



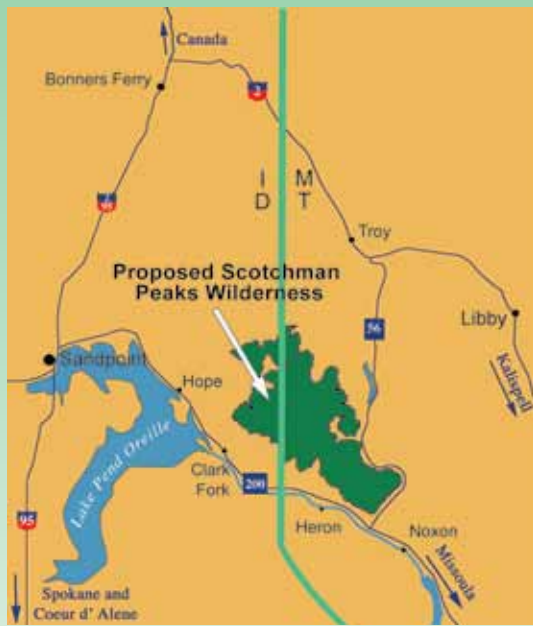
# PEAK EXPERIENCE

The Newsletter for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.

Volume 10, Number 4 • July/August 2014

## 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 Boatwright Grace

# Celebrating 50 Years of Wilderness!

By Sandy Compton

The Scotchman Peaks proposal may not be a wilderness yet, but when it becomes one, it will be in part through the efforts of forward-thinking folks who finally (after nearly a decade of trying) passed the Wilderness Act of 1964 50 years ago this summer. To celebrate this golden anniversary Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness (as well as some of our partners in wilderness) are throwing a party. Or two. Or more.



*It may not always be dry in the Peaks, but it's always beautiful and always a place to celebrate the value of wilderness.* Jim Mellen photo

As part of a nationwide, year-long celebration, FSPW, Montana Wilderness Association, the Forest Service, Cabinet Resource Group and Idaho Conservation League, Yaak Valley Forest Council and Cabinet Backcountry Horsemen are teaming up on a number of events arrayed around the Scotchman Peaks and Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. We invite you to any and all, as celebrant or volunteer — and ideally, both!

## July 11, 12 and 13: Celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> at Bull Lake!

Help celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness, as well as the Wilderness Act itself, at the grounds at Bull Lake Rod and Gun Club on Montana Highway 56 (17 miles north of the intersection of Montana Highways 200 and 56). This is a highly appropriate place to kick off a summer of celebrations, caught between the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness — one of the original 1964 designations — and the Scotchman Peaks proposed wilderness.

This free event is three days of family activities and entertainment, including classical and bluegrass music, horse shoes, fly tying and fishing demos, a demonstration from Cabinet Backcountry Horsemen, puppet shows, kayak lessons and a full schedule of wilderness-related family activities. The new movie, *Untrammelled* will be shown, as well as other wilderness films; singer-songwriter Jack Gladstone entertains on Friday night; and former USFS Chief Dale Bosworth will speak on Saturday night. And there will be a chance to gather round the fire at lake's edge for conversation and stories gathered in wild places.

In addition to each day's activities, food will be available from the Rod and Gun Club kitchen and other vendors; the Silver Spur in Troy will have a cash bar in place for the evening entertainments on both Friday and Saturday, free camping at the Club will be available on a first-come-first-

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## Scholarship Winners Announced



**Emma McConnaughey's "A Life Saving Event" was best overall essay in the 2014 essay scholarship competition**

Photo courtesy of Emma McConnaughey

The 2014 Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness essay scholarship competition garnered over three dozen entries from eight high schools arrayed around the Scotchman Peaks. Each year for the past 5 years, graduating seniors from Troy, Libby, Thompson Falls and Noxon, Montana, as well as Clark Fork and Sandpoint high schools, were invited to submit personal essays on a wilderness theme. For the past few years, the theme has been "A Most Memorable Wilderness Experience."

"We've kept this theme for a few years," said FSPW Program

Coordinator Sandy Compton, "and will probably continue to do so because it evokes some great first-person stories from kids about time spent in wild places. We have stories about first hunts, family camping trips — including some very funny disaster stories — and transformative journeys that have made a profound difference in the writers' lives.

The best essay from each high school wins the writer \$300 to spend in any manner they choose. The best overall, this year

Emma McConnaughey, wins the writer another \$300. And this year, we added another category, Best Due Diligence, for the student who works hardest to win. Kaylin Robinson, who goes to Noxon, won \$100 for being the first submission (weeks ahead of anyone else) and for faithfully and regularly checking back to see what the status was. (She wrote a pretty good essay, also.)

Emma's essay and circumstances are all encompassing of the Scotchmans. She attends Forrest Bird Charter High School in Sandpoint, she lives in Bonners Ferry and her essay adventure took place in Callahan Creek, which is in Montana and Idaho at the north end of the West Cabinets.

The scholarship winners this year were:

**Clark Fork — Lyndsie Kiebert — \$300**

**Forrest M. Bird Charter School — Emma McConnaughey (Best overall) — \$600**

**Libby — Jared Winslow — \$300**

**Lake Pend Oreille High — Andrea Carnegie — \$300**

**Noxon — Dustin Wolfe — \$300**

**Noxon — Kaylin Robinson (Best Due Diligence) — \$100**

**Sandpoint High School — Nathan Schwartz — \$300**

**Thompson Falls — Daniel Kanak — \$300**

**Troy — Megan Hight — \$300**

The winning essays are posted at [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/category/blog/](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/category/blog/)

## STOKR- Scenic Tour of the Kootenai River

By Molly Kieran

**Lincoln County Coordinator**

A few hundred bicyclists joined in a 98 mile ride sponsoring Habitat for Humanity. The ride started in Libby and continued next to the Kootenai River through Troy then up to the Yaak along the Yaak River. Once in the Yaak they headed south along Pipe Creek then turned right and across the Kootenai to arrive back in Libby. This path is what locals call the Yaak Attack.

