



Uniting thousands of Montanans and Idahoans to save the wild Scotchmans for our children and grandchildren.



Mission Statement

To protect the Scotchman Peaks for future generations through Wilderness designation, ongoing stewardship and education.

What's in your heart?

The Harpers ride the Scotchman Peak Trail



"We need to make sure we protect this incredible place"

Alan and Jesika Harper are avid horseback riders (or in the case of Jesika, muleback). They are also Friends of Scotchman Peaks.

Jesika rides Rooster, the retired race mule. "When you get to the top and catch your breath," she says "you're rewarded with unspeakable beauty. Scotchman Peaks is in a league of its own. Don't take my word for it, just do your soul a favor and experience it for yourself."

Alan adds, "Humans need wild places where they can relax from the stresses of modern life. For me, that is the Scotchman. We need to protect this awesome place forever by making it a wilderness."

When I'm riding my horse in the Scotchmans, I can't help to think how lucky I am to have such a wild place with awesome views within an hour of my home.

Voices in the Wilderness

Introduction to a Wild Life

By David Neils

Growing up in Libby, Montana, I was surrounded by incredibly wild and beautiful country. Our family spent a lot of time in the outdoors. There were trails headed into the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness area within just a few miles of our house. A few years after this area was designated an

Got to page 6

David Neils in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness.



Page 2: Why Wilderness — An Earthday Essay

Claim your trail! Learn how on page 3.

Pages 4 & 5: What's happening in and around the Peaks

Earth Day - Why Wilderness?

From the Director:

Americans came together 49 years ago to celebrate the first Earth Day. We think and act locally to make our corner of the earth a better place to be. But, the



Immanuel and Jaslyne Sanchez are all smiles on a beautiful day at the top of 6167-foot Star Peak in the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

Earth Day vision, as the name suggests, is global. We have cleaned up our water and reduced air pollution. We have built trails and saved wild rivers and wild places for ourselves, our kids and our grand kids. Why Wilderness is important is both universal and personal. I hike and paddle into wild places today so I can feel like I did when I was 10 years old and my dad took me down the Allagash river in northern Maine. There was so much new to me in those wild woods and waters; mystery, fun, excitement. I grew up more in those 10 days than I had in my first 10 years. For many people, saving wild country is about leaving places for their kids and grandkids to explore and grow up wild in. As Rebecca Sanchez puts it: "I appreciate how the mountains bring my kids to life."

Go to page 7

New logo, new shirts

Friends of Scotchman Peaks has a new logo, if you haven't noticed, and we also have some new swag upon which to show it off.



The new sport tees arrived just the other day (Thanks for all your help, Kent Anderson.)

Black and more than yellow for the guys, blue and birchbark white for women.

Gentlemen, if you are not into black, we also have long sleeved cotton in stone-washed blue and desert sand. This is an awesome way to show your love as well as all the new muscles you can get working on the FSPW trail crew (Check out the bottom QR code to the right).



Black or blue sport tees are a measly \$15. The Trail Ambassador shirt is free. Sort of. Learn how to earn one by scanning the top QR code to the right.

Summer hikes!

Want to sign up for one? Or do you want to lead one? Decisions, decisions. You can do both, you know. We are still building our summer hike list. We are also seeking proposals for outdoor education field trips.

Either, or — zip across the 'net to scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking

Happy hikers headed for the South Fork falls in Ross Creek



So you want to volunteer. Awesome!

All about goats?



Love your trails?



More info on page 4.

Claim your trail!

Hundreds of hikers and sportsmen enter the Scotchmans each year. Volunteers like Howard and Connie Shay make incredible efforts to maintain trails and see that trail users know wildlife etiquette and leave no trace.

"We're goat ambassadors and work to keep trails free to roam," said Connie. "We love volunteering in the Scotchmans."

The season for trail work and trail ambassadors is coming fast. In late April, Friends of Scotchman Peaks volunteer trail crew begins year 10 of working on trails all through the Peaks,



Howard and Connie Shay, über volunteers for FSPW.

