

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK  
GOVERNOR



Angela McLean  
LT. GOVERNOR

March 17, 2015

Dear Chairman of the Board of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

Montana is famous for its big sky, vast open spaces, clean air and pure water, and the people who love these things. From the breaks country in the eastern part of the state to the dark cedar forests of the northwest, Montana landscapes include many of our nation's wildest places.

These areas are an important part of the engine that drives Montana's economy. Tourists come to experience the authentic and wild outdoor experience of Big Sky Country. The unique experiences provided by our public lands are an important part of Montana's heritage and our economic growth and stability. Protecting the wildest of Montana's public lands is good business and good for our future.

Montanans know that the way to protect these wildest landscapes is to work together with their neighbors and communities, to forge lasting solutions that bring diverse people together around a common vision for our shared lands. This is the work that is successfully being done every day by the Friends of Scotchman Peaks.

The Scotchman Peaks, in the far northwestern corner of the state, are a rugged landscape sculpted by glaciers and scoured by ancient floodwaters. They provide quality habitat for wildlife such as elk, mountain goats and grizzly bears. These remote mountains and valleys are a source of pristine water flowing into the Kootenai and Clark Fork Rivers. Providing lasting protection for this wilderness not only makes sense as a gift to future generations, but reflects the shared values of the community.

But there's more. The Scotchman's have a rich human history and tradition, passed down through generations of people that live, work and play in this spectacular area. Montanans of all ages and walks of life go here to find solitude and peace among the peaks, beneath towering trees, and beside crystalline waters.

This is what the Scotchman Peaks offer – a home for the hearts and souls of Montanans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Bullock".

STEVE BULLOCK  
Governor