

# Advocate NEWSLETTER

**We need your help to PRESERVE,  
PROTECT & ENHANCE the SNRA**



Photo: James Bourret

## **The Peace of Wild Things**

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

*~Wendell Berry~*



Photo: James Bourret

Our public lands are threatened by development,  
increasing recreational pressure, and wildfires - to  
name a few.

**I WANT TO  
HELP**

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Help Protect The Land





Photo: Muffy Ritz

STANLEY, Idaho — Nearly 250 people signed up to volunteer for a physically distant, socially-organized cleanup of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. In celebration of National Public Lands Day, conservation and historical nonprofits including the Sawtooth Society, the Idaho Conservation League (ICL), The National Forest Foundation (NFF), and the Sawtooth Interpretative & Historical Association (SIHA) partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to organize this massive cleanup effort.

From Sept. 19 to Oct. 4, nature-lovers, recreationists, locals, and visitors joined as stewards of the Sawtooths to do their part to remedy the damage of the busy summer season. These volunteers logged a total of 262 hours of work, rehabilitated 126 campgrounds, disassembled 184 overbuilt fire rings, and disposed of 101 instances of human waste.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

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## Trail Maintenance Synopsis



This summer, the three-person Society trail crew and dedicated volunteers worked to clear long forgotten trails and high use areas. In total, they cleared over 2,300 trees from 116 miles of trails and 45 miles of roads while digging almost 700 drainages along the way. Additionally, Austin Kraal Memorial Project volunteers engaged in forestry projects including mitigating meadow encroachment to improve elk habitat and reducing competition around mature (and rare) White Bark Pines.

Most notably, the Society spent weeks...

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## Sawtooth Society Trail Maintenance Stats



## Trail maintenance completed by Sawtooth Society in 2020

162 miles of trails & roads created, 1,398.5 hours of trail maintenance work, 2,329 trees cleared

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## All trails maintained completed by the Sawtooth Society since its founding

612 miles of trails & roads created, 4,983 trees cleared, 13,398.5 hours of trail maintenance work

[SUPPORT OUR TRAILS](#)

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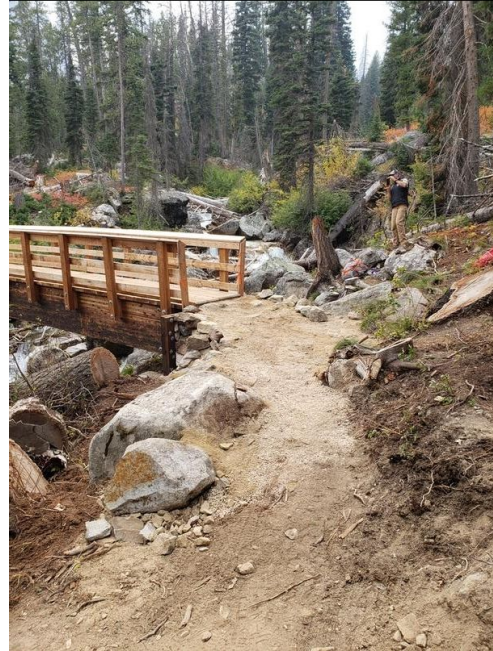


# Grand Mogul Bridge Construction is Complete



Volunteers working on Grand Mogul Bridge.

L to R - Brad Grohusky, Kirk Flannigan & Dalton Warr



Grand Mogul Bridge Complete

**VOLUNTEER**

Redfish Lake Lodge, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA), and the Sawtooth Society are celebrating the newly completed Grand Mogul Bridge construction across Redfish Lake Creek inlet.

The previous bridge washed out in the Winter of 2017, and last Fall a new, more elevated bridge was installed. The challenge this summer was to create multi-use accessible ramps to each end of the bridge providing access to not only hikers and mountain bikers, but also equestrian trail users. Two ramps were constructed over the last month, by hand, including a 15 foot ramp to the northern end of the bridge and a 35-foot rock stair approach to the south.

**CONTINUE READING**

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## The Tale of a Trail



You have likely heard about the “Stanley to Redfish Trail” over the last 15 years. Here is a brief review of the history of the trail. The Sawtooth Society has been on record as supporting this trail since 2005 when the private property easement was purchased, making the trail possible. This easement, designating a strip of permanent public land through private property, was purchased by the USFS with taxpayer money from the then owners of the large acreage of private property surrounding Pioneer Park in the City of Stanley, ID within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

The easement made access possible on a walking, horseback riding, and ADA accessible trail surface from Stanley’s Pioneer Park directly to Redfish Lake. The USFS developed trail plans over the next decade. Funding was secured and trail construction began in 2019.

