

A Letter to Members From Our President

Dear Fellow Members and Friends,

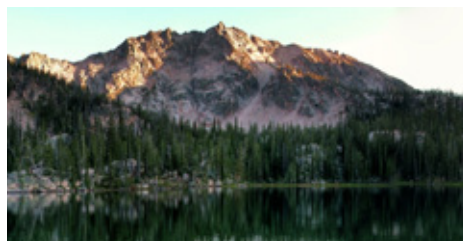
Experienced whitewater enthusiasts know, as seasons alter the flow and obstacles in a river, one must find new routes to safely arrive at old destinations. So too, must any successful organization respond to unexpected changes by finding new avenues to reach established goals.

At its 2011 Winter Meeting, your Society Board addressed likely impacts of the unexpectedly challenging economic recession and federal budget deficit on government funding for activities in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA). The need to significantly reduce government spending for the foreseeable future undoubtedly means fewer federal dollars for things like conservation easements, educational programs and recreational facilities. Consequences of these cutbacks include an increased need for broader and deeper private sector programs in these areas and the corresponding necessity to expand private resources supporting such work. Without an adequate response to these needs, protection for America's natural treasures like the Sawtooth National Recreation Area may well shrink dramatically.

Thus, during 2011 considerable efforts by the Sawtooth Society have focused on securing new routes and greater resources to accomplish Society goals. New and increased collaborations with organizations like The Trust for Public Land, the Idaho Departments of Fish and Game and

Parks and Recreation, the Wood River Land Trust, and the Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association, as well as local governments and businesses, have fostered a wider range of programs.

Our increased emphasis on educational programs now encompasses subjects ranging from land and wildlife stewardship to the history and purpose of the SNRA. In turn, these provide the opportunity to nurture broader relationships with landowners, recreation and environmental



Recent grants by the Sawtooth Society will benefit trails to numerous high mountain lakes in the SNRA.

groups, and others that share the Society's goals. Expanded outreach to foundations like the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, The William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Wood River Women's Charitable Foundation offer the promise of new avenues of financial support for Society work. And innovative efforts to facilitate planned, testamentary and memorial gifts by Society members and friends will broaden our support base.

In this regard, it would be irresponsible to fail to note that 2011

affords a singular opportunity for supporters age 70 1/2 and above to make tax free gifts to the Society from your IRA, which count toward your minimum required distribution without being included in your adjusted gross income for taxes. For those interested in this unique opportunity to maximize the tax benefits of a gift, please consult your IRA administrator or tax advisor and make the gift before December 31, 2011.

We also recognize that efforts like ours work best with broad community input and support. The biennial community updates and stakeholder workshops we hold to keep Sawtooth Vision 20/20 (the long range plan for the SNRA that guides much of our policy work) responsive to current issues have served this purpose well, and will continue to grow. They insure we are hearing and seeing local concerns, as well as identifying new opportunities for pooling resources with compatible partners, and modifying the overall plan to address these.

As we make these course changes, our mission and goals remain the same: Preservation, Protection and Enhancement of the SNRA.

We welcome your feedback and thank you for your support and for the privilege of serving as your President.

Paul D. Hill



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

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Private Landowner's Educational Workshop

In September, the Sawtooth Society hosted its first private landowner educational forum. This was in response to member comments regarding how helpful it would be for private landowners to learn more about what they can do to enhance the stewardship of their lands. It was a lively and upbeat event with the two hour discussion flying by. During its course, this informal discussion enabled local and regional experts to share general guidelines, and most importantly, allowed a setting where landowners could have their specific area of interest addressed.

Various panelists were available to discuss the relationship between private lands and the natural components of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Robin Garwood, U.S. Forest Service wildlife biologist, and Gary Gadwa, former Idaho Fish and Game Conservation Officer, discussed ways to make private lands more wildlife friendly. Pat Russell, U.S. Forest Service, and Steven Paulson, Conservation Seeding and Restoration, Inc., reviewed a broad range of tactics to keep noxious and invasive species off your land. Bob Esselman, Idaho Fish & Game, gave participants ideas on water quality and considerations in managing ponds. Each freely shared their experience and brought creative management strategies to the table regarding a wide range of topics.

Did you miss out on the meeting? No need to worry, the Sawtooth Society will hold another workshop in the summer of 2012. If you can't wait for the next discussion and want to start considering strategies and questions to enhance the stewardship of your land, below are a few highlights from the first panel:

Fences and Wildlife

- Can be a significant cause of bird mortality and white clips on the top wire of fences can make fences more visible.
- Installing your bottom wire at 18" off the ground and top wire no more than 32" high can be helpful to wildlife passage, especially antelope and elk calves.
- Drop down fences for a portion of your property should be considered in the off-season.

Birds

- Hanging streamers over doorways or wire mesh along eaves can prevent barn swallows from nesting as can fishing line with small weights on the end hung 6" out from the house under the eaves.
- If you can tolerate them, swallows do control a wide variety of insects.

Ground Squirrels

- Removing ground squirrels is difficult and they often return; managing their habitat is the best path to success. They do not like to be exposed, so cutting your grass around your home can be an effective control remedy.

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Problem Grazers

- Hogwire panels on aspen trees can stop grazing damage during the winter and early springtime periods when the elk are seeking food.
- Hot sauce can prevent grazing but some reported that animals would habituate eventually and prefer a bit of spice in their life!
- Participants reported some excellent success with Plantskydd, which is a spray that can be effective for up to 6 months.