Scan the QR codes at the bottom of page 2

from Little Spar Lake Trail on the east side of the Peaks around to East Fork Creek in Lightning Creek.

Trail Ambassadors begin their fourth season June 8, educating hikers about wild-life — mountain goats in particular — on the popular Scotchman Peak Trail.

Volunteers are vital to saving the gifts of the wild Scotchmans for the future.

The wild back yard of the Peaks has awesome trails. If everyone who hikes in the Scotchmans puts in a day a year on maintenance, they will be the best in the country.

"It's important to save this incredibly wild place," Howard Shay reminds us.

[Go to page 7](#)



Matt Nykiel
Trail crew volunteer

"I love imagining my kids and their kids going into the Scotchmans years from now, and being able to find their own wild place. The Scotchmans make me feel part of something larger."

Fairy Slippers: Spring beauties

By Jon Burkhart

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 to pink but

Photo credit:
USFS Region 1

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 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.

This article first appeared in the April/May 2006 Peak Experience



The Fairy Slipper in detail (about five times its normal size).
Photo by Walter Seigmund, courtesy Wikipedia Commons

FSPW's upcoming events

Want more details? www.ScotchmanPeaks.org

Social Events

Donkey Basketball

May 6

FSPW joins up with the *Sanders County Ledger* to sponsor Team Alumni in a benefit event for Thompson Falls school secretary Diane Hedahl. The fun begins at 6:30 at Thompson Falls High School

Wild Trivia at the Lakeside.

May 7

Our first ever social event in Trout Creek will be a game of local trivia at the Lakeside. Come prepared with your knowledge of everthing local. The games begin at 7 pm

Meet the Extreme Plein Air Artists

June 6 • Big Eddy's • Thompson Falls

Aaron Johnson • Jared Shear
Carol Maddux • Ed Robinson

Making art for the *love* of wild country

Background painting: Little Spar Morning by Carol Maddux

10 BARREL
BREWING CO

Great beer

FRIENDS OF
SCOTCHMAN PEAKS
WILDERNESS

for a great cause!



May 15 • 5 to 8 pm

Great Beer for a Great Cause

May 15

Drink really good beer for a really good cause at the Idaho Pour Authority. Raffles. Music. Light appetizers. Good, clean fun with your Friends. 5 to 8 pm

Extreme Plein Air Art Show

June 6

Come to Big Eddy's in Thompson Falls to meet four artists who do plein air art extreme-style. Montana Distillery will be there with drinks benefiting FSPW. 4 to 8 pm

Scotchmans Summer Solstice

June 21

Celebrate the lightest day of the year at the 219 Lounge in Sandpoint. Enjoy live music and unique light beers while celebrating incredible volunteers and wild places.

find us on facebook • instagram • twitter

Western Montana Celebration

June 23

Come to the Bull River Rod & Gun Club for a picnic and celebration of volunteers and wild places. 3 to 6 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

Goat Mountain Trail Survey

April 26, May 3 and 10

Help redefine the Goat Mountain trail and learn the basics of trail surveying.

STOKR and CHAFE

May 11 and June 15

Feed hungry bicyclists in two beautiful locations; Yaak Falls and Clark Fork. (You can see Scotchman Peak

from Clark Fork) These bike races support two good causes: Habitat for Humanity in Lincoln County and the Sandpoint Rotary literacy programs in Bonner County.

Summer Trail Projects

April 26 - September 28

Watch for upcoming trail days in the Scotchman Peaks. Help keep the trails you love in tip-top shape for the season!

Mountain Goat Ambassadors

June - early October

Looking for an excuse to count your weekend Scotchman Peak hike as



volunteer time? Become a Trail Ambassador and visit with other hikers about safe hiking in goat country.

Classes

Trail work training

June 1 (National Trails Day)

Learn trail construction methods and tactics, as well as hand tool use and safety, including cross cut.

Riparian and Old Growth

June 15

Brian Baxter will lead a class on riparian life zones along the Bull River in Montana.

