

## Mission Statement

"Spanning the Idaho/Montana border, the Scotchmans are one of the last, and largest, wild areas in our region. We conduct education, outreach and stewardship activities to preserve the rugged, scenic and biologically diverse 88,000 acre Scotchman Peaks Roadless Area. We believe the Scotchman Peaks deserve congressional designation as Wilderness for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations."



Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc. (FSPW) is a non-profit organization. The proceeds from all events and sales benefit our wilderness preservation efforts. Donations are tax deductible.

If you receive this newsletter by mail and have an email address you can help us save postage by sending us your email address.

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The wild Scotchmans are a beautiful place to just "be."  
Photo by Kate Walker

When I was 10 years old, my dad and I took a 10-day adventure along the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, a canoe route established in northern Maine by that state's Legislature in 1966 to preserve and protect the wilderness character of this unique area. This magnificent, 92-mile-long ribbon of lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams starts northwest of Baxter State Park and flows towards Canada. Protection for the Allagash was enhanced in 1970 when it was named the first state-administered component of the National Wild and Scenic River System.

This was my first taste of Wilderness and it changed my life! I returned filled with desire for more adventure, to find places where I could be part of the natural landscape,

to learn from wildlife what it meant to simply "be;" to "be" alive in a place beyond the confines of the cages of zoos and suburbia.

That need for adventure, solitude, to be a seeker of wild places never left me. Though I did set it aside for a few years for an education and career. In those years, I made occasional forays into the backcountry and beyond. Paddling through Canyonlands, hiking in the Colorado Rockies, the North Cascades, the Olympics and Glacier National Park. There is yet remote and wild country that can be found on weeklong adventures!

My yearning for more wildness set me on a path in 1994 — to walk from Mexico to Canada along

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## THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT

**April 20:** Biocontrol training for FSPW weed volunteers at the USFS office in Sandpoint, Pint Night at the Cabinet Mountain Brewery in Libby.

**April 22:** Earth Day cleanup at Trail #999; Cabinet Resource Group's annual meeting at Big Horn Lodge.

**April 29:** FSPW will have a table at the Community Hall after the 1 pm People's Climate March in Sandpoint.

**May 4:** FSPW is participating in Idaho Gives with an event at the Idaho Pour Authority.

**May 6-7:** First Aid certification course for FSPW volunteers.

**May 13:** FSPW volunteers will operate a refreshment booth at Yaak Falls for the annual STOKR bike ride benefiting Lincoln County Habitat for Humanity.

**May 16:** Goat Education Ambassador coordinator Mary Franzel begins work.

**May 19-21:** Phil Hough and Sandy Compton will travel to Wild Idaho for the annual Idaho Conservation League meeting. Phil will anchor a panel on the Scotchman Proposal.

**May 20:** Spring birding with Brian Baxter.

**May 22:** FSPW Backcountry Ranger Intern Sam Olson's first day.

**May 25:** Outdoor Education Day at Trout Creek Elementary; Jen Kreiner will accompany Thompson Falls first grade on a field trip to Ross Creek Cedars.

**May 26:** Outdoor Education Day at Noxon School.

**June 1:** State of the Scotchmans at Forrest Bird Charter School with Rick Johnson, executive director of Idaho Conservation League as guest speaker; Goat Education Ambassador training at USFS office in Sandpoint.

**June 2 – 4:** Trail leader college with Idaho Trails Association.

**June 3-4:** First Aid certification course for FSPW volunteers.

**June 10:** First day of Goat Education Ambassador days, which will run Saturdays, Sundays and holidays through October 8.

**June 11:** FSPW will have a table at the Pend Oreille Bay Trail Fun Run.

**June 14:** Whitebark pine seed sowing volunteer training with the Forest Service. Panting trip dates tba.

**June 15:** FSPW and Kootenai Forest Stakeholders Coalition will give a presentation to the Thompson Falls Chamber of Commerce.

**June 17:** FSPW volunteers will feed hungry bicyclists at the Clark Fork rest stop for the Chafe 150.

**June 22 – 24:** FSPW and MWA volunteers and staff will hand out information and answer questions at Libby Logger Days.

**June 23:** A trail workday will be held on Trail #999.

**June 24:** Jen Kreiner will have an FSPW information table at the Sawtooth Grill in Noxon in conjunction with a Road To The Buffalo event sponsored by Sanders County Women; The StoryTelling Company, sponsored by FSPW, will be at DiLuna's Café in Sandpoint.

**June 25:** The Annual Sanders County Picnic will be held at Bull River Campground beginning at 3:00 pm. FSPW will have a table at 7B Sunday at Schweitzer Mountain Resort.

