

# ADVOCATE

*Happy Holidays!*

December 2013

## The President's Letter INTERESTING TIMES

A well-known Chinese proverb says, "May you live in interesting times." Last February, at the Society's Winter Board Meeting, we presented a comprehensive new plan to expand capacity to fulfill our mission. Key goals include growing visibility, memberships, and partnerships; expanding financial resources to support this growth; and a resulting increase in our ability to impact critical management policies and on-the-ground improvements for the Sawtooth NRA.

Carrying out this ambitious plan certainly made 2013 "interesting times"! The good news is our record breaking 2013 Soiree, plus \$56,000 in new grants, enabled full implementation of the Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer Program, a robust media plan, as well as a vibrant Internet presence.

Concurrently, we continued our traditional programs and facilitated development of a new approach to mitigating catastrophic wildfire risk in concert with the City of Stanley and the Forest Service. Thanks to great work by Sari O'Malley, our interim Volunteer Coordinator, many Board members and others, the Volunteer Program proved particularly successful, with new partnerships involving nearly 200 volunteers completing 15 important projects. Combined with expanded media exposure and well attended outreach events like the June reception and special showing of Idaho Public TV's "A Sawtooth Celebration," these activities opened new avenues to partner and member growth while simultaneously raising public understanding and appreciation of the Sawtooth's unique qualities and needs.

Of course, expanded activities require more coordination and oversight, and toward this end we recently we hired Kelly Conde to work with Gary as our permanent Volunteer/Membership Coordinator. Their combined energy, skills and experience should lead our outreach effort to even greater successes!

The year also brought unexpected twists and turns, among them a new proposal to create a National Monument for the Boulder-White Clouds area incorporating substantial parts of the Sawtooth NRA.

The proposal offers a promise of greater permanent protection and the potential for an improved management plan for the Boulder-White Clouds. But it also raises concerns about the impact of the increased visitation a National Monument declaration would bring on the area's fragile environment, limited recreational facilities, and already strained medical and emergency services; plus the complications and potential confusion involved in overlaying new restrictions on an already congressionally protected area. A sound proposal should address these as yet unanswered concerns. Because this proposal could shape future Sawtooth NRA management in many important ways, the Society has been, and will remain, actively involved; seeking answers to these concerns and trying to guide this effort to the best outcome for all. For more on the topic see the two additional articles in this newsletter.



The Boulder-White Clouds are a special area, let's thoughtfully consider how best to provide any additional protection.

2013 – A year of unprecedented accomplishments and unique challenges, a very "interesting time" indeed. We look forward to what 2014 will bring!

Paul D. Hill, President

# The Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer Program Hits Full Stride



The summer of 2013 marked the successful launch of the Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer Program. Established in honor of one who found refuge in the serenity of the Sawtooth National Recreational Area, the volunteer program brings youth and adults from all over Idaho to help enhance that serenity, and for some it is their first exposure to the beauty and majesty of the Sawtooth NRA.

The program kicked off with Stanley locals David Kimpton, Alison Beechert and Lauren Simmonds removing barbed wire from horse pasture fences at the Tuck-A-Way Pasture. The three, with help from their dog Merlin, spent three days clipping and raising barbed wire to allow enhanced antelope passage.

Shortly after the Tuck-A-Way project, the Forest Service and the Sawtooth Society hosted a chainsaw and crosscut saw training day. Through this session, people were certified to use a chainsaw and a crosscut saw on Forest Service trails. The workshop allowed for locals to then use their skills to help the Forest Service clear our favorite trails and roads of downed trees, a task especially important to those

who use Sawtooth NRA trails in the late spring and early summer.

June brought the first group of youth to the valley. Fifteen youth and six adults from the Magic Valley Boys and Girls Club traveled to the Sawtooth basin for a long weekend of work and recreation. The group spent two days putting in trail signs in the Pole Creek area and removing barbed wire fencing in the Obsidian area. At the end of the second day, the Sawtooth Society and Redfish Lake Lodge provided the kids with a boat trip to the Inlet of Redfish Lake where they spent the afternoon exploring the Sawtooths. Each evening, the Society sponsored a barbeque for the group where its board members and Forest Service staff discussed positive life choices and career opportunities – all topped off with s'mores around the campfire.

