

PEAK EXPERIENCE

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Peak Perspectives: Leaving a legacy for the land you love

At the State of the Scotchmans event in September, we formally launched our endowment campaign. Creating an endowment fund helps us build for the future. It assures that in the decades to come we will still be able to clear trails, keep mountain goats wild and connect kids with nature and wilderness.

Growing up wild was natural for many of us. I recall fondly my first backpacking trips with my dad. We visited places where the only sounds were from the water over rocks in

"[Wilderness] shaped those who came before us, and they had the restraint to keep it intact."

streams speaking in harmony with the winds whistling through the trees. Punctuated by the call of an eagle or a loon. Solitude, in harmony with nature. Without our help, experiences like these may not be available in the future.

Wilderness has come to us from the eternity of the past. It shaped those who came before us, and they had the restraint to keep it intact. Our actions, if we have a bold vision, will keep this wilderness intact into the eternity of the future.

To do this, we need you to help. Together we can build a permanent endowment which will provide the steady resources need to protect the Scotchmans into the future. As Mark Cochran, FSPW Board Vice Chair-Secretary puts it: "your contribution will create a perpetual ripple". Imagine, if you are joined by your

friends, and others, who will also add to your effort. The ripples then merge into waves. The impact is magnified and magnificent!

Having the experience of wilderness for our communities tomorrow as well as our kids or grandkids in ten, twenty, thirty or more years will come from the actions we take today. Your contribution will make sure we have a wild Scotchman Peaks area forever, for our communities, kids and grandkids.

Link to our endowment page <https://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/endowment/>

Old Goat

This year's Old Goat award goes to Juli Thurston for her

dedication as a volunteer. As a board

"Our actions, if we have a bold vision, will keep this wilderness intact into the eternity of the future."

member, over the last year and a half Juli has really stepped up to lead our outreach efforts in Sanders County.



Juli Thurston and Phil Hough.

Last winter she led our Winter Tracks youth education programing. During summer and winter, she has led hikes to various destinations. This last summer she became a trail project leader. Juli represents participates in local collaborations. Recently Juli transitioned from board member to a part time staff position. Juli's impact has earned



Above: Cabinet Ranger District employees and Grangeville Helitack crew members flew to Star Peak Lookout wrapped the lookout in heat resistant material. Below: The Billiard Fire at 160 acres. Credit: B.Krick Cabinet Ranger District

her recognition as our volunteer of the year, known as our “Old Goat” of 2022!

Billiard Fire

On Aug. 31, a lightning storm rolled through our region and ignited three wildland fires in Sanders County: the Government Fire, the Billiard Fire, and the Isabella Lake Fire. Together they became known as the Bull Gin Complex. Shorter days, cooler temps and higher humidity limit any further growth. Though they may smolder until a season ending rain occurs.

The Billiard Fire burned an area mainly northwest of Star Peak and to the west of Billiard Table Mountain.



Most of the burn is inside the Scotchman Peaks Roadless area, although outside of the part recommended for wilderness. Because of the steep slopes, the forest service mostly used containment measures focusing on protecting structures including nearby private property.

As of this writing, these fires continue to slowly creep and smolder through dried fuels. Containment

lines are in place. Firefighters continue point protection of structures and fire progression monitoring. The impact so far has been generally on the understory and similar to a ground burning natural fire has been doing some overall ecological good.

While the fire was active, the forest service provided daily information updates, appreciated by all.

-Phil Hough

Voices in the Wilderness: Rachel Torgerson

When I was younger, my family would often go on camping trips, day hikes, road trips. There was a large priority placed on making sure we got to get outside and experience as much nature as we could. I have fond memories of sitting by the campfire and roasting mallows with my family, going on hikes with friends, watching the stars all night, and shivering in my sleeping bag, terrified by the idea of wild animals roaming around my flimsy tent in the woods of Cle Elum, Wash.