**June 26:** Sandy Compton will co-lead an MWA hike up Pilik Ridge.

**June 27:** First ever 70-plus hike up Star Peak will be led by Ken Thacker and Irv McGeachy.

**June 30:** Field Day Friday — Community Kid's Hike in Regal and Morris Creeks.

**July 4:** Parades in Sandpoint, Clark Fork, Heron, Noxon, Thompson Falls. FSPW and MWA will be at the Troy Fourth celebration with information booths.

**July 7:** Field Day Friday — Trail workday on Trail #65, above the new alignment. Tread improvement and brush clearing.

## FIELD DAY FRIDAYS START AND END ON SATURDAYS THIS YEAR

Trail season is upon us, though the snow isn't out of the high country. We're getting ready to take people hiking and swing Pulaskis and pull cross-cuts.

We have, for the past several years, done most of our trail fieldwork on Fridays, but our first workday of the season is on Earth Day proper, Saturday, April 22, which is not far away. We will be working on Trail #999, Star Peak Historic Tread, with cross-cuts to clear some big blowdowns about a half mile up the trail.

Beyond that are nine days of trail maintenance and repair. June 23, we will work on #999 again, concentrating on improving tread in some of the higher reaches of the trail. July 7, we will venture above the end of the new construction on Trail #65 to work on tread, waterbars.

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Kids from Bonner Homeless Transitions enjoy some Blue Creek time with Golden Canine, FSPW Trail Dog.



## KAREN ROBINSON IS FSPW'S FIRST ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE.

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness (FSPW) chose Sandpoint painter Karen Robinson as their first artist-in-residence, expanding a long-standing relationship between visual arts and FSPW. The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Plein Air Paintout, based in Hope at Kally Thurman's Outskirts Gallery, has been an annual fall event since 2008. The Extreme Plein Air, a multi-day backcountry hike during which artists capture visions of the interior Scotchmans, began in 2009.

"The Artist-in-Residence is a natural extension of what we do," says Phil Hough, FSPW executive director. "Much of the wilderness experience is visual, and engaging in art teaches us to see — really see — what's in front of us. Art also carries the beauty of wild country to places it might otherwise not be seen."

Robinson, who works for Idaho State Department of Lands, has been making art literally all of her life. "I started drawing about the time I could hold a crayon," she says. "I was the kid who drew in the corners of all my homework."

She doesn't often use crayons any more, but she still puts images to paper, including iconic local scenes — Scotchman Peak, for instance, as well as at least one resident of that mountain. Two years ago, she created "Decision Time," a beautiful depiction of a mountain goat caught in what seems to be a moment of determination. Robinson entitled the painting partly in response to the growing number of goat-human encounters on Scotchman.

"The observer has a decision to make as well," Robinson said, "whether to approach or back away. Hopefully, they will back away."



"Decision Point" was painted with both the goat and the observer in mind.

Robinson grew up in Kansas City, MO, before coming west to study wild-life biology and botany at the University of Montana in Missoula. There, she met her husband Ed, who was studying forestry. Eventually, she got a masters in Adult Education and Organization Leadership, but has no art degree.

"In high school," she says, "I sold portraits and did a big mural on a nursery wall, and a couple of other commissions. I thought of getting a degree in some sort of art, but I chickened out. I think I was just afraid to put it out there; really laying it out there for others to judge and criticize."

It is a fear she has overcome. In the 1980s, she began selling pen-and-ink notecards at Priest Lake, and in the 1990s, she began selling watercolors. "The first one that I thought was worth selling was of Yaquina Head Lighthouse near Newport, Oregon."

Since, she has sold a lot of her work,

and also let her art take her in some interesting directions. "Right now there's a show at the Infini Gallery on Cedar that's sort of a right turn; one of the U of I campus where we go skiing. Light bouncing off water at Cedar Street Bridge through the piers. Everything is based on nature's stuff. I'm glad I learned about nature, because it makes my art more authentic."

Robinson teaches basic watercolor once a month at the Infini gallery. She also teaches drawing, acrylic and plein air painting.

"This summer I will lead some plein air painting sessions on hikes around the Scotchmans. I'm really honored to be the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness artist-in residence. This allows me to tie my passion for the environment in with my art and promote taking care of our planet and our home."

