



Preserve • Protect • Enhance
SAWTOOTH SOCIETY
 PO Box 209 Stanley Idaho

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Preserve • Protect • Enhance
SAWTOOTH SOCIETY

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Summer 2014

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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.

"Like" the Sawtooth Society on Facebook

Stay up-to-date on the events and issues of the Sawtooth NRA and the Sawtooth Society. Follow the Sawtooth Society blog at <http://blog.sawtoothsociety.org/> and follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SawtoothSociety>

Check your plates! If it isn't a goat, it isn't giving to fund the important ongoing work of the Sawtooth Society. When you "Get a Goat", you "Give a Gift"!



The President's Letter

For 17 years, the Sawtooth Society has worked to preserve, protect and enhance the Sawtooth NRA, helping negotiate and fund scenic/conservation easements covering over 3,000 acres; investing over \$650,000 in recreation facilities and services; initiating the largest volunteer projects program in area history; and sponsoring education programs reaching well over 1,000 people annually. So, as the Sawtooth NRA's leading non-profit advocate, why wouldn't the Society enthusiastically endorse the idea of a National Monument (NM) overlay on 280,000-acres, nearly forty percent of the Sawtooth NRA? Wouldn't that just add more protection? Sadly, as currently proposed, it would not!

Among other concerns, the proposed NM would:

- Divide management of the Sawtooth NRA into two separate management plans (one for the monument-overlaid NRA portion to be handled jointly by the Forest Service and BLM and the other for the remaining NRA handled by the Forest Service) requiring more management time and resources, creating decision delays and generating potential confusion and conflict;
- Bi-furcate management of three major river fisheries (the Upper Salmon, Big Lost and Big Wood Rivers) into separate regimes for portions inside and outside the proposed NM;
- Increase recreational traffic on the Boulder White Clouds' fragile environment and already strained infrastructure and emergency services;
- Fail to make any provision for additional funding to address these challenges.

In view of this, only a compelling threat, or clearly identified set of additional benefits, that can be addressed or delivered by a National Monument proclamation alone would seem to justify the highly unusual step of overlaying a NM on an already permanently and well-protected NRA.

Given the absence of any identified present or specific future threat, NM proponents have suggested a number of benefits, such as better control of motorized/mechanical traffic; a unified plan for managing the East Fork of the Salmon River; restricting mining activities and fostering more "wilderness character". In fact, these issues are already part of the on-going management planning and rules of the Sawtooth NRA and all are being, or can be, effectively addressed within existing Sawtooth NRA law, regulations, management plans and the NRA's long range plan (Sawtooth Vision 20/20) without the negative impacts noted above. Sadly, proponents have foregone the existing NRA-provided alternatives in favor of pursuing the extreme step of creating a new bureaucratic overlay through a risky, possibly closed door Presidential Proclamation process with an unforeseeable outcome.

Since over half the proposed NM lies outside Sawtooth NRA protections, why not focus the NM discussion on that area and use the NRA's well-established, predictable tools to deal locally with any problems in the NRA? Why jeopardize Sawtooth NRA success for the illusion of additional wilderness protections (which only true Wilderness legislation can provide)?

The Society remains open to a persuasive case for overlaying a National Monument on the Sawtooth NRA or to a proposal without a Sawtooth NRA overlay. The exclusive focus of the Society's mission on the Sawtooth NRA precludes us from taking a position on whether creating a National Monument to protect selected lands outside the boundaries of NRA protection makes sense. But as far as the Sawtooth NRA is concerned, evidence to-date clearly indicates a NM overlay is unnecessary and would be a major mistake.

The Society is committed to protecting the Sawtooth NRA in the best ways possible and we urge others sharing this view to speak out. For information and maps on the proposed National Monument please visit www.sawtoothsociety.org.

Paul D. Hill
 President, Sawtooth Society

We Now Have the Largest Volunteer Program in Central Idaho. Get Involved!