[CONTINUE READING](#)

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## Local Groups Oppose Sawtooth Valley Cell Phone Tower





Photo: Matt Leidecker

The Idaho Department of Lands is in the final stages of approving a lease with AT&T New Cingular Wireless to build a new cell phone tower on state lands that are within the boundaries of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. The Sawtooth Society is actively supporting the Idaho Conservation League and others who have filed [requests for a contested case hearing](#) with members of the Idaho Land Board based on concerns with a proposed lease for a 195-foot cell phone tower in the Sawtooth Valley. Congress established the SNRA in 1972 to preserve the area's natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and fish and wildlife values, and to provide for the enhancement of its recreational values. Opponents of the project urge the state to consider the alternatives, arguing that the tower would conflict with core SNRA values. The next Land Board meeting is scheduled for November 17th .

**CONTINUE READING**

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## Sawtooth Society Policy Position Statement on Salmon Recovery





Salmon and steelhead have been historic and essential parts of the natural, cultural, and recreational environment of Central Idaho and the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) for thousands of years. However, in recent decades the numbers of these fish returning to spawn have declined dramatically and these fish are threatened with extinction. The Sawtooth Society strongly supports collaborative efforts by members of Congress, federal, state and local government and agency officials, Tribes, and other interested stakeholders that desire promptly to identify and implement remedial actions that will restore returns of wild salmon and steelhead to the SNRA to sustainable and harvestable levels. We would measure success using the smolt-to-adult return ratio with a target ratio in the 2-to-6% range. Efforts should be based on the best available science, consider all available actions to restore returns, and encompass, as much as possible, steps to respond to legitimate concerns of stakeholders adversely impacted by such actions.

Adopted by the Sawtooth Society Board of Directors July 24, 2020

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## Fall Staff Highlight Welcomes Our New Stewardship Coordinator



Dalton Warr is the Sawtooth Society's "new" Stewardship Coordinator as of the summer of 2020. In fact, he isn't new to the Society at all. This is Warr's third year on board, having previously worked as a Project Leader for the 2018-19 seasons. His experience in non-profit leadership and grassroots activism bring a diverse perspective to our stewardship program.

Warr double majored in Political Economy and Philosophy at the College of Idaho, with minors in Journalism and Natural Sciences. He is well-connected to a wide variety of Idaho organizations, having been active in community service and activism since 2012. He is trained as a Wilderness First Responder and certified through the USFS as a Crosscut and Chainsaw Sawyer.

He knows the SNRA trails well and brings a collaborative team approach to the Society's trail work. His efforts helped the trail crew, which includes Brad Grohusky and Kit Foster, work with the USFS trails staff on several key projects this summer. He also coordinated youth conservation projects for our Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer Program for the Sage and Community Schools. Together, the trail crew and many volunteers cleared 162 miles of trails this summer! This included opening up three trails that had not been cleared for the last 3-5 years. We could not have opened these trails without Dalton's commitment and leadership. Thank you Dalton!

Next summer, Dalton is looking for businesses who want to give back to the community and serve the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) by organizing their own groups of volunteers to Adopt-A-Trail. Please let him know if your business is interested in learning more about this great opportunity.

A native of Nampa, Warr currently splits his time between residing in Stanley and the Wood River Valley. He spends his free time taking photos, mountain biking, and riding his motorcycle.

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Thanks to all of YOU, our annual  
Sagebrush Soirée was a success!





This summer's Soirée brought twice as many attendees "into the Society tent" as any previous year. That was the greatest benefit of our virtual event - introducing many people to the Society by reaching an audience of at least 400 viewers. Through generous sponsorships, ticket sales, live auction sales, and purchases of iconic "Sawtooth Experiences", the Sagebrush Soirée raised \$92,000 in overall net income to support the Society, fund the Austin Kraal Memorial Program and Fund-a-Trail.

**Thank you all for your support and generous donations.**

Please patronize the Soirée sponsors listed on the left.



**DONATE TODAY**

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**Thank you for all YOU do to help  
PRESERVE, PROTECT & ENHANCE the  
SNRA!**

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