The ride covers absolutely beautiful country and brings in riders from several states and Canada. The cyclists stop at a couple locations for food and beverage and that's where you will find some Friends of the Scotchman Peaks serving and visiting with these enthusiasts. It was a little more challenging to us this year when we discovered the doors to the location of all the food and supplies



**Chuck Rude, Don Clark, Monni Clark, Charlie Clough**  
Photo by Molly Kieran

were locked. Then when we got to the site, food and supplies intact, we found our open tent covers were twisted, broken and laying on the ground completely unusable. No big deal to outdoorsman like us, except how would we serve food and drinks in the rain. Not to worry it turned out to be a rainless day. Good thing because we had the wrong keys for the shelter to be used by the cyclists. When you are working alongside great folks like Charlie Clough, Don & Monni

Clark, and Chuck Rude every moment is just plain fun. I can't thank them all enough for the time and positive energy they give. This was Charlie, Monni and Don's 5th and last year as volunteers for this event. It's a ton of work and we have been so very fortunate to have them represent the Friends in such a generous way.



## Message from the Executive Director

### “Why do we work on trails?”

Sometimes people ask us why work on trails? It's easy to say that in an era of shrinking budgets we are partnering with the forest service to ensure quiet recreational access to the Scotchman Peaks. While technically correct that answer skips over a lot.

I think the best answer is that we are **exercising freedom**. Seasonally appropriate since in July we celebrate our nation's independence. More importantly, *in Wilderness we find our own individual freedom*. By building and maintaining trails we help to provide a way for people to find themselves in Wilderness and, in doing so, to exercise their freedom.

In Wilderness we are free to travel away from the crowds, noises and concerns of our daily lives. Successful Wilderness travel requires a determination and attention to surroundings. When we focus on the moment we are in, then we free ourselves from the concerns of our everyday lives.

But back to the question of trails: some of our volunteers will say that they work on trails because they swing a Pulaski as a form of hard work therapy. Nothing frees the mind like strenuous exercise.

As an organization, we talk about trail work as a form of stewardship – we want to take care of the place now and in the future once it's designated as wilderness. We want to train our volunteers in traditional skills, which are needed to maintain trails in wilderness.

By building trails we also build advocates. People want to get involved, to help. When someone puts in sweat equity on a cross cut saw, they become personally passionate about preservation. More people who are more passionate might just help us persuade congress into taking action.

The plodding pace of congress is enough to move one to swing a shovel, just to work off some of the frustration of waiting.

But, trail stewardship is more than simply finding something to do while we are waiting for congress to do something. We are showing that citizen supporters who advocate for Wilderness will also support wilderness through stewardship. There is a constituency willing to work for Wilderness now and continue to sweat for it later.

Still, I think that poet and conservationist Gary Snyder put it best, in his book *Practice of the Wild*: **“With no surroundings there can be no path, and with no path one cannot become free.”**

We build and maintain trails in wilderness because of the places the trail take us, because of the surroundings. I believe that as well as the landscape, the surroundings Gary speaks of are more personal, they are the surroundings of our very souls, of where we find ourselves when we are in the Wild.

We build and maintain trails not so much because of the pathway, but because of the places they go and the journey they take us on. It is about our own freedom. It is about your freedom too – come and join us this summer on one of our projects!

—Phil Hough

### From the Top

Not much left to say in this column except hope to see you at one of our many celebrations of wilderness this summer. Also, remember to take the time to enjoy the quiet beauty that we are working to preserve for future generations.

Happy Summer.

—Ann Wimberley

## Tales of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

### Wilderness as a Source of Freedom

By Justin Randall

*Editor's note: Thanks to the Western News for allowing us to reprint this article. Justin Randall graduated from Troy High School in 2012 as Valedictorian. He enjoys everything outdoors, a trait forged with his grandfather, Al. He currently volunteers for Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness*

To an 11-year-old boy, growing up in a small town in the mountains of northwest Montana is something akin to long-term summer camp. The amount of freedom a 10-speed, decent sneakers and a slight inclination for mischief gives you is unsettling. When raised in such a place and fashion, one becomes intimate with the concept of “freedom” at a young age.



**Justin at age 11, roped up and climbing a snowfield in Glacier**

Photo courtesy of Justin Randall

Nestled away in the Kootenai National Forest, my friends and I spent our dog days exploring everything. A typical afternoon might see us canyoneering Callahan Creek, where we would be swept through narrow chutes, bumping along the bottom with the stones we dislodged. The next day would see us in the forests surrounding our town, turning pilfered nails and discarded boards into forts of such ramshackle grandeur as to make a Boy Scout blush. When we got the nerve, the old bridge into the Kootenai doubled as a fine place to learn about gravity.

These were the days before our provincial community was burdened with the convenience of cell phones. When we were shoed out of the house each morning it was up to

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## Citizen Science Front

### Treasured Landscapes Restoration for 2014

By *Kristen Nowicki*

#### Project Background

North of Clark Fork, ID, rapid Lightning Creek scours the western perimeter of the Scotchman's and drains a good portion of the northwestern half of the wilderness proposal, contributing these freshwater resources to the Clark Fork River and Delta below. This is a breathtaking landscape of cultural, historical, and ecological significance marked by a recurring flood regime. In 2006, a severe flooding event caused destruction of several popular recreational trails and focused attention on the need for biological and hydrological restorative management to maintain ecological integrity, a state threatened by disaster relief efforts and post-event recreational use. In 2012 the Lightning Creek Drainage was endowed with a 'National Treasured Landscape' designation by the National Forest Foundation and has been awarded

funding resources for restoration activities. Project work began in 2013, and is set to continue this 2014.

#### Restoration Work To Date

During the summer of 2013, the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness coordinated with several area partner groups, including the Kinnicknick Native Plant Society, Idaho Master Naturalists, and the Backcountry Horsemen of Idaho, to perform technical tasks in support of the Lightning Creek Treasured Landscape restoration efforts. Over 35 unique volunteers contributed to this work last season, including noxious weeds mapping and composition analysis, high elevation whitebark pine health and abundance surveys, and trail reclamation work.

