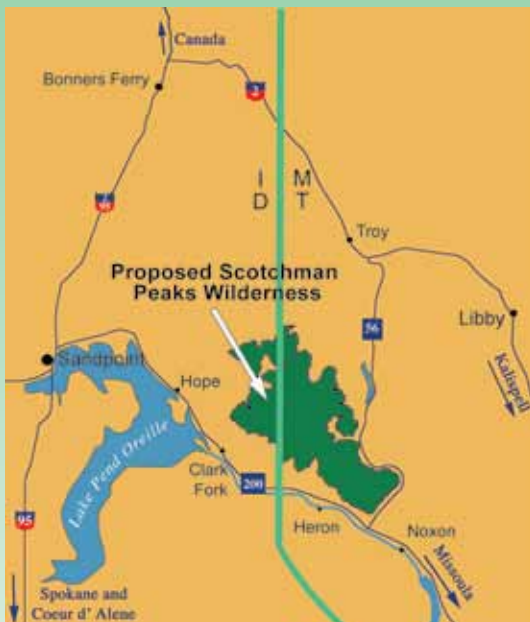




## Mission Statement

“Spanning the Idaho/Montana border, the Scotchmans are one of the last, and largest, wild areas in our region. We conduct education, outreach and stewardship activities to preserve the rugged, scenic and biologically diverse 88,000 acre Scotchman Peaks Roadless Area. We believe the Scotchman Peaks deserve congressional designation as Wilderness for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations.”



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

Layout and design: Celeste Grace

## Conservation Through Collaboration and Conversation

By *Phil Hough*

*Tim Lindsey, Chairman of Revett Minerals, Inc., points into the Crags from the future conservation lands atop Mount Vernon.* Photo by Phil Hough

### Revett claims and tailings impoundment to be conservation lands.

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness (FSPW) has a focused mission: to preserve the wilderness character of the Scotchman Peaks. We have built a broad base of support on the belief that our public lands can be managed for many multiple uses: timber, mining, grazing, recreation — including human powered as well as motorized — and Wilderness. Our supporters hold a wide variety of opinions on natural resources, but all believe the Scotchman Peaks should be preserved as Wilderness.

The diversity of our supporters makes it impossible to present a unified voice on any matters outside our mission's focus. Wilderness designation requires congressional action and that depends on broad public support. Our congressional representatives have made it clear that building local coalitions which include businesses and other stakeholders is our only pathway forward.

The only new wilderness designated in Montana or Idaho in recent years has been the Owyhee Canyonlands. This legislation came from collaboration between conservationists and ranchers, an approach favored by our congressmen, who have told us they are especially interested in what mining and timber folks have to say about the Scotchmans.

Historical conflict between timber production and wilderness protection is ebbing. Collaborations throughout our region are making progress in finding support for responsible timber practices and for wilderness. FSPW, along with other conservation groups, community organizations and representatives from the timber industry are taking part in the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders and the Panhandle Forest Collaborative. Participants in these efforts are finding they share common values and interests. This doesn't mean that we always see eye to eye with the timber guys or even

**Continued page 8**



## Lincoln County: Jerry Brown on Wildlife in the Cabinets & Scotchman Peaks

By Molly Kieran

Sixty attendees listened to Lincoln County's retired Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks biologist deliver a most informative presentation of his years on the job. Jerry Brown began working in Lincoln County in 1974 as a wildlife biologist, and retired from Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks in the fall of 2010 after a 36-year career that covered the gamut of western Montana wildlife study and conservation and the attending challenges.

During his years with FWP, he studied and advised locally, regionally and even internationally on moose, bear, mountain lions and particularly mountains goats, whose continued existence in the Scotchman Peaks as well as the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness can be credited in great part to his dedication.

Jerry's residency in Lincoln County began in 1971, and as a FWP employee, he spent his entire career based in Lincoln County, and that allowed him to do extended work with many of the large species, including bears, mountain goats, mountain lions and moose. He began an age analysis for harvested bears using tooth studies, "so we could determine if the harvest was cutting a long way into the population."



**Jerry Brown's Lincoln County presentation on his career as a Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologist. Photo by Phil Hough**

He also pioneered and sustained moose and mountain goat management in northwestern Montana.

He admits that mountain goats are a favorite species. "Behaviorally, goats aren't that spectacular. They eat, sleep and hang out in the sunshine in the winter. But, I've always been fond of that critter because of the terrain they inhabit, where they live."

Jerry shared the many fabulous photos he had taken from his helicopter investigations of our local wildlife. They were quite incredible. It was interesting to see how

the different animals reacted to the sound and wind of the helicopter. It didn't seem to bother the elk at all while the mountain goats tried to find cover and were quite nervous. Jerry's documentation of the animals and their movements over the years was shared on screen. His expert knowledge was so very informative and interesting that half the folks stayed on long after the presentation to visit and discuss their own wildlife experiences.

Many thanks, Jerry, for giving us such an enjoyable evening.

## The Future Looks Bright

**January 5:** Training with IDFG, ICL and SOLE for the winter rare forest carnivore study

**January 6:** First hike of the winter season. See schedule, page 9.

**January 8:** Showing of *In Search of the Phantom*, a wolverine movie, upstairs at Eichardt's. No host social hour begins at 6:30. Movie will be shown at 7:30.

**January 12:** Winter tracking class with Brian Baxter, all day, beginning with classroom work at the Heron Community Center; 9 a.m. Pacific time, 10 Mountain

**January 13:** Field season begins for the rare forest carnivore study

**January 20:** The StoryTelling Company, sponsored in part by FSPW, continues its 2012/13 season at Ivanos Restaurant in Sandpoint. 5:00 dinner, 6:00 show.

**January 26 – 27:** FSPW partner Selkirk Outdoor Leadership and Education (SOLE) will present a Wilderness First Responder class, including CPR. Visit their Facebook page to learn more.

**January 27 – 29:** FSPW will have a table at the Banff Film Festival at the Kroc Center in Coeur d' Alene (contact sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org to volunteer)

**TBA:** Opening of the Plein Air Paintout show at the Readery in Sandpoint. Cosponsored by The Outskirts Gallery.

**February 8:** FSPW and ICL will present the Winter Wildlands Film Festival at the Eagles Club in Coeur d' Alene. Doors at 6, movies at 7. Raffle and door prizes, no host bar, great flicks about human-powered winter recreation.