All of these experiences throughout my childhood and the rest of my life thus far have left me with an insatiable desire to get out and explore more. I have a need I can feel in my heart to be out there as far as I can get, and to see things you can only see when you commit to truly spending time in the wilderness. Coming to little Trout Creek, Montana, I was not at all prepared for how deeply I would fall in love with the rugged mountains and rolling horizons you can see from their peaks, or with the feeling of being truly alone with the woods, nothing in the moment connecting me to anything in the outside world except a radio. The wilderness out here in western Montana has a lot of similarities to the wilderness at home in Western Washington, but it still feels completely its own thing. At the beginning of this summer, I was genuinely terrified by the idea of going up these mountains alone, and now I long for the chance to come back and do it again before I've even left. There is one experience in particular that stands out in my memories of the wilderness here, and that is the memory of my first-ever backpacking trip, to Wanless Lake.

Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022, I woke up at 5am, got dressed, put on my 60-pound pack, and left for the trailhead. I was hiking out a day later than the trail crew, so I would meet them at the campsite by the lake when-

ever I got there. This being my first time backpacking, I had no idea what to expect, nor really an accurate idea of how far I had to go. I didn't realize how much the heavier pack would slow me down, and hurt me to carry, which left me disappointed with how slow I was going. Because of this, any time I wanted to stop, I did my best to make myself go just a little bit farther and only allowed short breaks standing in the trail. If I sat, it was too hard to stand back up with the pack on, and nearly impossible to put the pack on standing up. Eventually, after four of the most demanding hours of my life, I made it to the wilderness boundary. I radioed the crew and headed down into the basin to meet them, excited to get to camp and take my pack off.

There were moments on the hike up where I genuinely questioned why I had volunteered to go on this trip, if it would be worth it. But then once I stopped and looked out at the sea of mountains surrounding me, when I sat by the lake quietly filtering water, when I woke up in my hammock watching the final stars disappear above the mountains until a squirrel decided to be my alarm clock, I knew that I would do it all over again in a heartbeat, and that I would carry this experience with me throughout the rest of my life.

The last day, hiking out, I wanted nothing more than to never be there again, not



Rachel Torgerson.

if it meant carrying that pack and hiking in those boots for what felt like an entire day. But blisters aside, as we drove away from the trailhead back to the Ranger Station, I was sad, and I knew I would need to get back there some day. The feeling of being so surrounded by nature, completely isolated from the pressures of everyday life, it is what I have been chasing since my childhood, and to have found it here in Montana is such a gift, I will not be able to stay away for long, no matter where else my life takes me.

Author Note: Rachel Torgerson was this summer's FSPW Back Country Ranger, from Bellingham, Wash. She is majoring in Recreation Management and Leadership at WWU, and is looking forward to visiting Montana again next year.

Winter Tracks takes priority for FSPW event planning

Friends of Scotchman Peaks holds weekly Winter Tracks outdoor education programs for local area schools throughout the winter season in Bonner, Sanders, and Lincoln counties. Volunteer instructors help students learn about wild things and places in a fun and safe setting.

Winter Tracks instructors teach students about tree ID, orienteering,

"One student told me, 'Who knew you could find so many bones in the Wilderness.'"



Washington Elementary Winter Tracks students.



Students identify pine species.

wildlife, camping, noxious weeds, ice fishing, fire starting and snowshoeing, just to name a few topics.

Want to help keep goats and hikers safe on Scotchman Peak? Become a Trail Ambassador!

Scan to learn more



Juli Thurston teaches about the importance of being able to identify and to not spread noxious weeds.

"I am always impressed with how many of the weeds the kids can already identify," Thurston says. "I'm glad I could help teach this year. It was fun. I saw quite a few of the kids at our 4-H Communication Days contests the next day and they were still raving about it. One student told me 'Who knew you could find so many bones in the Wilderness.' (This was at the Thompson Falls USFS Mule Pasture.) The parent of the youth who told me this said he woke up Friday morning and was NOT happy he had to go. Then he came home taking about "how much fun he had!"

Part of saving the rugged and wild Scotchman Peaks is help kids "find their wild place." I know this student did!