In 2014, we are starting off the season with some good news regarding our noxious weeds abatement efforts: the NFF and USFS have contracted Weeds Specialist Kenneth Thacker to perform mitigation treatments on designated trails in the Lightning

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## Scotchman Rocks

### A Slippery Slope

By *Mark McFaddan, PhD*

Tucked in behind a curtain of alders upstream from the bridge near the mouth of the East Fork of Lightning Creek is a dramatic but hidden clue to the recent glacial history of Bonner County. A short walk along the creek side reveals nothing unusual at first; the bedload of cobbles and boulders carried downslope by the creek is typical of the steep gradients and resultant high water energy expected in these local drainages. If we were interested, we could take inventory of the diversity of rock types in the gravels as a reliable indicator of the composition of the towering highlands in the headwaters above us. However, a few yards farther along, something unusual in this location starts to nag at our senses and bring us back to the setting under our feet. Something is out of place.

The nearly inaudible whisper of common sense in the back of our minds begins when we notice that we are not stumbling along through coarse gravels anymore. The ground is suddenly too smooth. A closer look reveals a flat, compacted surface of very fine-grained sediment – it cracks when dry and barely leaves a track unless it is water saturated. This material is clay, sediment composed of tiny particles that should not normally be deposited alongside a steep, energetic stream. Fast water leaves behind big clasts. A quick survey upslope reveals the source, as thin horizontal lines are apparent where the vegetation has been stripped away by recurrent small-scale



**Miniature staircase eroded into glacial lake-bottom varves near the mouth of East Fork of Lightning Creek. Differential erosion results in prominence of thicker, more resistant laminations. Pen for scale. Photo by Mark McFaddan**

landslides. We are looking at the bottom muds of glacial Lake Missoula.

Many residents of the inland Pacific Northwest are familiar with the most recent glacial history of the Idaho panhandle, when the Cordilleran Ice Sheet repeatedly advanced southward down the Purcell Trench between about 15,000 and 13,000 years ago. Recurrent ice damming of the Clark Fork

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## Trail Talk: A Letter Home

By **Joe Zimmerman, FSPW Intern**

Driving up to Trout Creek for the start of my summer internship with the Forest Service and Friends of Scotchmen Peaks Wilderness had me both nervous and excited. The morning was a mix of rain and sun throughout the trip; the scenery just increased my excitement for this summer even more. Even with the rain, the drive up was amazing. This part of Montana is very beautiful and I wish I had spent more time up here.

The FS bunk house looks like it will be a lot of fun. There will be about twelve of us living there this summer with people working in Fire, Fuels, and Recreation. It has been fun hanging out with everyone these last few weeks, from the friendly battles on our Xbox to the long evenings of just talking. But now that we have finished all of our refreshers with the FS, we can finally start to get to work.

My first night in town, I was invited to meet Sandy at his place for dinner. I was eager to get to know him better and learn more about the plans for the summer. After a wrong turn or two I finally found his place. Over dinner I met more members of the FSPW group and shared stories of adventures, learned more of the history of the group and got to really know everyone. We talked late into the night about everything from the trail projects to the events planned for the 50<sup>th</sup> wilderness anniversary.

Now that things are starting to get rolling, things are looking to be very busy this summer. The majority of my time will be spent in the Scotchmen Peaks area talking with retreaters about many

things, including Leave no Trace and why they should not feed the wildlife. We have already spent a weekend training volunteers on how to lead hikes and trail work days as well as building trail so that they will be sustainable for many different users. Phil Hough then led us in a short interpretive hike to give us tips on how to lead and manage the groups.

Probably the best day so far was our weekend on the Historical Star Peak trail. Volunteers have been working for the past few years to connect this trail with the existing trail above it. There is about 3/4 of a mile left. We had about 12 volunteers who came to help dig new trail. We made over 500 feet of new trail. It was great to see so many people willing to take their weekend to come out and help build this trail. We are hoping to have it done by the end of the summer, with a big push scheduled for August 1-3.

I definitely feel like I have made a great choice by coming up here to work with everyone at the FS and FSPW. Between the hikes I am going to lead, the trail building days and everything else going on, this is going to be a fantastic summer. I am really looking forward to getting to know everyone better, meeting new people and having many adventures.



**Joe Zimmerman (back row, left), our intern back country ranger, shown here with our National Trails Day volunteers and FSPW staff, is looking forward to a great summer. The rest of the crew: Back row, Joe, Dan Simmons, Ken Thacker, Mike Wolcott, Phil Degans, FSPW Project Coordinator Kristen Nowicki, FSPW exec Phil Hough. Front row, Diane Brockway, Mark French, FSPW 2014 Old Goat Award winner Irv McGeachy, Trail Supervisor Golden Canine, FSPW Program Coordinator Sandy Compton.**

Photo courtesy Sandy Compton

Watch for Joe on the Scotchman Peak, Star Peak and Little Spar Peak trails this summer. He will be hiking those on a regular basis. Besides those routes, you can also expect him to show up just about anywhere in the Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.

## The Future Looks Bright

**Tuesdays and Wednesdays:** The Libby Office at Fourth and Mineral, Suite 205, is open from noon until 5 on Tuesday, 9 to 4 on Wednesday.

**July 4:** Parades abound! Clark Fork, Sandpoint, Heron and Noxon. Contact [info@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:info@scotchmanpeaks.org) if you want to take a walk for Wilderness; FSPW volunteers will have a booth at the Troy Fourth of July celebration.