The second summer of the Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer Program is in full swing! The summer started out with 15 people heading out on a snowy day to staple pheromone patches to Douglas-firs to prevent bark beetle infestation. Over 3,000 patches were installed to help protect trees near residences in the valley!

On the first weekend of June, the Boys and Girls Club of Magic Valley returned for the second summer in a row to participate in a volunteer project. These incredible kids spent the weekend modifying mesh and barbed wire fence in the Tuckaway Pastures to allow for antelope passage. It is now common to see antelope freely roaming this area.

On the first morning, after a hardy breakfast provided by Kevin and Debi Kraal, whose son Austin, the program is named for, the group headed for the pastures, just south of Williams Creek. Jay Dorr, one of our key partners at the Forest Service, set an ambitious goal for the kids to work the fence running the south and east parameter of the pastures. Work included prying out staples from the bottom third of the fence, clipping the bottom 18 inches of mesh fencing, rolling the wire, and carrying it to designated pick-up spots.

Within hours the south fence had been completed and was "antelope safe." The east fence, however, proved more difficult as the wire was a much thicker gage. The kids persevered and by the end of Saturday, with many scrapes and a few sunburns, both lengths of fence were raised.

Though the group was scheduled for a river trip with the River Company on Sunday, they decided to get up early, return to the pastures, and do a bit of additional work. They were able to get a section of the north fence raised before heading to the River Company for a fun and exciting afternoon on the river.

Thanks to Dave Denning and his crew at The River Company, the kids of the Boys and Girls Club got to rinse the dust from the Tuckaway Pastures off with some Class III whitewater action. By the end of the weekend, though exhausted, the group left Stanley with huge smiles on their faces and the beginning plans for next summer's trip.

It is hard to tell what aspect of the program has the most overall impact: the good work on-the-ground completing key projects that scarce federal resources cannot quite get to; exposing the kids to the clean fresh air of the Sawtooths (many

of whom may not have had that chance without the program); opening their eyes to potential new career paths; or the sheer joy they felt as they went through the rapids!

Later in the month, The River Company crew, along with guides from Sawtooth Adventure Company, White Cloud Rafting, and White Otter Adventures spent the day picking up trash along miles of the Salmon River. In total twenty guides came out to clean the river, on which they spend so much time rafting. As a thank you, the Sawtooth Society was delighted to host a barbecue after a long day of work.

These are just a few of the many volunteer projects scheduled for this summer. The projects are as varied as they are exciting and important. Those interested in participating in an Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer Project should check out the list of scheduled projects at www.sawtooth-society.org/volunteer and contact Kelly Conde at kelly@sawtoothsociety.org.



Youth helping to replace obsolete fencing to enable antelope passage – a rewarding day of work!



Magic Valley Boys and Girls Club Members Enjoy Rafting Post a Successful Volunteer Project

CALL NOW TO GET YOUR TICKETS FOR THE

Sawtooth Society's Sagebrush Soiree

Lost Creek Ranch



The Society will host its annual dinner and fundraiser on Saturday, July 26th, at Pat and Janis Lee's picturesque Lost Creek Ranch.

Apart from being the primary fundraiser for the Sawtooth Society, all who have attended a prior Soiree can attest to the fact that it is a tremendously fun evening. Soiree 2014 includes an elegant gourmet mountain barbecue dinner, incredible views, an opportunity to make new friends, acquaint with former colleagues and neighbors, and is the perfect time to invite others to learn about the Society's efforts in protecting, preserving and enhancing the Sawtooth NRA that we all love.

Over 80 unique gifts will be auctioned, in both a silent and live auction, with all proceeds going to support the core work of the Society and the protection of the Sawtooth NRA.

A sampling of the varied gifts include:

- An antique wooden sleigh, lovingly restored by the Pennsylvania Amish
- Hawaii, Mexico, Seattle, Oregon coast and Stanley area vacations
- Rafting and fishing experiences on the Middle Fork, Main Salmon and Bruneau Rivers
- Gourmet dinners, a bourbon experience and a large variety of wines
- One-of-a-kind adventures including falconry hunting, skate skiing clinic with margaritas, star gazing party, and a private sail on Puget Sound. Also, a personal skating clinic with an Olympian, chukar hunting in the Owhyees, and unique fishing trips, including a "one fly contest"!
- Art and wine galore!

