

FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMAN PEAKS WILDERNESS 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



FRIENDS OF
SCOTCHMAN PEAKS
WILDERNESS

BOARD CHAIR'S OUTLOOK

The Scotchmans have a way of drawing people in and changing lives for the better.

I remember the first time I visited the Scotchman Peaks. A friend invited me on a hike and we ended up out in the wild Scotchmans much longer than we had planned. We settled into a slower pace up the steep and rugged trail. It gave us time to enjoy the sounds of a meandering creek and the sweet smells of the cedar forest. We saw a mother mountain goat with kids running across a scree field.

When we finally returned to the trailhead, we were hungry and tired. The rugged mountains had tested our strength, endurance, and patience. It's a trip I will never forget.

The past year has also tested all of our strength, endurance, and patience. But the Scotchmans have been there for us through it all. I am endlessly grateful for the rugged peaks, sparkling alpine lakes, and fields of wildflowers.

I am also grateful for the community of Friends committed to keeping this precious place wild. FSPW has stayed strong and resilient thanks to the dedication of our supporters and volunteers.

Despite the challenges of 2021, we accomplished so much. We led 135 people on hikes in the Scotchmans. Of these participants, 50 were brand new to our hiking program. Our Trail Ambassadors encountered more hikers than ever before on Scotchman Peak Trail.

We are so excited that more people are discovering the wonders of the Scotchmans!

Thanks to our community of Friends, we are also keeping the Scotchman wild. Our trail stewards built and restored over 53 miles of trail. Our outdoor educators taught over 300 students about loving our wild backyard. And to ensure this work can continue far into the future, our Board of Directors established the FSPW Endowment Fund.

People from all walks of life are drawn in to these mountains and forests.

Some find solitude, feel a sense of something bigger than themselves, or make lifelong friends. Our communities are stronger thanks to the love we share for our local wild places. Our work together over the years to come will keep the Scotchman Peaks wild for these transformative experiences in a special place.

Jessie Grossman
FSPW Board Chair



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THANK YOU FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE 2021!

110

**DAYS
ON THE
GROUND**

hiking, educating, clearing trails, & building community.



2,961

**VOLUNTEER
HOURS**

spent by volunteers building trails & educating hikers.



VOLUNTEERS 120

53

**MILES OF
TRAIL**

Built, cleared, & restored.



27

HIKES

led by volunteer leaders all year long



286
HIKERS

signed-up for our guided hikes.



1,258

**PEOPLE
EDUCATED ON
SCOTCHMAN PEAK**

about keeping goats safe & wild.

OUTREACH

Our goal is to bring people together through a shared love for our wild backyard - the Scotchman Peaks. We want everyone to have the chance to explore the wonders of the Scotchmans.



Folks gather to learn about summer volunteer opportunities



Spring hikers at the summit of Goat Mountain

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 2021, FSPW led 27 hikes throughout the summer and winter. Our biggest accomplishment this year was leading 50 hikers who had never before participated in our hiking program out into the Scotchmans!

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Each year, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness ask local high school seniors to share their stories about getting outside and exploring our local wild lands. Scholarships are awarded to seniors with the most awe-inspiring tales of adventure. In 2021, scholarships were awarded to students in Lincoln, Sanders, and Bonner Counties. You can hear the students tell their stories on several of FSPW's Your Wild Place podcast episodes.

EVENTS

The year started off with virtual celebrations including the Wild and Scenic Film Festival. Finally, we were able to get together outdoors at our summer kick-off parties in Sandpoint and Thompson Falls. We wrapped up the year with a number of get togethers including the State of the Scotchmans which was hosted outdoors at the Compton Ranch in Heron, Montana. After a year of isolation, it was great to see so many new and familiar faces.



Crosscut saw demo at the Thompson Falls summer kick-off celebration



YOUR WILD PLACE PODCAST

We launched the Your Wild PLace Podcast as a way to connect from afar. The podcast seeks to inspire adventure and exploration right here in our backyard. The Episodes feature storytelling, interviews with community members and reflections on living in wild places. 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 learning on education hikes or through our Wilderness and Remote First Aid certification course. For kids, this looks like getting outside for a day of hands-on learning in our local wild lands.

GETTING KIDS OUTSIDE

Despite the continuing impact of COVID-19, we were able to still offer Winter Tracks to classrooms in Montana & Idaho. We created a virtual curriculum that included hands-on components for students in the classroom and at home. Materials were packed up into Great Outdoors Accessibility and Tracking (GOAT) boxes and dropped off at schools. With minimal prep, teachers facilitated the hands-on experience and our volunteers led the remote instruction over Zoom. We taught 15 classrooms and 307 students virtually. By springtime, we were able to teach three outdoor programs to Clark Fork High School students. They went birding, navigated the wild using a map and compass, and learned about trail building on the Scotchman Peak Trail.



Clark Fork students learn about compass navigation



Clark Fork students learn about native tree species

KEEPING KIDS WILD
in 2021

303
STUDENTS

45
VOLUNTEER HOURS

12
DAYS OF LEARNING

STEWARDSHIP

We want everyone to enjoy the wonders of the Scotchmans - today and for years to come. That means making the area accessible with well-maintained trails. Volunteers make it possible to keep the Scotchmans wild and open for all.

TRAIL BUILDERS

Our trail work volunteers built and restored over 53 miles of trails over 29 days in the Scotchmans this summer. All of this work was done without the help of power tools. With crosscut saws, Pulaskis, and elbow grease, they managed to maintain almost every single trail in Scotchman Peaks. Most of our volunteers joined us for group trail days. But some passionate folks embarked on independent Adpot-a-Trail days. Overall, we had over 60 volunteers spend 1,177 hours making the trails in the Scotchmans more accessible this summer.



