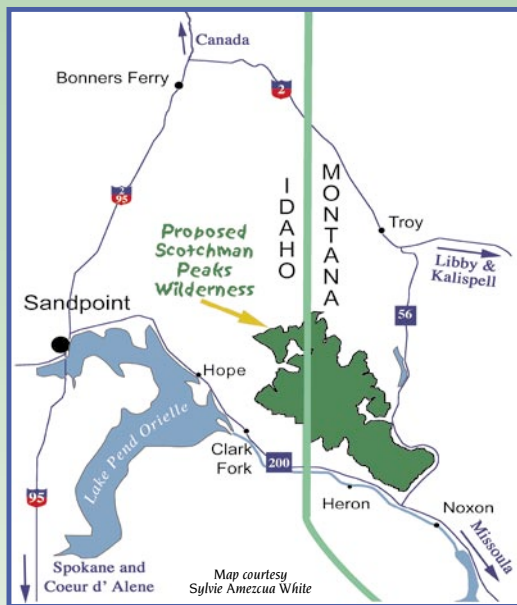




Mission Statement

"We believe that the 88,000 acre Scotchman Peaks roadless area, spanning the Idaho/Montana border, deserves **permanent protection** as wilderness. Faced with growth and change, we want to make sure this special place stays the same."



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

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

Editor: Ann Wimberley
Designer: Pama Bangeman

PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.
Volume 5, Number 1 • January / February, 2009



Another Scotchman Photo Contest Winner

Scotchman Spirit
Photo courtesy
Conor Branski

Birds Found on the Scotchman Peaks

Jays

By Earl Chapin

Some of the most interesting birds in North Idaho are the Jays. We have three species, the Steller's, the Gray Jay and the Blue Jays.

The Steller's Jay is a beautiful dark blue bird with a black head and crest. They like timbered areas and are quite common and quite tame. They are about 12 inches long and often frequent camp grounds and picnic areas. They have a very loud call. Many people call them Blue Jays but they are not.

The Blue Jay is very common in the central and eastern United States. They are migrating west and we started seeing them in our area about 15 years ago. Now we see them every year. I have seen them in Clark Fork, Hope and Sandpoint. They are a beautiful color with white wing patches on blue wings and tail. They have a light blue crest. They are 11 inches long and also have a loud call. Where common, they travel in large flocks. I saw four in a group in Sandpoint 15 years ago.

Gray Jays, or "Camp Robbers" as they are called, have a fluffy gray body with a mostly whitish head. They are 11 and 1/2 inches long and have a very small bill. They live in larger timbered areas and go to higher elevations in the summer. They invade camp areas and boldly steal any food they can find. They like all Jays are very tame and quite loud.

Steller's Jay

Photo courtesy Don Jones, www.donaldmjones.com



From the Top

The New Year brings snow for snowshoeing in the calm of the wilderness after the rush of the holidays. Join us on one of our planned events or head out for your own adventure. And afterwards, curl up by a warm fire with this issue of the newsletter and learn what other Friends love about this special place.

Ann Wimberley



Peak Views

The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness is proud to present our Winter 2009 snowshoe/hike series schedule! We may add hikes as winter progresses, so check the website occasionally for updates.

Winter is a time of silence and solitude; a time to experience the profound nature of wilderness. So strap on snowshoes or slip into your cross-country skis and join us for one of our organized winter walks. From snow falling softly on the Ross Creek Cedars, to the steep and strenuous ascent of Star Peak with stunning winter panoramas we have something for every skill level and interest. You will 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 - Exp. Only