Wildcat Cousins: *Lynx canadensis* and *rufus*

It's Spring and Canada lynx no longer need "snowshoe" feet to ambush a favorite prey, the snowshoe hare. The indicative track shrinks in size and a thick winter coat is shed. What remains are the telltale 2-inch ear tufts that distinguishes it from its cousin, the bobcat.

The legs of the lynx also are slightly longer, and it is heavier as well. Both cats have a beautiful facial ruff and a 4-inch tail tipped with black. The lynx is much more elusive, preferring dark nights of winter for its hunting, but adapting to daylight hours of summer.

Lynx prefer mature forests with many downed logs or wind-falls for denning sites, and large woody debris with dense under-story coverage to provide cover and protection for the kittens.

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.

In the northern range, lynx feed almost exclusively on the snowshoe hare. In the southern range, the snowshoe hare is a main dietary source, but lynx also prey on other small mammals such as squirrels, small rodents and grouse. Bobcats do also, as well as the occasional domestic chicken.



Bobcat, Don DeBold • Wikipedia Commons



The FSPW Mammal Trunk

Lynx sitings in the Scotchman Peaks are historically rare, but we have bobcats, as well mountain lions, bears, elk, deer, beaver, pine martens, fishers, muskrats and, yes, even mountain goats.

FSPW volunteer instructors Celeste Grace and Mary Franzel love to use the contents of the FSPW Mammal Trunk to show and tell students what creatures live in our wild back yard.

Phil Hough photo



Lynx, Keith Williams • Wikipedia Commons

Winter Tracks: Fun for everybody.

Students from Idaho, Montana, and Washington got outside this winter thanks to the FSPW Winter Tracks program. Students from kindergarten up through high school learned about the great outdoors during winter.

Students learned three or four topics, including how to use avalanche beacons, tell different type of trees apart, use a map and compass, identify animals by their skulls and tracks, build a shelter with nothing more than tree boughs, and even build a fire.

Each year, volunteers make Winter Tracks a great time for students and teachers alike. Many of these volunteers come back

Do you want your school to participate or would you like to volunteer for Winter Tracks next year? Email britta@scotchmanpeaks.org

year after year to teach, act as group guides, make sure the hot cocoa is ready on time, and even pick up coffee for the volunteers.

The teachers enjoy Winter Tracks as well. "Getting kids outside is not only fun for them," instructor Gene Reckin said, "but me as well. This is such an important part of their education. I'm proud to be part of it."

Becky Haag from Clark Fork High said, "We are so lucky to allow our students such rigorous hands on learning in the field, with such a well assembled team of experts to share their knowledge and experience."

Rose Wilson, Yaak School head teacher, was equally enthusiastic. "Even



Robin Chisholm gets kids started on finding their way with map and compass

my Kindergartners sat through the presentation without any problems."



Tree experts Jeff Pennick and Ed Robinson are happy to be Winter Tracks instructor

Ed Robinson photo

Voices, from page 1

official wilderness area in 1964, we backpacked into Granite Lake, a six-mile hike crossing Granite Creek several times before arriving at the lake. Everything seemed larger than life, from the huge ferns growing along the trail to the cedar trees towering overhead. When we arrived at the lake, the rest of my family were unloading their packs in the small campground and I ran down to the shore of the lake and was speechless as I listened to the waves lapping at my feet and stared at this towering mountain, A Peak, on the south side.

Waterfalls tumbled into the lake, some not making it before the wind sent the spray back up or sideways. I knew right there that my experience

Everything seemed larger than life . . . I was changed.

was very different from everyone else in my family. I was changed. This view, this experience was unique to me. My dad saw me standing along the shore and came down and stood reverently next to me, appreciating the same view.

After a few minutes he said, 'It's beautiful, isn't it?' I replied, 'Dad, I'm going to be doing a lot of this.' He smiled, both of us continuing to soak in the view, and said, 'I know.' He walked back up to the campground,

leaving me there as I embraced a part of me I knew was unique, powerful, life changing. This is the view I had along the shore of Granite Lake. This experience resulted in a lifelong passion for truly wild places, an early career in forestry, wildlife conservation and recently launching Wild Nature Media. Throughout my childhood I climbed nearly every peak in this wilderness area, including A Peak.