**February 17:** The StoryTelling Company, sponsored in part by FSPW, continues its 2012/13 season at Di Luna's Café in Sandpoint. 5:00 dinner, 6:00 show.

**February 22:** FSPW and ICL will present the Winter Wildlands Film Festival at the Pearl Theater in Bonners Ferry. Doors at 6, movies at 7. Raffle and door prizes, no host bar, great flicks about human-powered winter recreation.

**February 23:** Winter ecology class with Brian Baxter, all day, beginning with classroom work at the Heron Community Center. 9 a.m. Pacific time, 10 Mountain

**February 24:** End of the rare carnivore study field season.

### On the Horizon:

**March 14:** World Premier of *Grass//Routes*, the movie about FSPW and the Scotchman Peaks. Panida Theater, Sandpoint.

**March 16:** A showing of *Grass//Routes* in Libby at the Little Theater and at the The Rex in Thompson Falls.





## 2012 FSPW Photo Contest winners announced



Douglas Lynch

*Be thinking about next year and your favorite Scotchman image taken between November 1, 2012 and October 31, 2013.*

*Submit any single image at any time to [sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org).*



Sandii Mellen

Facebook voting determined the winners of the 2012 Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Photo Contest. Congratulations to our top five photographers, first of all, and thanks to all of those who sent submissions to the competition. You can check out all the entries by visiting <http://bit.ly/2012fspwphotocontest>

The grand prize winner was Douglas Lynch, for "That's Some Sunset," with 151 "likes" and 28 "shares." Douglas wins the grand prize of a photo session with pro photographer Kibbie Walton, owner of Artisan Portrait.

Second place was Tevis Hull for "A Double Dose of Goat." (118 "likes", 41 "shares")

Third place was Bill Hawkins for "North Idaho Taxi." (65 "likes", 2 "shares") (Printed in the Nov/Dec 2012 Peak Experience)

Fourth place was Sandii Mellen for "Essential Little Spar." (35 "likes")

Fifth place was Brad Roth for "Final Approach." (32 "likes")

Second through fifth places each get an FSPW swag package containing a FSPW hat, t-shirt and bandana.



Brad Roth



Tevis Hull

### Along the Trail

**November 1-4:** FSPW Program Coordinator Sandy Compton attended the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance at the Montreat Center in North Carolina.

**November 13:** FSPW exec Phil Hough gave a presentation on the rare forest carnivore study to 30 members of the Panhandle Ski and Nordic Club in Coeur d' Alene.

**November 26:** Annual FSPW Sip and Shop event was held at the Pend Oreille Winery in Sandpoint.

**November 28:** FSPW exec Phil Hough made a presentation on the wilderness proposal to 25 members of the Selkirk Chapter Society of American Foresters in Coeur d' Alene.

**November 30:** Retired Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks biologist Jerry Brown gave a FSPW-sponsored presentation on his career to 60 folks at the Libby VFW Club. FSPW shared a table with ICL at the Winter Wildlands film festival presented by Selkirk Outdoor Leadership and Education.

**November 30:** End of Facebook voting for the 2012 photo contest. See the results on this page.

**December 3:** Lauren Mitchell (our 2011 summer intern) began her half-time job as the rare forest carnivore study coordinator.



## Message From the Chair: 2013 – A Bold New Year Ahead

If the first days of a new year are full of hope, then the first days of the Mayan Long Count Calendar, a 5,000 year cycle, are absolutely brimming! This month Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness marks 8 years of work towards preserving the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness. We are proud of our many successes. We have raised community awareness and received support from a broad array of folks. Over 4,300 people consider themselves Friends. We have been good stewards of the Scotchmans, putting boots on the ground for trail maintenance activities, helping gather valuable data on rare forest carnivores and providing natural resource education. We are full of hope that 2013 will be a bold new year, bringing significant progress in achieving Congressional Designation!

Jon Turk, National Geographic Adventurer of the Year, paddled around Ellesmere Island. At one point Jon was stuck on a rock for 17 days, pinned down by weather, wind and ice until a brief window opened. His choice was to stay safely put, running low on food, or to face paddling in treacherous currents 55 miles in 17 hours before the next safe harbor. Jon Turk described his choice: "It's all about being patient when you have to be patient and being bold when you have to be bold."

Success in many endeavors depends upon being *able* to be patient when needed and bold when needed, and knowing when the time is right for each. We have been advocating — patiently — for 8 years for Wilderness designation for the Scotchmans. It seems like a long time until you consider that no other wilderness has been designated on National Forest Lands in our two states for almost 30 years. To succeed we must be bold and move beyond gathering the support of like-minded folks; we must find innovative ways to engage a larger and more diverse community of supporters for Wilderness.

FSPW has been working with stakeholders in our region to find the common ground necessary for Wilderness

### From the Top

Winter and the snow are finally here! As I sit by the fire working on this issue and look out at the winter wonderland, I'm already checking the calendar to see which of the snowshoes I can schedule. And then there's the Rare Forest Carnivore Study and the upcoming films, especially Grass Routes. Sounds like a fun winter.

I look forward to the peace and quiet of the snow covered woods. We do need Wilderness to soothe our souls, especially after the tragedies at the end of 2012. Collaboration and working together to resolve our differences are key to many of the issues facing us today.

**Ann Wimberley**

Legislation. With the release of the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle Nationals Forest's Land Management plans in 2013 we will have more community conversations about Wilderness. We also look forward to the March release of *Grass//Routes*, a movie documenting our efforts towards designating the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness, including a look at our collaborations.

We must be willing to collaborate and converse with folks who may not be considered traditional wilderness advocates. We must find the common ground and shared values which bring a broad set of groups and individuals together to support conservation. Although the seas of collaboration may occasionally rock the boat, a rising tide of opportunity in 2013 encourages us to leave the rock and paddle forward. We hope you will continue with us on this journey!