Hike Date	Hike Rating	Hike Destination	Hike Leader	Description/Contact Info
01/31/09 Saturday	E	Ross Creek Cedars	Phil Hough & Deb Hunsinger	Snow falling softly on a cathedral of cedars - what could be a more perfect winter wilderness outing? Bring your snowshoes or cross country skis. We will follow the access road, closed in winter, for 3 to 4 miles into the Ross Creek Cedars. An overlook on the way provides stunning views. We will wander along a one mile loop amongst the cedars before returning. Beginner level skill, but the overall length makes this suitable only for those with good conditioning. Contact Phil (208) 255-2780 or nowhere_man97@hotmail.com
2/7/09 Saturday	E	East Fork Creek	Phil Hough & Deb Hunsinger	We'll follow the perimeter of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, along Lightning creek. Floods in 2006 turned the forest service road into a new river channel and left a quiet route. Tall Cedars, some toppled, and tossed boulders line the streams. If the water level is at the normal winter low, we'll cross East Fork Creek and explore the jumble of trees and boulders, looking at how floods altered native plant habitats and animal browse patterns. Contact Phil (208) 255-2780 or nowhere_man97@hotmail.com
02/28/09 Saturday	E	Ross Creek Cedars	Jim Mellen	This is the best time to visit these exquisite cedars. Snowshoe or cross-country ski as time, energy and enthusiasm allows. Led by Jim Mellen (208)265-5261 jmellen@imbris.net.
03/07/09 Saturday	E	Ross Creek Cedars	Neil Wimberly	We will follow the access road, closed in winter, for 3 to 4 miles into the Ross Creek Cedars. An overlook on the way provides stunning views. We will wander along a one mile loop amongst the cedars before returning. Beginner level skill, but the overall length makes this suitable only for those with good conditioning. Contact Neil (208) 264-5379 or neilwim@yahoo.com
03/21/09 Saturday	S	Star Peak	Todd Dunfield	This snowshoe is quite strenuous and we will probably need every bit of winter sunlight to gain the summit and return to our cars before dark. We will be sticking to the main summer trail for the first 2/3 of the hike, but will probably need to use our off trail route finding skills to reach the summit of Star Peak. Approx 10 miles round trip, 4140 ft of elevation. This snowshoe is co-sponsored by the Montana Wilderness Association and the Spokane Mountaineers
03/28/09 Saturday	S	Goat Mountain	Jim Mellen	This is an extremely strenuous but rewarding trip. Although one person skied this last year, snowshoes are recommended. Led by Jim Mellen (208) 265-5261 jmellen@imbris.net
04/04/09 Saturday	E	Ross Creek Cedars	Don Clark	Depending on the winter, we'll either follow the access road (closed in winter) or travel up Ross Creek. Beginner level skill, but the overall possible length makes this suitable for those with good conditioning. Contact Don (406) 293-5210 or donmon@frontier.net
04/25/09 Saturday	S	Scotchman Peak	Jim Mellen	Discover the excitement of summiting Scotchman Peak in the snow. Most will want to snowshoe, many have used telemark gear, snowboards, alpine touring gear or cross country skis (not recommended!). Led by Jim Mellen (208) 265-5261 jmellen@imbris.net

Along the Trail

November 18: A highly successful meeting and social event for Libby area Scotchman supporters was held at the Venture Inn, coordinated by Charlie Clough. The event featured dinner, drinks, a few good stories and some great brainstorming and planning for the coming year. The large and enthusiastic crowd bodes well for our efforts to build more support in this key community. Similar gatherings are planned for several times in the coming year. Contact Charlie Clough for an invitation or information at (406)293-5210.

December 11: The Libby Archery Club entertained a Scotchmans presentation at their first winter meeting. This is a group of skilled and dedicated outdoors men and women. They sponsor several archery tournaments each year, and have worked together with Scotchmans supporter Don Clark on an ambitious building program at the Libby Rifle Range. The presentation was made by Clark and Doug Ferrell, showing our slide show which was most interesting to the audience. A number of club members hunt the Scotchmans and one ruefully admitted that it

is not much of a secret that a number of big bull elk hang around in some of the area's high basins during hunting season. These bulls are undoubtedly safe from road hunters, but make a great hunt for people willing to hike in and pack out. The group was also very interested in Don's experiences hunting goats in the high country of both the East and West Cabinets. A show of hands at the end of the presentation revealed strong support from this group for a wild Scotchmans.

Carol Jenkins is excited to announce a generous grant of \$10,000 from The New-Land Foundation. The Foundation supports efforts to protect wildlands in the Rocky Mountains by small environmental organizations focused on land management in critical ecosystems. It is an honor to have the Foundation supporting us to reach our goal of wilderness protection for the Scotchmans.

Carol is also pleased to announce a \$4,000 grant from Cadeau.



Scotchman Past

Seasonal Employees for the US Forest Service

By Jim Boyer

Young men from all over the US came to the Scotchman Peak area in Northern Idaho and Montana during the summer seasons in the late 1950's and early 1960's. It was the best summer job in the world – fighting forest fires, working trails, building campgrounds, slash disposal, being “ribe-goons”, etc.

We quickly discovered there are several special terms, phrases, or skills in common use by people in this area of the country that some of us had to learn and/or stand in awe of.

1. “rig”- any vehicle used to get around to service this country. Three of my favorites included the following: A Studebaker dump truck where one's head and tailbone shared in the pain with every bump one encountered; an old surplus “Navy Bomb Carrier” equipped with a water tank, pump, hoses, and tools that was capable of going anywhere one dared and beyond; and the pick-ups the Forest Service rented for the summer where the only criteria was that one was guaranteed to have to change a bald tire at least once a week.