**July 11, 12, 13:** Celebrating 50 Years of Wilderness! FSPW, Cabinet Resource Group, the Forest Service, Montana Wilderness Association, the Yaak Valley Forest Council and the Back Country Horsemen will host a three-day celebration of wilderness and the Wilderness Act at the Bull Lake Rod

and Gun Club. Contact [sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org) to help with the celebration! (See complete description on page XXX); Community Kids Hike

**July 18:** Joe Zimmerman will lead a work day on Star Peak Historic Trail. Sign up online at [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/event/star-peak-historic-work-day-july-18/](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/event/star-peak-historic-work-day-july-18/)

**July 19:** FSPW volunteers will be on hand for outreach at the Yaak Valley Forest Council's Wilderness Festival

**July 25:** Community Kids Hike.

**August 1, 2, 3:** Sandy Compton and Brad Smith will lead a three-day work weekend on the Star Peak Historic Trail.

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Celebrate!, from page 1

serve basis (and there is more free camping nearby). There will also be displays and information tables from sponsoring groups. There is a complete schedule at [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/pdfs/50thAtBullLake.pdf](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/pdfs/50thAtBullLake.pdf)

**July 19 and 20: The Yaak Wilderness Festival** Two days of fun at the Yaak River Tavern and Mercantile, including music from Tim Snider; Alan Lane and 17 Mile Band; The Yaaktastics; Caroline Keys and friends - Chris Sand, Dave Martens and Jeff Turman; and Wild Honey. Check out the Festival at [www.yaakvalley.org/wilderness-festival-2014.html](http://www.yaakvalley.org/wilderness-festival-2014.html)

**Saturday, August 23, Wiley & the Wild West come to Libby**

FSPW, MWA and the USFS bring a free concert to Riverfront Park in Libby, Montana, featuring the iconic Wiley and the Wild West western band on Saturday, August 23, The concert begins at 7:00 in the evening, but the gates open at noon for a full afternoon of fun activities, a wilderness art show, food, a bear presentation and more. See the schedule at [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/pdfs/August23.pdf](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/pdfs/August23.pdf)

**September 5 and 6: A wild weekend for Wilderness in Sandpoint.**

Join the Idaho Conservation League and FSPW for a wilderness panel on Friday night, at an ICL After Hours Event. On Saturday, there will be volunteer-led hikes in the Selkirks and the Scotchmans during the day and a Wild Night For Wilderness at Evans Brothers' Coffee in Sandpoint featuring live music, a cash bar, no-host food and a lot of good times.

**September 20<sup>th</sup>: "Go Wild" at Flathead Valley Fairgrounds.**

Celebrate the solitude, beauty and wildness of Montana's most treasured landscapes. Wilderness education, displays, music, food and hands-on activities for the entire family, from 10am to 3pm at the Flathead County Fairgrounds, Expo Building in Kalispell. Event hosted by: Bob Marshall Wilderness Association, Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead, Flathead Audubon, Flathead National Forest, Glacier Institute, Glacier National Park, Headwaters Montana, Hungry Horse News, Montana Wilderness Association, Montana Conservation Corps, USFS Nine Mile Packstring, Swan View Coalition and the Sustainability Fund.

**What's happening when with our 50th Celebrations.**

**July 11 – 13, 2014**

**Bull River Rod and Gun Club, on Bull Lake, MT. Hwy 56** nestled between the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness (est. 1964) and the Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness



**FRIDAY, July 11**

Displays, vendors, presentors, music, beer tent, kayak rentals, camping  
• 3:00 – Celebratory start to all weekend events  
• 5:00 – "Grizzlies in the Cabinets" – Wayne Kasworm, FWP  
• 6:00 – "Advocates for the Wilderness" – Doug Ferrell, Chris Savage (Kootenai Forest Supervisor), Lee Bowman ( MWA )  
• 7:00 – Classical Music for the Wild – Linda Kuntz, Glacier Orchestra  
• 7:30 – 9:30 – "Untrammelled" – a premier movie for Wilderness  
Jack Gladstone, Montana's Musical Troubadour



**SATURDAY, July 12**

Displays, vendors, presentors, music, beer tent, kayak rentals, camping  
• 8:00 – "Wild Yoga" – Michelle Carlson, Troy instructor  
• 9:00 – "Crittter Crafts" – Steve Johnsen & Erich Pfalzer, USFS;  
**Begin Backcountry Horseman presentations until noon**  
• 10:00 – "Skulls and Skins, Mammals of the Wild" – Johnsen & Pfalzer  
• 11:00 – "Native Amer. Presence in the Cabinets" – Rachel Reckin, USFS  
• 12:00 – "A Kid for the Wild" puppet show and sing-along  
• 12:00 – 3:00 – Horseshoe contest for all  
• 1:00 – "Trading Secrets – Early Pioneers" – Rachel Reckin, USFS  
• 2:00 – "Flying Free – Birds of the Wild" – Gene Reckin, Libby teacher  
• 3:00 – "A Song for the Wilderness" – Bonnie Jakubos, Idaho Puppeteers  
• 4:00 – Kayak Skill Demonstration – Sissel Robertson, Crazy Woman Kayaks  
• 5:00 – "A Kid for the Wild" singalong – Weylin Achatz, Kim Matthew  
• 7:00 – "Advocates for the Wilderness":  
Dale Bosworth, former USFS Chief  
Rick Potts, Wilderness advocate  
• 8:00 to 10:00 – Music by "Naples" & "Huckleberry Jam"



**SUNDAY, July 13**

Displays, vendors, presentors, kayak rentals, Wilderness Ranger Reunion  
• 8:00 – "Wild Yoga" – Michelle Carlson, Troy instructor  
• 9:00 – "Compass Skills" – Karen Robinson, ID Land Trust  
• 10:00 – "Fly Tying" – Ed Robinson & Bob Springer, Fly Fishing Veterans  
• 10:00 – 12:00 – Wilderness Ranger Reunion  
• 1:00 - Primitive Skills Demonstrations – USFS staff  
• 2:00 – End of Celebration

**August 23, 2014**

Libby Riverfront Park — Noon to 9 p.m.



