

## Mission Statement

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

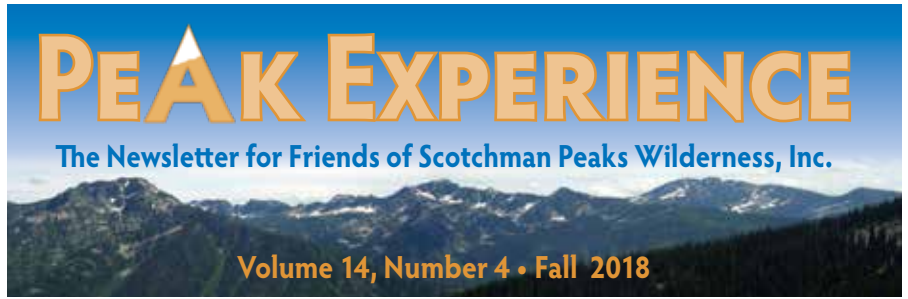
The Scotchmans are one of the last and largest wild areas in our region. The Friends believe the Scotchman Peaks deserve congressional designation as Wilderness for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations.



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 receive this newsletter by mail and have an email address, you can help us save postage by sending us your email address.

Editing, layout and design: Sandy Compton



## FSPW LAUNCHES ONLINE WILDERNESS ART AUCTION.

FSPW's 2018 online art auction went "live" September 13, featuring the paintings and photography of eight "Friends," with the possibility of more to come. The images include oils and watercolors from Aaron Johnson, Carol Maddux, Diana Moses, Ed Robinson, Marilyn McIntire, Susan Conway Kean; and photography from Joe Foster and Marjolein Groot Nibbelink.

"I think we will be adding an artist or two as the show progresses," FSPW program coordinator Sandy Compton said. "Right now, we have 15 pieces in the auction, all beautiful, and all from around the Scotchman Peaks."

All of the photographs and many of the paintings are the result of the artists' participation in the annual FSPW Extreme Plein Air Expeditions, which takes visual artists into the back country of the Scotchman Peaks to make art on site as well as capture imagery to take back to the studio to be rendered later.

"Some of the artists also paint



Friends far and wide can bid for Carol Maddux's "Little Spar Lake Morning" and 15 other pieces of Scotchmans art at [bit.ly/2018WildArtAuctionOnline](http://bit.ly/2018WildArtAuctionOnline) — and a Golden Growler from Matchwood Brewing.

**See a sample of the art and details on the Golden Growler on page 7.**

the Scotchmans from the 'outside,' Compton said. "In fact, most have done both. The results from all angles show what a special landscape the Scotchman Peaks contain." The auction will culminate on November 8, when FSPW, Idaho Conservation League and Matchwood Brewery will team up for a Wild Night For Wilderness; a celebration of local wild country as well as a FSPW volunteer appreciation party. (See story page 2)

The auction is open at [bit.ly/2018WildArtAuctionOnline](http://bit.ly/2018WildArtAuctionOnline).

For information write to [info@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:info@scotchmanpeaks.org)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

PHIL HOUGH

### *Reflections on the Anniversary of the National Scenic Trails Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*

We launched our canoe into strong head winds and waves. Forward progress was slow, so we camped early, on a muddy shore after paddling only five miles. A thick stand of trees broke the breeze and smoke from our warming campfire rose gently. Tracks made overnight around our campsite told a story both fresh and ages old. The wonders of wild northern Maine were just beginning to unfold; the car at the put in could have been hundreds of miles away.

My dad chose the Allagash River for our first wilderness journey. Henry David Thoreau had this place in mind when he foresaw the preservation of the world in wildness. We paddled for 10 days through wild, rugged, scenic country, dining on bullfrogs, trout, freeze-dried food and cans whose contents were a mystery after the labels got wet. The sun burned our faces, blisters and cracks formed on wet, overworked hands and for much of the time we were wet, cold and tired. Black flies, mosquitos and gnats

took out chunks of flesh too. But, it was the bug of wilderness adventure, which at age 10, took the biggest bite. My life would never be the same.