Thank you, Pat and Janis for hosting the Soiree and a huge thank you to all those who have donated auction items and in-kind support to make this year's Soiree a successful and FUN event! If you cannot attend, but would like to receive the final gift list to place an absentee bid please let us know.



As the date is quickly approaching and space is limited, please call now to get your tickets 208.721.2909. We look forward to seeing you there!



These are Busy Times at the Society!

With the roll-out of our new volunteer and partner outreach programs there is both a significant amount of new work underway, as illustrated by the volunteer article, and a diversity of ongoing core work that has served as the mainstay of Society activities over the last 17 years. Some of the Society's priorities include:

Leadership Role in Wildland Fire Collaborative –

With broad community and stakeholder input and much expertise provided by the U.S. Forest Service, the Sawtooth Valley Wildland Fire Collaborative, led by the Society and the City of Stanley, has prepared and delivered to the U.S. Forest Service its recommendations to further reduce the risk of another catastrophic fire in the area. The Forest Service has formally indicated they plan to pursue strategies to implement the intent of the recommendations, including development of a 5-year plan that will focus on landscape-scale and smaller treatments within the planning area. The Collaborative's efforts are beginning to bear fruit, and we encourage everyone to become educated on and get involved with this effort.

Long-range Strategic Planning in the Sawtooth NRA –

Led by Society board members Keith Reese and Patricia Young, Sawtooth Vision 20/20, the long-range strategic planning effort on behalf of the Sawtooth NRA, continues to focus on the key opportunities and challenges facing the Sawtooth NRA. Several key planning and update meetings have been completed this year to address issues of concern and inform the public about them.

Continued sharing of our Mission and Work–

Numerous partner events have been organized and sponsored in Stanley, the Wood River Valley and Boise to help build awareness about the Society with new audiences. These include a Kegs4Kause Party with the Payette Brewing Company, a Skate Ski Clinic, a Twilight Ski and Dinner at Galena Lodge, Volunteer Kick-Off Parties, a special showing of "A Season of Predators" with Lava

Lake Institute and Idaho Conservation League, Sawtooth Outdoor Bonspiel, Stanley Winterfest, and discussion of the newly released book "Kickers" by author Pat Lee with the Community Library in Ketchum. Additionally, we have held open houses and directly participated in the annual Idaho Gives program to share the work and priorities of the Society.

It has been wonderful to lead, or be part of the team, bringing these events together. Hundreds of people have a greater appreciation of the work of the Society as a result... and have had a great time!

Policy advocacy – We have hosted numerous meetings with the Idaho congressional delegation, key congressional committee staff and agency leadership to discuss our policy priorities.

Stanley to Redfish Trail – We continue to help garner support for the Stanley to Redfish Lake Trail. We are hopeful that this project remains full-speed ahead!

