



PEND OREILLE PEDALERS

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U.S. Sen. James Risch
United States Senate
SR-483 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Jan. 15, 2017

Re: Letter of Support for Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

Dear Sen. Risch,

I am writing on behalf of the Pend Oreille Pedalers bicycle club to express our whole-hearted support for designation of the Scotchman Peaks roadless area as a wilderness. The Pend Oreille Pedalers is a local cycling club that works to educate cyclists and expand opportunities for mountain biking and road riding in the greater Sandpoint area and North Idaho Panhandle.

North Idaho currently has no designated wilderness, and we believe this area is worthy of Congressional designation as a protected wilderness. We realize that wilderness designation means no mechanized use, and therefore will mean that mountain bikes are not allowed in the area. In fact, because it's managed as wilderness, that's currently the case. Even before the area was recommended for wilderness under the current forest plan, however, mountain bikers rarely, if ever, ventured on the trails in the Scotchman Peaks. Therefore, there is virtually no conflict with the interest of mountain bikers in our area.

Scotchman Peak and the surrounding area is a spectacular place for hiking, wildlife viewing, hunting and for just getting away from it all. By preserving this area as wilderness, it will forever be protected for these uses and future generations will greatly benefit.

Thank you for taking a leadership role in this effort, which enjoys overwhelming support in North Idaho. Consider our club among the legions of supporters for wilderness in the Scotchman Peaks.

Sincerely,

Mike Murray
President, Pend Oreille Pedalers