



431 Idaho Panhandle Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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June 2, 2017

Senator James Risch
United States Senate
SR-483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Risch:

The Idaho Panhandle Chapter of Trout Unlimited supports designation of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area.

For over 50 years the mission of Trout Unlimited has been to conserve, protect and restore North America's cold water fisheries and their habitats. The Idaho Panhandle Chapter represents over 300 members residing primarily in Bonner, Boundary and Kootenai Counties.

The wilderness designation of the Idaho portion of the Scotchman Peaks will protect and enhance the fishery habitat of Lightning Creek and the lower Clark Fork River. These streams are important to the spawning, rearing and migration of native westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout as well as introduced rainbow trout. Protection of tributary streams such as East Fork of Lightning, Char, Savage, Regal, Morris and West Fork Blue Creeks within the proposed wilderness area will contribute clean, cold water flowing into Lightning Creek and the Clark Fork River.

Our chapter's support is for the Idaho portion of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area only. Furthermore, it does not imply endorsement of other land use activities, including mining development, on adjoining or nearby national forest lands in Idaho or Montana.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

William Love, President
Idaho Panhandle Chapter – Trout Unlimited

Cc: Senator James E. Risch
610 Hubbard, Suite 213
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814