



Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

For Immediate Release

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Fourth Annual Summer “State of the Scotchmans” Annual Event

Join the *Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness* at the new Ponderay Events Center (behind Sandpoint Furniture off the east entrance to the Bonner Mall complex) on Tuesday May 26th for our annual “State of the Scotchmans” celebration. Doors open at 5pm to meet and mingle with special guests Congressman Walt Minnick and Wilderness Historian Doug Scott during a happy hour reception. We will serve up fun, food, information and a lot of inspiration. The evening’s theme is “*Wilderness – Our Common Ground*”. Bring your family, friends and neighbors. Admission is free and this is sure to be an exciting evening for anyone interested in wilderness!

Come help us celebrate the start of summer, learn more about our upcoming summer hikes, concerts, activities and events. Our hats, shirts, hiking maps, bumper stickers and buttons will be available. We will look at what lies ahead on the pathway to wilderness for the Scotchmans. And we will honor some outstanding volunteers! Plus we have two exciting speakers!

Congressman Walt Minnick will open our event with reflections and remarks about his first several months in Washington DC and the general climate for public lands management in the new congress and administration.

Our keynote speaker will be Doug Scott, one of the legends of the wilderness movement. Doug’s two books tell the story of how America has preserved more than 100 million acres of diverse wilderness areas in 44 states. Doug’s multimedia presentation will include readings from his book as well as slides which demonstrate the history and dynamics of wilderness protection. We’ll have plenty of time for a question and answer dialogue.

Doug’s first book, “*The Enduring Wilderness: Protecting Our Natural Heritage Through the Wilderness Act*” is detailed history of the Wilderness Act and how it has been applied over the last 45 years to protect special places like the Scotchmans. Doug’s newest book, “*Our Wilderness: America’s Common Ground*” is a 64-page full-color book depicting the diversity of our National Wilderness Preservation System and how it is used by Americans. Included in this book are several photos of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness!

For more information about this event and our efforts to protect the Scotchman Peaks area, please go to our website at www.scotchmanpeaks.org

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 West Cabinet Mountains has been managed for its wilderness potential. The *Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness* believe **now is the time** to preserve the Scotchmans, one of the last, and largest, wild areas in our region.

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