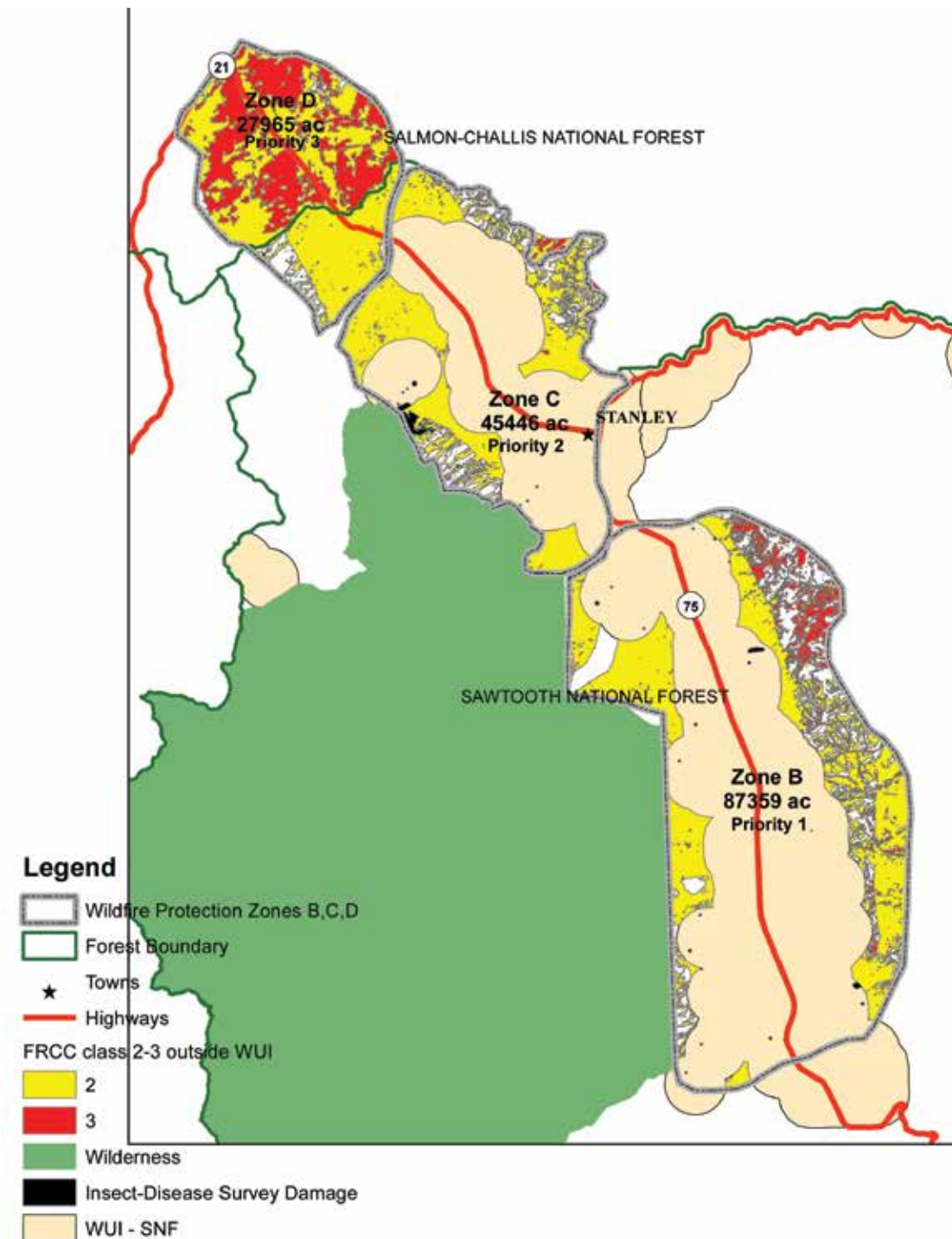
Private funding for conservation – The Society remains involved and continue to encourage partners to seek private funding to conserve key wetland parcels.

Private lands program – Work continues with the U.S. Forest Service leadership and program staff to ensure a well-functioning private lands program and find "win/win" solutions to long-standing issues to both protect Sawtooth NRA values and private property rights.

Grants to enhance recreation – Ten new grants in the first six months of the year have been awarded via the "goat" license plate funding, taking our total over 160 grants to promote recreation in the Sawtooth NRA.

It's been a busy year so far!

Wildfire Protection Zones



Ice House Keeping it Cool in Stanley



Joe Gallagher, Sawtooth Historical and Interpretive Association board member (left), Terry Clark, SIHA Executive Director (center) and Keith Reese, Sawtooth Valley Builders (right), Sawtooth Valley Builders, all admire the refurbished Ice House at the Stanley Historical Museum, made possible, in part, by a grant from the Society.

Go to the Society's website to learn more about the Sawtooth Valley Wildland Fire Collaborative's work and other key issues at www.sawtoothsociety.org.