

## A Letter to Members from our President

Dear Members and Friends,

A year of Challenge, a year of Hope. Reflecting on the past eleven months, this seems an apt description. Following challenges of plugging the massive oil leak in Gulf waters, we waited with bated breath as hope (plus creativity and persistence) enabled the rescue of thirty-three trapped Chilean miners. The challenges of rebuilding Haiti after its devastating earthquake were met with hope springing from the outpouring of worldwide assistance. And, facing the ongoing challenges resulting from global financial meltdown, we find hope in the resiliency of many national and local economies.

Closer to home, 2010 brought both challenges and hope to the Sawtooth Society. Continued budgetary cutbacks at the Forest Service,

transfer and retirement of some key agency officials, increased difficulty in securing funds for conservation easements, and intransigent issues impacting any resolution of state-owned lands in the Sawtooth NRA presented significant challenges.

Despite these, the Society had many notable accomplishments, including:

- Funding twelve new recreation projects, including important trail work on Little Casino Creek and Prairie Creek Trails;
- Progress creating a year round Stanley to Redfish Lake recreation trail;
- Completion of environmental review work that is a prerequisite of the Pole Creek OHV and trail restoration project;
- Progress on inventorying and mapping trails suitable for recreation

by physically disabled individuals and groups;

- Sponsorship of expanded educational programs, which highlighted the marvelous wildlife of our area and attracted over 1000 residents and visitors; and
- Expansion of the Sawtooth Vision 20/20 Long Range Plan to encompass exciting new activities in addition to progress in implementing several previously identified priorities.

2010 also brought the challenge of replacing the collective experience of some long-time Directors, who, understandably, desired retirement after years of dedicated service. Particularly notable among these is Bob Hayes, the Society's cofounder, first Executive Director and Immediate Past President, who matriculated to Director Emeritus at July's annual meeting. However,

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## Artwork Benefits the Sawtooth Society

The Sawtooth Society has teamed up with Susan P. Perin to produce a high-quality line of watercolor sketch greeting cards suitable for any occasion. With many thanks to Susan for her wonderful artistic talents and deep generosity, all the proceeds from the sale of these cards go to further benefit the activities of the Sawtooth Society. A small note on the back of the card provides the recipient with information about the Society which we hope will pique their interest in the Society.

If you would like to order a box of eight cards depicting different seasons and scenes of the SNRA please email [gary@sawtoothsociety.org](mailto:gary@sawtoothsociety.org) or call 208.721.2909. What a wonderful way to share the beauty of the SNRA with others and at the same time inform them about the Society's work.





# Sawtooth Society

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[www.sawtoothsociety.org](http://www.sawtoothsociety.org)

The Sawtooth Society is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that was established in 1997 to protect the Sawtooth National recreation Area

## OFFICERS:

Paul Hill, *President*

Hans Carstensen,  
*Vice President-New Initiatives*

Reuben Perin,  
*Vice President-  
Member Development*

Wes Wills,  
*Vice President-Lands Programs*

Patricia Young, *Secretary*

Keith Reese, *Treasurer*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Hans & Terry Carstensen

Arlen Crouch

Harvey Dale & Debra LaMorte

The Honorable Orval Hansen

Donna-Marie Hayes

Paul Hill

Wayne Hughes

Michael & Candace Humphreys

Leon Jones

Jim Lyons

Carter & Jenny MacNichol

The Honorable Jim McClure

Jim Mitchell

Suzanne Orb

Marie Osborn

Ted & Helen Pardoe

Reuben & Susan Perin

Keith Reese

John Seiller

Larry Stone

Wes Wills

Patricia Young

## DIRECTORS EMERITUS:

The Honorable Cecil Andrus

Bethine Church

Robert Hayes

## STAFF:

Gary O'Malley,  
*Executive Director*

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the election of Harvey Dale, Debra LaMorte, Carter and Jenny MacNichol as outstanding new Board members, plus the prospect of further Board additions at our 2011 Winter Meeting, generates hope and confidence for continued wise counsel and guidance from our exceptionally strong and supportive Board.

Member growth and support also reached new highs in 2010. The Sagebrush Soirée set records for both attendance and funds raised. Between June and October, nearly 200 current and prospective members attended four separate lively Society events and celebrations in Boise, Smiley Creek, Stanley and the Wood River Valley. These came on the heels

of our successful Spring Matching Challenge Drive that brought in several new members as well as donations totaling nearly \$20,000!

These significant 2010 achievements in the face of challenges inspire great hope for an outstanding 2011! With your continued involvement, we have confidence the Society can achieve even more in enhancing the Sawtooth experience that nurtures all those fortunate enough to share it.

Thank you for your ongoing support; it is a privilege and pleasure to serve as your President.

