

## Panhandle Nordic Ski and Snowshoe Club P.O. Box 2583 Hayden, Idaho 83835

January 17, 2017

Senator Jim Risch 610 Hubbard Street Suite 213 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

Dear Senator Jim Risch,

This letter is in support for making Scotchman Peaks a wilderness area. Scotchman Peaks is a unique area in the northeast panhandle of Idaho which needs to be preserved for future generations. The Idaho panhandle has many rugged and scenic areas but this would be the first to receive a wilderness designation.

Scotchman Peaks offers incomparable beauty and opportunities for outdoor pursuits in an area that is still wild and relatively untouched. People come to this area to hike, camp, snowshoe, cross-country ski, hunt, fish, forage for wild foods, and enjoy the beauty of the area. Wilderness designation would protect these resources and recreational opportunities for now and for the future. It is important to protect this ecosystem with native flora and fauna. By making this a wilderness it would enhance the economic vitality of the nearby communities.

Thank you for your support and introducing this legislation to Congress.

Sincerely,

Jim McMillen President Panhandle Nordic Club

C: Phil Hough