



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANLEY, IDAHO—Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the Sawtooth Society honors individuals who have made important contributions to the betterment of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. On Thursday, June 22, at the newly opened Idaho Rocky Mountain Ranch Pavilion, the Society presented the Bethine Church Award, which recognizes individuals, who give significant contributions to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

Bethine Church, the Society's founding President, played a major role in helping to make the Sawtooth NRA what it is today, and it was a role she took very seriously well into her later years. It is very important and appropriate to be able to connect Bethine Church's legacy with others. The award, given by the Society on a periodic basis, acknowledges individuals on what and how they accomplish efforts for the Sawtooth NRA through volunteerism, stewardship, on-the-ground efforts and an overall long-term commitment to the Sawtooth NRA, which is all a basis of criteria for award recognition.

This year the Sawtooth Society honored Terry Clark for his public and private sector contributions and Ann Hill for her work in the private sector.

"The Sawtooth Society is honored to acknowledge Terry Clark and Ann Hill who have given so much to the area," said Executive Director Gary O'Malley. "It's a joy to honor these individuals who allow us to benefit and enjoy the Sawtooth NRA. To give these awards to Terry and Ann is a gratifying opportunity for the Sawtooth Society and another great way to support our mission to protect, preserve and enhance the Sawtooth NRA."

Hill, who has lived in the area for more than 20 years, received the private sector Bethine Church Award for her incredible dedication to the community and as a steward for the Sawtooth NRA, including work on a variety of policy issues to help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all who visit and live in the Sawtooth NRA. A few of her many and often "behind the scenes" accomplishments were noted, including the creation of the Stanley School Hot Lunch Program, the SNRA trail safety card and the Smokey Bear fire brochure.

Clark served in the Forest Service in six different states for more than 30 years with almost half of that in the Sawtooth NRA. Following his career at the Forest Service he served as the Executive Director for the Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association and continues on its Board. It was noted that throughout his career he worked with a common sense approach to find answers to the challenges facing public land management, always with a positive attitude and striving for the protection and preservation of the Sawtooth NRA as his primary goal.

“Ann Hill and Terry Clark epitomize the mission of the Sawtooth Society,” said Sawtooth Society President Wayne Hughes. “We owe them many thanks and gratitude for their tireless service and dedication to the area.”

In attendance were past Bethine Church Award recipients as well as members of the Stanley community, Sawtooth Society board members, Society members and supporters.

Formed in 1997, the nonprofit and nonpartisan Sawtooth Society is the only organization dedicated exclusively to protecting, preserving and enhancing the magnificent 756,000-acres that is the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. The many accomplishments of the Sawtooth Society include supporting the Boulder-White Clouds Mountains Wilderness areas, reducing budget cuts, leading the effort to reduce the risk of another catastrophic wildfire, encouraging inconspicuous development, helping to secure funding for \$20 million in conservation easements, championing the long-range Sawtooth Vision 20/20 planning and investing more than \$750,000 in almost 190 projects to enhance recreation. In addition, the Sawtooth Society has established the largest of its kind volunteer program, involving hundreds of urban and at-risk youth, to do projects on the ground, build their understanding of nature, disconnect from technology, and open their eyes to the grandeur of the area. The Sawtooth Society’s annual fundraiser, the Sagebrush Soiree, will take place, on Saturday, July 29, at White Cloud Ranch and will be an evening of rustic elegance including cocktails and dinner. In addition, the Soiree will feature live bluegrass music along with the gala’s silent and live auctions with items ranging from incredible river trips and featured artwork by known artists to bourbon tasting experiences and much more.

For tickets and information, contact the Sawtooth Society Executive Director Gary O’Malley at 208-721-2909 or email [gary@sawtoothsociety.org](mailto:gary@sawtoothsociety.org).

#### Photo Caption

Sawtooth Society Executive Director Gary O’Malley (L) and President Wayne Hughes (R) congratulate 2017 Bethine Church Award winners Terry Clark and Ann Hill.