2. “packing” – use of mules and horses (mostly mules) to pack in supplies to Forest Service lookouts, trail crews, and fire crews. The mules were hand picked. Only those that bucked, kicked, bit, and crushed one against a corral were accepted. There were several professional packers active at that time who were a source of wonder for us seasonal employees because they could actually put these obstinate animals to some meaningful work without being maimed or killed – Danny Rasor of Trout Creek was one of those I stood in awe of.

3. “cross cut saw” – diabolical tool used by two people, usually to cut down trees when working on a small fire back in the woods. These long unwieldy tools were carried to and from a fire through all types of terrain wired in an upside down U configuration around a pack board and were guaranteed to hang up on every brush and tree limb within seeing distance.

4. “pack board” – in my day it was a lattice configuration of small boards laced together with shoulder straps attached that allowed one to carry about anything that a man was willing to strap to his back. For fires it was shovel, Pulaski, 2 days of “C-rations” (could be stretched to 3 days), paper sleeping bag, canvas tarp, water (a burlap covered bag that dripped on one constantly), cross cut saw, and some other miscellaneous items deemed necessary to survive in the woods. It was a forerunner of the one size fits all theory.

5. “Pulaski” – cute little tool with a long handle and a head that had an ax blade on one side and a grubber on the other. Great fire fighting tool, and when used on rocky ground, resulted in all sorts of colorful bruised shins. Is there any other kind of ground in Northern Idaho and Montana?

6. “C-rations” – small cardboard box of “gourmet” food carried into fires. Main entrée of meat or something resembling meat like corned beef hash, can of fruit (peaches were the favorite), cake (pound cake weighing more than a pound in your stomach) or cookies, crackers (set the standard for dry), small can opener, sometimes jam, coffee, sugar, gum, etc. The main entrees were negotiated for and argued over, including such tasty items as hash mentioned above, Vienna sausages, some kind of burger looking thing, spam and other choices I never identified. There was no date coding and I'm convinced most of these were packaged at the end of WW 2. However, I can't remember anyone getting sick from eating them.

7. “can't bust-em” – wide bottomed canvas black jeans that were tough enough to put up with much abuse. Style conscious woodsmen always wore suspenders with them.

8. “logging boots” – “Whites” were custom fit for the aristocrats of

the woods and “Buffalos” that were factory made and very serviceable for the rest of us. Cork soles with spikes were the choice of serious woodsmen but hell on the domestic scene. Vibram soles hit the market about this time and were often chosen.

9. “slash disposal” – a work project where an experienced woodsman went with a crew of rookie seasonal employees equipped with double bit axes into a recent logging site to cut up and stack piles of limbs, cover with oiled paper to be burned in the Fall. How we survived with 10 toes and 2 legs I'll never know. To solidify the insanity, we were taught how to sharpen our axes razor sharp with a file and stone.

10. “mopping up” – process of going through an “extinguished fire” looking for hot spots by using bare hands – the feel method. It was guaranteed to give one a blister or two, and the opportunity to improve on a vocabulary that only a few years earlier would have resulted in our mouths being washed out with soap.

11. “wool shirts and jackets by Pendleton and Woolrich” – some of us asked, “Wool in the summer?” It only took one wet day and/or one night spent in the woods on a fire to teach us that without this wool clothing we spent the whole day and night shivering and miserable. I remember being on a fire with George Maloney of Clark Fork and being kept awake all night by my hard hat bouncing on rocks from my shivering. I bought a Woolrich jacket the next weekend.

12. “a heightened sense of hearing” and driving with rolled down drivers window to listen for logging and/or mining trucks rolling down steep, narrow Forest Service Roads. It improved one's backing ability instantly. One quickly put one's rig in reverse and raced the logging truck by backing down the hill at break neck speed to a turn-out or driving up onto a bank to avoid being “road kill”. It usually only took an hour or so to dig out of the bank.

13. “toilet paper teepeed trees” – Who would have thought? The story I remember is that Chuck Peterson of Clark Fork Ranger Station came up with the idea. Spotter planes would spot a fire, fly low over it, and throw out a role of toilet paper so that those of us on the ground looking for the small fire could more easily find it from the toilet paper draped over the trees.

14. “need to go out and close the garage door” – one of my favorites used by George Maloney of Clark Fork. He and his wife Monie more or less adopted me and later my wife for several summers and are some of our favorite people in the world. The expression meant walking the block or two to the local “watering hole” for a tall, cool, refreshing one.

What a great learning experience for us seasonal employees. There are undoubtedly other terms I don't even recognize because they have become part of my vocabulary. I only realize it when my kids give me “that look” or my grandkids ask, “What does that mean Pa Pa”?