Conservation:

From the Timber Wars to collaboration

By Zach Hagadone

It is tempting to think of the so-called Timber Wars as a relic of the past. The period of dramatic unrest in the 1880s and '90s, with its protests and counter protests, some more violent than others throughout the Northwest and California, does seem distant. But as recently as September 2017, longtime Idaho columnist and political observer Marty Trillhaase had occasion to write a piece in the Lewiston Tribune under the headline: "Are we seeing an end to Idaho's 'forest wars'?"

Noting that the origin of the term "forest wars" lay with late-Boise State University Western policy expert and Professor John Freemuth, Trillhaase wrote, "Certitude hardened into paralysis as both resource industry and conservationists pursued the perfect to the detriment of the good: Timber jobs disappeared while overgrown forests risked catastrophic wildfires." Still, in 2017, "both sides" were "finding their way back toward consensus," he wrote, citing a state-level management plan for 9.3 million roadless forest acres, the creation of wilderness areas in the Boulder-White Clouds and Owyhee Canyonlands, and "broad-based collaboratives to forge ahead on forest health, habitat improvement and logging."

That collaborative approach is wholly distinct from the hodgepodge of policies that animated public land policies in the previous century and more, and is indicative of the broader sweep of how both institutional stakeholders and the public, in its understanding of how decisions are made regarding those landscapes, have shifted from all-out



Lumberjacks pose for a photo at the turn of the 20th century.

Timber Wars to areas of agreement and conservation gain.

Projects to sell and salvage timber in the Nez Perce-Clearwater, Panhandle, Payette and Boise National Forests would be fast-tracked, creating more than 1,000 jobs, generating almost 66 million board feet and creating \$68.5 million in wages.

Trillhaase wrote that this "welcome news" brought together the administration of then-Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter and the U.S. Forest Service, and not much "squawking from conservationists, either." All the projects had passed federal environmental review. Because they would be administered by the Idaho Department of Lands under the "Good Neighbor Authority" policy — giving the state power to manage federal lands — there would be even greater transparency, access to state public records being less cumbersome than going through the Freedom of

Information Act.

It's arguably more of a "win" for timber than conservation, but does meet many of the goals of collaboration, in that it seeks to serve both the increased scale of harvesting while still maintaining environmental protections.

"[Y]ou can still have a profitable timber sale while protecting some of those sensitive resources," Trillhaase quoted Jonathan Oppenheimer, of the Idaho Conservation League, from an Associated Press article.

"Too good to be true?" Trillhaase wrote. "Maybe."

It was five years ago that Trillhaase wondered whether the "forest wars" might be ending, and more than 20 years after what are more popularly referred to as the "Timber Wars" were a hot-button issue occupying activists, industry leaders, politicians, journalists and timber families throughout the West.

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The fact that such a headline could exist in 2017 speaks to the deep roots of the conflict and the long road — especially through roadless areas — by which it has been defined. To get to 2017 and beyond, however, it's important to return to the flashpoint era in greater detail and look at the clash during its height in the last two decades of the 20th century, then work forward to an era of “collaboration” as it has and is being built step by (often wary) step.

'A critical moment'

The Deseret News in Salt Lake City carried a piece Sept. 6, 1993, from the Associated Press headlined “Radical Group Making Enemies as it Battles Logging in Idaho,” focused on environmental group Earth First! and its efforts to stave off the Forest Service's plans for a logging operation “in a huge roadless area in central Idaho.”

Despite its seeming quotidian headline, that AP article could be seen as marking the beginning of a crescendo to the Timber Wars in Idaho, and a hinge on which the interrelated issues of timber harvesting and conservation moved from conflict to collaboration.

Referring to unrest in the Cove-Mallard area east of Lewiston, described in the article as “one of the largest roadless areas in the contiguous 48 states,” the AP reported that as many as 145 miles of logging roads were planned in the Nez Perce National Forest, providing access to “carve out scores of clearcuts totaling more than 6,000 acres.”

Earth First! carried out a sustained opposition, including tactics seen elsewhere in Oregon, Washington and



A look inside Humbird Mill during a turn-of-the-century timber operation.

California, with its members erecting barriers, tree sitting, participating in sit-ins, chaining themselves to vehicles and locking themselves to concrete blocks buried in the ground.

