

# FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMAN PEAKS WILDERNESS 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



FRIENDS OF  
SCOTCHMAN PEAKS  
WILDERNESS

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OUTLOOK

Few would have predicted how our world and work would be challenged in 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic restricted events, limiting the ways most organizations raise funds and awareness. Individuals lives and lifestyles changed too.

Every challenge also brings new opportunities. For both work and play more people found themselves online. So FSPW entered the world of podcasts, with Your Wild Place.

Changes can bring about stress, especially when in constant close quarters. This really highlighted the benefit of getting outside and the value of quiet recreation on our public lands. Our region offer many great opportunities for outdoor outings, from day trips to "stay close to home" vacations. None more stunning than the summit of Scotchman Peak. The number of hikers on Scotchman Peak increased dramatically, nearly doubling from the year prior. Many discovered this Idaho Gem for the first time. In fact, many were on their first hiker ever!

Our volunteers stepped up to the occasion. Our Trail ambassadors hiked the Scotchman Peak trail and spoke to over 1,700 hikers throughout the summer. Other volunteers sewed masks with a mountain goat design for ambassadors to wear. Still others pulled on a crosscut saw or swung a Pulaski to keep the trails open. These dedicated volunteers share a common passion: our wild backyard. We want a place for the kids in our lives to be free. To discover nature. To grow up wild.

Saving the wild Scotchmans is a long journey. Congress acts slowly. Grassroots support takes time to build. As we end 2020, our supporters have grown to over 9,080 and come from all walks of life and all parts of the community. There is room for more people in this conservation chorus. Together our voices will guarantee the Scotchmans are wild for tomorrow. Thank you for your commitment to this effort. Your grandchildren (maybe even their grandchildren!) will be proud.



**Phil Hough**  
Executive Director

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Cover photo by Ed Robinson  
Inside cover artwork by Jared Shear



# THANK YOU FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE 2020!



## NATE RENCH, SANDPOINT

*"I was born and raised here in Sandpoint. And the reason that I believe that the Scotchman Peaks...should be a Wilderness area is because when I'm an old man and my grandkids are going to be here enjoying the wilderness like I have, **I want them to actually see some place wild.** There's more technology these days and I just want a spot where they can learn what true wilderness is and how nature works. So that's why I am for the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area."*



*Libby Elementary students posing for a post-Winter Tracks photo*



## JESSICA THEONY, LIBBY ELEMENTARY

*"We've been doing **Winter Tracks with Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness for the past four years.** Our kids love it! They love being outside for the day and learning about nature, which is pretty incredible because we live in Montana."*

# OUTREACH

FSPW has a large focus on public outreach. This comes in many forms: sending out press releases and articles, advertising on print and digital platforms, having a robust social media presence, sponsoring events, doing presentations, engaging with business and civic organizations, organizing free group hikes and field trips, hosting events, and having outreach tables at community events. Our goal is to find common ground among diverse viewpoints.



*Jamilee Scheiwe on Spar Peak. Photo by Mary Franzel*

## HIKES

FSPW offers free volunteer-led group hikes in and around the Scotchmans. The volunteers that lead these hikes have a deep love for the Scotchman Peaks. They want to help others feel that love too. In 2020, FSPW focused on encouraging wilderness lovers to explore the Scotchmans within their family units. Winter hikes in early 2020 and a fall Scotchman Peak hike helped folks who wanted to be in a group setting explore the wild Scotchmans.

## EVENTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Social and outreach events in 2020 started with a bang in February. FSPW's inaugural hosting of SYRCL's Wild and Scenic Film Festival was a huge hit.

In March, events went virtual for awhile. The great part about the live streamed events are the recordings! If you missed out on the State of the Scotchmans, Hiking with Dogs, or The Unlikely Thru Hiker, the recordings are all on our Facebook and YouTube pages.



*Randi Lui, Celeste Grace, and Deb Hunsicker enjoy a pint at Laughing Dog*

## HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Each year, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness asks seniors at high schools in Lincoln and Sanders Counties, Montana, and Bonner County, Idaho, to submit entries to the FSPW's scholarship program. In 2020, scholarships were awarded to students from Clark Fork High School, Forrest M. Bird Charter School, Libby High School, Priest River Lamanna High School, Thompson Falls High School, and Troy High School.

Check out the winners in the Voices in the Wilderness series or listen to them read their winning essays on the Your Wild Place podcast.