Thanks to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers act, thousands of others have paddled the Allagash – on their own personal journeys, through woods that are still lovely, dark and deep.

On October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1968 President Johnson signed this remarkable piece of legislation into law! Initially, it protected 8 rivers; it also provided tools to add more. To date this legislation has preserved over 200 rivers and streams and 12,000 remarkable miles.

In my teens, my dad and I took long weekend trips along the Appalachian Trail in New Hampshire and Vermont. There I met people hiking all the way from Georgia to Maine. National Geographic magazine displayed the marvels and mysteries of the Pacific Crest and Continental Divide Trails, each crossing the country from Mexico to Canada. A slow burn began to build. Years later, I quit my job (more than once) and hiked all three.



Winter camp on the Appalachian Trail in Vermont, ca 1970. Brrrr.

The National Trails Act was also signed into law by President Johnson on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1968. It established the Appalachian Trail and Pacific Crest Trail as our nation's first two National Scenic Trails and authorized a study of 14 more. Now over a dozen of these iconic trails cross our country, along with dozens of National Historic Trails over 1000 National Recreation Trails!

On this same day, President Johnson also signed the laws that established the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas, the Pasayten Wilderness,

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## WILD NIGHT FOR WILDERNESS SET FOR NOVEMBER 8

The brand-new Matchwood Brewery in Sandpoint's Granary District is the venue for the FSPW and ICL Wild Night for Wilderness on Thursday, November 8, beginning at 4:30. The event is also FSPW's Volunteer Appreciation Celebration. FSPW will be treating their 2018 volunteer cadre to a beer and a bite, and celebrating another year of advocacy, education and stewardship in the Scotchman Peaks.

"The Wild Night will also be the culmination of our online art auction," Executive Director Phil Hough noted. "We will be taking final bids on the art,

as well as the Golden Growler. Someone's going to win some highly discounted beer from Matchwood. (See Page 7)

Oak Street Connection, the musical duo of Sam Cornett and Chrystle Horvath, will provide music.



### NEW WINTER HATS WILL BE AVAILABLE

"Our new fleece beanies should be for sale by that time," program coordinator Sandy Compton said. "They will come in the same colors as the Model T (black, black or black) with a colorful Scotchman Peaks patch and be here just in time for winter."

## KOOTENAI HARVEST FESTIVAL BIG SUCCESS

by Annie Gassmann

The fourth annual Kootenai Harvest Festival was once again a great success. Held in mid-September at Libby's picturesque Riverfront Park on the banks of the Kootenai River, the Kootenai Harvest Festival is a community gathering of live music, Farm-to-Table community meal, expanded farmer's market and unique craft vendors, plus a kid's zone with straw pit, sack races, tug-o-war, face paint, and other games.



This year there was a special "Harvest Dance" performance by the

students of Karina Hancock Dance. The dancers ranging from age 5 to 35 displayed their dancing talent during the festival surrounded by sunflowers, straw bales, and harvest décor.

The festival drew a crowd of almost 900 people. With 35 local vendors, visitors were able to buy beautiful harvest vegetables, fruit, and homemade specialties. Beer from Libby's local brewery, Cabinet Mountain Brewing Co., was flowing during the afternoon while visitors shopped, visited, and enjoyed the sunshine of the stunning Autumn day. The Farm-to-Table meal, catered by Gracious Table, offered sandwiches, salads, soup, and dessert, with ingredients locally sourced and grown by the Libby Community Garden, Hoot Owl Farms, and other generous garden owners.