At risk was not only the immediate Cove-Mallard area, but what Earth First! said was a critical wildlife corridor linking the Frank Church River of No Return, Gospel Hump and Selway-Bitterroot wildernesses, which together protected a total of 4.3 million acres. “I think it was a critical moment in critiquing what was happening on public lands and litigation was a relatively new tool, and it had been used in the past. It was being used more,” said Gary Macfarlane, who retired in April 2022 as Ecosystem Defense director for Friends of the Clearwater, which he served for more than 20 years, first as a volunteer in Moscow, then board member, then full-time employee helming everything from policy analysis to filing appeals to

bringing litigation related to public land issues in the Clearwater Basin.

Macfarlane spent more than 30 years as an environmental activist — including at Cove-Mallard — and received the Alliance for the Wild Rockies Conservation Award in 1997. Upon his retirement, the Lewiston Tribune added another descriptor: “feisty,” noting that because of the group's opposition to “collaboration” as a model for public land management, it has been considered “something of a pariah at times.”

He described the so-called Timber Wars “as a last gasp, trying to save the bits that were left with varying success.”

This excerpt is a collaborative project between The Reader and FSPW that was made possible by a grant from the Idaho Humanities Council. To read the full story, visit <https://issuu.com/keokee/docs/timber-wars-special-report-final>

Volunteers chart a successful 2022 trail season



Located near Clark Fork, Idaho, lies the Scotchman Peaks proposed wilderness area. Within this vast forested region, you will find the namesake mountain, Scotchman Peak, rising to 7,029 ft of elevation. Although not the tallest peak in Idaho, the views of the surrounding Cabinet Mountains and Lake Pend Oreille in the distant makes this a popular summer hike. The spectacular views are one reason to hike the flanks of Scotchman Peak but the Mountain Goats that call the talus fields near the peak are the show stoppers. After gaining an elevation of 3,664 ft in 4 miles, your quads will be thankful to enjoy lunch and watch the goats near the summit.

Throughout the Summer and early fall, The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness (FSPW) has volunteers hiking up the trail each weekend. These Trail Ambassadors interact with other hikers during the hike to the

summit. They give out maps of the area, educate other hikers about goat interactions, giving words of encouragement and take wonderful photos of this pristine (proposed) wilderness area.

In 2022, the FSPW Trail Ambassadors Program had 48 unique volunteers, in 31 trips up Scotchman Peak. They interacted with 964 other hikers, viewed 179 Mountain Goat between June 18th and October 9th. That accounted for an amazing 330 Volunteer hours on Scotchman Peak. These volunteers combined drive time to reach Scotchman Peak Trail #65 was 2577 miles, that's further then driving to New York City from Clark Fork.

FSPW Trail Ambassadors shared a few thoughts on their experience. One said, "Met some great people, and I told them they could throw rocks at the goats, if they felt they were too close. An adorable 6-year-old started

filling his pant pocket with rocks and stated, 'I'm going to carry some rocks with me!!' So cute, Maybe a future volunteer!"

Another volunteer waxed poetically about their experience:

"Sixty-seven climbed Scotchman Peak. Adventure and goats, did they seek. When they got to the top, they were happy to stop. And a baby goat made a cute squeak."

You can become a part of this fun and adventurous volunteer program by visiting the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness website and signing up for a weekend slot in 2023.

Likewise, consider signing up for trail volunteer work. Trail crews do the essential work of creating and maintain trails that keep wilderness open for everyone.

Thank you to all 48 of our volunteers in 2022.

-Joel Thompson

find us on facebook • instagram

Here's to another great year!



There was no shortage of fun this year in our wild backyard. Whether you volunteered as a Trail Ambassador, a hike leader, a trail crew worker, or just go out to enjoy the great outdoors, you probably had a wonderful time, just like the Sanchez family (upper left), the Larson family (upper right), and Emily Erikson (bottom right).



