for this newsletter, Carol Jenkins spoke with Sharon Lewis of Ponderay, Idaho. Sharon recently hiked Scotchman Peak for the first time the morning after a lightning storm. The views were spectacular, and she was treated to a goat sighting. She said, "the hike was a challenge, but it made the view at the top more of a reward." Seeing a smoke plume in the distance, Sharon phoned the Forest Service immediately upon descent. A spotter plane was just being dispatched. Good work, Sharon!

History of The Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

By Cesar Hernandez

- 1908** – Squaw Peak rock cabin built by Granville Gordon.
- 1920s** – Squaw Peak Lookout and Scotchman Peak Lookout built.
- 1964** – Wilderness Act passed by Congress and signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson; Cabinet Mountains Wilderness created.
- 1969** – First citizen meetings with USFS about wilderness designation for the Scotchmans.
- 1970-72** – RARE I (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation).
- 1978-79** – RARE II; Scotchman Peaks receive more comments in support of wilderness than any other roadless area in the nation.
- 1979** – USFS identifies Scotchman Peaks roadless area as 88,000 acres.
- 1980** – Mountain goat study initiated by USFS and FWP in Scotchman Peaks.
- 1981** – ASARCO's Troy Mine begins production

- north of the Scotchman Peaks area.
- 1984** – ASARCO and Montana Wilderness Association (Bill Cunningham) reach negotiated agreement on Scotchman Peaks Wilderness encompassing 80,000 acres.
- 1987** – Kootenai National Forest(KNF) and Idaho Panhandle National Forest(IPNF) Forest Plans recommend 56,000 acres as Scotchman Peaks Wilderness (34,000 in Montana and 22,000 in Idaho).
- 2004** – Squaw Peak renamed as Star Peak.
- 2004** – A campaign to designate 88,000 acres as wilderness in the Scotchman Peaks is revitalized.
- 2005** – Current boundaries of the Scotchman Peaks area under review as part of the IPNF and KNF Forest Plan Revision.
- 2005** – Governor of each state to submit plans for roadless areas.

Along the Trail

By Jan Griffitts

The Jack Gladstone Concert on May 13 at the Panida Theater in Sandpoint was the first Friends of Scotchman Peaks event and what an exciting one! Jack Gladstone and gifted musicians - Kendall Flint, better known as Doctor Harmony, and Cowboy Poet Rob Quist on banjo and guitar donated their talents for this cause.

The evening was a multi-media event taking us along an orchestrated odyssey from a long ago time into the present using picture, story and song. The trio played pieces composed of Western and Native American themes, including mythology and legends from the western plains. Jack has a personal policy to help wilderness organizations, a standing offer

to use his music and stories to generate awareness for our responsibility to preserve wilderness and things wild.

"What remains of America's wilderness

are small sacred islands of God's creation, awash in a sea of synthetic humanity. Wilderness is the tapestry of creation, a spiritual Mecca wherein

we hear the voice of the eternal." Special words from Jack Gladstone.

A powerpoint presentation to the members of the **Hope Garden Club** on May 11 was followed by a short discussion. Members were among the first to purchase our T-shirts.

The **Bonner County Fair**, August 24-27 in Sandpoint, was another successful venture. Our booth, manned by dedicated volunteers and featuring our new tabletop display, literature, and photos received many positive responses from attendees. T-shirts were sold and donations received. Four lucky people, Lana Willingham, Liz Jones, Gladys Engen, and Christy Schoonover, won T-shirts.

The **Huckleberry Festival** held in Trout Creek, Montana, reported by Ernest Scherzer, on August 13 and 14 resulted in FSPW capturing a trophy for its role in the parade in the category of Best Group Float. The FSPW booth was manned by volunteers both days of the festival and met with many favorable comments. T-shirts were sold and additional names of supporters for Scotchman Peaks Wilderness were obtained. The available literature and the tabletop display were impressive to the visitors.



Bonner County Fair. Photo courtesy Phil Hough



Photo courtesy Alan Bartling

Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans

By Doug Ferrell

One hot day this summer, a party of hikers rested on some rocks just below the summit of Scotchman Peak. After they moved on up the trail, they watched mountain goats move in to lick the rocks where they had rested. This incident is not really as surprising as it might sound, because goats are famous for being fond of both salt and high places.

The herd of mountain goats that inhabit the Scotchman Peaks Proposed Wilderness Area is one of only two herds between Thompson Falls, Montana and Clark Fork, Idaho. The other herd is across the Bull River in the high country of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area.

Mountain goats are stout bodied with muscular legs. Adults weigh between one and two hundred pounds. The short thick white summer coat is replaced in winter by shaggy dense yellowish pelage. During spring, the molt makes these animals look extremely ragged. A small ridge of long, soft hair on the neck forms a hump. A beard is present on the chin in both sexes. The black eyes and nose contrast sharply with the white head. The black, slightly curved horns average about 8-10 inches long, and are found in both sexes.

Mountain goats have large oval hooves with an almost rubber-like sole that aids them in climbing steep rock. They are renowned for their exceptional speed and agility on steep terrain, and have been known to climb over 1500 vertical feet in just 20 minutes.