The Harrison family braved a cold and foggy day on Scotchman Peak to teach other hikers about safety in mountain goat territory

"I like helping keep the trails open, accessible and more inviting, for people I don't even know. Hopefully [they] can find the same enjoyment and peace I feel, when out hiking in the wilderness."

- Greg Dugdale, Trail Volunteer

TRAIL AMBASSADORS

Stewardship is also about making sure that trail users know how to respect the land and its inhabitants. That's why the Friends also provide education for hikers through the Trail Ambassador program. Trail Ambassadors spend the day atop Scotchman Peak, educating hikers about safety in mountain goat territory. This year our volunteers talked to 1,258 hikers on Scotchman Peak.



Bernie Sheldon volunteered for over 100 hours on the trail this season



Kurt was one of many young & passionate Trail Ambassadors this summer

VOICES FOR WILDERNESS



JAMILEE SCHEIWE, LIBBY

"I lead hikes for FSPW as my way to help others get out into this amazing wilderness for the first time or the hundredth time. The best thing about these hikes is the connections we all make, experiences shared, lessons learned and laughs all the way around while we traverse the wilderness. Getting to see a fellow hiker experience a new area, new trail, or just a new season as a trail leader is the most rewarding thing!"

JESIKA & ALAN HARPER, RATHDRUM

"When we ride our horses and mules in the Scotchman Peaks, we realize that we are incredibly lucky to have such a wild back yard. At the top, we catch our breath, rewarded with unspeakable beauty as far as we can see. We need to save this rugged place for our children and grandchildren."



VICTORIA REICH, SAGLE

"Getting out into nature is so important, especially for kids. The Winter Tracks program gives children an opportunity to better appreciate all that surrounds them as they wander in the woods. We hope this leads to a life-long love and respect for the natural world." "

ADVOCACY

Only congress can designate Wilderness. But deciding how to manage our wild lands starts locally.

Wilderness advocacy begins with community building and collaboration. That means working with local businesses, land owners, and passionate community members to imagine the best future for our public lands. We are active members of several local groups that are doing just that, including the Panhandle Forest Collaborative and the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition. Within these groups, we speak up for the thousands of people who want the Scotchmans to stay wild.

Ultimately, it is these local voices for Wilderness that will motivate Congress to act. Each year, our community of Wilderness supporters grows stronger as our volunteers lead more people into the Scotchmans. **Through guided hikes, trail building days, and outdoor education, we're bringing people together from all backgrounds who share a love for our local public lands.** In 2021, we reached over 10,000 supporters of a Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. These volunteers, hikers, and program participants all become the strong advocates needed to motivate Congress to designate a Scotchman Peaks Wilderness.



FOREVER STEWARDS OF THE SCOTCHMANS

Since 2005, we have grown deep roots in Idaho and Montana. Our community of wilderness stewards is committed to protecting this land forever, even after the Scotchmans become Wilderness.



HOW ARE WE PLANNING FOR FOREVER?

Through the creation of an endowment fund. [The FSPW endowment fund](#) will ensure that in 80 years, we will still be clearing trails, and teaching kids outside. It will ensure that our communities will forever benefit from wild places.

I'm honored to be a founding member of FSPW's endowment in Steve's memory. We shared a passion for leaving a Wilderness for our community's children. Contributing to FSPW's endowment is investing in our region's future. In a future that includes a Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. And in the ongoing stewards of it."

- Molly O'Reilly

NEW FACES OF THE FRIENDS



CORI CALLAHAN **PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

As our new Program Coordinator, Cori will be managing our outdoor education and trail stewardship programs. She has a passion for helping people find joy in the more-than-human world. She has spent the past 15 years working for wild kids and places. With a degree in Environmental Education, she has worked for multiple non-profits including Southwest Conservation Corps and Outward Bound.



JESSIE GROSSMAN **BOARD CHAIR**

Jessie was not new to the board in 2021. But she was appointed to the role of Board Chair this year! Jessie is a former resident of Troy, Montana and a current resident of Hope, Idaho. As the U.S. Program Director for Yellowstone to Yukon, she brings a wealth of knowledge and a passion for conservation to FSPW's board.



JULI THURSTON **BOARD MEMBER**

Juli Thurston is the MSU Extension Agent for Sanders County. Her role includes working on natural resource endeavors and developing programs to get youth outside. She serves on the Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition, the Thompson Falls Trails Committee, and is the coordinator for the 4-H Outdoor Adventures Project in Sanders County. We are so lucky to have such a passionate community builder and sportswoman as the newest member of our board.

OUR MISSION:

*TO PASS ON A SCOTCHMAN PEAKS
WILDERNESS FOR OUR CHILDREN
AND GRANDCHILDREN*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2021)

Chair, Jessie Grossman — Hope, ID

Vice Chair & Secretary, Dr. Mark Cochran — Sandpoint, ID

Treasurer, Brad Williams — Sandpoint, ID

Juli Thurston — Thompson Falls, MT

Ed Robinson — Sandpoint, ID

Neil Wimberley — Hope, ID

STAFF (2021)

Cori Callahan — Program Coordinator

Phil Hough — Executive Director

Henry Jordan — Stewardship Coord. (through Sep. 2021)

Kelsey Maxwell — Comms & Development Director

Amy Pearson — NW Montana Outreach Coord. (through Dec. 2021)

Cameron Rasmusson — Communications Specialist

CONTACT

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