## YOUR WILD PLACE PODCAST

When events went virtual in the spring, FSPW wanted to stay connected to lovers of wild places. In the last week of March, the podcast Your Wild Place was launched. Episodes feature storytelling, interviews with community members and other outdoors lovers with great stories to tell, and more.

Check it out on FSPW's website, or wherever you listen to podcasts.

# EDUCATION

FSPW offers outdoor education opportunities for youth and adults. For adults, this looks like getting out in the woods and learning something about nature or taking a deeply discounted Wilderness and Remote First Aid certification course. For kids, this might look like taking educational materials to a school event or inviting the schools to come to us.

FSPW staff and volunteers had the opportunity to teach children in Idaho and Montana about their natural environment through the Winter Tracks program. The program was a big hit in January, February, and early March. Thank you to the volunteers that make it possible every year!

## WINTER TRACKS

Since its inception in 2016, Winter Tracks has grown into a beloved outdoor education field trip. 1,500 students participated over those 5 years.

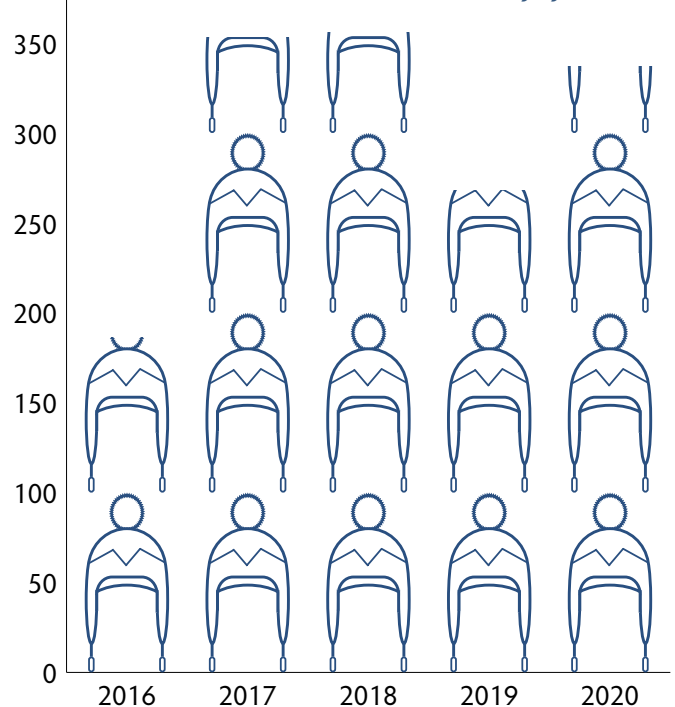


Celesta Collacchi teaches Lincoln County students all about trees during Winter Tracks



Children participate in the Winter Carnival snowshoe race in Thompson Falls

## Winter Tracks Students by year



# STEWARDSHIP

Part of our commitment to saving the wild Scotchmans is stewardship of the area. Volunteer Trail Ambassadors educated Scotchman Peak hikers about how to keep mountain goats at a safe distance. Other volunteers broke a sweat doing trail work on popular trails in the area, and some that need a serious rehab.

To ensure the safety of FSPW volunteers and other folks on the trail, volunteers were offered volunteer-sewn custom cloth facemasks for use when social distancing was not possible. FSPW also launched two new ways for folks to get engaged with trail stewardship: an adopt-a-trail program and an online trail condition report tool. Details on both available on the website.



