

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

2006 Annual Report



SCOTCHMAN PEAKS INVENTORIED ROADLESS AREA

Roughly 60 miles south of Canada, the 88,000-acre Scotchman Peaks roadless area spans the Idaho-Montana border. Since the 1970s, when the U.S. Forest Service carried out extensive evaluations of lands suitable for wilderness, this rugged, scenic and biologically diverse portion of the Cabinet Mountains has been managed for its wilderness potential.

WHO WE ARE

The *Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness* (FSPW) is a grassroots, all volunteer organization formed in January, 2005 by citizens of Montana and Idaho to preserve one of the last and largest wild areas in our region, the Scotchman Peaks roadless area. We have a dedicated group of ordinary and extraordinary folks who have volunteered time, effort and determination to preserve a key part of the Yellowstone to Yukon corridor. In 2006 we operated as a program under the fiscal sponsorship of the Cabinet Resource Group. Our Executive Committee began the 2006 Calendar year with 8 members and after one resignation, ended the year with 7 members. Our 2006 Executive Committee and estimated hours spent as FSPW volunteers, on a weekly average basis:

Executive Committee	Estimated Hours
Phil Hough, Chair	20 hours/week
Doug Ferrell, Vice Chair, Montana Outreach Coordinator	12 hrs/week
Jan Griffiths, Vice Chair, Idaho Outreach Coordinator **	12 hours/week
Lexie de Fremery, Treasurer	12 hours/week
Carol Jenkins, Secretary	9 hours/week
Neil Wimberley, East Bonner County Outreach Coordinator	6 hours/week
Cesar Hernandez	8 hours/week
Bill Martin	6 hours/week

** Resigned in December 2006, not replaced

(In 2007 we will be pursuing article of inc, formal bylaws (to replace a series of agreed upon operating principles) and our own 501c3 designation)

We are joined by several key volunteers who edit our newsletter, manage our merchandise and coordinate outreach activities. As dedicated volunteers, we are able to make maximum use of our contributions by having zero expenses for salaries.

Key Volunteers	Estimated Hours
Ann Wimberley, Newsletter Editor	6 hrs / week
Pama Bangeman, Newsletter Design	1 hr/week
Will Valentine, Support List Coordinator	3 hrs/week
Jim Mellen, Merchandise Coordinator	2 hours/week
Ernie Scherzer, Sanders County Outreach Assistance	2 hours/week
Trisha Miller, Webmaster	2 hours/week

In addition to our Key Volunteers, many other volunteers assisted with special events, led hikes, staffed tables or booths or helped with various other tasks.

Together, the hard work of our all-volunteer organization has built a support base of 990 people by the end of December 2006. We have created a model where we ask for “support” rather than to join as a “member”. Instead of asking people to *join us against* something negative, we ask people to *support us for* something positive. This has allowed us to bring together people reluctant to “join” groups, or who may not ordinarily support environmental causes. This has opened up a positive community dialogue around wilderness values. We believe this has allowed us to grow quickly in size and diversity. The result is a large network through which we can distribute our educational material and action alerts.

Our campaign directly involves two national forests, two states, three counties, and small, scattered rural communities. Our region’s nearest urban center is Spokane, Washington.

More information about our organization and key volunteers can be found on our website, www.scotchmanpeaks.org.

OUR MISSION

*“We believe that the 88,000-acre Scotchman Peaks roadless area, spanning the Idaho/Montana border, deserves **permanent protection** as wilderness. Faced with growth and change, we want to make sure that this special place stays the same.”*

We are singularly focused on working to bring about wilderness protection for the Scotchman Peaks. Through education and outreach we work to bring about the community awareness and demand for action, which will make wilderness designation politically inevitable for the Scotchmans. In the 5 northern counties of the Idaho Panhandle there are *no acres of designated wilderness*. And, the Kootenai forest has the smallest percentage (4%) of wilderness of any national forest in Montana. No wilderness has been designated on the Kootenai since the wilderness act passed in 1964, in part creating the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness. The rich habitats of our region are very under represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness designation for the Scotchmans will protect water quality as well as rare plants and wildlife including endangered grizzly bears, mountain goats, wolves, lynx and bull trout. The Scotchmans, part of the Yellowstone to Yukon corridor, would add habitats (low boreal forests and cedar/hemlock communities) not well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Our local communities will benefit from the unparalleled recreational and economic opportunities which wilderness provides. Many studies have indicated that in the west there is a strong link between protected public lands and diverse, vibrant economies. Our region is shifting from extraction based industries to one which recognizes the economic value of natural beauty and the associated “quality of life” features. Our communities also recognize the inherent value of being good stewards of our natural resources for current and future generations.