As the summer went on, more and more projects were successfully completed. An Eagle Scout group removed fences along the Obsidian allotment to allow for antelope passage. Friends and family of White Otter Outdoor Adventures cleaned the shore of the Salmon River. A group

of women from Boise spent a weekend removing trail stabilizing corduroy and maintaining the Hell Roaring trail. Students from the Stanley Community School helped clean the shores of Redfish Lake (and met Smokey the Bear). And the Sawtooth Brewing Company worked to clean up the Hell Roaring Lake campsites and trail. Just to name a few.

Now that snow once again covers the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, most of the projects are on hold until next summer. In the meantime, the Sawtooth Society would like to thank everyone who participated last summer in helping improve the Sawtooth NRA. We would also like to thank our many partners at the Forest Service who have made this program so successful!

We would like to encourage anyone who is interested in spending some time in the mountains next summer, perhaps with a shovel or a pair of wire clippers in hand, to let us know! Contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Kelly Conde at [kelly@sawtoothsociety.org](mailto:kelly@sawtoothsociety.org).



18 students from the Stanley Community School, together with 6 adult volunteers and 2 Forest Service staff, worked the shores of Redfish Lake to collect trash, clean dispersed campsites and fire rings. The project included taking a boat ride to boat-only-access sites.



In August, a group of 7 women, together with 1 Forest Service staff hiked up the Hell Roaring Trail above Hell Roaring Lake to perform heavy maintenance repair work on four puncheons along the trail and cleaned backcountry campsites.



# A Background Primer on CREATING A NATIONAL MONUMENT

Given the recent discussion about creating a National Monument for the Boulder-White Clouds area, many of our members have contacted Society staff asking for more background on the process. While books have been written on the subject, the following is intended to be a brief summary.

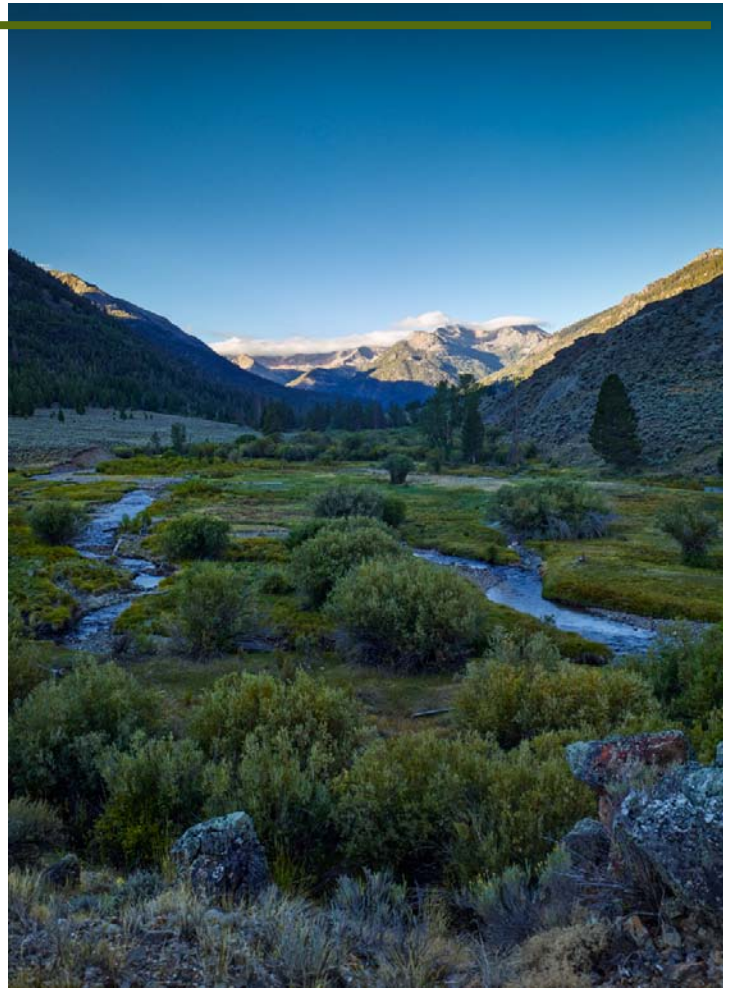
A National Monument can be created by Congress, through the normal legislative processes, or by the President under powers provided by the Antiquities Act. With regards to the Boulder-White Clouds area, since Congress has failed to act on the issue as a part of the decade-long deliberations on the Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act (CIEDRA), the Presidential Proclamation route is being pursued. Since Congressional passage of the Antiquities Act in 1906, over one hundred National Monuments have been created under its authority. It is by far the more common way a National Monument is created.