Paul D. Hill  
President

## Winter Enthusiasts be Alert

Many winter visitors assert that the cold clear days are their favorite time of the year to enjoy the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Recreational opportunities abound and many thousands of skiers, snowshoers and snowmobilers are lured back each year for the spectacular scenery and splendid quiet. However, in addition to being on the look-out for dangerous snow conditions, visitors should also keep in mind that winter is a very stressful time on many of the Sawtooth NRA's wildlife and ensure that your recreational activities do not inadvertently put additional stress on these animals at a time critical for their survival.

Robin Garwood, Wildlife Biologist for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, reminds us, "mountain goats typically winter on south-facing slopes, steep cliffs, and windblown ridges where snow accumulation is lower than in other parts of their range. For survival during winter, mountain goats employ an energy-conserving strategy. They minimize their movements and may stay within a very small area of 20 to 100 acres for extended periods if they are undisturbed. Disturbance during winter and early spring can cause mountain goats to expend energy that

they would not otherwise and can be the difference in making it through the winter or not."

A number of popular backcountry ski and snowmobile areas are near these wintering herds and care should be taken to avoid mountain goats when they are encountered by giving them a very wide berth.

Wintertime users of the SNRA can also be very helpful as additional eyes in the field and help locate some of the reclusive animals that inhabit the SNRA, such as the wolverine. If you see a wolverine firsthand, or see their fresh tracks, please give Robin a call at 208-727-5014, as these sightings can help immensely with ongoing research into this fascinating animal.

Winter is a great time to view wildlife in central Idaho; just remember to keep their best interests in mind!



Wolverine Tracks can be up to 4" Long



## 2010 Sagebrush Soiree: A Splendid Affair



All the Little Touches Made the 2010 Sagebrush Soiree Memorable

One hundred and seventy revelers + exquisite food + tremendous venue + one-of-a-kind auction items = one very memorable evening! Hosted by Wes Wills at his Fisher Creek Ranch, guests enjoyed a spectacular evening vista of the Salmon River below and the sun setting behind the Sawtooth Mountains. From the catering by Trudy's Kitchen, the music by Headwaters Band, to the lively and enjoyable auctioneering by Joe Hutchins, all the elements came together beautifully.

This annual event is the summer's best chance to connect and party with friends while participating in the Sawtooth Society's primary fund-raising event of the year. The 2010 Soiree raised more than ever before—over \$90,000—to ensure our core work to protect the SNRA will continue. Thanks must go to all our members and their guests who attended as well as to the dozens who

contributed their energy, time and talents to put on this memorable and successful event. A special thank you also goes to those who generously contributed the unique auction gifts which brought such lively bidding.

By all measures the evening was an

unquestionable success. Please put a note on your calendar for the 2011 Sagebrush Soiree, Saturday, July 30, at the lovely Shaw Mesa home of Jim and Mary Mitchell. Thank you Wes and thank you Jim and Mary!



The Soiree is Always a Great Way to Reconnect with Dear Friends





P.O. Box 209 • Stanley, Idaho 83278

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### **Please send us your email!**

Over the last year we have been moving towards more electronic communications to ensure as much of our income can be used on-the-ground to make a difference in the SNRA rather than to purchase postage. If you have not shared your email with us, or if it has recently changed, please email Gary O'Malley at [gary@sawtoothsociety.org](mailto:gary@sawtoothsociety.org). There are many environmental and fiscal reasons to do so, and we promise that your email address will only be used for official Sawtooth Society communications.

## **Sawtooth Society Invests in the SNRA**

The Sawtooth Society has been entrusted by the State of Idaho with the proceeds from the very popular "Goat Plate". These funds, which are paid quarterly to the Sawtooth Society are available for recreation-related projects within the boundaries of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Grant applications are made quarterly (the form is available on our website <http://www.sawtoothsociety.org>) by a variety of organizations and if you have an idea for how to improve recreational facilities or implement a new program we would love to hear from you. Be creative!

In 2010, the Grants Committee and Executive Committee of the Board approved 12 grants with a total value of over \$40,000. Care is taken during the review to ensure that our funds are geographically dispersed

and will have a significant and lasting impact. With more than a decade of experience from this program the Sawtooth Society has funded, or helped fund, 123 projects within the SNRA, which have benefited many thousands of recreational experiences.

Projects approved in 2010 include:

- Champion Creek corral and fence
- Reconstruction of Prairie Creek Trail
- Landmark Volunteers support
- Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association's Forum and Lecture Series
- Sawtooth Search and Rescue VHF mobile radio
- Alturas Lake picnic site viewing platform
- Sawtooth community winter recreation map

- Sawtooth Avalanche Center avalanche advisories
- Bowery Guard Station volunteer support
- Little Casino Creek Trail work
- AmeriCorps Wildlands Education volunteer
- Winter ranger

**Purchase your  
Goat Plate Today,  
Fund More Projects  
in the SNRA!**