Our goal is to increase awareness within our communities of the value of wilderness designation for the Scotchmans. By engaging individuals and groups on many levels within our region, we believe we can elevate a citizen’s proposal for action, making wilderness designation politically inevitable for the Scotchman Peaks. To bring about this change will require us to do more work towards the education and outreach necessary to increasing community support. As we grow the number of individual supporters, and endorsements from businesses, civic groups, community leaders, our communities’ call to action will create a need for wilderness to which our congressional representatives will need to respond with positive action.

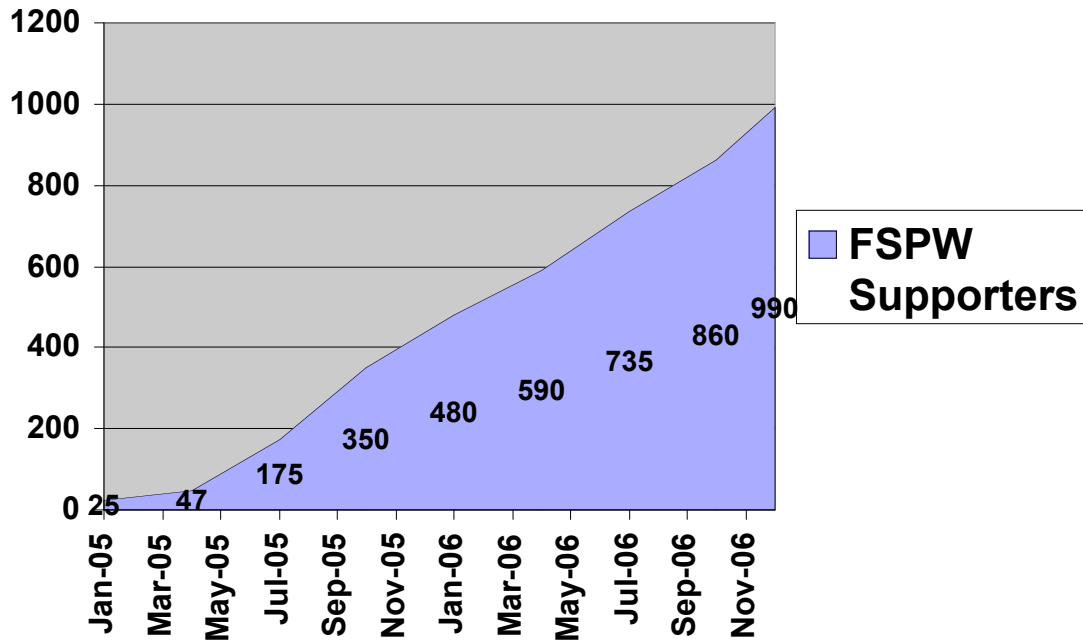
OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2006

FSPW began two years ago with twelve citizens from Montana and Idaho who believed that the time was right to work diligently to achieve wilderness designation for the Scotchman Peaks roadless area. Our funding the first year consisted of donations from those twelve individuals and several in-kind donations. This is what has been accomplished in these two years:

