

CINNABAR FOUNDATION

Introduction of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Bill

More than 6,700 individuals added their names to a list of supporters for legislation introduced by Idaho Senator Jim Risch to designate the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Area in



Bonner County, Idaho. The wilderness area would straddle the Idaho/Montana border. Another 48,000 acres in Montana has already been proposed as wilderness area in Kootenai National Forest planning. The bill was introduced to start the public process.

This was tremendous news to the Cinnabar Foundation, which has been a key funder of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness since 2006, shortly after they began promoting the wilderness designation.

Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness have developed a broad base of support for the

proposal that includes current and former boards of Bonner County commissioners, and the Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce.

“The Scotchman Peaks Wilderness proposal is a collaborative process that involved diverse stakeholders,” according to Bob Boeh of Idaho Forest Group, one of the largest forest product companies and one of the designation’s supporters.

When enacted, the legislation will designate 13,900 acres of national forest land in the Cabinet Mountains as wilderness. Known for its iconic mountain goat herd, the area is also home to numerous other species of wildlife and fish, old growth forest, popular recreation trails, and scenic views of Lake Pend Oreille and the surrounding mountains.

The Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness collaborates with Kootenai Forest Stakeholders group in Montana.

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— Bob Boeh
Idaho Forest Group

9 December 2016

Information for this project brief was excerpted from a press release by Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and the organization’s website.