The Kootenai Harvest Festival is made possible by a hard working group of ladies, all with different back-



grounds and roles in the Libby area. Montana Wilderness Association (MWA) has been the main sponsor of the Kootenai Harvest Festival for the past four years. Grete Gansauer, of MWA, has done a wonderful job of keeping the festival a community

*Continued on page 6*

## PARTNER PROFILE: PROJECT ASCENT

By Ray Brown

Last summer, Thompson Falls-based Project ASCENT held two Bull River base camp experiences for local teenagers, with a big assist from FSPW. Bull River Base Camp is a four-day, three-night camp designed to expand the campers' knowledge of area recreational opportunities, flora and fauna, and to instill an appreciation for our natural areas. ASCENT is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing educational outdoor adventure and recreational opportunities to all ages in Montana.

"It's all about getting the kids outside," says Rob Christianson, Project ASCENT founder and CEO. "It's important that our local youth get a chance to experience camping in Montana and understand that there are opportunities to work in natural resources."

Christianson, K-8 school counselor in Thompson Falls, adds, "I came to

realize that many of our students didn't have the resources to have an outdoor Montana experience. Project ASCENT was born and the local support has been overwhelming."

Project ASCENT offers recreational opportunities and outdoor education primarily to underprivileged youth in the area. ASCENT works to advance personal responsibility, character development, health and well-being, civic engagement, leadership development and stewardship through adventure-based experiential education.

Day one included set up of base camp at Bull River pavilion, preparatory learning, wilderness safety and a short hike to Kootenai Falls.

On day two, the kids were escorted through Ross Creek Cedars by outdoor specialist Brian Baxter. Baxter gave the campers a brief history of Ross Creek and a tour of the area, describ-



FSPW Summer Intern Jacob Arrington (back center) pauses with his charges at the old Heidleburg Mine on the way to Rock Lake.

ing how various flora and fauna species play a part in making Ross Creek Cedars such a special place.

"I try to show students that everything is connected," said Baxter "I really enjoy working with kids. It's important to show our youth that we live in a special place

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## A SUMMER IN THE SCOTCHMANS

By Jacob Arrington

When I first applied for the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Backcountry Ranger position, I knew very little of what I was getting into. I knew that it would be hard, demanding and satisfying work somewhere in Western Montana. I knew nothing of the unique history of Star Peak lookout, or of breathtaking vertical landscapes the goats call home. All I knew was that it was a new and exciting challenge and I wanted in.

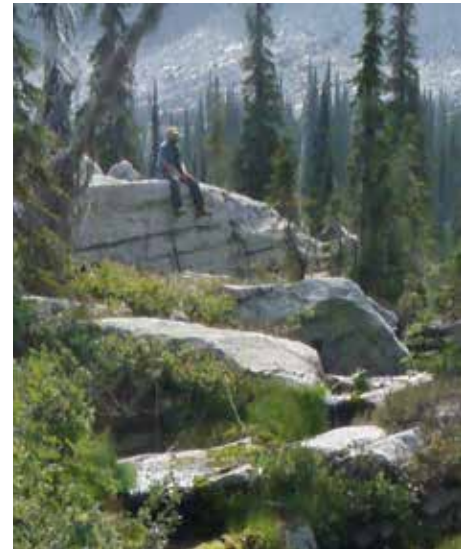
Meeting with Sandy for the first time is an experience I'll never forget, I've met few people who could convey such passion with so few words. By the time our short dinner was over, I was certain that I had chosen the right cause to plant my flag. If this place was so amazing as it had been made out to be, I knew I had chosen the right side.

From Missoula we set out to Powell Ranger Station in the Selway-Bitterroot to convene with a group who combined had spent more time in the wilderness of America than the idea had existed. One could simply scan the crowd and see from the worn-out boots, calloused hands, and tired but fiery eyes that these

men and women were the real deal. These people who had stories as different as one could imagine had all come to consensus that wilderness is what calls their heart. While my time with these men and women was short I learned much, not just on the technical aspect of being a ranger and maintaining wilderness, but also of the force that drives their passion for wild places.