**Phil Hough**

### She's baaaaaack

#### Lauren Mitchell returns to head up the 2013 rare forest carnivore study.

Our 2011 summer intern is back on the job, this time to wrangle volunteers and camera stations during the 2013 winter search for rare critters in and around the Scotchmans. Partly because FSPW did not get a grant from Zoo Boise this year, the 2013 version is scaled down from last year's huge effort — involving 40 stations and 140-plus volunteers — but Lauren will still have responsibility for at least 15 monitoring station in places not checked last season. Funding has been provided out of our general fund and individual designated donations that included a \$1,000 matching grant.



**Lauren and Wilson  
the Wolverine**

In spite of the reduced season, FSPW volunteers are excited to be involved again in this "citizen science" project. Some began filling out survey forms as early as October and will soon be getting trained on setting up the new stations. The methodology is much simpler than last year, involving only two visits per station, one to put it up and another to take it down and bring the data collected together to pass on to our Idaho Fish and Game partners.

Once again, we will be posting pictures of volunteer trips as well as Reconix results on our Facebook page. Watch for trip pictures beginning in mid-January and camera station results beginning in February.





## Scotchman Natives: North Idaho roses adorn the wild landscape

By Valle Novak

It's always special to me to come upon wild roses while ambling through the countryside and in the hills. They add beauty and elegance, and though perhaps not as perfect and elite as the cultivated tea roses, provide charm and fragrance unparalleled by their loftier progeny.

You'll find them everywhere – often in the most unlikely places – perhaps ornamenting an aspen grove, accompanying huckleberries in a high peaks patch, or popping out of the mossy boulders on an old rock slide. And while they delight our eyes, they do much more for the wildlife, providing leafy browse for deer and wintertime hips for birds and small mammals.

Though you may find several species of roses in your travels through our landscape, only three are considered native to this area; they are, in order as per the to the right, the Baldhip rose (*Rosa gymnocarpa*); Nootka rose (*Rosa hispida*); and Pearhip or Wood's rose (*Rosa woodsii*).

Each has special features that make identifying them pretty easy. Probably the easiest is the baldhip by virtue of its dense armament of straight and soft but thorny prickles on older branches. Leaves are deciduous and odd-pinnately compound with 5 to 9 leaflets, doubly serrate. The flowers, which bloom from June through July, are small (only one inch long) and sweetly fragrant. The hips are orange to red, and small.

The Nootka rose can be spindly or stout, depending on soil and location, and so can be found growing from 3 to 7 feet tall. The alternate, deciduous leaves are odd-pinnately compound with 5 to 7 leaflets that generally serrate but can be doubly-serrate (*Rosa nutkana* from west of the Cascades) and are slightly hairy underneath. There is a pair of flattened, straight to slightly curved thorns at the base of each leaf. The flowers are large – from 2 to 3-inches long, are pink and solitary at the ends of branches. They bloom from May through July. The fruits are large, round and purple-red.

The Wood's or pearhip rose grows from 3 to 7 feet tall, with freely branched stems that can either contain a pair of thorns at the base of each leaf or not. Younger shoots are generally bristly. Leaves are alternate, deciduous, odd-pinnately compound with 5-9 leaflets which are coarsely toothed. The small (1 to 2-inch) flowers are pink

and usually borne on branch-ends in few-flowered clusters appearing from May through July. Fruits are dark red and round to oval. As with the Nootka rose, there are two varieties of *Rosa woodsii*. Var. *woodsii* is a prairie rose of the Great Plains area, while var. *ultramontane* is common in north Idaho.

A common denominator of each of these roses is the alternate, pinnately compound leaf arrangement, the fact that each of the flowers have five petals, and that all of them are hardy from sea level to about 4,500 feet.

All of the roses were utilized and often revered by area Indian tribes. The larger thorns were used for fish lures, buds were often eaten and hips were used in a decoction for an eyewash for sore eyes. A tobacco was made of the dried, powdered leaves and bark, and leaves were often chewed and applied to insect bites to relieve pain and swelling. Some tribes made arrows from the heavier, stronger rose-wood stems. The Salish believe that the Nootka rose offers protection from bad influences and threatening otherworld spirits.

Wild roses are easily transplanted, and are a boon in your landscape, especially in hedgerows and groupings. Don't fertilize them ever; they're used to lean, acidic soils. And like the pretty country girl in gingham, they'll outshine the husies in satin every time!

**Addendum:** Regarding my last issue's column on the wild cranberry, I received a note from Jennifer Costich-Thompson, IPNF- North Zone Botanist, who pointed out that people should not seek out Bog cranberry. Jennifer writes that "it is listed as an S2 Sensitive Species in the State of Idaho, with less than twenty known occurrences (almost all of which occur within Bonner or Boundary counties.) Although this species is circumboreal with a widespread global range (and can be abundant elsewhere like in Alaska), its suitable habitat and therefore occurrences are very scarce in our state. With that few known occurrences, I hope people will leave all the fruit on the plants to allow for reproduction (even if much of it will be aided by birds or rodents in the immediate area.) Furthermore, the habitats where we typically find bog cranberry (peatlands and fens or small lakes) are often very sensitive to human impacts or disturbance. Even walking across the "quaking" or floating peat mats where the cranberry is found at Hager Lake can submerge or damage the floating mats or plants, which is one of the reasons the floristic surveys there are performed so infrequently".



**Baldhip rose**



**Nootka rose**



**Pearhip or Woods rose**

Photos by Marilyn George



## Birds of the Scotchmans: Winter Birds Again

By Jon Isacoff, PhD

It seems we're running out of new birds or bird-related topics to discuss for the Scotchman's. After all, there are only so many birds and the Scotchman's is just one place that doesn't change terribly fast over the ages! So this issue will be a quick run through of all the various types of winter birds you might find and where to find them.

Well, there's always the Lake. That means geese, ducks, swans, loons, and grebes. Many of these have been covered in previous bird columns but it's



Kingfisher

Photo by Randy Beacham

always comforting to know that if there's unfrozen water, there will be birds, even if everything else is snow-covered and seemingly dead. And don't forget Blue Herons, one of the only North American herons that can tolerate a Scotchman's winter.