The diet of mountain goats consists of grasses, woody plants, mosses, lichens, and herbaceous plants. They get most of their water from their food and from snowbanks. Goats may travel many miles in the spring to mineral-rich salt licks.

We will continue this article in the next newsletter where I will discuss their breeding and courtship rituals and social interactions.

What Grows There?

By Ann Wimberley

Beargrass (*Xerophyllum tenax*) This evergreen member of the lily family is a common plant on the Scotchman Peaks. It consists of a dense clump of basal leaves with a single long stem bearing a dense cluster of creamy white flowers. It does not bloom every year. The stem may be as tall as 5 feet. Beargrass grows in open woods and meadows. This plant was collected by Merriweather Lewis along the Lolo Trail in Idaho. He also described watertight baskets interwoven of beargrass and cedar bark made by the Clatsop Indians.



Photo courtesy Marilyn George

Fun Things to Buy

Friends of Scotchman Peaks T-shirts are for sale. The striking Scotchman blue shirts (the color of the sky when in the Scotchmans) are screen printed with our logo and come in small, medium, large, X large and 2X large. They are only \$15 including tax. These may be purchased at Outdoor Experience in Sandpoint or at Hope Market Cafe in Hope or email us at info@scotchmanpeaks.org or call Jan Griffitts 208-265-4380.

We will have several items for sale in the next few months that will make great Christmas gifts – sweatshirts, mugs and other surprises. Check our website for updates www.scotchmanpeaks.org.



Forest Planning Update

By Phil Hough

The Kootenai National Forest and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest are in the process of jointly revising their master Forest Plans. Land use designations and directives affecting potential Wilderness, including a Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, are important components of these forest plans. Several "Friends of Scotchman Peaks" have been participating in public meetings to monitor and discuss forest-planning issues.

The most recent round of "collaborative workgroup meetings" has just been completed, during which time the Forest Service presented their "Starting Option" proposal. The planning process is scheduled to follow this timeline.

September – October, 2005 - Collaborative

meetings to share information and discuss the Monitoring Program, Environmental Management System (EMS) and the Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER).

February 2006 - Release Draft Forest Plans; Begin 90-day Comment Period.

Fall, 2006 - Release Final Forest Plans; Begin 30-day Objection Period.

Winter 2006/2007 – Forest Service issues Decisions and Final Forest Plans upon Resolution of Objections.

For more information on the Forest Planning check out the following website:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/kipz/index.php>

Tales of Scotchman

Scotchman Peak – Idaho, September 12, 2001 – by Jan Griffiths

Today after the tragedy of yesterday (September 11), 3 of us hiked Scotchman Peak. This is the highest peak at 7009 feet in Bonner County, near Sandpoint, Idaho and a proposed wilderness in the Cabinet Mountains. We decided the news would still be there after we got home tonight. We hiked, talked, were quiet, had our own thoughts, became emotional as we hiked up, and up (as those who have hiked it know it is only up). It was a perfect day to hike, warm, sunny with occasional breezes and fantastic views. Some of the leaves were turning golden and red. We even saw a large blue grouse as he sat in the middle of the trail for our eyes alone before he flew into a nearby tree. As we traveled up the mountain the rock formations were something to see craggy, smooth, large, small, and every color imaginable.

Finally reaching the top, we sat down for lunch and to absorb the views. I even took off my socks and boots. Ann walked around a little and turned to us and said, "Look, what is coming toward us." It was Mr. Scotchman, a handsome Billy goat. Mr. Scotchman hung around us the whole time we were there and came within three feet of each of us in turn. He was quite curious, and we were thrilled to be so close to him. Seeing him put things in perspective for me. Life is precious. This animal lives in the moment like we humans forget to do. He was so beautiful and we felt he did not want us to leave. He gave us a gift and we even gave him an unexpected one. As we went down the rugged rocks, we looked back and saw him licking the spots where we sat to get the salt we left. Amazing how all things in life are here for a purpose.

As we sat on top of this awesome 7009 foot mountain and looked around at Lake Pend Oreille, the Clark Fork River, the Cabinets, the Monarchs, the Selkirk Mountains, Glacier Park, British Columbia and all of the surrounding peaks we again realized how blessed we all are to live here. As we hiked, our private thoughts and conversations were about the tragedy. It was difficult to sit up there in peace and comprehend what was happening only a few thousand miles away, but we were definitely thinking about the victims, families, communities, our government officials and how our world as we know it has changed forever.

When we reached Ann's car, we found a flat tire. The three of us worked together to get it changed and came back to the real world, which I was not sure I really wanted to do. Staying with Mr. Scotchman was tempting. What a place to live, especially in the winter. Every time I see that peak, I will say "Hello, Mr. Scotchman!"

This is a proposed wilderness area that should be designated a federally protected wilderness. I hike it once or twice a year and know it is a special place. If you have never climbed this mountain, at least try it. If you can only get part of the way, the views are still worth the effort. Maybe Mr. Scotchman and his family will come and visit you.



Photo courtesy Alan Bartling