

Advocate

Protecting the Sawtooth National Recreation Area

A Letter to Members from Our President

Hello Fellow Members and Friends,

“Let me ride to the ridge where the West commences.”

When Cole Porter set those wonderful words to music 75 years ago, I doubt he envisioned “Don’t Fence Me In” becoming the iconic phrase that so well expresses emotions triggered by three key qualities of the American West: scenic vistas across open spaces, majestic snow capped mountains and large unspoiled tracts of wilderness. For me, the “ridge where the West commences” is the Sawtooth National Recreation Area boundary. Every time my wife, Ann, and I ride into this wonderland I truly feel I could “gaze at the moon ‘til I lose my senses”! What a pleasure to return each year and revel once more in the open spaces, beautiful mountains and rivers, and special, wild places that have remained intact for centuries.

Today, however, when we see so many people on cell phones in grocery stores, on laptops in coffee shops and on sidewalks, and playing video games in malls, I wonder and worry. I wonder if, with all the benefits technology has brought, we fully recognize the risks it also brings - risks of increased stress from the perceived need for constant connectivity, deteriorating health from inadequate outdoor activity, and declining interest in and understanding of the beauty of our natural world. And I worry the loss of appreciation for nature, particularly among younger folks, inevitably will

lead to less knowledge and concern about our environment and our planet’s overall health.

It’s no surprise that organizations dedicated to protecting, preserving and enhancing key spots in our world, where the best of nature can be experienced, play a more important role than ever. If groups like ours don’t help safeguard these special places and make sure future generations experience and learn to love them - who will? And if we don’t do it now, how many fewer of them will there be down the road?

So it is a real privilege to help lead one such organization that is protecting and enhancing an area as special as the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. With a record of helping preserve nearly 3,000 acres of open, scenic land in perpetuity through conservation easements; providing over \$500,000 for hiking, riding, boating, wildlife viewing and related projects that expand and improve recreation; and conducting and supporting numerous educational activities that promote better understanding of how best to enjoy and protect the area’s outstanding natural and cultural resources, I’m proud to say the Society has truly “walked the walk” for over a decade.

Like most good things, our success is the result of years of hard work and support from Society members as well as many others. But, like many good things, continued protection of the Sawtooth NRA requires a constant effort which, in turn, depends

on continued member involvement and support. Now is a particularly opportune time to contribute, as two of our most generous members have offered to match, up to \$5,000, any incremental donations received by July 31st. I sincerely hope every member will consider taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity to double the impact of your giving. Contributions are, of course, fully tax deductible and can be sent to the Sawtooth Society at P.O. Box 209, Stanley, Idaho 83278.

When Ann and I sit on the front deck of our Stanley Basin home with our children and grandchildren, watching the light on the Sawtooth peaks, I contemplate the future of this magnificent place with appreciation and confidence. Appreciation for all the work and resources you, our members, have dedicated to maintaining and enhancing those qualities that make it so special. And confidence that with your continued support the Society will go on, for decades to come, holding at bay those forces that would “fence us in”. Thank you for your help in protecting the Sawtooth Experience and the open spaces, the mountains and rivers, and the wonderful wild places and wildlife we all so love.

Thanks to each of you for your interest in and support of the Society. I am honored and humbled to serve as your President.

Paul Hill

Paul D. Hill, President



SAWTOOTH SOCIETY®

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The Sawtooth Society is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that was established in 1997 to protect the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

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Get Your Tickets Now!

Each year the Sagebrush Soiree serves as the Sawtooth Society's primary fundraiser and each year participants comment on how much fun they had and what a great event it was. This year we have laid down the gauntlet, and our goal is simply to have the best Soiree ever as we celebrate the Basque sheepherder heritage in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

With deep gratitude to both members and friends who want to help preserve the Sawtooth Experience that we all love, there are a wide variety of wonderful silent and live auction items. Items range from a variety of outdoor-related gear and trips, contributions from a number of talented artists, to wonderful wines and experiences too numerous to mention in this limited space. However, let me name a few, to encourage you to go together with friends or family members to make a joint bid on one or more item. Also, note that if you cannot attend this year you can give us a call to make an absentee bid should you wish to help support the Sawtooth Society. Some of this year's experience-related items include:

- Cooking class, dinner and wine for 8 taught by Andrew Machanic, Idaho Rocky Mountain Ranch
- Hot springs stay at the historic Blechmann property and Basque dinner for 4
- Railroad Ridge tour for 12 guided by Naturalist
- Learning the Secrets of the Snow, a guided avalanche-related tour for 4
- Entertaining evening and dinner with Tom Kovalicky, Bob Sevy and Dave Kimpton for 6 to relive the "good ol' days"
- Trophy Silver Creek private water fishing for 2 with Dom Perignon
- Educational Redfish Lake Sockeye Salmon Release and Research Tour for 4
- Vienna Mine Tour for 6 across private lands otherwise inaccessible
- Flat Top Ranch historic tour and Gourmet lamb dinner for 6 hosted by John and Diane Peavey

Once again, Trudy Jackson will be catering the gourmet dinner and entertainment will be provided by Headwater's band. Come enjoy good friends, unparalleled views, the music and cuisine at the social event of the year in the SNRA; you will help the Sawtooth Society preserve, protect and enhance the area we all hold special.