If you live in a town near the Scotchmans and have feeders, look for finches, chickadees, nuthatches, juncos, and woodpeckers. This year is another

**Continued page 10**

## Wild Creatures of the Scotchmans: Trailing "Rufus"

By Brian Baxter

Editor's note: Brian, an outdoor education instructor with Silver Cloud Associates, will be teaching FSPW classes on Animal Tracking and Sign Interpretation and Winter Ecology. Check our hiking schedule or contact him at [b\\_baxter53@yahoo.com](mailto:b_baxter53@yahoo.com)

An obscure, yellow orb, partially hidden by fog, mist and clouds, gently rose over the ridge. It brought forth hopes for a new day. The silhouette of the coniferous treeline was an artist's rendition of this winter scene, and the warmth that peeked through to accompany it dissipated the gray velvet and brought the blood circulating back into my bones.

As I packed the sled, carefully placing the first aid kit, snowshoes, and ax, tying down with bungees, I thought again about how lucky I was. Privileged as I felt, it was still dang hard work in minus ten degree temperatures. In the early 1990's, faced with challenges from groups petitioning the government with questions about several mid-size carnivore species, the state of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks had undertaken a series of winter track surveys to be repeated three times per year. Our team, a relatively elite group of rough and ready professional wildlife biologists, was assigned this task in western Montana. Heading up the squad, was state furbearer biologist Brian Giddings out of Helena; Tim Thier, Western Montana furbearer coordinator; Jerry Brown, local state biologist familiar with aerial and ground surveys; and a few teams of experienced trackers including yours truly.

Focus was on WFML, or wolverine; fisher; marten; and lynx. However, we recorded tracks, trails, and sign of all species, giving numbers and densities when possible. In the days before GPS was perfected, we also triangulated off of nearby peaks, and used aerial photos to give the best locations possible. Methods included riding the snow machine on one knee with snowshoes on, keeping it at about 3-5 miles an hour, recording, and hopping off to check out new sign and investigating. Often,

investigating meant snowshoes or cross country skis. We aimed for at least 30 miles of surveys per day, and worked all districts of western Montana, including the West Cabinets and the Bull River drainage that connects the Scotchman's area.

A set of interesting tracks meandered across the windswept trail. The length of the trail seemed to be about a 22 inch stride, and approximately a 5 inch straddle. Individual prints were about 2 inch by 2 inch. Pretty indistinct, I had to hop off and check them out. In doubt, the sun, wind, and blowing snow had taken its toll on the clarity of this set of tracks, I followed it out and back tracked into the timber. Once inside the canopy, the details appeared much clearer.

There were four toes showing, no claws, a bi-lobal or two lobed palm pad and a stout, box like appearance the trail. This animal was hunting in an S pattern, moving along the edge of the timber and a natural meadow. The edge effect pattern crossed numerous squirrel; bunny; field mice; ermine; grouse, and vole tracks. It had poked its nose into every hole; checked the borders of streams and wetlands thoroughly.

Crossing a log, this critter had brushed frozen over berries with its nose, knocking off the fluffy white powder. It scratched at the base of a tree, urinated, and left a very segmented, half inch diameter by 3 inch scat.

The clues confirmed my suspicion that this was indeed an opportunistic omnivore of amazing adaptability. An animal with a diverse diet, taking the given chance to eat anything it could capture, and adapting to environmental conditions across the continent. Known also as bay lynx; catamount; red lynx; and wildcat, the bobcat is an important furbearer and is managed and protected by regulated fur harvest seasons. The Bobcat is generally described as a smaller cat approximately twice the size of a domestic house cat, about 28-37 inches long, and weighing in at 15-35 pounds. I must interject here a moment, as size

**Continued page 11**





## Over The Top Volunteer

### Horsing Around with Celeste Boatwright Grace

By Sandy Compton

Some things are destined to be, it seems. Without getting all existential, let's saddle up and explore the case of Celeste Boatwright Grace, who appears to have been preordained to become a volunteer with Friends of Scotchman Peaks. Or maybe Friends of Scotchman Peaks were fated to be graced by the presence of Celeste.

Whichever, within the first few days that she lived in Sandpoint, she galloped to the top of Scotchman Peak with her husband Eric and her friend Kim — and there met FSPW exec Phil Hough, Brad Smith from ICL and new Sandpoint District Ranger Erick Walker. Kim just happened to be wearing an FSPW t-shirt. Pure serendipity? Perhaps.

But then, she applied for the job of FSPW Wolverine Coordinator — and made the short list — only to be edged out by a nose by dark horse Kelsey Brasseur. Then, true to her "I'll show you" personality, she became a real workhorse for Kelsey, getting into the traces with some of FSPW's most active volunteers as they set up and maintained mustelid monitoring stations. And now, she's getting ready to trot out her second newsletter as a volunteer layout artist. And her volunteerism doesn't stop with horsing around with FSPW.

If you're wondering about the equine analogies, in her non-FSPW life Celeste is a large animal vet specializing in horses who also does volunteer work in that field. In addition to operating Sandpoint Equine, LLC, she helps the United States Combined Driving team take care of their horses — on this continent and others. She also travels once a year to the Dominican Republic to do "equitarianism," taking care of mules and horses owned by poor Dominicans who depend on the animals for their livelihood.

In her *spare* time, Celeste is married to Eric Grace, executive director of the Kaniksu Land Trust, the recently renamed Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Conservancy. They met at a wedding in which Celeste was a bridesmaid. The wedding was held at Eric's home (even though he knew no-one in the wedding), so she felt it was her duty as one of the bridal party to entertain him. A mere six years later, they themselves got married.

Eric's new job with the land trust brought them to Sandpoint. "We moved West to be closer to my folks," Celeste says, "and agreed that we would go wherever one of us found a job first. I

ended up moving to a town I'd never seen before." She's managed, nonetheless, to fit right in.

Celeste was born in Loveland, Colorado, where her father worked for Hewlett-Packard. Her dad moved the family to New Hampshire when she was 5, took a job with Northeast Electronics and then started a business building circuit boards. It was a success, and her dad still dabbles in electronics. On a recent visit with him in the Bitterroot Valley, he fixed her ultrasound machine.

Celeste attended Dartmouth College and then went to veterinary school at Cornell University, "because I wanted to be a vet since I was asked the question the very first time. It was a question in one of those scrapbooks you begin filling out when you're young. I did have a moment in my senior year when I wavered between med school and vet school, but I love animals."

