



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANLEY, IDAHO—Sawtooth Valley Wildland Fire Collaborative was formed after the Halstead Fire burned 179,000-acres in 2012 and is a broad-based group of stakeholders, including: federal, city and county government, private land owners, businesses and local concerned citizens co-chaired by Steve Botti, President of the Stanley City Council and Gary O’Malley, Executive Director of the Sawtooth Society. At 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 25, the Collaborative will have its next meeting at the Stanley Community Center, which will be open to the public.

The goal of the Collaborative is to identify and recommend to the Forest Service the location, type and scale of fuel treatments and other wildfire risk reduction strategies for the Stanley area. There is a belief that without large-scale hazard fuel modification there is a high probability of another Halstead-scale wildfire along the northeast and east side of the Sawtooth Mountains, and along the west and north sides of the White Cloud Mountains.

Another fire could have catastrophic consequences to homes, power supply and sewer infrastructure, the tourist economy by producing a heavy pall of smoke, shutting down the rivers, trails, lodges, and other recreation facilities, providing a “scarred” view of the Sawtooths from the major travel corridors for decades to come, and cause significant negative environmental damage.

The meeting will continue the process of defining specific wildfire hazard mitigation projects that can be implemented in the near future including those in the four primary areas of emphasis:

- Enhanced point protection of structures and infrastructure
- Prescribed burns sufficiently large enough to break-up the landscape to increase the chance of suppression and control of wildfires
- Consideration of natural ignitions to help establish and/or enhance fuel modification
- Administrative and educational actions to strengthen knowledge of Firewise and lessen campfire risk

For more details and information, contact Steve Botti at sjbotti@gmail.com or Gary O’Malley at gary@sawtoothsociety.org.