After that short but sweet encounter, I made my way to Trout Creek, Montana, where I would be posting up my tent for the coming months. There I met a host of characters who I can say are some of the hardest working individuals I have ever come across. Despite varying opinions as to what is a wilderness, what makes a place wild, and what we the people's involvement should be within wilderness, there was always one constant: wilderness must exist. If not for us, then for our children; if not for our children, then for the planet; if not for the planet, then for our own sanity.

During my time, I frequently patrolled the Scotchmans alone. On the occasions when I did encounter people the interaction tended to follow a fairly



Jacob Arrington takes a moment at rest in Vertigo Basin. **Sandy Compton photo**

consistent pattern: first, asking what my position is and what my duties are; second, comment as to how awesome of a job that sounds like and usually with a compliment; third, amazement that the place in which we are standing is under threat of no longer being itself. Interactions like these showed me the true character of the people around, showed me that the true heart of the local people care about this magical strip of land.

*Continued on page 7*

## FSPW OUTDOOR EDUCATION AT ALVORD LAKE

By Annie Gassmann

*Libby and Troy biology students benefit by volunteer expertise.*

High school biology students from Libby and Troy participated in an FSPW outdoor education session October 8, 9 and 10 at Alvord Lake Forest Service Campground near Troy. Students rotated through stations discussing topics of avalanche awareness, mammal and bird adaptation, forestry concepts, fall birding and animal tracking. The October weather cooperated, with only a little rain, a few rays of sunshine and beautiful fall colors surrounding the students.

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FSPW volunteer instructor (and board member) Gene Reckin shows students a bear skull in his animal adaptation class.

**Annie Gassmann photo**

## WINTER (TRACKS) IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

The FSPW Winter Tracks Outdoor Education Program is taking reservations for the coming 2018-19 season. Area schools are invited to sign up for the free, volunteer-taught multi-module field days with subjects as diverse as winter tracking, avalanche awareness, tree identification and native species.

To reserve class days for your fourth grade to senior class or volunteer for the fun and satisfying experience of sharing your expertise (or just hanging out) in the great winter outdoors, contact [britta@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:britta@scotchmanpeaks.org)

## ALONG THE TRAIL

**July 7:** FSPW trail crew worked on Trail 998 and 999.

**July 9 – 12 and 14 – 17:** FSPW volunteer Brian Baxter and Sandy Compton, Ray Brown and Jacob Arrington took part in Project ASCENT programs in Sanders County.

**July 16:** Sandy Compton led an MWA hike to Little Spar Lake

**July 19:** FSPW and MWA co-hosted Business and Banter at Libby Community Garden.

**July 28:** Seven volunteers and staff participated in an FSPW trail day on Big Spar Lake Trail #142-a

**August 6:** Sandy Compton led four others on his annual Sawtooth hike.

**August 8-11:** FSPW had an outreach booth at Bonner County Fair

**August 10-12:** FSPW had an outreach booth at Trout Creek Huckleberry Festival

**August 11:** Seven FSPW volunteers and staff attended a FSPW trail day on Spar Peak Trail #325

**August 17-21:** Sandy Compton led five others on the 9th Extreme Plein Air Expedition

**August 23:** Brews for Benefits at the Cabinet Mountains Brewery benefited the Kootenai Harvest Festival

**August 26:** FSPW hosted the Lincoln County Picnic in Pioneer Park in Libby

**September 7,8,9:** FSPW volunteers and staff spent three days working on Napoleon Gulch Trail # 1035

**September 16:** Thompson Falls Picnic was attended by about 25 Friends

**September 15:** Fourth Annual Kootenai Harvest Festival saw an attendance of over 900 folks, the most successful to date

**September 22:** Britta Mireley and Gina Pucci lead a family hike; Phil Hough met with a group from the Lands Council

**September 28:** Annie Gassmann had an outreach booth at the Apple Festival in Troy

**September 29:** National Public Lands Day Event — FSPW work day on Morris Creek Trail #132 and Regal Creek Trail #556; 30 Friends attended the East Bonner County Picnic at Ken Casler's home on Mosquito Creek Road

**October 6:** Phil Hough led his annual Scotchman Peak Hike; Brian Baxter led a Riparian Class near Libby.

**October 7:** Last Day of the 2018 Mountain Goat Ambassador program.

**October 8 – 10:** Outdoor Education days for Libby and Troy High Schools at Alvord Lake with Brian Baxter, Annie Gassmann and Gene Reckin leading.