And particularly horses, of which she and Eric have two that still live in the East. "We've reduced our herd from five," she confesses. The horses, she hopes, will join them here sometime in the not-so-distant future. In the meantime, she consoles herself with an occasional ride on a critter borrowed from fellow FSPW volunteer Mary Franzel. She's also learning the benefits and challenges of Western saddles.

Celeste interned in equine surgery and now travels the northern three counties of Idaho — and soon, western Montana — in a mobile office/pharmacy, treating "the lame, the wounded, the blind and the colicky." She does a bit of acupuncture (on all species) as well as working a couple of days a week at North Idaho Animal Hospital. Her enthusiasm for the work is boundless. She was very excited to recently have had the opportunity at North Idaho to help treat a Northern Saw-whet and a Snowy owl.

If all that doesn't seem to fill up a life, Celeste also skis Nordic and Telemark styles. She is a snowshoer, hiker, runner, back packer and rugby player — though she says she's given up rugby. She's a bit of a practical joker with a great sense of humor, a "ready to roll" attitude and a love for doing wild things in wild places.

Her enthusiasm for all things out of doors is what, after all, led her to Friends of Scotchman Peaks in the first place, where she's found many folks with common interests, a few of whom can actually keep up with her. It only takes a bit of horse sense to see that she and Friends of Scotchman Peaks were made for each other.



**Celeste demonstrates the Boatwright-Grace method of crossing Morris Creek**

Photo by Sandy Compton



**Conservation from page 1**

our fellow conservationists. But we do believe that dialogue is better than conflict. Communities don't win when timber projects or wilderness proposals are perpetually stalled. We are pleased with the progress being made towards sustainable timber production as well as Wilderness protection. Work remains, but a growing consensus that the Scotchmans are suitable for Wilderness encourages us to continue. Collaboration with the mining industry is also important in securing a future where extraction and natural resource conservation can be compatible.

Irresponsible mining operations in the western United States have left an unfortunate legacy. Laws, policies and economics have historically encouraged development while placing a very low priority on protecting the environment. Long term clean-up of many mining projects has obscured short term economic benefits. Lessons learned from mining's history have led to increased oversight by state and federal regulatory agencies, like the Montana State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), which safeguard against potentially abusive practices.

Citizen watchdog groups such as the Cabinet Resource Group and the Rock Creek Alliance represent the public interest and play an important role by keeping federal land managers and state regulators as well as the mining and timber industries accountable. We are thankful for the contributions that vigilant grassroots environmental organizations have made. Without them there would be no guarantees that the Scotchmans would retain their wilderness qualities or that the Troy mine's impact would be as minimal as it has been.

The Troy mine operation, located on Stanley Creek in the Lake Creek drainage, is a part of the landscape of the Scotchman Peaks area. We have been in contact with current operators, Revett Minerals, Inc., toured the mine, discussed its operations, reviewed the recently updated reclamation plans and studied their long-term records. The operation of the Troy mine has not degraded the wilderness value of the adjacent Scotchman Peaks roadless area, nor has it detracted from the Scotchmans as a candidate for Wilderness designation. In fact, the West Cabinet Grizzly Bear augmentation uses release sites located in close proximity to mine claims.

We have been impressed by the sincerity of the Troy mine's current management in the efforts they have made to address the potential environmental impact of the mine. We believe that they are working to be good neighbors in our shared West Cabinet landscape.

We are pleased to learn of Revett's plans for the patented mining claims on top of Mt. Vernon, immediately east of the Scotchman Peaks Area. Revett has indicated their desire that these private surface rights, as well as other lands in the valley, be managed for wildlife habitat and corridor linkage once the Troy Mine reaches the end of its operating life. Revett's commitment to a best-use of its private land holdings is in line with FSPW vision and they have recently created a foundation (The Revett Foundation) that will be responsible for pursuing long-term conservation management plans for select lands. We have a shared vision that the summit of Mount Vernon and the approximately 750 acres of re-vegetated tailings area in the Lake Creek valley will continue to serve as a crucial wildlife link between the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness and West Cabinet

mountains. These long term conservation uses will help provide and maintain the "eastern gateway to the Scotchman Peaks". This is a much-preferred alternative to the sale and use of these lands in commercial development scenarios.

We will continue to work closely with Revett on mutual objectives. It is as equally important to them, as it is to us, that their operations at the Troy Mine meet and exceed all standards; and, that they live up to their commitments to be good neighbors and stewards of

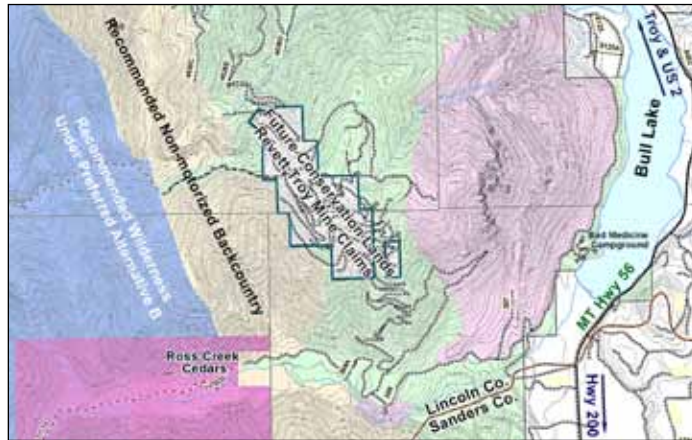
the environment. FSPW looks forward to seeing today's plans become tomorrow's realities through the actions of Revett and The Revett Foundation.

The fact that the Troy Mine continues to produce much-needed metal and support important jobs without a significant loss of wilderness characteristics next door is due to careful development and operation as well as fortunate geology and an active community of local citizens groups who advocate for conservation and environmental protection.

FSPW won't speculate whether the experience at the Troy mine can be repeated at Rock Creek or elsewhere. In fact, FSPW as an organization neither supports nor opposes the proposed Rock Creek mine. Other groups will address whether that is possible (and, if so: how, where, when and by whom.) Hydrology, geology and ore bodies can be very different even when not far apart. Mining companies differ and can change for better or worse. State and federal laws and regulations change. Citizen watchdog groups will play an important role in ensuring that community needs and environmental protection are adequately addressed.