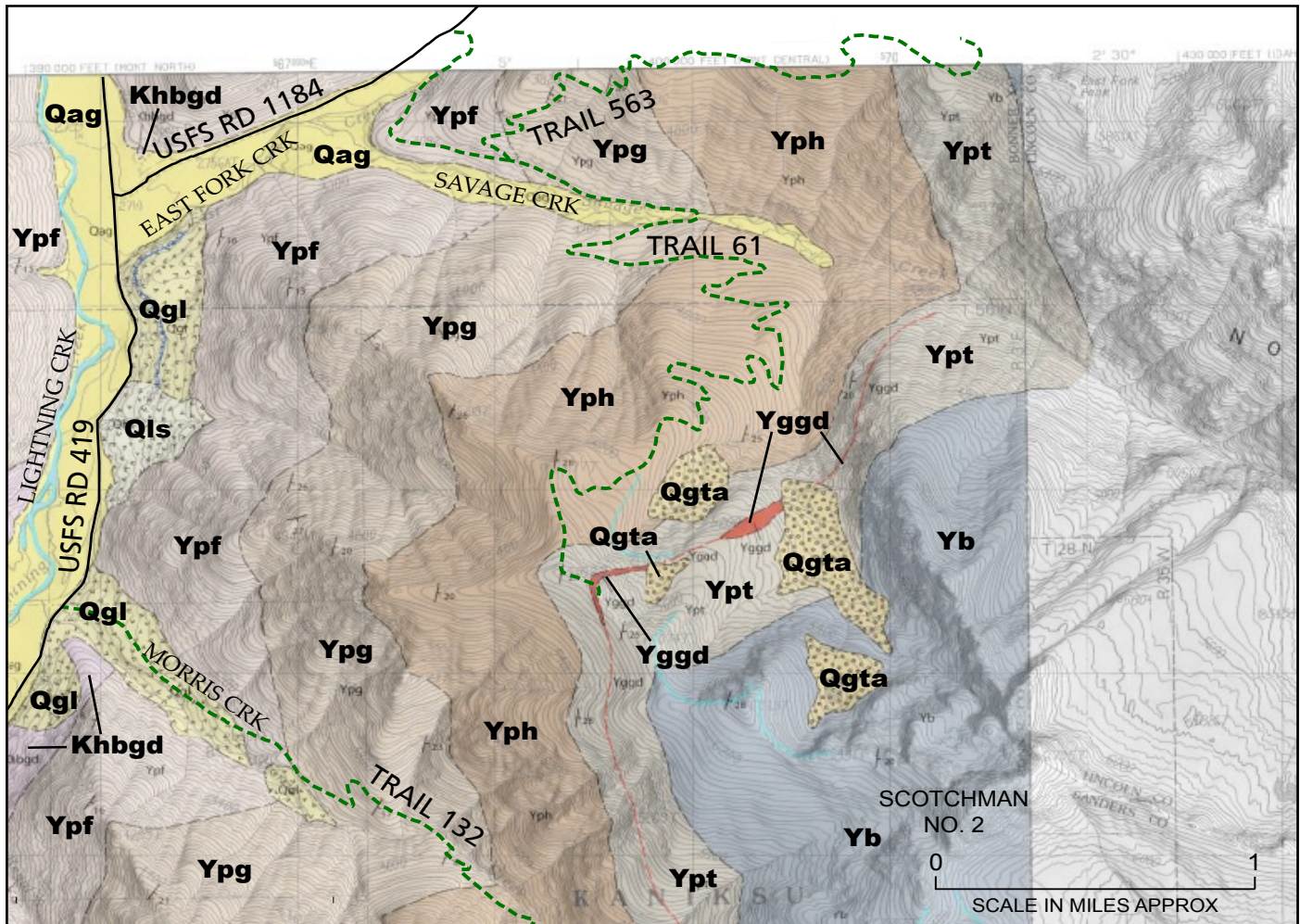
Warm Sweats at Cool Prices

Get your Scotchman hoodies for only \$35, crew sweat shirts for only \$30, and long sleeved tees for only \$15 at REI in Spokane, Huckleberry Thicket in Trout Creek, MT, Mountain Meadows in Libby, MT, the Hope Market Café in Hope, ID, and Eichart's, Café Bodega, Outdoor Experience, or Sandpoint Sports in Sandpoint, ID. Our Scotchman blue and white goat tees, all children's shirts and our hats are only \$10. Out of the area, contact jmellen@imbris.com. Other Scotchman merchandise is available in our online store run by Café Press at www.scotchmanpeaks.org/store/html.