**October 9 – 13:** Sandy Compton attended the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance conference and Wilderness Workshop in Gunnison, Colorado

## THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

**October 20 – 21:** Carol Jenkins teaches Wilderness and Remote First Aid in Sandpoint.

**October 31:** The 2018 FSPW Photo Contest ends

**November 6:** Carol Jenkins will discuss safety, preparedness, and first aid with parents and students at 6 pm at Priest River Lamanna High School.

**November 8:** A Wild Night for Wilderness and Volunteer Appreciation Party at Matchwood Brewing in Sandpoint, 4:30 to 8 pm. Online Auction concludes at this event..

**November 23:** Black Friday is Opt Outside Day. Sandy Compton will lead a hike, with destination TBA

**November 27:** Don't forget FSPW on Giving Tuesday!

**December:** Movie nights in Libby and Thompson Falls, tba.

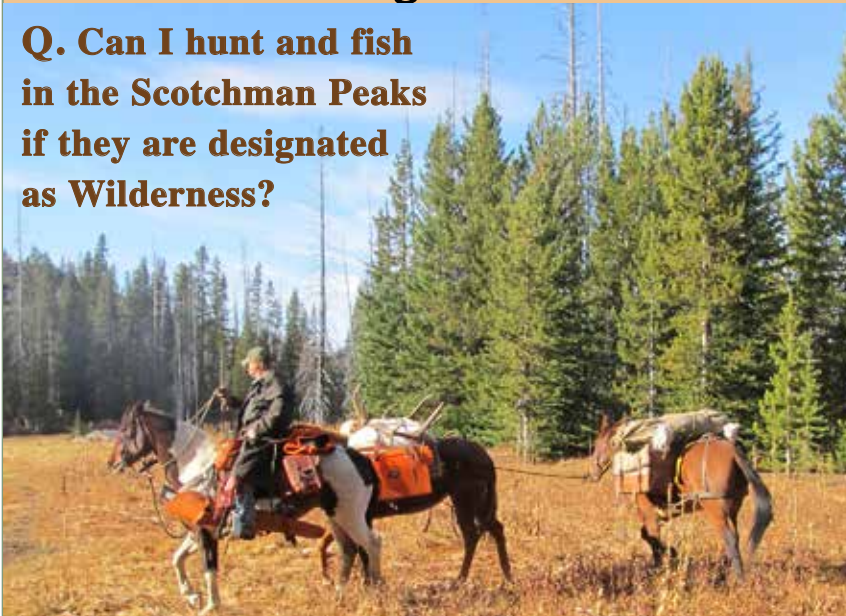
**January 10:** FSPW will host a Winter Tracks program for Pioneer School from Spokane at Round Lake State Park.