Dialogue is an important and useful step in addressing conservation needs. Our conversations with Revett are limited to the West Cabinet Mountains. Preserving working landscapes is vital to the larger strategy of conserving species' habitat

*Continued next page*



**The Troy Mine claims, envisioned by Revett as future conservation lands, lie just east of the recommended wilderness boundary.**





## Peak Views: A winter of hikes and classes are waiting for you!

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader(s)	Description and contact info
1/6/13	Moderate	Regal Creek Ramble	Phil Hough	<b>Contact info: 208-946-9127 or phil@scotchmanpeaks.org</b> We'll park on Lightning Creek road as far as we can drive, usually this is where the county stops plowing. From there we will snowshoe up the Lightning Creek road, and then the Regal Creek Trail. Our goal is the panoramic views from the talus slopes along the Regal Creek Trail. Round trip: 7 ± miles. Elevation gain, 400 feet.
1/12/13	Easy/ Moderate	Tracking Hike	Brian Baxter: 36 years field experience the U.S. and Canada.	<b>Contact info: b_baxter53@yahoo.com</b> Join wildlife researcher Brian Baxter for a "Hands On, Boots on the Ground" session on tracks, trails and sign focus on mid size carnivores. A two-hour classroom session at Heron Community Center is followed by a moderate level field session nearby. Dress appropriately and bring lunch, water, snacks, cameras, smiles and snowshoes if you have them! Round trip 6 ± miles. Elevation gain 400 to 800 feet. <b>The hike and course are free. There is a \$5 for class materials</b>
2/2/13	Moderate	Ross Creek Cedars Ladies Only	Sandii Mellen	<b>Contact info: sandiimellen@gmail.com</b> A Ladies day in the GREAT outdoors. Cross-country ski to and through the Ross Creek Cedars in the quiet of winter. Cross-country ski's only please and possibly skins for your ski's for the uphill and touring around in the cedars if it is icy. This will be an intermediate level ski, that can be quit fast if conditions are icy. Plan on bringing a lunch / snacks for this will be a long day trip. Round trip 8 + miles, elevation 1200 feet. We will go in the Cedars as far as everyone wishes to go.Round trip: 8 miles. Elevation gain, 1200 feet.
2/8/13	Moderate	Ross Creek Cedars	TBA	<b>Contact info: trails@scotchmanpeaks.org</b> We will hike up the Ross Creek Cedars road 3.5 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. <b>Round trip: 8 + miles. Elevation gain, 1200 feet</b>
2/23/13	Moderate	Winter Ecology Hike	Brian Baxter	<b>Contact info: b_baxter53@yahoo.com</b> Biologist Brian Baxter shares an in-depth look at adaptations of plants and animals enabling them to survive winter in the Northwest Rocky Mountains. Classroom session at Heron Community Center. Botanical and biological terminology; winter adaptations of animals and birds, including Snowshoe hare; Canadian lynx; White tailed Ptarmigan; Rocky Mountain Elk; Long tailed weasel; Boreal Owl; and of course, wolverines! Moderate level field session on pack boots or snowshoes. Dress properly for weather, bring lunch, water and your camera. <b>The hike and course are free. There is a \$5 for class materials</b>
2/24/13	Easy/ Moderate	Scotchman's Winter Bird Highlights (Co-sponsored with Spokane Audubon)	Jon Isacoff	<b>Contact info: 509-448-2629 or isacoff@gonzaga.edu</b> An all-day trip to the northeast corner of Bonner County and the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area focusing on waterfowl on Lake Pend Oreille, as well as upland winter birds and rarities in the Lightning Creek area. Be prepared to drive approximately five hours round-trip and to walk on gravel roads two to three miles. Bring WARM clothes, lunch, snacks, and water as there are no services except in Sandpoint on the way to and from the trip. Tentatively, we will meet at Liberty Lake Albertson's at 7:00 AM, and then at Safeway in Sandpoint at approximately 8:30AM. Sign up by February 20. <b>Note: This trip is dependent on weather and road conditions.</b>
2/25/13	Moderate/ Strenuous	Practice Mountain.	Sandy Compton	<b>Contact info: sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org</b> Ski or snowshoe to the "Practice Mountain" / Billiard Table saddle for great views of Blue Creek. Climb Practice Mountain for a look at the Clark Fork Valley before looping back to the point of beginning. Round trip: 6 miles ± Elevation gain: 1500 ±
3/02/13	Moderate/ Strenuous	Big Spar Gourmet Ski	Celeste and Eric Grace	<b>Contact info: celestegrace@gmail.com</b> Plan for an all day cross country ski or snowshoe (depending on the snow conditions) along mostly wide-open roads / trails, with gradual but long hills. You will be treated to an outdoor gourmet feast on the lake at the halfway point. The return trip can either retrace our tracks, or bushwhack the most "direct" route, depending on the group's desire and adventurous spirit. Outdoor formal / black tie attire optional.Round trip, 9 miles. Elevation gain 900 feet.
3/23/13	Strenuous	Goat Mountain Hop	Jim Mellen	<b>Contact info: 208-265-5261 or jimnsandii@gmail.com</b> This will be the 7th annual Goat Mountain Hop. Gaining 4,000 feet vertical, this is one of the steepest trails in the region. Although you don't have to be crazy to sign up, it does help. Round trip: 7 miles; Elevation gain: 4,000 ±
3/30/13	Strenuous	Star Peak	Sandy Compton and Brad Smith	<b>Contact info: sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org</b> This snowshoe is quite strenuous. We will follow new tread past some great views of the Clark Fork valley before connecting to the old trail. Expect a little fall-line hiking once we gain the "break over" about half way to the top. Depending on conditions, this could be a good day to bring skis and skins. Round trip: 10 miles ±. Elevation gain 4140 feet.
4/6/13	Strenuous	Goat Peak	John Harbuck	<b>Contact info: harbuck@norlight.org</b> The easy thing is that we should be able to drive all the way to the trailhead — and there are no stream crossings. This is supposedly the steepest trail in Idaho, but with snow, who needs a trail? Definitely a tough snowshoe, but beautiful country and great views. Skiable, but only if you're very accomplished. Round trip, 8 miles. Elevation gain, 4000 feet.
5/4/13	Strenuous	Scotchman Peak	Jim and Sandii Mellen	<b>Contact info: 208-265-5261 or jimnsandii@gmail.com</b> Snowshoe, ski or snowboard the tallest peak in the Scotchman Peaks This is the 8 <sup>th</sup> annual Scotchman Peaks winter hike. Generally, the trailhead is inaccessible this time of year, adding 2.5 miles each way and 500 vertical (making a total of 4,200 vertical!). This is for the extremely fit adventurers only! Round trip, 12 miles. Elevation gain, 3700 feet.