Scotchman Rocks

GENERALIZED GEOLOGIC MAP UNITS ALONG SAVAGE CREEK (TR 61) & MORRIS CREEK (TR 132) TRAILS



ALLUVIAL AND MASS MOVEMENT DEPOSITS

Holocene

Qag - Alluvial gravel deposits

Holocene-Pleistocene

Qls - Landslide deposits

GLACIAL AND FLOOD-RELATED DEPOSITS

Pleistocene

Qgta - Alpine till deposits

Qgl - Glacio-lacustrine silts of Lake Missoula

INTRUSIVE ROCKS

Cretaceous

Khbgd - Hornblende-biotite granodiorite -

Middle Proterozoic?

Yggd - Granophyric granodiorite -

BELT-PURCELL SUPERGROUP

Metasedimentary - Middle Proterozoic

Yb - Burke Formation

Ypt - Prichard Formation, transition member

Yph - Prichard Formation, member h

Ypg - Prichard Formation, member g

Ypf - Prichard Formation, member f

Adapted from GEOLOGIC MAP OF THE SCOTCHMAN PEAK QUADRANGLE, BONNER COUNTY, IDAHO. DWM-24.

Compiled and Mapped by Russell F. Burmester, Roy M. Breckenridge, Reed S. Lewis, and Mark D. McFadden. 2004.

Available from the Idaho Geological Survey, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83844-3014 www.idahogeology.org

This geologic trail guide was created by Sylvie White by adding trail and road info and shaded relief to the Idaho Geological Survey digital web map of the Scotchman Peak quadrangle (DWM-24).

DWM-24 is available for downloading as a PDF from www.idahogeology.org

See the DWM for complete Map Unit descriptions.

Sylvie White is president of the Sandpoint Chapter of the Ice Age Floods Institute, serves on the Idaho Geologic Mapping Advisory Committee, and owns TerraPen Geographics and Maps & More (formerly The Map Store) in downtown Sandpoint.

Maps & More (formerly the Map Store)
now in the new location at
109 Main Street, Sandpoint, ID 83864
208-265-8883 www.iLUVmaps.com



Scotchman Natives

Cattail

By Valle Novak

One of the most ubiquitous native plants found in the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness area — and for that matter, in North Idaho — is the Cattail. *Typha latifolia*, by virtue of its scope of usefulness, is probably the best known wild edible plant in the Northern Hemisphere.

Hardy at all elevations, it will nearly always be found at any marsh, bog, fen, high mountain lake or waterway, rising on long stems from three to six feet tall from underground rootstocks. In spring and summer the stalks will be surrounded by long linear leaves averaging about an inch in width, providing shelter for numerous birds, depending on the elevation. Large areas of cattails can be home to nesting herons, bitterns, ducks, and at lower sites, Red-winged and (sometimes) Yellow-headed blackbirds, among others.

The spike at the top of the stems holds what from a distance looks like a crusty brown hot dog. In reality, it is a cluster of minute brown flowers. These provide nourishment to seed-eating birds, before and after poofing into fluffy “cotton” balls in late fall to winter.

Those downy handfuls used to be utilized by area Indians as a dressing for burns, and on infants to prevent chafing and as diaper-like wraps. Too, in spring and summer, the leaves were woven into mats for tipi



Cattail. Photo courtesy Marilyn George

floors and sweatbath lodges. The base of the stem where it joins the root, is not only edible but delicious after peeling away the outer layer; I pulled and cleaned stems many a time in the early '50s as a crunchy salad treat on campouts with my children.

The young flower spikes are touted as edible too, though I've never tried them. One source says to boil them for 20 minutes and then nibble off the flowers like corn on the cob. Later, when the heads mature, the pollen may be collected and mixed with an equal amount of wheat flour to make muffins, biscuits or pancakes.

Rootstocks can be collected in the fall, peeled to expose the central white core, and eaten raw or boiled, baked or pulverized into flour.

This valuable plant should be appreciated and protected. Lately, in the confines of Sandpoint, many home- and-or business owners in outlying areas are draining and destroying their little ecosystems that contain cattails. I have seen Redwing blackbirds, robbed of their decades-old nesting sites, hovering on telephone wires as though wondering where their homes went. This is a travesty, and we who love the environment must do what we can to educate and encourage such persons to keep the wild in their surroundings. Meanwhile, enjoy the hardy, helpful cattails wherever they appear on your explorations of the Scotchman trails.

Tales of Scotchman Peaks

Up Sam Morris

By Joe Heisel

This would be my first trip up the creek with a three-year old on my back. The Morris Creek canyon doesn't have cutties as long as your arm, but they are plentiful, and there are a handful of holes that my son could catch fish in, as well as many holes in which to lose a fly. I wasn't sure if we could keep the hook out of his ear on the back cast, but the risk had to be taken.

