

# Hikes in the Scotchmans

**1 East Fork Creek Trail #134** In 2011 the IPNF finished what flooding several years earlier began – converting the former East Fork road to a trail. Ascend this trail for 8 miles on the south slope of Lighting Peak or use it to access East Fork Peak Trail #563. **Group size limit: 12**

**2 Morris Creek Trail #132** On a hot summer day the shaded canopy of Morris Creek will keep you cool. The modest rise in elevation is far less demanding than some of the “Peaks” but will still make you earn your rewards. Wildflowers, mushrooms and a good look back at Beetop are a delight. **Group size limit: 12**

**3 Regal Creek Trail #556** begins with a steady climb, crossing rock fields within the first mile with open views of Lighting Creek Valley. It continues on across Regal Creek and then switchbacks its way for another 2 miles up to an old mine. **Group size limit: 12**

**4 Goat Mountain Trail #35** is arguably the steepest trail in Idaho — or anywhere — gaining 4,000 feet in less than 3 miles. Loose sand, gravel, grass and brush compound the challenge on the lower trail. Navigation skills and good knees are required. This trail is a knee buster — no wonder that it’s called “Goat Mountain!” **Group size limit: 8**

**5 Scotchman Peak Trail #65** is the “grand-daddy” of all hikes in the Scotchmans, a relatively short (4 miles), steep climb up the namesake peak. A well-worn tread is usually in good shape and leads to the highest point in Bonner County (7,009 feet). Stunning panoramas of Lake Pend Oreille begin two thirds of the way up and continue to unfold as you reach the summit. Snow can linger late into summer. **Group size limit: 12**

**6 Big Eddy Trail #998** is the easiest access to Star Peak. Big Eddy Trail starts near MP 6 on MT Highway 200 near the Clark Fork River and climbs 4,000 feet. The elevation gain is comparable to Scotchman Peak, but spread over 5 miles (one way), the grade is slightly more forgiving. Pillick Ridge Trail #1036 offers another — much longer — route option to the summit of Star Peak. This is a dry trail. **Group size limit: 8**

**7 Blacktail Creek Trail #997** may look like it leads nowhere, but its a great out and back hike for anyone with a little time to look into the wild Scotchmans. A well-maintained tread and some nice views make it worth the work. If you are feeling adventurous, bushwhack up the fall line to Trail #1036. **Group size limit: 8**



**8 Pillick Ridge Trail #1036** is Star Peak the hard way, 11 miles beginning with a three-mile, 3400-foot hump through heavy timber from Bull River to the top of Pillick Ridge. From there, the ridge rolls west another 8 miles to Star, affording spectacular views of Star Ridge, Bull River Valley, the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness and the Clark Fork River. For a great open loop, combine Trails #998 and #1036 in any order. Pack lots of water. **Group size limit: 8**

**9 Dry Creek Trail #1020** is an easy to moderate route leading to strenuous trails. From the intersection of MT Highway 56 and Dry Creek Road, the tread winds south five miles between Bull River and the eastern edge of the proposed wilderness to Napoleon Gulch Trail #1035, passing Hamilton Gulch Trail # 1019 and Star Gulch Trail #1016 along the way. #1035 connects to Pillick Ridge #1036; #1015 leads to Star Peak; and #1019 takes hikers toward — but not to — Billiard Table. **Group size limit on #1020: 12; Limit on #1019, #1016 and #1035: 8**



**10 Snowshoe Trail Head for Ross Creek Cedars** is the beginning of a great moderate snowshoe hike in the Scotchmans along the road to Ross Creek Cedars, closed in winter. Follow the grade to the cedars and beyond for a great view of winter in the West Cabinets. For profound solitude there is no substitute for a winter walk in this magnificent grove! Snow falling softly on a cathedral of cedars is magical. **Group size limit: 12**



**11 Ross Creek Cedars Nature Trail #405** lies under a canopy of cedar, providing cool respite from summer sun, and huge old growth trees offer a measure of solitude even when the parking lot fills. Any small crowds can be left behind by following Trail #142 off the west end of the Ross Creek Cedars Loop and into the backcountry.

**12 Spar Peak (Trail #324) and Little Spar Lake (Trail #143)** begin from the same trailhead and lead to beautifully different destinations. A steady climb along #324 through various life zones brings one to the monolithic “thumb” of Spar Peak, with expansive views of the Scotchman Peaks interior valleys and peaks. Continue past the Spar Peak intersection on #142 for a moderate hike through the lush Spar Creek canyon, a fine example of interior rain forest, to sparkling, green Little Spar Lake, one of the best overnight options in the Scotchmans. Snow melt can make an early season crossing of Little Spar Creek difficult. **Group size limit on these trails is 8. Use established camp sites only.**

For driving directions to trailheads, visit [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/getting-there](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/getting-there)