



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANLEY, IDAHO—The Sawtooth Society announced that after nine years as Executive Director, Gary O'Malley has decided to retire at the end of 2017. O'Malley has been pivotal in the growth and the many successes of the Sawtooth Society since his arrival. His accomplishments include launching the successful Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer Program, overseeing more than 100 recreation enhancement projects through the Society's grant program, serving as a tireless advocate for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (NRA) and leading the Society's efforts to secure Wilderness protection for the Boulder-White Clouds Mountains.

"Gary leaves behind some big shoes to fill," said Sawtooth Society President Wayne Hughes. "He was the face of the Sawtooth Society to the Forest Service, the public, donors, members and other organizations that assist the Sawtooth Society in its mission. The Sawtooth Society greatly appreciates Gary's dedication, leadership and commitment to the Sawtooth NRA and in bringing the Sawtooth Society to where it is today. We will immediately begin a search for a new Executive Director."

O'Malley added, "The beauty of the Sawtooth NRA, is what you don't see, and it remains as a true success story in western conservation. The Society's founders' wisdom and mission to 'preserve, protect and enhance' continues to remain the focal point of the Sawtooth Society. I will continue to have a direct involvement with the Sawtooth Society going forward, but I plan to spend more time enjoying this beautiful place in which we live, and experience the recreational benefits of the work so many have helped accomplish. I'm very excited and gratified that the organization is so well positioned for continued success. It truly has been an honor to be a champion for this iconic and special place that we all love."

About the Sawtooth Society

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2017, the Sawtooth Society offers memberships, programs, grants and volunteer opportunities. It is the only organization – public or private – dedicated solely to preserving, protecting and enhancing the 756,000-acre Sawtooth NRA for future generations. Individuals and organizations are invited to join with the Society to accomplish its active stewardship efforts and for more details, visit the Sawtooth Society's website www.sawtoothsociety.org. For more information, contact the Sawtooth Society Executive Director Gary O'Malley at 208-721-2909 or email gary@sawtoothsociety.org.