We got a late start. There were snacks, three changes of clothes, and the required fishing array. I swung Jensen on my back and started blazing up the trail.

After a bit, the trail pulls away from the creek and gains elevation, letting us see that plenty of snow was still hanging in the chutes off Blacktop. The water was really too high for fishing, but the snowmelt allowed for a chaotic roar in the canyon. Jensen was getting rather squirmy on my back, wondering when the fishing would start, but of course we had to keep moving upstream.

We idled up to the stream crossing, and Jensen jumped out of the pack. Crossing the creek was out of the question, but we still threatened. The creek was up, and so was our mood. There is something good about taking a stroll in country that hasn't seen too many boots, and Morris Creek is one of those places. I'd hazard to say not too much has changed since the glaciers left, maybe a few more trees and a couple more loose rocks, and oh... somehow these fish got here. More than once I have been upstream of fish barriers that a tsunami couldn't overcome only to find Westslope Cutthroat casually occupying a pool the size of a tea-cup. It is almost as puzzling as being three days from a road and finding an empty Keystone Light... but, I digress.

After a brief snack, we descend down the water worn cobble, pole at the ready. That day we were releasing what we caught. The fishing regulations said two cutthroat could be kept, which would have amounted to about twenty calories, so we conducted an informal population survey. Those little mountain fish can be pretty fragile, so it

was fortunate that only a few were launched into the trees. Not to worry though, all the fish eventually found their way back to the stream.

That day we bounced down Morris Creek, I think Jensen caught more than fish. I think he caught the bug. He had caught the flu that a place of wildness can bring. This had been just a little foray, a dip in the shallow end of the pool; but visits to landscapes seldom visited begin to have an effect on a person. In advanced cases, individuals spend most, if not all of their time outside. If found inside, the chronically affected are usually thinking about, talking about, or planning to go outside. It is a heavy burden and a woeful affliction, but I am hopeful, that if he and I stick together, we'll be just fine. Luckily, the cure just happens to be out the front door.



1933 photo from the Heisel collection of pirated historical photos.

The Future Looks Bright

Wed Jan 7th – at 7pm at the regular Audubon Society Monthly Meeting, open to the public, a presentation by Phil Hough and Jon Isacoff, “Wild Birds of the Scotchman Peaks Proposed Wilderness”, at the Lutheran Church of the Master at 4800 N. Ramsey Rd

FSPW will have a table top display at the Banff Mtn Film Festival at the Panida Theater Thu/Fri/Sat Jan 22, 23, 24 and at the Coeur D'Alene resort on Sunday January 25th. For film festival details please contact mountainfever@imbris.com.

FSPW will have a table at the Radical Reels Film Festival at the Panida on Tues March 3rd. For film festival details please contact mountainfever@imbris.com.



Over The Top Volunteer

Lexie de Fremery – Passion For Preservation

When Lexie first came across North Idaho 30 years ago, she knew that it would someday be home. After frequent visits over the next two decades, Lexie found a home in Sagle for herself and her critters. Lexie also came to a unique appreciation of our area's charms and beauty. The stunning



Sundance and Lexie
Photo courtesy Alan Bartling

natural beauty inspired within Lexie a passion for its preservation.

In her teens Lexie's family moved to Bend Oregon. Later, as an adult, Lexie built a barn, boarded horses and taught riding and handling horses. Lexie was drawn to the outdoors and took up backpacking. She fell in love with the wild county of the Cascade Crest and the rugged beauty of Oregon's

eastern deserts and mountains. Backpacking taught Lexie about sacrificing things that we take for granted every day. Doing with less, brings more of an appreciation for what we do have and a desire to hold on to those things we most cherish.

After a short stop as a caretaker at a dressage barn in Monroe WA, Lexie made the long planned move to Sagle. Lexie soon found herself atop of Scotchman peak looking over the wilderness. She found on that mountain top, the passion for preserving the wild country which brought her here.

What most people don't know about Lexie, is that her passion is, at least partially, inherited: her great grandfather, Thomas Bard, was a U.S. Senator from southern CA. As Lexie says: "If he were a senator today I'm sure he'd be happy to sponsor a Scotchman Peaks bill!"

In 2004 Lexie left a steady office job to work fulltime with the animals she cares so much about. She launched "We Care for your Critters" offering animal care ranging from goldfish, to dogs, cats, rabbits, and horses. But her real love is with educating, training and instruction about horses and horsemanship.

