



# Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 1092, Sandpoint, ID 83864 [www.nativeplantsociety.org](http://www.nativeplantsociety.org)

**The Bonner County Board of Commissioners**  
1500 Hwy 2, Suite 308  
Sandpoint, ID 83864

**November 8, 2017**

**Dear Sirs,**

The Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society focuses on native plants and conservation in North Idaho. Our mission is, in part, “to foster an understanding and appreciation of native flora and its habitats in the panhandle area of North Idaho and to advocate the conservation of this rich natural heritage for future generations.”

In keeping with our mission, in 2006, the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society adopted a resolution of strong support for the proposed Scotchman Peak Wilderness.

The endorsement reads:

## *Resolution Supporting the Proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area*

*The Kinnikinnick chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society recognizes the need to protect contiguous and intact ecosystems, retaining their natural state, in order to ensure the continued health and survival of native flora. Therefore, we encourage and support local, state and federal representatives to act in favor of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Designating the Scotchman Peaks as wilderness protects the natural beauty, the unique qualities and the biodiversity of this special place, offering safe harbor for many rare and endangered species and their habitats.*

In reviewing this endorsement eleven years later, the Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society (now an independent organization and no longer a chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society) finds all the reasons it originally supported the proposed wilderness to remain true. In fact, newer evidence has shown that this area has additional values for our forests and understory plants that were not considered in 2006. It adjoins the “Treasured Landscapes” project area in the Lightning Creek drainage that fought weeds, upgraded trails, surveyed habitats and helped us all appreciate the working and studied forests that are our rich heritage. We can only speculate about yet to be discovered “new” values that will be identified there in the future

Within the proposed wilderness, a variety of habitats, the increasingly fragile status of Whitebark Pine, and changing climate patterns underlie the importance of keeping this area undeveloped. Both timber and mining companies support wilderness designation. The local businesses that thrive on tourism see a Wilderness as an important magnet to bring people here and encourage them to stay longer. There are a variety of reasons to support the proposal and it’s just the right thing to do!

Ken Thacker  
President  
Kinnikinnick Native Plant Society