**January 13:** FSPW will celebrate their 14th Anniversary. Time and location TBA.

**January 14:** FSPW's 14th Anniversary

## Wilderness Talking Points:

**Q. Can I hunt and fish in the Scotchman Peaks if they are designated as Wilderness?**

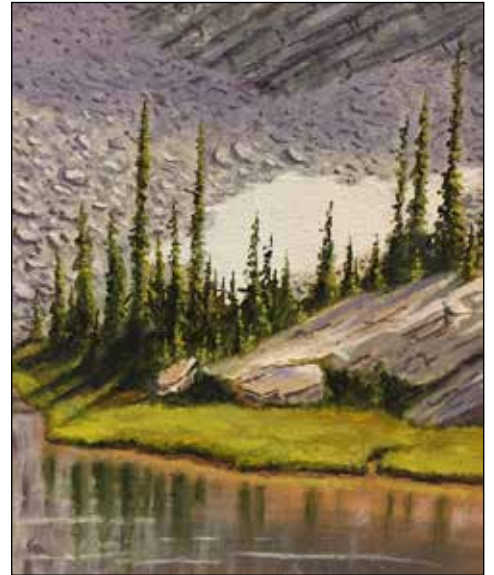


**A:** Yes. As provided by the Wilderness Act, state fish and game agencies retain jurisdiction over hunting and fishing rules and licensure in proposed and designated Wilderness. Residents of Idaho and Montana regularly hunt and fish in existing Wilderness areas such as the Frank Church, Cabinet Mountains and Selway-Bitterroot and proposed wilderness areas such as the Scotchman Peaks.



**A sampling of the art at bit.ly/ 2018 WildArtAuctionOnline**

Clockwise from left: "Ridgewalkers," by Marjolein Groot Nibbelink; "Grouse Mountain Alpenglow," by Marylin McIntire; "Scotchman Two," by Aaron Johnson; and "Rock Garden" by Ed Robinson.



**THE GOLDEN GROWLER**

This artfully designed growler allows the holder half off growler fills from Sandpoint's newest brewery, Matchwood. Fills are limited to one per day, but over the course of a year the holder of the Growler could save over \$2500 on adult beverages. Even at two fills a week, it could add up to \$800 in sudsy savings.



**ASCENT, from page 3**

and it's all of our responsibilities to take care of it."

On day three, FSPWsummer intern Jacob Arrington led the kids to Rock Lake. The 11 mile trek included waterfalls, abandoned mining equipment, huckleberries, and alpine lakes complete with sledding opportunities. Ethan, a 12-year-old from Troy, exclaimed, "I've never done anything like this before! I didn't know I could do anything like this."

The day concluded with a mammology lesson from Sandy Compton, FSPW Program Coordinator, complete with hides and skulls from species native to the area.

The final day of camp, the students were able to spend

their afternoon leisurely paddling in kayaks or swimming in Bull River.

With continued support from the community and cooperating organizations like FSPW, Project ASCENT plans on many years of providing summer camp adventures.



Brian Baxter of Silver Cloud Associates teaches about the intricacies of the Ross Creek Cedars.

Photos by Ray Brown

**Festival, from page 3**

event with local people, businesses, food, music, and beer.



Even Smokey can't miss the Harvest Festival. Photos by Annie Gassmann

Next year Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness will be leading the planning committee and the main sponsor of the event. Make a note in next year's calendar, mid-September 2019, don't miss the 5th annual Kootenai Harvest Festival.

## UPCOMING HIKES — E = EASY • M = MODERATE • S = STRENOUS • S+ = S+UPID :-)

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader	Description and contact info
11/23/18	M	Star Peak Trail #999 #optoutside	Sandy Compton	Contact: Sandy Compton — sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org Wear off the turkey or tofurkey with a leisurely stroll up Star Peak Trail #999. How far we go depends on the snow line and the mood of the group. Better than Black Friday craziness, and good for your heart. This is a great opportunity to see some lovely views of the Clark Fork Valley without over exerting yourself. More burly hikers might wish to try for the summit, but that's not the point. Let's just have a little hiking fun. Bring your best turkey sandwich!
1/5/18	M	Lightning Creek Snowshoe Hike	Phil Hough	Contact Phil Hough — phil@scotchmanpeaks.org This is a 7-mile round trip along the Lightning Creek Road from the end of plowing to Morris Creek and back. Enjoy this traditional annual winter hike season kickoff, and the quiet beauty of a snowy Lightning Creek canyon.
1/14/19	S+	14th Anniversary Snowshoe walk	Sandy Compton	Contact: Sandy Compton — sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org — 208-290-1281 Celebrate 14 years of working for Wilderness with a snowshoe walk at a location to be determined. Maybe we'll sweat. Maybe not. Depends on the mood of the hike leader, the snow load, and the weather. Could be epic or mundane. But it will be fun.