**ONGOING EVENTS:**

"Made in Montana" Art Booths  
Libby Fine Arts Council  
Troy "RAW" Real Art Works  
Wildlife Photography – Randy Beecham & Don Jones  
Food & Beverage Booth - Preview Café, Troy, MT  
Beer Garden – Cabinet Mountain Brewery (will also have wine)  
Various Information Booths  
Kootenai National Forest  
Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness – free drawings  
Montana Wilderness Association – free drawings  
Yaak Valley Forest Council  
Army Corp of Engineers – Libby Dam  
Clearwater Montana Properties, Inc. — free bottled water  
Continuous Slide Show of the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness  
Hourly Give Away of T-Shirts & Hats from MWA & FSPW

**NOON**

*Untrammelled, A film on Wilderness from the US Forest Service*

**1:00 P.M.**

*Grass Routes: Changing the Conversation*  
A film introduced by Tim Lindsey of Revett Minerals  
(This film and the Cabinet Wilderness Slide show will run all day.)

**2:00 P.M.**

Montana Wild Wings Recovery Program

**3:00 P.M.**

Grizzly Bear Presentation  
Wayne Kasworm (USFWS) & Kim Annis (MFWP)

**4:00 P.M.**

Yaaktastics Band

**7:00 P.M. FREE FAMILY CONCERT**

Wylie and the Wild West Show











## Peak Views

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader(s)	Description and contact info
7/22/14	S	Bee Top Mountain	John Harbuck	<b>Contact info: <a href="mailto:harbuck@norlight.org">harbuck@norlight.org</a></b> This hike will provide wonderful views of Goat Mtn, Scotchman Pk and Scotchman Pk #2. It ascends (steeply) until branching off toward the remains of the old lookout on Bee Top, perched precipitously above Lightning Cr. Great views of Lake Pend Oreille too. About 7 mi. and 4000' each way. Bring at least 2 liters of water. The trail faces south most of the way and could be quite warm.
8/5/14	S	Scotchman Peak., via Southeast ridge	John Harbuck	<b>Contact info: <a href="mailto:harbuck@norlight.org">harbuck@norlight.org</a></b> This beauty starts with about 1/2 mile of really nasty bushwhacking, but that gets us to the SE ridge. Thence it is mostly nice elk trails up the ridge. Outstanding views of the W. Fk. Blue Cr. and the Compton Crags. About 3 1/2 mi. and 3600' each way.
8/10/14	S	Star Peak Full Moon Traverse	Chuck Gross	<b>Contact info: <a href="mailto:liv2trek@live.com">liv2trek@live.com</a></b> Join the wild critters in the Scotchman's for a howl at the moon! Timed during a full moon, join us on a traverse of the Southern Scotchman's as we travel from the Bull River Valley up Star Gulch for a moonlit evening somewhere on or around Star Peak. After dancing in the moonlight until the wee hours, conclude the journey the next morning down the Big Eddy trail off Star Peak to conclude the traverse. Mileage/Elevation Day 1: Dry Gulch/Star Gulch up to Star Peak approximately 9 miles/3300' elevation gain. . Mileage/Elevation Day 2: Star Peak to Big Eddy Trailhead (Hwy 200) approx. 5 miles/ 4000' elevation loss. Approximate two-day mileage: 14. Hikers with previous overnight backpacking experience required. The ten essentials, sturdy footwear and pack with tent, and fitness ability to carry a pack these miles with elevation gain/loss required. Water limited along sections of hike so critical to carry additional water. Group leader will provide logistical update on water situation via email prior to hike departure once signed up.
8/20/13	S+	Scotchman Peaks Double Dip	Sandy Compton	<b>Contact info: <a href="mailto:sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org">sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org</a></b> Take a walk up the Blue Creek Canyon, a tradition begun 98 years ago on August 20, 1916 by the hike leader's maternal grandfather. One big day, two big mountains; the two southernmost in the Compton Crags, Mike's Peak and Clayton Peak. Elevation gain (and loss) approximately 6,000 feet; round trip approximately 10 miles. Meet at 124 MT Highway 200 (Hike leader's front yard) at first light or shortly after. Some room for negotiation on this, but not much. It will be a great day to not go fast. Turn right into the first driveway past MP 1 on Montana 200. Coming from the east, turn left into the first driveway past Blue Creek Road.
8/23/14	M	Mystery Mud Creek Hike	Mary Franzel	<b>Contact info: <a href="mailto:zipperlee@gmail.com">zipperlee@gmail.com</a></b> The newly "reclaimed" Mud Creek (totally inappropriate name) trail heads up to a lovely ridge to the east of Lightning Creek. There are several creeks & springs along the trail with at least one beautiful little waterfall. Many huckleberry bushes near top. Spectacular views up Wellington Creek & down Lightning Creek for part of the way. Most of the trail is an old logging road. There will be something special at or near the top – this is the "mystery" portion of this hike. It definitely will involve nutrition and libation. It is not a difficult hike elevation-wise but the distance is over 5 miles one way with a steady incline the entire way. The last mile+ is cross-hilling a more open forest filled with beargrass and lots of huckleberry bushes. Updates with specifics to those hardy souls who sign up.
9/13/14	M	South Fork Ross Creek Falls	Ann and Neil Wimberley	<b>Contact info: <a href="mailto:afwim@yahoo.com">afwim@yahoo.com</a> or <a href="mailto:neilwim@yahoo.com">neilwim@yahoo.com</a></b> Hike through the Ross Creek Cedar Grove and past to the Ross Creek Falls in the upper reaches of the South Fork of Ross Creek. A lovely hike through old growth and a cool way to spend a summer day. Round Trip 6 + miles. Elevation gain: 3500+ feet
10/04/14	S	Scotchman Peak	Phil Hough and Deb Hunsicker	<b>Contact info: 208-946-9127 or <a href="mailto:phil@scotchmanpeaks.org">phil@scotchmanpeaks.org</a></b> This is the classic hike up the namesake peak for our proposed wilderness. It's short but steep. We will go at a slow pace so that steady effort is all that is needed to summit. Wide panoramas and stunning views of lake Pend Oreille, along with fall colors and possibly late season huckleberries will be highlights. 4 miles one way, 8 round trip with an elevation gain of 3,800 feet.
10/11/14	M	Reading Maps, Compass, Tracks and Sign	Brian Baxter	<b>Contact info: <a href="mailto:b_baxter53@yahoo.com">b_baxter53@yahoo.com</a></b> Join us for a basic orienteering class with emphasis on traditional methods of utilizing a Silva Ranger Compass and topographical maps to layout your adventures and return home safely. Morning classroom session will cover map keys and symbols; reading contour lines and intervals; figuring scales and measuring horizontal distances; laying out and laying off bearings and azimuths; adjusting your declination; triangulation off mountain peaks or known landmarks, and hands on practical use of compass and maps as well as other orienteering tips. There will be an eight-dollar fee for class materials, as each student will work with their own topo map which will be provided. Please bring a ruler or scale, Silva Ranger compass with rotating dial and declination adjustment, pencils, calculator. Instructor will have a few extra compass also. We will wrap up morning classroom time with an overview of animal tracking and sign interpretation. Our field study will include an afternoon of hands on track and sign recognition, scatology, and practicing use of compass and maps in the field. Come prepared for a full day with lunch, water, gear, and smiles.