A key feature of the Antiquities Act is that it does not follow the often lengthy and open legislative process. It can move more quickly and many times there is no formal public input process or a "draft" to review. What governs is what is on the document signed by the President. Further, the process to establish each National Monument is unique – there is no standard process. Typically, groups or individuals in support of a Presidential Proclamation will work in concert, or independently, with those in Washington DC who will draft the document for the President's signature. Typically, that includes the affected Departments, in this case Department of Agriculture and the Department of Interior, and the Council on Environmental Quality.

Under the Antiquities Act a Presidential Proclamation must "ensure the protection of objects of historic and scientific interest" and be confined to the smallest area possible to protect and care for the objects to be protected. Over the last one hundred years courts have routinely upheld the use of the Act.

National Monuments range in size from over 140,000 square miles (Hawaiian marine monument) to less than an acre and are managed by a variety of agencies – U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

A Presidential Proclamation has limitations and cannot: (1) designate an area as Wilderness, only Congress can do so; (2) appropriate money for the Monument; (3) directly acquire private property or interests, however, it can direct Congress or its agencies to pursue acquisitions or exchanges.



This photo, courtesy of James Bourret, Mountain Images Gallery, captures the special beauty of the Boulder-White Clouds Area.

Typically, National Monument proclamations are several pages in length and include the following sections: (1) the case for protection – why the area should be protected for historic and scientific purposes; (2) a description and map of the area; (3) a declaration of the governing agency or agencies; (4) uses or purposes to be encouraged/enhanced or restricted/prevented; (5) a call for the development of a new management plan to accomplish the stated purposes. Often three years are allotted for this work. This is where the generalities of the Proclamation gain specificity.

In closing, there are numerous ways this process differs from the normal legislative processes and there has been no standard process employed over the many years of its use. As such, there is inherent ambiguity in how any National Monument Proclamation may move forward and, given the fairly general and brief nature of the document itself, it can be years until a management plan is completed and specific decisions are made and impacts known.

To learn more about this issue please visit our website at [www.sawtoothsociety.org](http://www.sawtoothsociety.org).

# What is the Sawtooth Society's Perspective on the Proposal for a National Monument in the Boulder-White Clouds Area?

The Society has consistently joined with other conservation organizations to support legislation aimed at providing additional, permanent Wilderness protection for the Boulder-White Clouds area, the large majority of which falls within the eastern portion of the Sawtooth NRA. We still support such Wilderness designation.

In light of the inability of Congress to pass Wilderness designation for the area, the Society fully understands the interest in a new approach to securing similar protection, via a Presidential Proclamation. All approaches should be considered.

However, the process to designate a National Monument by Presidential Proclamation is very different than that used to create Wilderness and we believe it must be carried-out carefully and thoughtfully and with the advance consideration of the possible collateral effects of the wording contained in the Proclamation. As executive action under the Antiquities Act, the wording is unilateral and irreversible.

The Sawtooth Society remains strongly in favor of thoughtful and reasoned protection for the Boulder-White Clouds area. However, we are not willing to lend our absolute support without: (1) being fully engaged in the process of developing wording for the Proclamation; (2) understanding the specific uses and restrictions of rights that are being sought by monument proponents; and (3) becoming comfortable supporting these critical details.