### Conservation from previous page

and connectivity. We must find ways to make conservation and resource development compatible. We must change the conversation about conservation so that it is a normal part of resource development. And, we must change the conversation about resource development to help create sustainable, economically viable and environmentally responsible projects.

We must be vigilant watchdogs, but we must also acknowledge and recognize good practices as reward and encouragement. The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness is proud to be a part of this changing conversation!

For a complete position statement on our collaborative efforts please visit: [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/blog/conservation-and-collaboration](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/blog/conservation-and-collaboration)



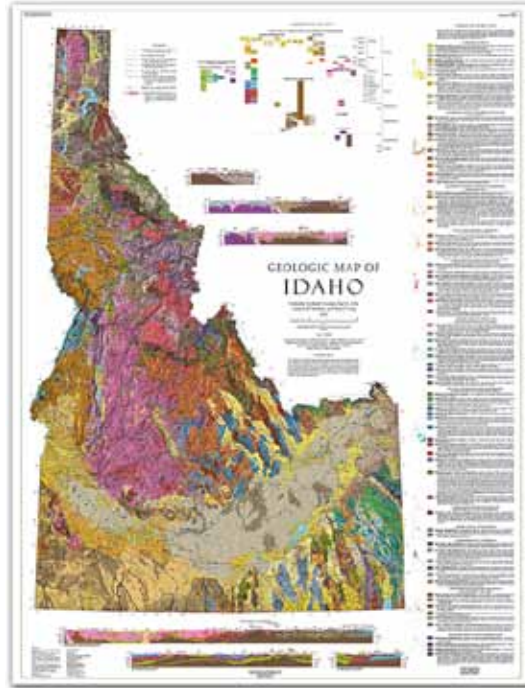
# Scotchman Rocks: Idaho Revealed

By Mark McFadden, PhD

It's finally here! Although science and (in particular) rock nerds are often very excited by seemingly trivial facts, features, or events, the new geologic map of Idaho is enough to delight nearly all of us. Almost ten years of planning, research, compilation and general hard work have gone into the latest release by the Idaho Geological Survey (IGS) in time for us to plan and ponder for the New Year while the winter weather limits some of our excursion abilities.

The previous edition of Idaho's geologic map was released by the IGS back in 1978, compiled by John Bond. It was a great effort for its day, depicting the bedrock geology of the entire state at a scale of 1:500,000 (about 1 inch = 8 miles). It measured a whopping 43 inches wide x 66 inches in length, requiring some serious wall space for display. After decades of service as a key resource for those interested in Idaho geology, however, it was time for an updated map to incorporate more than thirty years of newer geological investigations by hundreds of geologists.

Recent data from mapping projects and related research throughout the state has been integrated with the latest in map production techniques to bring us a great new illustration of Idaho stripped of vegetation and soil. The new map, scale 1:750,000 (about 1 inch = 12 miles), measures in at a nifty 36 x 48 inches in size and depicts the landscape in shaded relief to emphasize the topography. Each rock unit is shown in a representative color and the map explanation column shows the geographic distribution of each category of rock.



**Complete with cross-section slices through the state, the new Geologic Map of Idaho by the Idaho Geological Survey is an impressive depiction of the bedrock geology and geologic history of Idaho.**

The result is a colorful amalgamation of science and creative presentation from lead compiler Reed Lewis and the talented IGS staff that appeals to our curiosity, artistic appreciation, and general sense of awe about the geologic complexity of our corner of the world. From the Cabinet Range in the panhandle to the trail of the Yellowstone hotspot across southern Idaho, the map spurs our need to understand more of our geologic past. It also puts our local geology in perspective and provides us a context for the development of the landscape around us. Available at local map shops, bookstores, or through the IGS at [idahogeology.org](http://idahogeology.org), it is a great doorway to deeper appreciation of Idaho.

## Birds, from page 6

major Redpoll irruption year so look for these small birds at feeders, often with their close relatives the Pine Siskin and/or the Goldfinch. Even if you don't have feeders, keep your eyes on Spruce trees in the neighborhood. It's also a major White-winged Crossbill irruption year and these birds eat virtually nothing but Spruce cones. Don't forget to check the local Mountain Ash trees for Robins, Varied Thrushes, Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings, and if lucky, Pine Grosbeaks, all of which are addicted to Ash berries. Unfortunately, Starlings like them too, but that's life!

If you go for a snowshoe or a low-elevation hike (still no snow as of this writing) look for all the local feeder type birds as well as Ravens, Stellar's Jays, and at the higher elevations, Gray Jays. Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks love to chase Finches and other songbirds around. They will also terrorize feeders so be on the lookout! And in winter, the smallest Owl in the Northern US, the Northern Pygmy Owl is a daytime

hunter. They too will chase small birds around in addition to the small rodents they like to eat.

If you're snowshoeing or hiking along one of the larger creeks, Kingfisher's may be about. So might American Dippers, the adorable little gray birds that act like ducks and feed under the water. They love to bob their tails up and down in a most exaggerated fashion that is quite entertaining to watch.

To compliment all of the exciting finch irruptions, it seems this is again another big Snowy Owl year throughout the Pacific Northwest and Great Lakes regions. Snowy Owls are not known for hanging around the Scotchman's area but during years like this when there are excess numbers of first year birds, they could show up any time. They will perch on telephone poles, fences, haystacks, even barns and schools, and hunt in the same fields as Red-tailed Hawks. And they're hard to miss!

Good winter birding and happy holidays!