All we are missing is you! Please help us make the 2010 Sagebrush Soiree the best ever and call 208.721.2909 to purchase your tickets today.



Do not miss the gourmet food and reconnecting with old friends at this year's Soiree!

What's Happening!

Here are a few of the activities that members, your Board and staff are working on:

- Land Exchange – work continues to find a match between the State of Idaho and the U.S. Forest Service to allow an exchange of the four State-owned parcels in the SNRA to the federal government. Land and gravel sources are being identified which could be used to balance an exchange.
- Adaptive Sports Partnership – with thanks to many, including the Idaho Congressional delegation, a number of new trails are underway that will be accessible to those with disabilities. Additionally, an inventory is being compiled by the U.S. Forest Service that will identify suitable trails, campgrounds and other facilities in the SNRA and this data will be assembled into a brochure that is widely distributed and available on a number of websites.
- CEIDRA – while still somewhat

controversial, significant work has been done to minimize discomfort with the proposed wilderness bill for Central Idaho. The Sawtooth Society supports the bill in its current form.

- FIRE-UP – Under the leadership of Bob Beckwith, this organization is helping the Sawtooth Society and the U.S. Forest Service think through opportunities to initiate a multi-year program in the SNRA to accomplish highly desirable research and inventory work by student volunteers. This proven and successful program could bring much needed resources and research findings to the SNRA in the coming years.



One of Susan Perin's collection that will be available in cards soon.

- Grants – The Sawtooth Society has been successful in obtaining grants in recent months to help us accomplish our long list of priorities and activities. If you are aware of, or have a relationship with, any private or public foundation that might enable us to more fully leverage our work, please give us a call!
- Greeting Cards – With many thanks to Susan Perin, we are just completing the work on a spectacular line of cards, which feature her watercolor sketches of Central Idaho. These cards, which will be available locally and through the Sawtooth Society, will also describe the Sawtooth Society and encourage involvement.
- Planned Giving – Do you know of someone who might like to make a planned giving donation to the Sawtooth Society? Have you ever thought of it yourself? The Sawtooth Society can help anyone considering such a gift to think through the numerous options with the help of experts in the field. If you, or someone you know, has an interest discussing this opportunity please give us a call.



Earl Swope in the early stages of creating his unique, one-of-a-kind artwork. Come and see the finished product from this amazing artist at the Soiree on July 31.

Please help us welcome these new Board members into the fold, and when you get a chance, thank each of our Board members for their hard work and varied contributions to make the Sawtooth Society the successful organization it is!

Wayne Hughes
Leon Jones

Suzanne Orb
John Seiller



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Sawtooth Vision 20/20 Community Update

On June 3rd, the Sawtooth Society hosted a good ol' fashioned potluck at the Community Center in Stanley to share the many and varied successes from the implementation of the Sawtooth Vision 20/20 program. All participants seemed to enjoy the chance to socialize and dialogue about the SNRA and the many opportunities and challenges it faces.

Sawtooth Vision 20/20: Shared Strategies for the Future of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) is a community-based, long-term strategy for the SNRA. It was developed in 2006 by a broad spectrum of organizations and individuals, including the Sawtooth Society, the U.S. Forest Service, Blaine and Custer Counties, the City of Stanley and many others. To learn more about Sawtooth Vision 20/20 visit <http://sawtoothsociety.org/home.html>.

About sixty-five people joined in the formal part of the program which featured the opportunity to hear from and ask questions of the leaders who have been deeply involved in these efforts. Everyone also discovered how they could help implement the actions and strategies of Sawtooth Vision 20/20.

"This is a long-term effort which has already borne much fruit", said Sara Baldwin, Area Ranger for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. "It is important that we share these successes with the community and maintain the open dialogue that enabled this collaborative effort to establish these multi-faceted strategies at the outset. This was a fun evening and we were glad to both celebrate our successes and hear from the community."

Patricia Young, Vision 20/20 Coordinator for the Sawtooth Society, stated "It is important that we share the various Vision 20/20 strategies on a regular basis and what better way is there than to gather in Stanley and have a potluck!" There is a great deal of energy that has been created through the development and implementation of Vision 20/20 and we wanted to highlight these efforts and encourage those who have a stake in the SNRA to discover how they can help. The SNRA is a remarkable area

and Vision 20/20 has brought people together to pursue common goals and leverage resources to ensure it remains a very special place."

The Sawtooth Society anticipates holding these community-based events on an annual basis to more fully calibrate our work, share our progress and seek input from the community regarding how we can do even more to implement the long-term strategies to maintain and enhance the attributes we cherish in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.



Sawtooth Vision 20/20 participants listen to Sara Baldwin, SNRA Area Ranger, describe both the successes and work yet to accomplish.