**Strenuousity rating: E = Easy; M = Moderate; S = Strenuous**



## Birds of the Scotchmans

### Citizen Science Birding

By Jon Isacoff, PhD

Birding tradition has it that every individual should enjoy birds the way she or he pleases. While that certainly still holds true, in this column, I'll make a pitch that citizen science is a great reason to bird. The best part about it is that it's compatible with what most birders and yard-watchers already do.

So what is citizen science? In the simplest form, it's collecting information (aka, "data") about what one observes and forwarding it to a larger body or organization to use for scientific purposes. The concept is actually quite old. Local Audubon chapters have been doing citizen science in the form of the ever-popular Christmas Bird Counts (CBC's) for more than a century (see <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>). In more recent years, the Great Backyard Bird Count has emerged as another wildly popular citizen science project (see <http://gbbc.birdcount.org>). With the advent of the internet and wireless technology, citizen science has mushroomed into an activity that millions participate in daily around the world.

What most readers want to know is of course, "OK, but how does this apply to me?" There are many ways it could. You can always sign up to participate in a CBC or the annual Great Backyard Bird Count. For the more eager, state and local wildlife agencies are always seeking volunteers to do point counts and breeding bird survey (BBS) routes. You can spend as much or as little time on citizen science as your schedule and interest allow.

The most popular of rapidly growing of all citizen science initiatives is eBird, a free online project/service created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (see [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)). eBird is now the largest citizen science project in the world and it's easy to see why. For the price of entering a username, password, and email address (no, it will NOT be shared!) you get a free checklist and life-list service that will track every bird you see anywhere in the world. eBird can generate daily, weekly, monthly, or annual reports for you both of your own sightings and all sightings in the database. Want to know what you saw on Scotchman Peak on this date one year ago? A few clicks of the mouse and eBird will tell you.

In effect eBird provides free listing software that birders used

to have to buy and download. In exchange, all users' data goes into a giant database used by researchers to track global bird trends. Many national, state, and local wildlife management agencies, parks, nature centers and other organizations are using eBird both to input their own sightings and to track data for their work. Is eBird right for you? Personal decision. Like any new online medium, there is a learning curve and it may take a few hours to get the hang of entering and searching for data. But the learning curve is quick and once you get it, you can enter or look up information in minutes or even seconds. If you have reception, you can even enter a bird checklist from the summit of Scotchman Peak!

### Tales from page 3

us to make it back in the evening. No one could come calling, and even we hardly knew where the next hour would find us.

More than just the advent of the mobile phone, many things have changed since then. The forests are no longer endless, somewhere along the way my friends and I became too logical to trade bruises for the experience of Callahan Creek, and the fence and no trespassing sign erected in front of the old bridge has turned our childhood pastime into a punishable crime.

Many things changed as the world and I grew up, but I never forgot that feeling of unadulterated freedom I learned as a child. To be left to your own wiles to explore the world around you is one of the most pure, fundamental and increasingly foreign feelings man can experience. It soothes my soul to know that in an atmosphere of continuously accelerating change, there is one place I can still go to get this feeling so fundamental to the human experience. This place is unique in our modern world in that it (and almost it alone) is preserved, meaning that not only I have permanent access to the human experience, but that someday my children and theirs may as well.

This place is, of course, American Wilderness.

Though I have grown to appreciate the convenience afforded by a modern day, first-world existence, I have come to terms with the largely tamed, leashed and increasingly docile nature of it. However, I rest easy knowing that I can temporarily escape it all to get my fix of freedom I first savored in the dog days of my youth.

This summer we celebrate 50 years of existence for American Wilderness, and I hope you enjoy the next 50 as much as I plan to. Happy trails, happy hunting, happy fishing and happy floating!

Here's to the last best place's last best places.

**"When we walk into wilderness,  
we are really going home."**

**~Anonymous**

### Cinnabar Challenge Grant is On!

Once again the Cinnabar Foundation has issued a Challenge Grant to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness! The Cinnabar Foundation will match every dollar contributed to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks, up to \$4,000. Now is the perfect time to double your donation towards our efforts to preserve the Scotchman Peaks as Wilderness.



## Along the Trail

**May 1:** FSPW benefited from donations made through the Idaho Gives event.

**May 3:** FSPW signed up over a dozen new Friends at the Bonner County Health Fair.

**May 10:** FSPW sponsored the STOKR race in Lincoln County to benefit Kootenai Valley Partners Habitat for Humanity

**May 14:** 90-plus folks attended the State of the Scotchmans at the Forrest M. Bird Charter School. Heather Anderson, holder of the fastest unsupported time on the Pacific Crest Trail, gave a presentation; FSPW volunteer Irv McGeachy was honored with the annual Scotchman Peaks Old Goat award.

**May 16 – 18:** Staff members Sandy Compton and Phil Hough, as well as FSPW volunteers Ron Mamajek, Denise Zembryki, Molly O'Reilly. Steve Lockwood and Dave and Lynn Pietz traveled to Stanley Basin for the annual Wild Idaho Conference.

**May 16 – 21:** Two sessions of Wilderness First Aid training were given to nine FSPW volunteers with Carol Jenkins instructing.