Robinson's art can be viewed at Infini Gallery and online at [www.karenrobinsonart.com](http://www.karenrobinsonart.com)

## LESLIE ANN KIEBERT WINS 2016 PHOTO CONTEST



Leslie Ann Kiebert submitted the winning photo to the 2016 Annual Photo Contest. Her prize was a copy of her photo framed by Ward Tolbom at Hen's Tooth Studio. The 2017 photo contest is open at [scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/annual-photo-contest/](http://scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/annual-photo-contest/)



"Scotchman Overlook"



**UPCOMING HIKES — E = EASY • M = MODERATE • S = STRENOUS • S+ = S+UPID :-)**

Hike date	Exertion Rating	Destination/ Hike Name	Leader	Description and contact info
5/20/17	E-M	Spring Birding	Brian Baxter	Contact: Brian Baxter — <a href="mailto:b_baxter53@yahoo.com">b_baxter53@yahoo.com</a> Join outdoor education expert Brian Baxter in a hunt for the big and small birds of spring. Search the Clark Fork and Bull River valleys for winged wonders. This class is a most-of-the-day affair, beginning at 9 am Pacific Time, 10 am Mountain at the Heron Community Center. Bring binoculars, bird books, lunch, snacks and water. Rain gear, water-proof shoes and an extra layer or two are also good ideas.
6/27/17	S	First Annual 70+ Star Peak Assault	Ken Thacker	Contact: Ken Thacker — <a href="mailto:idahoweedquy@yahoo.com">idahoweedquy@yahoo.com</a> This hike to Star Peak is reserved for participants that are 70 years of age or more! Join hike leaders Ken Thacker and Irv McGeachy on this strenuous hike to the top of Star Peak. The elevation gain is 4000 feet over a course of 5 miles (one way), but worth it for the incredible views that greet you at the top. Bring good boots or trail shoes and plenty of water, as the route is "dry" with no on-trail water source. Make sure to pack a lunch and/or snacks as well as extra layers and rain gear. Good binoculars and a camera are optional, but highly recommended to enjoy the spectacular views!
6/30/17 7/21/17 8/11/17	E-M	Community Kid Hikes	Britta Mireley and Sandy Compton	Contact: Britta Mireley or Sandy Compton — <a href="mailto:britta@scotchmanpeaks.org">britta@scotchmanpeaks.org</a> , <a href="mailto:sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org">sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org</a> Bring your youngster for a walk in the woods with kids from Bonner Homeless Transitions. Literally watch lives change as they get outside among more wonders than many of them have ever seen before. FSPW leaders welcome kids from 3 to 13 (and parents as well) on these low-impact adventures. These hikes are lots of fun for kids and adults alike. <b>6/30/17</b> — Morris Creek and Regal Creek trailheads are a couple of hundred yards apart on the Lightning Creek Road. A short ways up Regal Creek Trail, a big view of the Lightning Creek canyon opens up. Then, we take the kids to Morris Creek for some forest hiking and creek time. <b>7/27/17</b> — Kids love the Ross Creek Cedars, deep green woods, a creek to throw rocks in and lots of nooks and crannies to look into. <b>8/11/17</b> — Trail #999 rises from deep forest along a live stream up into open meadows with lots of big views. There are shady rest spots along the way, and a terrific place for a picnic lunch.
7/17/17	S+	Sawtooth Mountain	Sandy Compton	Contact: Sandy Compton — <a href="mailto:sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org">sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org</a> Hike leader Sandy Compton has climbed this mountain over a dozen times, and every adventure is a bit different. This is a mostly off-trail experience with lots of bushes to whack, a few small cliffs to deal with, some dandy views and rugged country to traverse. If we're feeling lucky, we might debouch the mountains via the South Fork of Ross Creek. Bring your best hiking game, layers and a rain coat, lots of snacks, a dandy lunch and wear good, sturdy boots. Tennesse ain't gonna cut it.
8/20-24/17	S++	The Extreme Plain Air V 9.0	Sandy Compton	Contact: Sandy Compton — <a href="mailto:sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org">sandy@scotchmanpeaks.org</a> This is for visual artists who want to take their passion a little farther — and carry it on their back. Five days and four nights in the Scotchman "outback" with ample time to paint, draw or sketch between some gnarly cross-country backpacking. This year is a foray to the vicinity of Scotchman II for a look at a little lake not many folks visit. This is a strenuous adventure with a limited number of spaces. Artists should be prepared to carry all necessary for four nights in the backcountry as well as supplies with which to capture the beauty of the wildest part of the Scotchman Peaks.

To learn more about or sign up for any of our hikes, summer or winter, visit [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking)  
Do you want to lead a hike? Suggest yours at [www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/leading-hikes/](http://www.scotchmanpeaks.org/hiking/leading-hikes/)

**ON THE HORIZON**

**July 21:** Field Day Friday — Community Kid's Hike in Ross Creek Cedars.  
**July 21 – 23** — Trail Work Weekend at a project to be determined. Three days of work and two nights of camping.  
**August 4:** Field Day Friday — A trail workday at a location to be announced.  
**August 7 – 12:** FSPW volunteers and staff will be handing out information,

answering questions and signing up new Friends at the Bonner County Fair.  
**August 11:** Field Day Friday — Community Kid's Hike on Trail #999.  
**August 11 – 13:** FSPW volunteers and staff will be handing out information, answering questions and signing up new Friends at the Trout Creek Huckleberry Festival.  
**August 25:** Field Day Friday — A trail workday at a location to be announced.