David Neils is the great grandson of Julian Neils, founder of J. Neils Lumber Company, for decades one of Libby's most influential and successful enterprises. David graduated from Libby High in 1979, and now lives in Colorado, but comes "home" to hike in the Cabinets often.

The Cabinet Mountains Wilderness is where David Neils found his wild place.

find us on facebook • instagram • twitter

Sandy Compton photo

Winter Trials on Winter Trails.

Winter in the Scotchmans might be sleepy time for bears, squirrels and garter snakes living near the top of the peaks, but our intrepid FSPW hike leaders love to lead incredible winter adventures. And their brave Friends love to strap on their snowshoes and skis to join them.

It's not always easy but it's (almost) always fun!

Billiard Table from Star Peak • Sandy Compton



Clockwise from left
The annual Lightning
Creek hike; a smiling
group treads the woods
near the West Fork of
Blue Creek; Schuwen
Wang on a self-led
hike to Goat Mountain;
happy to be on the
way to Star Peak.



Why Wilderness, from page 2

Here they are free to roam, explore nature, and help one another reach new heights."But wilderness is not only for our kids and future; it's for all of us, now. We need to be able to find quiet places in our own wild back yards. We need places open for hiking, horseback riding, berry picking, fishing and hunting. We need places beyond the sounds and distractions motors bring. We need places to hear elk bugle, deer snort and mountain goats tap their hooves on loose rocks. We need to hear the owl ask "Who, who?" Many people take action to save wilderness because they care about the wild flowers and native forests. Or they want bears,



moose, wolverines and other critters to have wild places too.

Whether it's our kids or mountain goat kids; we all need wild places where we can thrive. Ask yourself:

What's in your heart?

Where's your wild place? And, what will you do

to save it? For many, the answers bring

us together to save the wild Scotchmans. If you come up

The Hough family (Deb, Kathy, Joann, Phil and Trish) atop Mount Katahdin in 1974.
Photo by Bob Hough

with that answer too, become a Friend.

You'll join others that find their wild place in the Scotchman Peaks too.

—Phil Hough

Claim your trail, from page 3

Tracie Babor was a Trail Ambassador in 2018. "It's been a fantastic responsibility to coexist with nature, while keeping the wild wild. The coexistence has been a renewal of the mind and body. And an honor that I have fully embraced!"

Trails Skills Training Day is June 1 on Trail #999. Trail Ambassador training is June 8 at Scotchman Peak Trail #65.



Tracie Babor in her Trail Ambassador "uniform." This year, Ambassadors will be sporting the new green tees featured on page 2



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

HOW YOU CAN HELP SAVE THE WILD SCOTCHMANS

- **Donate to FSPW** to save the incredibly wild Scotchman Peaks for our children and grandchildren.
- Visit www.scotchmanpeaks.org/donate
- **Or fill out the form to the right.** Drop it and a check in an envelope and mail them to the above address. Thank you! FSPW is a 501c3 organization. Donations may be tax deductible
- **Volunteer** your time whether it's breaking a sweat on the trail, talking to folks at an outreach table, or helping with office work.
- **Save us a stamp** and printing costs by receiving Peak Experience by email.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$_____

☐ Please make this a monthly gift

Board

Chairman

Doug Ferrell, Trout Creek, MT

Secretary

Carol Jenkins, Sagle, ID

Treasurer

Brad Williams, Sandpoint, ID

East Bonner County Director

Neil Wimberley, Hope, ID

Will Valentine, Sagle, ID

Mollie Kieran, Troy, MT

Jen Kreiner, Thompson Falls, MT

Executive Director

Phil Hough

Deputy Executive Director

Britta Mireley

Staff

Program Coordinator

Sandy Compton

Sanders County Outreach Coordinator

Ray Brown

Lincoln County Outreach Coordinator

Open —Join the team!

scotchmanpeaks.org • find us on facebook • instagram • twitter