**May 20:** Fourth Community Prosperity Forum was held in Libby, featuring Greg Gianforte; founder of RightNow Technologies and bettermontanajobs.com

**May 27:** FSPW intern Joe Zimmerman assumed his duties as a backcountry ranger. Joe will be with us through October 6

**May 31 and June 1:** A dozen-plus folks attended the annual Trails Skills and Hike Leader Training at Eddy Creek Campground and Star Peak Trail.

**June 7:** Eleven staff and volunteers took part in a National Trails Day work day on Star Peak trail, achieving a tenth of a mile of new tread; FSPW volunteers signed up new Friends at the Sandpoint Arbor Day celebration

**June 8:** FSPW volunteers signed up new Friends at the Pend' Oreille Bay Trail Fun Run.

**June 13:** FSPW staff and volunteers led the first of a series of six Community Kids Hikes cosponsored by Transitions In Progress (TIPS)

**June 14:** Brian Baxter and intern Joe Zimmerman led a full class focused on botany and wildflowers beginning at Heron Community Center; Patagonia employee Caleb Church joined us for a month of volunteer work.

**June 20:** Staffer Kristen Nowicki gave a wilderness talk to kids at East Bonner County Library.

**June 22:** Sanders County Picnic was held at Bull River Campground.

**June 27:** Celeste Grace, Joe Zimmerman and Irv McGeachy led a work day on the Star Peak Historic tread; the second Community Kids Hike with Transitions in Progress was facilitated by FSPW Project Coordinator Kristen Nowicki

## Over the Top Volunteer(s)

### The Four Horsemen of Summer 2014

By **Sandy Compton**

Summertime and the wilderness business is heating up, as it always does in the warm season. If you look at our calendar on page 5, you will see that the next few months are jam-packed with hikes, parades, stewardship projects, Treasured Landscape events and the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act. We even have a boat cruise fundraiser coming up in September.

Each of these events is designed to help move the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness incrementally toward Wilderness designation, and though we do have staff who work constantly toward that goal, the staff knows better than anyone, we couldn't do it without volunteers. This summer we have four men who are bringing a great deal of time and talent to the effort, and we want to say thank you.

First, we wish to recognize our volunteer of the year. Irv McGeachy, recipient of the 2014 Scotchman Peaks Annual Old Goat Award, is one of our most reliable guys



*"Z" is for Zimmerman, not Zion.*



*Irv gets his "Old Goat" award.*

on trails. He got his just deserts at our annual State of the Scotchmans event on May 14. He was profiled in this column in our March/April 2014 issue, but we wanted to say thanks again.

For the coming summer, we have acquired some new and exciting volunteer backup, first of all, through a cost share agreement with the Forest Service, and second of all, because of a serendipitous inquiry by a Patagonia employee living in Chicago.

Joe Zimmerman, funded in part by our Forest Service partners, joins us for 20 weeks, the first 10 of which are volunteer days needed to fulfill his degree requirements for a bachelor's in Parks, Tourism, and Recreation Management from the University of Montana.

Joe is living at Trout Creek in the Cabinet District bunk house and will be acting as a backcountry ranger, wilderness ambassador and educator,

**Continued page 10**



**Rocks from page 4**

River drainage has left us a legacy of both erosional and depositional features related to the multiple episodes of advancing glacial ice. In the case of the Lightning Creek drainage, a few pockets of lake-bottom muds have escaped complete erosion, providing us with both a glimpse into the geologic past and a means to understand the practical effects of such deposits on the landscape, ecology and human endeavors. The millimeter-scale layers visible in bare areas of the slope above us are varves, or annual layers of sediment commonly deposited in glacial lakes. In many studied examples, a gritty layer of silty sediment represents high runoff conditions during Spring; a finer, clay-rich layer accumulates during quieter Winter months. The combination of the two layers is a varve, representing one year of deposition. The varves in the Lightning Creek drainage are predominately clay in composition, and are the result of glacial ice pulverizing the bedrock landscape into powdery rock flour that was carried into the icy lake by runoff. The fact that the fine laminations show no evidence of disruption by bottom-dwelling burrowing organisms indicates a cold and most likely anoxic environment hostile to aquatic life. Careful study of many Lake Missoula varve sequences in western Montana allows scientists to estimate a refill interval averaging about fifty years following

each failure of the ice dam in the Clark Fork area. Given several million years of geologic time, such varves would gradually be lithified into more solid shale, but these youngsters are still sediment rather than sedimentary rock.

Deposits of fine-grained clayey glacial material such as the Lightning Creek varves are important to understand for a variety of practical reasons in addition to their interest as evidence of our geologic history. Natural erosion of them influences the health of ecosystems downstream; road building in them presents an engineering problem requiring complicated and expensive solutions. Various scales of landslides are also common in such deposits, and we need to understand both the frequencies and warning signs of such slope failures. In remote drainages, landslides are inconvenient; in more populated areas, the consequences can be deadly and can be avoided with sufficient forethought and planning.

Close inspection of the ancient ice age lake muds to examine the varves requires an observer to stand on a substrate with the consistency of thick peanut butter when it is water saturated. The hillside is steep, and “slippery when wet” is an understatement when describing the varves. One wrong step is a ticket to a fast trip to the bottom of the slope!

**Volunteer from page 9**

as well as helping with outreach events and our 50th Celebrations (see our schedule on page 6). He started his internship on May 27, and we will honor him as a volunteer while we can, because after 10 weeks, he will continue for another 10 as full-time staff. We think he will fit right in.

“I have always been very active in the outdoors and love a good adventure,” he says. “I’m an avid snowboarder, mountain biker, hiker and very interested in emergency management and first aid.” Joe earned his Wilderness EMT this past spring.

Our second new volunteer is Caleb Church, an employee of the Patagonia store in Chicago who arrived on June 14 for a month-long stint with FSPW. After researching our organization as well as others, Caleb contacted us last spring. We are beneficiary of a paid sabbatical from Patagonia, Inc., which we helped him apply for after he identified FSPW as the organization he wanted to work with.