**September 9:** Field Day Friday — A trail workday at a location to be announced.  
**September 30:** National Trails Day. We will be working on Morris Creek Trail in the Lightning Creek drainage.  
**October 8:** Last day of Goat Education Ambassadors.  
For more information on Scotchman Peaks events, visit [scotchmanpeaks.org/stewardship/events-schedule/](http://scotchmanpeaks.org/stewardship/events-schedule/)



## LAST HIKE OF WINTER OR FIRST HIKE OF SPRING?

By Jen Kreiner

There is something really special about that first big summit of the “warm” season. We yearn for spring, especially after a long season like this past winter. Our thoughts drift to high mountain meadows and vistas that go on for miles. That was the momentum for this year’s Star Peak Early Spring Snowshoe. Star Peak, Trail #999 is located just east of the Idaho border along Montana HWY 200. It rises from the highway just across from Big Eddy USFS Campground (no fee!) along Cabinet Gorge Reservoir. On this particular seasonal hike you get the best of both worlds, huffin’ up in hiking boots with snowshoes strapped to the pack.



Getting into the snowpack — yet still in a t-shirt and shorts! It’s the best!

The hike leader was Ryan Kreiner, of Thompson Falls, avid hiker and hunter with a growing love of the Cabinet Mountains. Originally drawn to the wilderness peaks just across the Bull River, the Scotchmans were a new area ripe for exploration.

The Star Peak Snowshoe hike hosted a small and adventurous group including people from Thompson Falls, Missoula and Sandpoint. The beauty of group-led hikes means that everyone is welcome, all ages and abilities. The Friends encourage outdoors men and women to connect with local wild places. The hike schedule is based on



a scale ranging from Easy to Moderate to Strenuous and finally S+upid! It is up to the individual to determine their abilities. This particular hike was labeled as S+upid for its 4,000 ft. vertical climb – 5 miles one way into snowpack. The participants brought their A game and were ready for a great experience.

Leading up to the weekend, the weather was inconsistent and questionable. Everyone was prepared and ready for spring showers, wind and possibly snow. Ryan was pleased that Sunday brought relatively warm and moderate weather. The skies were overcast and visibility was great. The climb was rewarded with inspiring views even though the lookout at the peak was engulfed in ice!

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### ALONG THE TRAIL

**January 14:** FSPW Staff had a night out in support of KRFY and Team Autism 24/7 by attending the Viggo Mortensen film *Captain Fantastic* at the Panida Theater.

**January 19 & 20:** Libby fifth graders (45 each day), FSPW staff and a dozen volunteers convened at Timberlane Campground north of Libby for Winter Tracks sessions.

**January 25:** Troy Junior High students, FSPW staff and seven volunteers met at Alvord Lake Campground near Troy for a Winter Tracks session.

**January 27:** 80-plus Friends attended the FSPW 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at the Little Panida in Sandpoint and enjoyed movies and dancing with “Mostly Harmless.”

**February 3:** Winter Tracks at Round Lake with Forrest M. Bird Charter School; Winter Tracks with Noxon School at Eddy Creek Campground.

**February 17:** Winter Tracks with Sagle Elementary School sixth grade at Round Lake State Park.

**February 23:** A sip-and-shop fundraising event was held at Pend Oreille Winery

**March 2:** FSPW Exec Phil Hough accepted a special recognition award from the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society for FSPW’s role in the Multi-Species Baseline Initiative. (See story on page 6)

**March 3:** Winter Tracks with Clark Fork Junior / Senior High School at Trout Creek Wildlife Management Area.

**March 8:** Annie Gassman and Sandy Compton hosted wildlife films for the alternative high school as well as the general public during two showings at the Maki Theater in Libby.

**March 10:** Winter Tracks at Round Lake State Park with East Valley 6<sup>th</sup> graders led by Chris Bachman.

**March 15:** Twenty-five partners, volunteers, board members and staff attended the FSPW Strategic Planning Meeting.

**April 1:** Nine people attended a Winter Birding class with Brian Baxter beginning at Heron Community Center.

**April 2:** Winter Tracks volunteer appreciation day celebrated at MickDuff’s Beer Hall with release of the Red Cedar Red Ale.

**April 3:** FSPW exec Phil Hough gave a presentation to Jon Isacoff’s class at Gonzaga University in Spokane.

**April 5:** Phil Hough gave a presentation to the Four Counties Natural Resource Group in Coeur d’Alene; Tyler Chisholm’s last day.

**April 6:** Phil Hough gave a presentation to the Hope Coalition.

**April 6 – 8:** Jen Kreiner, FSPW Sanders County outreach coordinator and other FSPW volunteers helped during the Thompson Falls Cleanup Days.