FSPW online auction draws terrific support



The Friends of Scotchman Peaks held their annual Incredibly Wild Online Auction this past August where 58 items and experiences were actioned. This auction was made possible thanks to generous donations from numerous individuals and businesses in the community. Some items included in the auction were a weekend get-away in Montana at the Big Horn Lodge, a plane ride above

the Scotchmans from Chris Compton, Plein Air sessions with Ed Robinson, sunset sail on Lake Pend Orielle, a for-age hike and dinner, outdoor gear, gift certificates and many more. Thank you to all of our donors for contributing your time, expertise, and craft to this event and for your support for saving the wild Scotchmans. A generous \$10,927 was raised by our wonderful supporters.

FPSW welcomes new staff, board members



Joel Thompson, program manager, is passionate about keeping our wilderness areas accessible. He has professional experience as a kayak guide in the Puget Sound and believes that nature has a significant role in teaching us to slow down, be introspective and live in the moment.



Rebecca Sanchez, a board member living in Bonner County, loves to spend her time with family. She is most passionate about the backcountry and how it has the potential to shape, serve, and largely benefit the present and future generations.



Graden Quist, Communications Manager and avid outdoorsman living in western MT. With a deep love of the wild, he wants to ensure wilderness protection by advocating for the preservation of it.



Juli Thurston, a previous board member, now also a part-time Sanders County Activities Coordinator. She loves spending time with her family and is an avid hiker, camper, horseback rider and hunter.



Megan Leach is a board member and native to Sandpoint. She is the founder of Dragon's Breath Farm in Libby as well as hiking, foraging, volunteering and wild-crafting extraordinaire.

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Your Wild Place Podcast

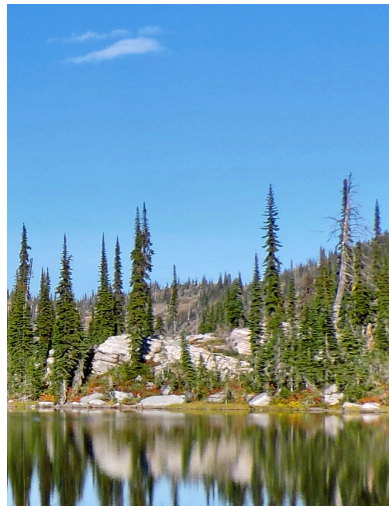
Most people living in the Northwest are at least somewhat familiar with the infamous Timber Wars. But the history of the Timber Wars is far more complex and dynamic than we are led to believe.

There was strife and a clashing of cultures, of course. But there is also a rich history of collaboration between the timber industry, conservationists, and government entities like the Forest Service.

"The history of the Timber Wars is far more complex and dynamic than we are led to believe."

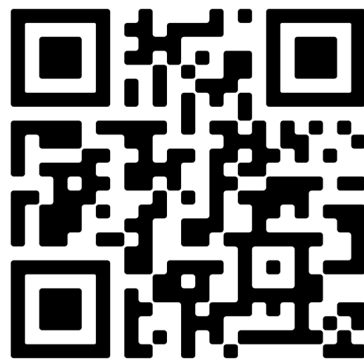
Join us as Zach Hadagone, Editor of The Reader walks us through the lead-up to the Timber Wars. This is the second episode in a three-part series. And the third article is previewed in this very newsletter, with the full article available online, so be sure to check it out!

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and the Sandpoint Reader are grateful to the Idaho Humanities Council for supporting this project.



Horseshoe Pond. Photo: Chic Burge

Scan & Listen!



Our Mission

We're uniting thousands of people from Idaho and Montana to pass on a Scotchman Peaks Wilderness for our children and grandchildren.



Situated along the Idaho-Montana border, Scotchman Peaks is an 88,000-acre roadless where wildlife and people can roam free.

Save us a stamp!

Contact info@scotchmanpeaks.org and ask to receive Peak Experience by email rather than snail mail.



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

SAVE THE WILD SCOTCHMANS! **Donate to FSPW**

To donate, visit our website or mail in the form below to: PO Box 2061, Sandpoint, ID 83864.

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☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 ☐ \$ _____

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***Other ways to give:** Learn about leaving a legacy
at <https://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/endowment>

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