Photo by Connie Shay



Total Volunteers

62



Volunteer Hours

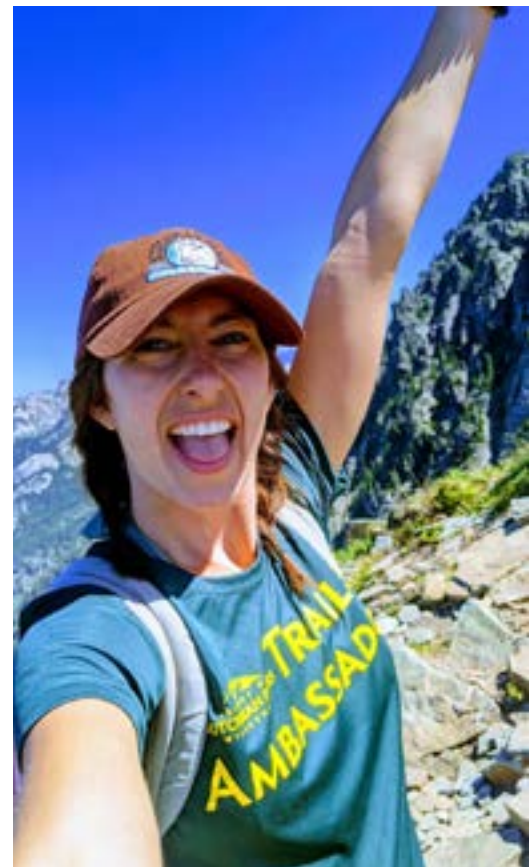
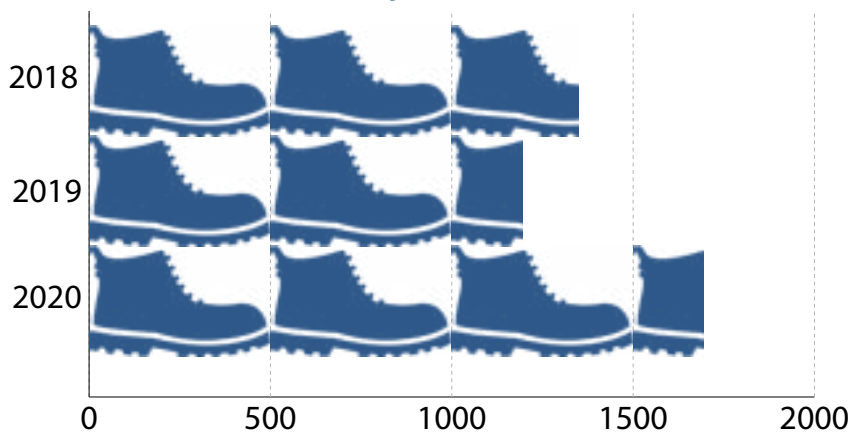
851



Miles of Trail

10 1/4

## Scotchman Peak Hikers Encountered by Trail Ambassadors

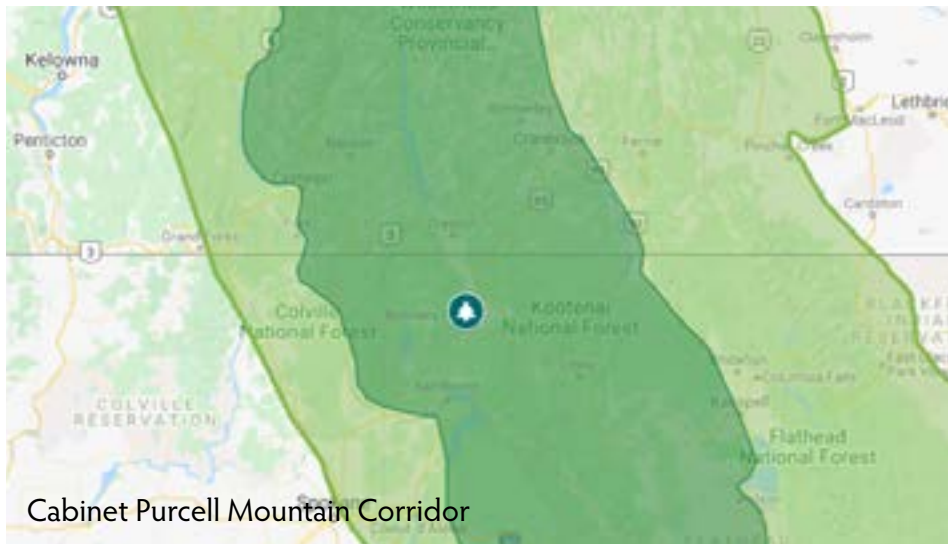


Trail Ambassador Michelle Langdon



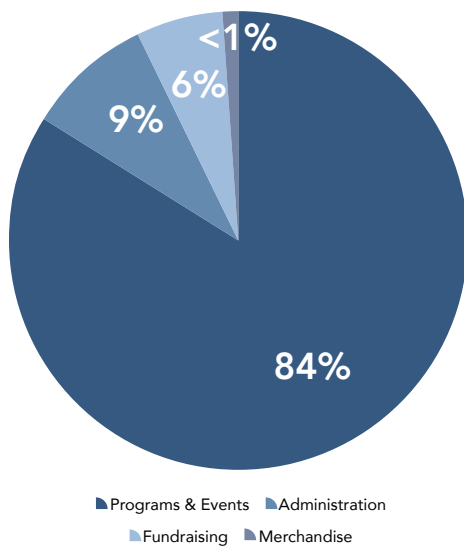
# ADVOCACY

Nothing worth doing is easy, and the creation of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness area is no different. We're in this for the long haul. FSPW is committed to collaboration through the Panhandle Forest Collaborative and Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition. We are also engaged in the Yellowstone to Yukon's Cabinet Purcell Mountain Corridor partnership. The Scotchman Peaks play a vital role in connecting wildlife habitat in the area.