**April 8:** Brian Baxter led a Winter Tracking Class; Annie Gassmann, FSPW Lincoln County outreach coordinator, visited with attendees at the Cabinet Health Fair in Libby.



## LEVERAGING OUR GRANTS AND YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS INTO THE LARGER GOOD.

By Sandy Compton

Follow the money, and it leads to some surprising places. Several years ago, FSPW applied for and received a grant of \$27,000 from Zoo Boise for our part in the Multi-Species Baseline Initiative, AKA the Wolverine Project.

As a direct result of that and an incredible volunteer response, FSPW was honored with a Special Recognition Award at the 2017 joint meeting of the Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ICWS) and the Idaho Chapter of the American Fisheries Society in Boise.

FSPW was nominated for the award by IDFG biologist Michael Lucid. In his nomination, he wrote, "The Friends recruited, trained, and organized over 200 volunteers to run forest carnivore bait stations in the West Cabinet Mountains. This contribution resulted in \$303,821 of in-kind matching dollars, 12% of the entire project budget . . ."

That's true leverage.

"The Friends efforts contributed to detecting a relatively numerous fisher population in the West Cabinets and to many local residents learning what the heck a fisher is!

"The Friends . . . foster a very active social scene that enables thousands of people to learn about and contribute



FSPW executive director Phil Hough accepts the Idaho Chapter of the Wildlife Society 2017 Special Recognition Award from ICWS Awards Chairman Ryan Long on March 2 in Boise.

### Winter or Spring, from page 5

Thank you, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness!

One hiker shared these thoughts, "I've been to a few parts of the world and I have to say that we are blessed to have this part of the country to recreate in. Let's save it for generations to come...it is such a gem. Thank you friends for putting this together it was

a nice time and the weather was perfect! A work out indeed for me to get to the peak, but well worth it. It gets more beautiful as you look at it from the mountain top.

Sanders County resident noted, "This is why I live here. The ease, the convenience, the views are all within an hour of home base. People think Glacier National Park is in our

### THANKS TO THESE FOLKS FOR RECENT INVESTMENTS

G. M. Meek, Sandpoint  
 Brita Olson, Sandpoint  
 Carol Holmes and Steve Mullin, Sandpoint  
 Chris Compton, Heron, MT  
 Will and Marie Valentine, Sagle  
 Doug and Mindy Ferrel, Trout Creek, MT  
 Aimee Moran, Boise, ID  
 Ken Bush, Sandpoint  
 Bob Wynhuasen, Sandpoint  
 Shawna Perry, Sandpoint  
 Don and Mona Gillming, Sandpoint  
 Mary Toland, Sagle  
 E. Margaret Petersen, Sandpoint  
 Steve Lockwood and Molly O'Reilly, Sandpoint  
 Bill Harp, Sandpoint  
 Joseph Karahuta, Puyallup, WA  
 Patricia Bolstad, Bayview, ID

to local wildlife conservation efforts. If you attend one of the Friends events you may find yourself drinking a glass of wine one evening and snow tracking a marten the next day . . ."

FSPW executive director Phil Hough accepted the award on March 2, "on behalf of the over 200 dedicated FSPW volunteers as well as our terrific staff, all of who made the effort that led to this award."

This is an incredible testament to the stewardship in the field by our volunteers as well as the grant writing and financial stewardship of the staff.

backyard...GNP has nothing on this place."

If you have not already, consider joining the Friends on one of their group-led hikes. You will meet new people with like-minded goals of getting after it. You may learn something new about the area or have experience and education to share. All are welcome! Cheers to OUR Wild Places!

## WINTER TRACKS 2016-17: THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SEASON YET.

By Tyler Chisholm

### By the numbers

The 2016-2017 season of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness' Winter Tracks program was the most successful yet! The program experienced significant growth from the previous season, almost doubling the number of students served! Over **nine** program days, FSPW served **353** students from **nine** schools in **three** states and **four** counties. This could not have been possible without the help of **49** unique volunteers who contributed **438** hours teaching, cooking hot dogs, directing small groups, and keeping everyone warm and safe (no easy task in the winter).

### Get 'em outside!

For those unfamiliar with Winter Tracks, it's a daylong field trip experience for students living around the Scotchman Peaks. The purpose of this program is to get students out into the field during winter in order to deepen their sense of place, build community and connect to the outdoor world through experiential education. It also definitely helps with the winter "classroom-fever" doldrums!

In 2016-17, the following schools joined FSPW for a day in the snow: Thompson Falls Jr. High School, Libby Elementary School, Troy High School, Kootenai Valley Christian School, Forrest M. Bird Charter School, Noxon Middle School, Sagle Elementary, Clark Fork Junior Senior High School, and East Farms STEAM Magnet School.