Lexie's experience running small businesses gives her unique insights and skills and she eagerly took on the task of becoming the Friends of Scotchman Peaks first Treasurer. Lexie devoted much time and energy during the last 4 years to help on our wilderness campaign. The mundane tasks which take place out of sight, processing deposits, writing checks, balancing books, keeping records, completing business and tax forms, reviewing contracts and offering insight and vision – these are critical to any organization's well being and seldom receive the recognition and appreciation they deserve. Lexie has done all that and more; she has led hikes and led discussions on policies and principles. It takes as much passion to slog through paperwork as it does to advocate for public support and policy creation. We are fortunate to have such a passionate supporter of preservation as Lexie!

Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans

The Northern Pocket Gopher *Thomomys talpoides* By Doug Ferrell

Pocket gophers are an interesting family that can have surprisingly important impacts on their surroundings. They are solitary creatures that burrow underground, really move quite a lot of dirt, eat roots and plants, and spend very little time above ground. Their presence in a given area is obvious by the many fan shaped mounds left at the end of tunnels, usually plugged with soil. One individual can dig as much as 150 yards of tunnels. When snow melts, long rope like cores of dirt lying on top of the ground reveal tunnels they created under the snow.

Our local species is the northern pocket gopher, and they can be found from the valley bottoms to meadows high in the mountains. Pocket gophers are considered a keystone species, which means that their presence is considered essential to create niches or habitats for other species, and to maintain specific ecosystem functions. They tend to bring lots of subsoil to the surface, and lots of topsoil and organic material underground. Their actions serve to loosen, aerate and build soil, and their many burrows are used by a variety of other species. The animals can be a serious nuisance in gardens and agricultural areas, where they consume lots of plant matter and where their mounds cause problems for mowing & harvesting machinery.

Pocket gophers have external cheek pouches or pockets which are fur lined and reversible. These are not part of the mouth cavity, but are located on either side of the mouth. Their large yellowish incisor teeth are exposed in front of the mouth opening. Their front claws are large and curved for efficient digging tools. Their eyes and ears are small, for obvious reasons. Their brown fur is soft and short. Length of head and body is about 5 to 6 inches.

They inhabit areas without heavy tree cover, and prefer soil that is easy to work. Because their individual ranges are small and their population densities can be high, they may appear to be a social species. Actually the animals are quite solitary, except for mating season, and can be aggressively territorial. Mothers raise their young without any help from males. Usually one litter is born per year, with 4 – 7 young. Pocket gophers are safe from most predators, but can be hunted by badgers, weasels, skunks, coyotes, and even grizzly bears, which are also capable of moving a lot of dirt



Pocket Gopher
Photo courtesy Ty Smedes / Washington Department of Fish and Game

Pocket gophers may have periods of inactivity but they are not true hibernators. They can be very active under the snow, and they also harvest and store whole plants in their extensive system of tunnels and cavities.

Ground squirrels are sometimes confused with gophers, but ground squirrels are social creatures which spend considerable time above ground, chirp warnings to each other, and leave cone shaped mounds at tunnel entrances.



Message from the Chair

One New Name Campaign

One new year's resolution for all of our "friends", would be to resolve to be more friendly. Or, more accurately, to bring in the new year by bringing in new friends. If you are reading this, you are almost certainly consider yourself a Friend of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. One of the most powerful things that we can do, as friends, is to simply increase the number of our friends. We are at almost 2,000 friends, and counting. And as we grow in numbers, our voice for wilderness multiplies.

So, back to that New Year's challenge: one resolution which we should all find no trouble in keeping is to add ONE new friend, one new name, in the next 3 months. Think about it. If every one of our 2,000 friends find just one person who is not on our list of friends, and gets them to add their support we will double in size to 4,000 friends. Then we would have a whole wilderness chorus. Think how friendly that would be! This is the essence of our "One New Name" campaign.

Why is this important? Because, numbers do matter. They create energy and inevitability. Elected and appointed officials take notice of, and take action on, those things in which they see strong public support. In a year of change, we want wilderness designation for the Scotchmans to gain momentum. One person at a time will do just fine.

One person, one new name; that's all we ask. It could be a relative, a neighbor, a co-worker, an acquaintance, someone you meet in line at the grocery store or hike with or chat with while waiting in the dentist's office. Remember, friends don't need to "join", just agree to support the belief that the Scotchmans should be designated as Wilderness. Friends aren't obligated to donate; we only ask for our

friends to support us by simply receiving this free newsletter, either via email or "snail" mail. Becoming a friend was never so easy. There's no reason to stop at one new name; bring in more new friends if you can. But if we all add just one new name, we can gain valuable momentum and create a strong voice for wilderness designation for the Scotchmans.