## Rufus, from page 6

and weight in northwestern Montana and eastern Idaho can be variable. Jerry Brown, in his wisdom, also had me do a trapper survey to enlist the help of some of the local houndsmen and trappers in the area. Jerry knew they could help us pinpoint hot areas to explore, and knew that I could learn a lot from them. And boy, was he right! Don Clark taught me about mountain lions and Bubba Conn about walk-through sets. Both of these guys enlightened me with techniques I would use later in research trapping of lynx, wolverine, marten, and fisher. One of these trappers, a Huck Mitschelle, showed me a 51 pound bobcat caught in the Yaak.

Old records also mention a lynx-cat. This is rumored to be a cross between a lynx and a bobcat, usually a female lynx and a male bob mating. We may have run across tracks of one of these on a CRG tracking class a while back. In fact, it is believed that both the *Felis rufus*, (bobcat) and the *Felis lynx* (Canadian lynx) are descended from the Eurasian lynx that crossed the land bridge during ancient migrations. The cats that developed stout bodies, smaller digits and paws, and a more diversified diet established more southerly ranges as the bobcat, and the felines that developed more snowshoe like paws, a larger body more similar to its main prey (snowshoe hare), longer legs, and a more bunny dependent diet established ranges in the higher elevation, cooler climates as the Canadian lynx.



**Bobcat captured by remote camera during 2012 Wolverine Project**

Bobcats utilize a wide variety of habitats, to one degree or another. Look for mix of timber, openings, and rocky outcrops. Winter pelage is a mix of gray, yellow, beige, white, and brown with spots and short tufts of black hair on the ears, tail black on upper portion only. Primarily nocturnal, but also active in day, especially in winter. Mates during spring, litter size is 2-4; gestation period 50-60 days; young born May through June. Diet is known to be quite variable, and possibly include: deer, moose, elk, grouse, ptarmigan, turkey, snowshoe hare, western cottontail, beaver, pine squirrel, frogs, snakes, fish, berries, and carrion. Bobcats are known to be fairly tenacious, and also occasionally kill other bobcats, lynx, and domestic cats.

So keep your eye out for this tenacious, adaptive critter of many habitats. If closing in for a winter photo, remember to wear quiet camouflage clothes, watch the wind, ignore the pain of the cold and hunger, and most of all, do not move when getting ready to snap the photo of a lifetime!

## Trail Talk: Winter hikes for everyone

By Sandy Compton

Hiking in winter has its own unique set of risks and rewards. Yes, it can be cold, the snow can be deep and trails easy to follow in summer might be obscured, but it is also quiet, beautiful and an opportunity to see the forest and mountains in ways unthought of in warmer times. And, there are places where it is a bit easier to overcome the challenges.

Around the outer edges of the Scotchmans is some great snowshoeing and cross-country skiing that doesn't demand any more equipment than a good pair of snowshoes or cross-country skis, a knowledge of how to dress for the weather and the old standards: food, water and a sense of adventure. Here are places where you can get a taste of winter walks without having to be ultra fit or avalanche savvy.

Lightning Creek Road leaves Highway 200 at Clark Fork and follows along the west edge of the proposed wilderness. It is plowed for four miles north and then goes for many miles up the creek, offering an easily followed avenue for snowshoers and skiers alike. Two miles from the end of the plowing is Regal Creek Trail, following an old road easy to keep track of and leading to a great overview of Lightning Creek. North of that, East Fork Creek road has been turned to trail, and offers an easily-followed route along the stream with views into Savage Creek and East Fork Creek.

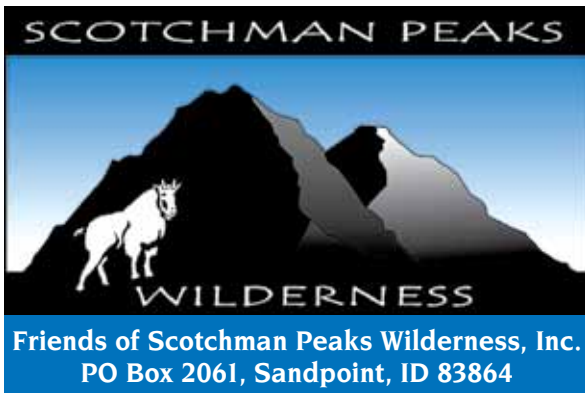
On the south side of the wilderness, Fatman Road leaves Highway 200 at Milepost 6.5 in Montana, and leads to miles of unplowed roads that are great skiing and snowshoeing venues. Fatman Road itself goes 6 miles from east to west and connects to Blue Creek Road (the last mile or so may or may not be plowed). Branch roads lead up the west face of Star Peak and clear to the top of Fatman Mountain.

Snowshoeing and skiing are also available along Highway 56 on the east side of the wilderness. The Dry Creek Road goes west several miles from the highway at about MP 12 and is unplowed. The granddaddy of user-friendly cross-country ski trips is the route to Ross Creek Cedars, which begins at the bottom of the hill near the Bad Medicine Campground. Turn off Highway 56 on the Ross Creek Road at about MP 17.

Many of these roads are also used by snowmobilers, the blessing of which is that the machines provide a "groomed" track for foot traffic to take advantage of. There is not much better cross-country skiing than on a snowmobile track with three inches of fresh snow on it. If you prefer your going to be a bit harder, or want to venture "off-road," there is plenty of opportunity without getting too far from the road, particularly in some of the beautiful creek-side groves along Lightning Creek.

All of these venues are good "out-and-back" hikes. You can go as far as you wish. It's a great way to enjoy the hush and white beauty of winter and practice for more adventurous forays when you are ready to undertake one.





## How You Can Help

### Support Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

As concerned citizens, we support protecting and preserving the Scotchman Peaks area for ourselves and future generations. Highway 56, Highway 200, Lightning Creek Road, and Rattle Creek/Keeler Road surround this 88,000 acre scenic area which straddles the Idaho and Montana border. Wilderness Designation for the Scotchmans will protect plants and wildlife, including the endangered grizzly bears, mountain goat, and bull trout; it will protect water quality; and it will preserve a special place for future generations. In addition, local communities will benefit from the unparalleled recreational and economic opportunities such wilderness provides.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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