### Sticking with the program

Throughout each field day, students learn about a variety of topics by rotating through 3-4 learning modules per program. In the 2016-17 season,



Tyler Chisholm led the FSPW 2016-17 Winter Tracks program.

with the exception of two staff instructors, the learning modules were taught by community volunteers with expertise in the subject area. With twenty unique volunteer instructors, areas expertise ranged from current and former USFS employees, (Jeff Pennick, *retired USFS forester*), to a retired community high school teacher, (Gene Reckin, *retired Libby High science teacher*), and

members of partner organizations, (Tom Dabrowski, *president Idaho Trails Association*, and Jon Jeresek, *Flathead Avalanche Center*). Our volunteers brought diverse perspectives to the subject matter and showed students that a passion for the outdoors is not just reserved for the stereotypical "tree hugger" environmentalists.

Learning modules varied due to instructor expertise or school preference. The following were taught during the 2016-17 season: Tree Identification, Winter Birding, Animal Adaptations, Leave No Trace, Skulls & Pelts, Avalanche Awareness, and Animal Tracking. One teacher remarked that the most meaningful part of the Winter Tracks experience for their students was the experiential aspect, "*being outdoors and seeing, touching, [and] smelling the subjects being taught.*" The experience as a whole could be looked at as a lesson in itself, a lesson of how to stay warm and dry even in the most adverse winter conditions!

### Good juju for volunteers

The Winter Tracks program not only provides an exceptional learning opportunity for local students, but it also re-energizes volunteers and staff members. Program days when volunteers can take off their "working-for-wilderness" hat

and just share their passion for the outdoors go a long way. It re-invigorates the spirit and allows volunteers to remember the very reason why they became a Friend of Scotchman Peaks, to save wild places for this next generation of passionate, intelligent, and capable stewards of Wilderness.

## STAFF AND BOARD CHANGES COME WITH THE SEASONS.

As spring returned, so did Assistant Program coordinator Britta Mireley. Britta came back from maternity leave in time to debrief her substitute, Tyler Chisholm, who left April 5 for her summer job with the National Park Service. After a successful stint as winter program coordinator, Tyler returns to North Cascades National Park to manage the visitor center.

"We hope to get Tyler back next winter to run the Tracks program again," FSPW exec Phil Hough said. "She did a fantastic job." (A contribution has already been made to the "Bring Tyler Back" fund).



Annie Gassman: Lincoln County Outreach Coordinator

In Montana, Annie Gassmann began work on February 22 as the new Lincoln County Outreach Coordinator. Annie and her family have been in Libby for

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**Director, from page 1**

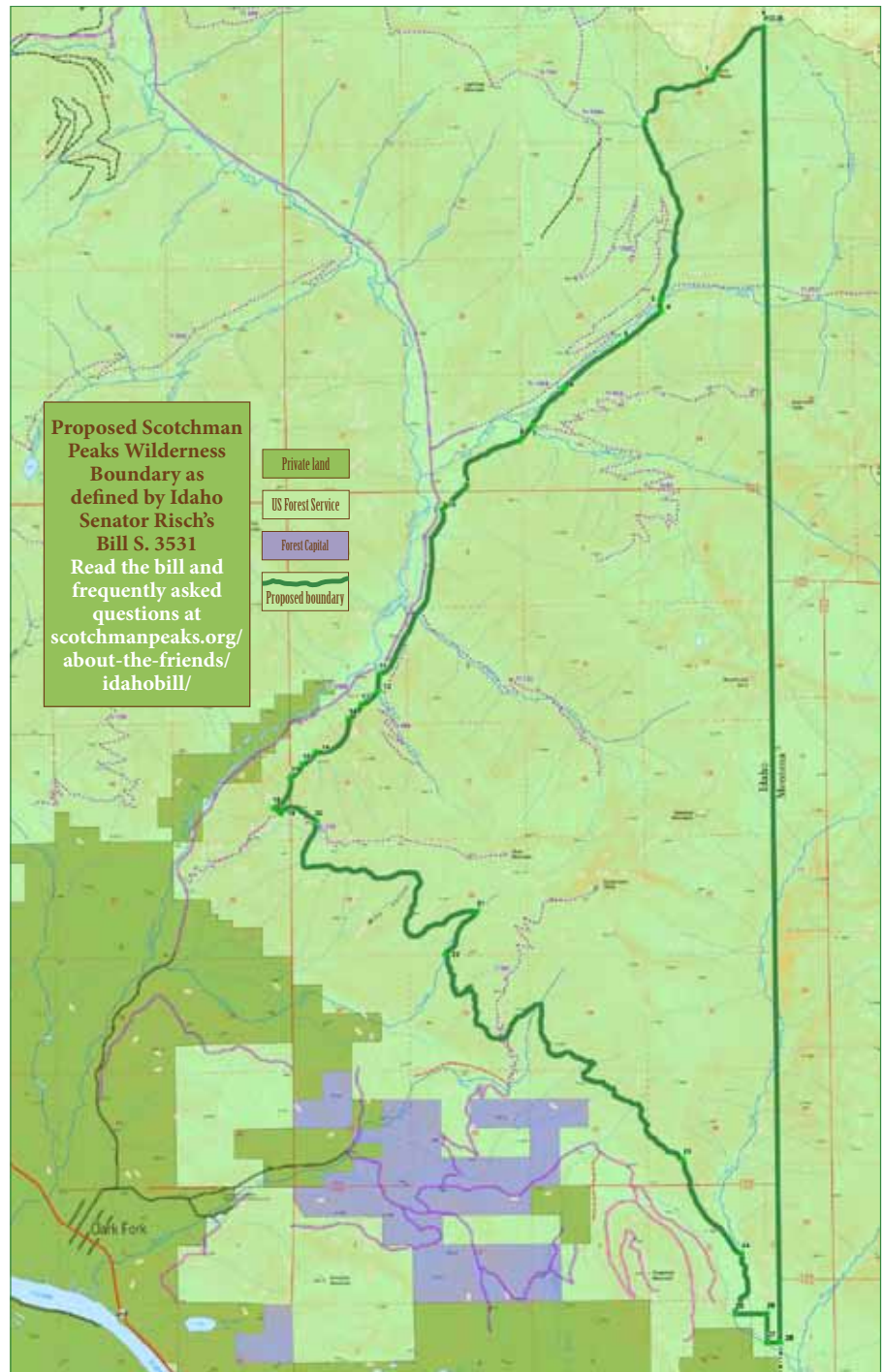
the Pacific Crest Trail. After 2700 miles of walking, through 48 wilderness areas and many landscapes of varying other uses, I was hooked; a dedicated long distance hiker. Next up was the Appalachian Trail, then the Continental Divide Trail and a kayak trip the length of the Yukon River from British Columbia across the Yukon and Alaska to the Bering Sea. Big adventures need big country.