- We re-designed and printed 3,000 copies of a new 32-page booklet.
- We developed and printed 15,000 copies of a newspaper insert.
- We reprinted 5,000 copies of our informational brochure.
- We developed an impressive website with links to our outstanding bi-monthly newsletter and schedule of year-round guided public hikes into the roadless area. Please see these at www.scotchmanpeaks.org.
- During the summer of 2006, we conducted 28 hikes, bringing 205 people into the Scotchmans to see, and be inspired by, its treasures firsthand.
- We further refined a stunning PowerPoint presentation that we have delivered to a great variety of organizations and community groups.
- We have participated in many community events (fairs, festivals, parades) in the three states, including the Bonner County Fair, the Huckleberry Festival in Trout Creek and Fourth of July parades in Sandpoint, Clark Fork, Noxon and Trout Creek.
- In June we held our first ever “State of the Scotchmans” -- a gathering of our supporters to share a progress report and inspire action.
- We have collaborated on environmental studies, presentations and programs with North Idaho College and Gonzaga University.
- Gonzaga University incorporated the Scotchman Peaks campaign as a case study for an undergraduate class on “Ecological Thought, Green Practice” which included a presentation by the FSPW as well as two field trips to the Scotchmans for trail maintenance and educational opportunities.
- Gonzaga conducted a freshman orientation program which included a 2-day Scotchmans Trail maintenance sponsored by the FSPW.
- We hosted Doug Scott, wilderness historian, on a 5 day, 7 stop speaking tour with presentations in Spokane, Coeur D’Alene, Sandpoint, Hope, and Clark Fork Idaho, as well as Troy and Heron MT.
- We have participated in projects and activities with local recreational groups including Spokane Mountaineers and Inland Northwest Trails Coalition.
- Our merchandising (shirts, posters, and bumper stickers) increases familiarity and recognition. Our Scotchman logo shirts are being sold in Montana, Idaho, and Spokane and are seen throughout the region.
- We began an online merchandise store through Café Press offering a wide variety of Scotchman inspired products.
- We worked with Pend d’Oreille winery to produce special “Scotchmans” labeled wines, to promote the proposed wilderness.

- We have received excellent and continuous press coverage in local newspapers including the Spokesman Review, the Inlander, Bonner County Daily Bee, River Journal, Sanders County Ledger, Western News, Sandpoint Reader, and Sandpoint Magazine.
- Education and outreach has resulted in growing our support list from about 480 to 990 individuals on our supporter list, including supporters from 27 states.
- We have received resolutions of support or endorsements from Montana Governor Schweitzer, Bonner County Commissioners, cities of Thompson Falls, MT and Sandpoint and Ponderay, ID, Sandpoint Mayor Ray Miller, Sanders County Ledger, River Journal, Bonner County Daily Bee, Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce, Idaho Native Plant Society, Spokane Mountaineers, and many area businesses.
- FSPW has built strong coalitions with conservation groups. We have been collaborating with Cabinet Resource Group (CRG), Montana Wilderness Association (MWA), Yaak Valley Forest Council, Idaho Conservation League, U.S. Forest Service, Spokane Mountaineers, and Campaign for America's Wilderness.
- Our board of directors includes individuals also on the board or staff of CRG, MWA, and Idaho Native Plant Society, the Inland NW Mycological Society, and the Ice Age Flood Institute
- We have been communicating directly with the leadership teams in the Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forests to influence the return of designated wilderness in the Kootenai and to determine boundaries that make sense for the region's ecosystem.

FSPW Supporters



OUR GOALS

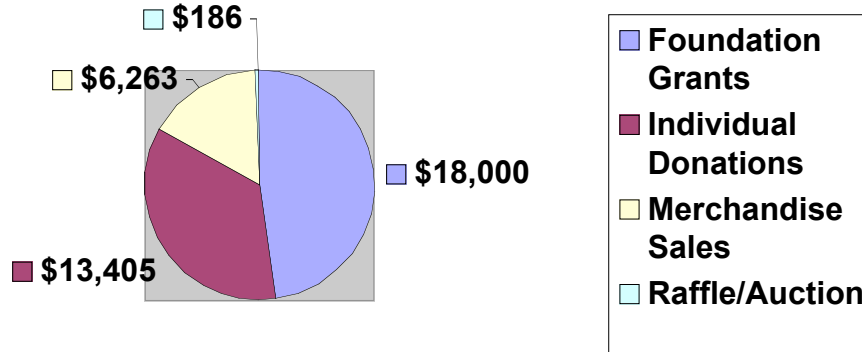
We have achieved solid support in North Idaho and strong support from Sanders County MT. Primary goals for 2007 include continuing this momentum, building additional community support from Lincoln County in Northwest Montana, addressing extreme and illegal snowmobile use in the Scotchmans by building a network of PRO wilderness advocates, and responding to the forest plan release.

Our support base in Lincoln County Montana is being built from the ground up. In the two years FSPW has been working to develop a broad base of community support for wilderness designation in the Scotchmans, only 1/6 of our listed supporters are in Montana. Receptiveness to wilderness values in Bonner County has enabled us to quickly build a consensus of support. From the inception of FSPW, we anticipated garnering support in Northwest Montana would be more difficult and we projected it would be our strong focus for year three.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Foundation Grants in 2006: We received financial support in 2006 from the following foundations: Maki, Cadeau, Cinnabar, Campion

FSPW Revenue Sources



FSPW 2006 Expenses

