



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANLEY, IDAHO—The Sawtooth Society’s Austin Kraal Memorial volunteer program started its second year with a few staple guns and some stinky white patches. From that first project in May, where 15 volunteers spent the day stapling pheromone patches to Douglas-firs to prevent bark beetle infestation, the Society dedicated all but a few moments of the summer to caring for and enjoying the beautiful Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Projects ranged from clearing roads and trails of downed logs with crosscut saws to clipping fencing for antelope passage. Weed pulling and a variety of trail maintenance and clean-up efforts were completed by many volunteers of all ages.

The summer volunteer programs were put in motion with great success especially due to the work and expertise of Kelly Conde, the Sawtooth Society’s volunteer/membership coordinator.

“The morning of the first project started with several inches of snow,” said Conde. “But, we still stapled nearly 3,000 pheromone patches to trees to prevent bark beetle infestation. It was a good start to the a very active year.”

As June kicked summer into high gear, groups from all over Idaho and including Stanley participated in a plethora of projects. Kids from the Boys and Girls Club of Magic Valley spent a weekend raising mesh and barbed wire fence in the Tuck-a-Away Pastures to allow for antelope passage.

The guides from the four daystretch rafting companies of Stanley—The River Company, Sawtooth Adventure Company, White Otter Outdoor Adventures and White Cloud Rafting Adventures—gave back by floating the Salmon River and stopping at hard to reach areas to pick up trash.

Another group of youth, from Cherry Gulch, a boarding school for teenaged boys, came from Emmett to clean overused campsites and tear down old rotting fences from a meadow adjacent to Frenchman Creek

In late August, the board members and members of the Sawtooth Society gathered in the sprinkling rain to build a fence along Pole Creek to keep vehicles out of the creek.

“With the completion of this project, Pole Creek now has the respite needed to heal,” Conde said.

Along with the large groups, several Stanley residents participated in projects throughout the summer including tearing down a useless barbed wire fence near Decker Flats, removing small trees from meadows to aid fire suppression and wildlife enhancement, pulling weeds along the Salmon River and regularly maintaining various trails throughout the Sawtooth NRA.

“We worked the Boundary Creek Trail, Williams Creek, South side of Redfish Lake from the inlet to the ridge, Alice Lake trail and Hellroaring,” said Conde. “Three days were dedicated to the Hellroaring trail by Paul Holle and the Sawtooth Brewery crew.”

According to Conde, it was the large range of volunteers that made the summer such a success and so enjoyable.

“I had people who have lived in Stanley for years and people who had never been to Stanley before helping out,” said Conde. “Everyone was out there for the same reason—they all love the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and are willing to work to keep it the incredible place it is today.”

The Sawtooth Society, formed in 1997, is the only non-profit group dedicated exclusively to serving as an advocate for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, preserving open space in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and enhancing its recreation facilities and services. The Sawtooth Society has funded over 160 recreational-related projects throughout the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

To learn about the Sawtooth Society and it’s membership visit <http://www.sawtoothsociety.org>. For more details and information about the volunteer program or to volunteer for a future project, contact Kelly Conde at kelly@sawtoothsociety.org.



Kate Lopez staples three patches to the large Douglas Fir. Photo by Kelly Conde



The Boys and Girls Club of Magic Valley show how volunteering is done. Photo by Kelly Conde



Sawtooth Society board and members worked together to build a beautiful logworm fence to protect Pole Creek. Photo by Kelly Conde