Wilderness transformed me once again. Coming back from my second through hike of the Pacific Crest trail I was struck by the fact that in all my wilderness wanderings, I had found no country in the “lower 48” more wild than the Scotchman Peaks. I felt that I could help do something about that. We can all do something to make sure opportunities to *be* wild are there for us without having to travel to the corners (or ends) of the country.

While it may not be big enough for a five-month hike, the Scotchmans are wild enough for a weekend or even week-long trip into areas beyond the hustle and bustle of our otherwise busy lives. There is room enough to find your own special place in the Scotchmans and in doing so to find the remote sections of your very soul. This is where we each can find soul-itude.

This is why, as we celebrate Earth Day, I ask you to join me in urging Senator Jim Risch to re-introduce the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Act and preserve the 13,960 acres of a place we call our wild home.

— Phil Hough

**Field Day Fridays, from page 2**

Over the rest of the summer, we will have a three-day trail camp-and-work weekend beginning Friday, July 21, and single-day outings on August 4 and 25 and September 9 and National Public Lands Day, Saturday, September 30. Locations for most will be determined soon. National Public

Lands Day will be on Morris Creek Trail #132, as has been our tradition for several years.

We also have three Field Day Fridays for Kids, hikes for kids 3 to 13 to Morris Creek (June 30), Ross Creek Cedars (July 21) and Trail #999 (August 11). These are a good opportunity to help turn a younger generation into “wild” children,

a gleeful process that is also incredibly satisfying. FSPW does these hikes in conjunction with Bonner Homeless Transitions, a program helping families transition out of homelessness.

To help with trails or lead hikes, visit our hike and events pages at [scotchmanpeaks.org](http://scotchmanpeaks.org) or send questions to [trails@scotchmanpeaks.org](mailto:trails@scotchmanpeaks.org).



### Staff and Board , from page 6

two years. Her husband, Nate, is District Ranger on the Libby Ranger District. They have two children in Libby schools.

Annie is a fourth generation Montanan who was born and raised in Helena. She's new to this corner of Montana but has lived in most of the rest of the state's climates and terrains. She is eager to spend time in the outdoors; may it be hiking, running, gardening, or evening campfires.

Annie volunteers at Libby Elementary school and raises golden retrievers, and explores the surrounding area. She is learning the ins-and-outs of the Scotchman Peaks; and looking forward to making a difference, working to preserve the mountains and wilderness that she hopes her children can always enjoy.

### Mary Franzel returns as Goat Education Coordinator May 16

Mary Franzel comes back to work on May 16 as Mountain Goat Education coordinator. Mary, one of our most stalwart volunteers (she was FSPW 2012 "Old Goat of the Year"), will begin recruiting goat education



ambassadors in May. Goat education training is to be held on June 1. Goat education "season" begins on June 10.