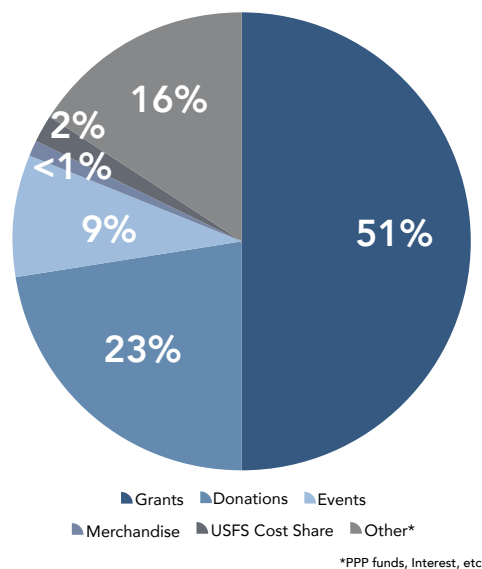


## FISCAL YEAR 2020 FINANCIALS

### Expenses



### Revenue



Donations were received from 170 households over the course of the fiscal year. *Thank you!* As FSPW continues to diversify funding sources, your commitment to saving the wild Scotchmans is as important as ever.

## STAFF TRANSITIONS

In March, after 10 years on the job, Sandy Compton rode off into the sunset. At least that's what he would have done if he had not taken a "Side Trip from Cowboy." One of his most compelling tales, Side Trip is a must to understand his world.

Likewise, his story "Growing up Wild" sums up our connection to the special places in our lives. It's so inspiring, we made it the basis of our first podcast episode.

We wish Sandy well and appreciate that his side trip from cowboy and his growing up wild are what brought him into our lives. We are ever grateful he has shared all that with us!

With Sandy's retirement, the **Program Coordinator** position shifted. Autumn Lear managed FSPW's trail stewardship work for 2020. Covid-19 necessitated some changes. This means transitioning the Program Coordinator role to a seasonal Trail Stewardship position.

Ray Brown, FSPW's **Sanders County Outreach Coordinator**, saw big change in 2020. He accepted the Executive Director position with Sanders County Community Development Council. Losing Ray as a staff member was disappointing but building on a strong partner relationship is a great opportunity.

Our **Lincoln County Outreach Coordinator**, Henry Jordan, had a great opportunity come his way also. He started graduate school at Columbia University in the fall. A silver lining of the pandemic is keeping Henry on remotely. This includes running the virtual 2021 Winter Tracks program.

Lastly, FSPW's new **Communications and Outreach Coordinator**, Kelsey Maxwell, joined the team in November. She is taking on some of FSPW's Deputy Executive Director's responsibility. Britta Mireley is transitioning out of FSPW. She moved to Colorado in December to be closer to family.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2020)

Chair, Doug Ferrell — Trout Creek, MT

Vice-Chair, Jessie Grossman — Hope, ID

Secretary, Dr. Mark Cochran — Sandpoint, ID

Treasurer, Brad Williams — Sandpoint, ID

Robin Chisholm — Bayview, ID

Ed Robinson — Sandpoint, ID

Neil Wimberley — Hope, ID

## STAFF (2020)

Ray Brown, Sanders County Outreach Coord. (thru Aug. 2020)

Sandy Compton, Program Coordinator (thru Apr. 2020)

Phil Hough, Executive Director

Henry Jorden, Lincoln County Outreach Coord.

Autumn Lear, Program Coordinator (Mar. thru Sept.)

Kelsey Maxwell, Communications & Outreach Coord. (from Nov. 2020)

Britta Mireley, Deputy Executive Director

Cameron Rasmusson, Communications Specialist



## CONTACT

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc.

PO Box 2061, Sandpoint, ID 83864

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