Approximately 571,000-acres are proposed to be included in the current proposal, of that total, approximately 280,000-acres are within the Sawtooth NRA. It is very unusual for a National Monument to be created on top of a special congressionally protected area – those are the circumstances here. We cannot in good faith buy into a “headline” that the monument would be a “plus” for the area until we know what “it” is. We fundamentally believe the Sawtooth NRA has been an unquestionable success for over 40 years, so there is a need to be deliberate and encourage an open and public process for considering changes to this protection.

While we have interest in the discussion regarding lands outside the Sawtooth NRA, our mission is focused on the lands within the boundaries established by Public Law 92-400.

## The Society specifically asks that:

1. Any new effort to create a National Monument, which includes part of the current Sawtooth NRA, preserve the primacy of Public Law 92-400 in protecting and managing the Sawtooth NRA lands.
2. Any new Proclamation give special attention to avoiding confusion and legal uncertainty, ensuring that existing protections and rights are not inadvertently undermined.
3. The Administration, particularly those drafting the language, come and see the area firsthand and talk with the various stakeholders regarding their perspectives. The more public involvement the better and the public is anxious to share its views and have a voice in how the issue is resolved.
4. Legitimate concerns being expressed by area residents and visitors should be addressed, including: the potential for increased demands on current infrastructure, demand and funding for increased emergency services, funding shortfalls for increased protection, how increased visitation could impact what is to be protected, and whether the need for enhanced funding for the Monument portion of the Sawtooth NRA will draw funds from the rest of the Sawtooth NRA.



Participants in a November workshop on the National Monument proposal, which was hosted by the Sawtooth Society, discuss their views during a breakout session.





# Sawtooth Society Presents 2013 Bethine Church Awards



Marie Osborn and Rich Marquis accept the 2013 Bethine Church Awards, which honor individuals who have made important contributions to the betterment of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

Sawtooth Mountain Mamas (a community group based in Stanley) and working on behalf of the Stanley School, Marquis served for many years on the board of directors for the Sawtooth Interpretive and Historic Association including time as president of the association.

Marie Osborn created Stanley's medical clinic in 1972 to serve the rural population of the area where she worked as its nurse practitioner—the first in the State of Idaho. "Looking back, it was rather a thin community in those days," Osborn said. "I fought for a clinic and with the help of many others my dream became a reality."

Osborn, her family and friends attended the award's ceremony in her honor sharing vivid stories and recollections on aiding patients and people in need throughout the years of her service in the Stanley basin rural community. As one long-time friend and admirer said, "Whenever there was a medical emergency anytime day or night, Marie was there to provide effective help and medical care." In addition to providing essential medical services to the Stanley area, Osborn served as a role model for many other nurse practitioners and physicians' assistants throughout rural Idaho.

This year, the Sawtooth Society honored Marie Osborn and the late Marilyn Marquis on Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013 with the prestigious Sawtooth Society 2013 Bethine Church Award at a reception at the High Country Inn in Stanley.

The Bethine Church Award is bestowed periodically when the Sawtooth Society believes it important to recognize significant contributions to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Two awards are given: one for contributions in the private sector and one award for the public sector. This year, Marquis received the private sector award and Osborn received the award for her dedication to service in the public sector. The award is named for Bethine Church, the Sawtooth Society's founding president.

"My mother enjoyed being part of this community and felt it important to give of herself to benefit others and the community," said Marquis's son Rich Marquis who accepted her award on his mother's behalf.

Marilyn Marquis, known for her brilliance with a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Utah and the first woman to receive this degree at the university, worked for large corporations and government labs as an applied physical chemist. Before and following her retirement, Marquis spent much time in the Sawtooth Valley. In addition to being very active in the



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**SPONSOR A VOLUNTEER PROJECT!**

Do you want to help make the Sawtooth NRA even better, but can't find the time? Are you looking to give your loved one a meaningful gift? Sponsor one of our Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer projects. All volunteer projects serve to enhance the Sawtooth NRA while exposing youth and adults alike to its beauty. The named sponsor will receive pictures of the completed project and the great appreciation of the Sawtooth Society and the project participants. Make a difference in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Learn more about sponsoring a project by contacting our Volunteer/Membership Coordinator, Kelly Conde, at [kelly@sawtoothsociety.org](mailto:kelly@sawtoothsociety.org).

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