* * * Join us in our one new name campaign! * * *

With sadness our board has accepted the resignation of Lexie de Fremery. Lexie has been the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Board Treasurer since our inception. We are indebted to her for almost 4 years of tireless efforts and boundless enthusiasm. Lexie's attention to detail and critical thought process have strengthened our organization in many ways. Beyond handling our accounts and balancing the books, Lexie has balanced our vision. We know, and appreciate, that although she moves on to personal goals the fruits of her wilderness efforts, and her spirit, remain.

We are pleased to announce that Jacob Styer has joined our board as Treasurer! Jacob graduated from Idaho State University in 2002 with a double major in Accounting and Finance. After completing his CPA requirements in 2003 he moved to Sandpoint where he works in Coldwater Creek's tax department. Jacob has lived in Idaho since 1990 and loves calling it home. He takes advantage of the outdoors mostly in the form of hiking, biking, and climbing but hasn't really found anything "out of doors" not to enjoy. Jacob also helps out other local Non Profits such as the Panhandle Animal Shelter, Sandpoint Bike to Work Week, and the Bonner County Sheriff's Search and Rescue. Please join us in congratulating, and welcoming, Jacob Styer!

Phil Hough

Winning Zags

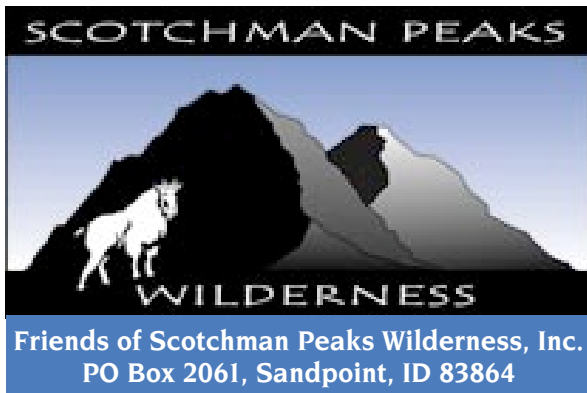
Service Project Reflection Paper from Dr Jon Isacoff's Class on Ecology and Environmentalism

By **Katie Mulcaire-Jones**

Welcome to Idaho! Here in the shadow of the Scotchman's Peaks is a unique combination of plant and wildlife subject to much discussion lately. As a proposed wilderness area, the Scotchman Peaks promise a rugged and remote landscape. Some people argue for its preservation as a wilderness area, while others desire unlimited access for snowmobiles and ATVs.

However, as an area with integrity as a singular section of earth on the Idaho and Montana border, the Peaks deserve consideration for wilderness. In its natural state, with little trace of man's presence, the Peaks exemplify wilderness. Wilderness can only be understood in opposition to civilization, and is perhaps most easily discussed in terms of absences: it is the absence of cars and cities, of highways or a high-rise, parking lots and people. In the absence of these things, the powerful presence of nature can be felt as something whole and powerful. Such a presence must be experienced and here in the Peaks at the foot of a great rock slide, or in an open meadow, it is possible to be moved by wilderness. The space filled by noise and activity is simplified into the basic presence of air, water, rock, and sky and it is possible to see oneself

as a visitor to this place. There is no architect of the mountain, no engineer of the forest. Individuals cannot claim responsibility for the awe inspired by stillness. No human is responsible for the grandeur of wilderness as they are for a great church or a moving piece of music. Yet there is a different type of responsibility that is entrusted to individuals in regards to wilderness. That is the responsibility to the integrity of the components of wilderness and wilderness as a whole. Wilderness is made up of the rare animals that inhabit it, the plants that color the ground, the trees that collectively form its forests, the mountains that make its walls. The Scotchman's Peak area witnesses the life cycles of rare animals, such as the wolf, the grizzly, the bull trout, the lynx, and the wolverine. Some of these animals are under study for the Endangered Species Act. This designation demands attention to their habitats so they may continue to play their part in wilderness. The rugged territory of the Peaks demands protection for the sake of posterity. Voices of opposition to a wilderness designation are speaking against involvement from the government. There are concerns about losing snowmobile and ATV access to the Peaks. Such concerns speak to the necessity for designating wilderness. These activities undermine the essence of wilderness. Used in certain areas, they allow for recreation. However, wilderness seeks to create a space away from such noise and man-made occupations. These spaces are rare, and they must be protected. For the sake of all that comprises wilderness and for wilderness itself, we must identify and protect the few lasting areas on earth that remind us of our place as visitors here.



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: _____

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- Donation enclosed (optional). Donations are tax deductible.
Please make checks payable to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc. Detach & Mail to the address above.

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