Caleb is originally from Tennessee and graduated from University of Tennessee with a BA Economics. He is currently living in Chicago,



**Caleb Church does seem to bear a small resemblance to “The Boss.”**



**Brad Smith in the brush on the Trail #65 reroute.**

where he works for Patagonia. He is an avid backpacker and traveler and thru-hiked the Pacific Crest Trail in 2010, which immediately won over FSPW executive director (and triple-crown) Phil Hough. His favorite outdoor activities are kayaking (good), alpine skiing (good), hiking (great!) and golf (perfect). He’s on a roll.

We know Caleb has a sense of humor, because when he sent his picture, he told us that if we didn’t like the one, we could use the other. The other was of Bruce Springsteen.

Caleb will be taking some long walks in the woods with Joe — and Irv and a Pulaski, for that matter — as well as working on outreach and some strategy work with our other summer volunteer, Brad Smith, who is using some of his sabbatical from Idaho Conservation League to do some work for us. He, too, will be taking some walks with Irv. Hiking with Pulaskis is always a great volunteer activity (Brad was profiled in the July/August 2010 Peak Experience).

It’s volunteers like these — and like many of you — who make the world go ‘round at FSPW, and we appreciate each one of you. Thank you, every one.



### Citizen, from page 4

Creek Restoration perimeters. Kenneth will use mapping data that FSPW Volunteers acquired last year to prioritize, prepare, and conduct noxious weeds treatment on 8 at-risk trails in the drainage complex. Thanks to Kenneth for his outstanding commitment and work in these restoration objectives so far!

### Getting Together in 2014

Weed Warriors are re-grouping this season to assist Ken in mitigation efforts, assessing treatment efficacy and recording UTM coordinates of persistent patches of noxious weeds. Approximately 8 trails are scheduled to require surveys this summer. Thanks out to our Weed Warriors, and all who are lending a hand in this field-intensive and challenging endeavor to reduce noxious weed invasion in this Treasured Landscape.

Our Botany Brigade intends to convene in 2014 as well, looking to wrap up project objectives for headwater ecosystem restoration work that began in 2013. Currently, whitebark pine survey teams are being assembled and are looking forward to taking a deeper glimpse into the wilderness during this multi-day research hitch assessing forest health and composition.

### Future from page 5

**August 8, 9 and 10:** The Huckleberry Festival at Trout Creek. FSPW volunteers, led by staffer Joe Zimmerman, will be on hand for the parade and occupy our booth. Contact [joe@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:joe@scotchmanpeaks.org) to volunteer to help at this great event.

**August 8:** Community Kids Hike

**August 19 – 23:** FSPW will have a booth at the Bonner County Fair. Contact [joe@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:joe@scotchmanpeaks.org) to help at the fair.

**August 22:** Community Kids Hike.

**August 23:** FSPW and Montana Wilderness Association present Wylie and the Wild West Show in Libby in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. Contact [molly@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:molly@scotchmanpeaks.org) to help with this great celebration!

**September 3:** The 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act.

**September 5 & 6:** FSPW and Idaho Conservation League will celebrate the 50th in Sandpoint. Friday night ICL After Hours Event

Photo by Kristen Nowicki



***This National Treasured Landscape, composing approximately one-third of the wilderness proposal, is graced with breathtaking views of northeastern portions of the Lake Pend Oreille hydrologic complex.***

Photo by Phil Hough



***Volunteers head for the hills in ecological analysis of the Lightning Creek Treasured Landscape.***

Stream Restoration objectives are being finalized in 2014. Activities for riparian vegetation planting are currently undergoing scheduling and logistics resolutions. During this summer, we plan to assemble restoration crews to install stabilization tactics in significant tributaries. Thanks to our volunteers who have expressed their interest in this project, look for more details to emerge as the season progresses.

Trails Crews prepare to rally as our annual National Public Lands Day work continues on the Morris Creek trail in 2014. Expect most of the day to be spent rock'n and roll'n on tread! This annual event often culminates with good company and grilled favorites at the end of the day in celebration of our great National Public Lands.

### Working for Wilderness

Thanks again to all of our past and current volunteers and partners who collectively allow for a project of this magnitude to continue in the beautiful Lightning Creek complex. Our unique volunteer base is directly responsible for this local Treasured Landscapes designation and work efforts, and we invite any new volunteers to join us in 2014. The nation

is looking to our achievements in this ground-breaking effort at cooperative public land restoration here in the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. To get involved in any of our 2014 projects, please contact [Kristen@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:Kristen@scotchmanpeaks.org), or visit our website for more information.

will feature a panel on Wilderness. Saturday hikes in the Selkirks and Scotchmans. Saturday evening party at Evans Brothers Coffee Roasters. Live music, no host beer, wine and food.

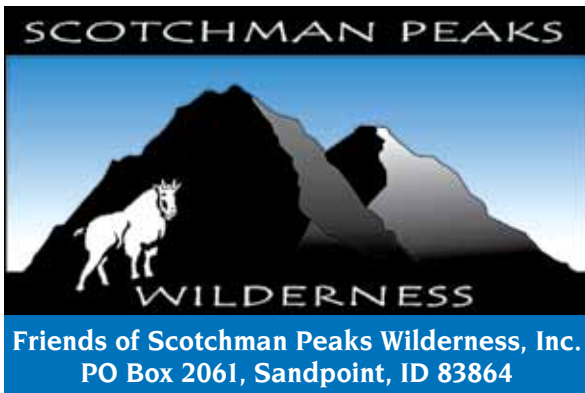
### On The Horizon

**September 20:** FSPW fun fundraiser! Join us on the Shanonese for a gourmet hors d'oeuvres buffet, beverages and a three-hour cruise (not to Gilligan's Island) on Lake Pend Oreille. \$50 per person. Visit <http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/event/fspw-pend-oreille-lake-cruise/> to sign up.

**September 27:** National Public Lands Day work project in the Lightning Creek Treasured Landscape.

**October 3 - 5:** The Annual Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout.

**October 13 - 20:** National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance and the National Wilderness Conference 50th Anniversary celebration will be held in Albuquerque.



## 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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