To learn more about or sign up for any of our hikes, summer or winter, visit [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking)

Got a winter hike idea? Suggest it at [scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/leading-hikes/](http://scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/leading-hikes/)

### Director, from page 2

modified the Glacier Peak Wilderness, and established the Redwood National Park in California.

He summed it up this way: “We have learned--all too slowly, I think--to prize and to protect God's precious gifts. Because we have, our own children and grandchildren will come to know and come to love the great forests and the wild rivers that we have protected and left to them.”

The Wilderness Act and the laws that created the Forest Service or Park Service may be better known, but the legislative record of this one-day had a tremendous influence on conservation, recreation and access to our public lands.

The backdrop for this was the year 1968. The Vietnam War raged on, as did protests here at home. The other Johnson war, the one on poverty, was not going much better. Following the assassination of Martin Luther King in April and Bobby Kennedy in June, civil rights protests shifted into riots that burned many of our major cities. Our nation was as torn and divided then as at any time in our history. Somehow congress came together to pass landmark legislation shaping a world of opportunities for baby boomers and every generation to follow.

On these remarkable trails, wild and scenic rivers and unique landscapes, we can re-create ourselves. As Americans, we measure who we are, what our lives mean and the vitality of our communities by our connection to natural landscapes. These are places where we exercise our rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Without these opportunities, we would not be truly free; we would be far more tame and timid as individuals and as a country.

Future generations deserve access to this same heritage of wild places. Their chance for adventure should be enhanced, not diminished. It is our obligation to ensure congress protects ample access to wild places. If our nation could do this, amidst the tumult of 1968, then we can come together now to preserve wild places for our generation and all those generations to come.

For now, let's honor the vision that congress and President Johnson provided for us on October 2, 1968. Get outside somewhere and enjoy your freedom to roam around in wild places!

**For more on what Johnson signed and said that day: [www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=291](http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=291)**

### Outdoor ed, from page 4

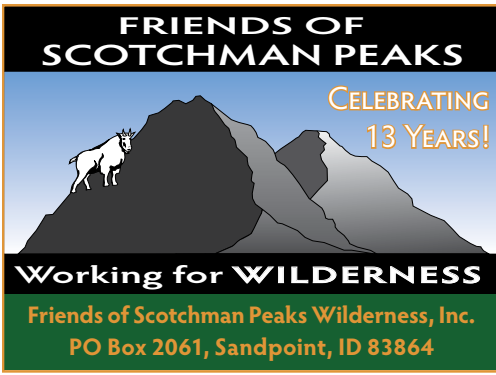
Outdoor education requires knowledgeable volunteers, inquisitive students, outgoing teachers, planning and organizing and the ability to be flexible. In an outdoor classroom, the environment is always changing. One day's “classroom,” with an active belted kingfisher and chattering chipmunks, may be a completely different “classroom” the next day with fresh bear scat, mink tracks and a pygmy owl hooting in the trees

Thanks to Brian Baxter, our eight volunteer instructors and three biology teachers for making outdoor education a reality for our local students.

### Scotchman Summer, from page 4

My final journey into the Scotchmans was as magical as could be imagined, a trip into the heart of this magnificent place, Vertigo Basin. It was there that I was finally able to put into words why this place matters so much.

The Scotchmans aren't squiggly lines or a name on a map of public land. The Scotchmans are near-vertical, rock faces; they're snow at the top that makes goats disappear like a mountain wind; they're creeks that ebb and flow through the canyons. They are all of this, and none of this. They aren't just a plot of land. They have a life all their own. I was truly privileged to see such an incredible place and I hope the next Ranger can feel that life as well.



## 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 Creek divide 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. You may mail them to:  
FSPW • P.O. Box 2061 • Sandpoint, Idaho 83864

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