### Sam Olson begins May 22 as our 2017 Ranger/Outreach intern.



Sam Olson moved to Missoula from Oregon last year to explore family history and gain a better understanding of the landscapes his family came from. At the University of Montana for Creative Writing and Wilderness Studies, Sam is learning ways to share his love of those landscapes as they change and change him.

During a field course for the Wilderness Studies program, he hiked into the East Fork of Blue Creek on a trash cleanup mission with the Friends of Scotchman Peaks. He's especially excited to learn about the Scotchman Peaks, to share what's he's learned, and for the opportunity to give words to the land.

Sam's duties will include back country and trail patrol, trail maintenance and repair with the Cabinet Ranger District trail crew and FSPW trail volunteers, and outreach events such as Libby Logger Days and the Bonner County Fair.

### Gene Reckin joins the Board

Retired Libby teacher Gene Reckin joined the FSPW board at their April 13 quarterly meeting, adding his enthusiasm for wild country and science to FSPW's ruling body. Gene was born and raised in San Diego, California, and spent many life-changing summers in Yosemite National Park. He began to study biology at San Diego State University in 1972 and transferred to the University of Montana in 1974 to complete a double degree in Wildlife Biology and Botany.

Gene met Libby native Lenora Spencer at U of M. They married and settled in Libby in 1979, where they raised their two daughters, Kara and Rachel. Gene taught science in Libby schools for 34 years, primarily high school biology, chemistry, and research. Gene spends as much of his "spare time" as possible exploring the west in a canoe or in his hiking boots, bird watching, building furniture, hunting, and gardening.

"Gene is a terrific addition to our board," said chairman Doug Ferrel. "I'm excited to have his regional wisdom and passion for the outdoors added to our institutional knowledge."



### FSPW VOLUNTEERS HELP CLEAN UP THOMPSON FALLS.

By Jen Kreiner

Drizzles, downpours, wind, hail and thunderstorms couldn't stop the community-wide spring cleaning in Thompson Falls, April 6 - 8. Beautification Days organizers had many projects and many showed up to help out. Six FSPW volunteers were ready to go on Saturday, April 8th with gloves, rakes and garbage bags!

Organized by the Thompson Falls Community Trails, the work day included the Powerhouse Loop Trail and the Mule Pasture Recreational Trail. Thirty volunteers were divided between the two

projects. The FSPW crew worked along the Clark Fork River on the Powerhouse Loop, and another crew took both sides of the stretch of highway along the trail.

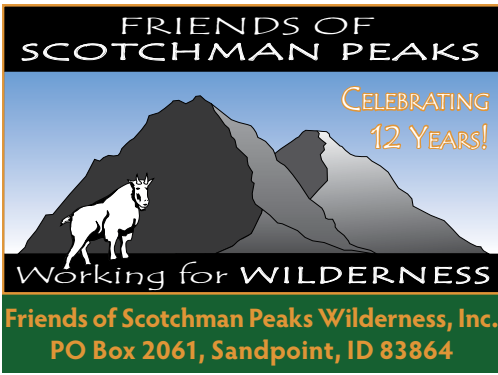
The other group along the river found FOUR tires and an iron waste pile, an impressive collection that was hauled to a trailer for disposal. Buried scrapheaps are not rare along this trail!

At the Mule Pasture Recreational Trail north of Thompson Falls, the second group spread and raked fresh wood chips throughout for a fresh, soft step along the trail. A big THANK YOU to Thompson River Lumber for donating the woodchips and Traver Excavation for delivery service.



FSPW volunteers were Honani and Jean Polequaptewa, Marc Terazas, Char Milling, Doug Ferrell and Paul Conn.

*Thompson Falls Community Trails is constructing a 1.5 mile extension of the Powerhouse Loop Trail along the Clark Fork River to Thompson Falls State Park. Check it out this summer!*



## How You Can Help

### SUPPORT FRIENDS OF SCOTCHMAN PEAKS WILDERNESS

As concerned citizens, we support protecting and preserving the Scotchman Peaks area for ourselves and future generations. Highway 56, Highway 200, Lightning Creek Road, and Rattle Creek/Keeler Creek divide surround this 88,000 acre scenic area which straddles the Idaho and Montana border. Wilderness designation for the Scotchmans will protect plants and wildlife, including the endangered grizzly bears, mountain goat, and bull trout; it will protect water quality; and it will preserve a special place for future generations. In addition, local communities will benefit from the unparalleled recreational and economic opportunities such wilderness provides.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation enclosed (optional). Donations are tax deductible.

Please make checks payable to the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Inc. Detach & Mail to the address above.

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