Badgers can be effective at managing ground squirrel populations, they can also, as your Executive Director found out from this guy moments later, be very aggressive and fast!

Weeds

- Private land can be surveyed for noxious weeds, just call the county.
- Gain a working knowledge of what species your particular county considers noxious weeds and invasive species.

Attracting Wildlife

- In Central Idaho creating a water source is often the best way to attract a variety of wildlife.
- Planting certain flowers and native shrubs can also be a way to draw and keep wildlife (and butterflies) on your property.

Riparian Areas

- A 50' buffer for a riparian fence was recommended.
- A deeper pond is better for most wildlife but be careful when returning water to another water body as there are often water quality issues that arise.
- Filamentous green algae can come from fertilizing near water; try to avoid.



The recent stewardship panel discussion included how to improve your property for critters of all kinds.

Planting

- Often you can you take alder, willow, and aspen cuttings from your own land and they will grow. The best success will occur if they are planted in the fall.
- As a general rule of thumb, cut one inch branches, stick them in the ground deep enough to reach water. You can also try rooting products to increase the chance that they will grow.

Sawtooth Society Grants Continue to Benefit Stanley and the SNRA

The Sawtooth Society continues to invest in the SNRA's recreational experiences and has now approved 138 grants within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

Over the last 15 years, within the City of Stanley alone, the Sawtooth Society has funded over \$98,000 for 34 projects. These investments have enhanced the recreational experiences and safety for visitors and residents alike and have covered such diverse needs as education, vital police equipment for the City, snowmobile grooming equipment, varied life-saving equipment for several groups including the Salmon River Clinic, Sawtooth Valley Rural Fire Department, Sawtooth Search and Rescue, signs requested by the City, the Sawtooth Music Festival, Stanley-Sawtooth Chamber of Commerce displays and information, historical walking tours, the Salmon River Snowmobile Club, winter recreation maps, numerous grants to Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association.

Many of these grants have been made possible by the proceeds from the very popular mountain goat license plate. Over the last 6 months, the Sawtooth Society has approved grants to the following projects and organizations:

- Ice House Interpretive Project -- Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association
- Trail Stewardship Project for trail systems accessing Alice, Twin, Toxaway, Farley, Edna, Edith, Imogene, and Hell Roaring Lakes -- Idaho Trails Association
- Wolverine and Winter Recreation Study -- U.S. Forest Service
- Wilderness Ranger Funding -- U.S. Forest Service
- Avalanche Advisory sponsorship -- Sawtooth Avalanche Center
- Adventure Learning Packets -- U.S. Forest Service

If you know of projects that might enhance the recreation in the SNRA please contact Gary O'Malley at gary@sawtoothsociety.org.

Volunteers needed...

Planning is underway to join forces with several area conservation and school groups to accomplish key on-the-ground projects in 2012. Included are: fence building, sign placement, riparian habitat improvement and improvement to visitor and community facilities. If you would like to join one or more of these collaborative, fun and rewarding projects please send an email to Gary O'Malley at gary@sawtoothsociety.org to discuss how you or your group can help.



P.O. Box 209 • Stanley, Idaho 83278



An erstwhile bidder makes his pitch during the live auction at Sagebrush Soiree 2011. The evening raised a near record amount and even included a spectacular lightning display over the Sawtooths. Thank you to our hosts, Jim and Mary Mitchell!

Give a new Goat Plate as a gift or splurge on yourself - "Get and Give" a goat to help fund important projects in the SNRA!



Mark your calendars!

The 2012 Sagebrush Soiree is set for Saturday, July 28th at Drew and Linda Lawler's Sawtooth Valley Ranch. If you know of auction items that might pique the interest of attendees, please let us know! Your creativity is warmly welcomed. This is the Sawtooth Society's primary fundraiser, a lovely and enjoyable evening as well as a great way to connect with friends, neighbors and others who want to see the SNRA preserved, protected and enhanced.

Sawtooth Society Announces the 2011 Bethine Church Award Winners

The Sawtooth Society was delighted to recognize three highly deserving recipients for the 2011 Bethine Church Award. This year's awards go to Carol Cole and Sparky and Maryellen Easom!

This prestigious award is bestowed on a periodic basis when the Society believes it important to recognize particularly significant contributions that have been made to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Carol Cole, who is the Partner and Outreach Coordinator for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA), wins the public sector award. Sparky and Maryellen Easom, who are full-time Stanley residents, are this year's winners of the private sector award.

The award is named for Bethine Church, the Sawtooth Society's founding President. The honor recognizes individuals for exemplary service toward the protection and betterment of the natural, historical and recreational qualities of the 756,000-acre Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

At the award ceremony, Paul Hill, Sawtooth Society President, stressed that Carol, Sparky and Maryellen all epitomize the giving nature that the Award is meant to recognize. Carol Cole, was lauded for having spent a significant portion of her career finding creative ways to accomplish key projects in the SNRA. It is clear that without her initiative and collaboration with a variety of stakeholders and volunteers, the SNRA would be a very different place today. Her efforts have helped bring to fruition numerous projects like the renovated Redfish Lake Visitors Center and the long-range

Sawtooth Vision 20/20 Plan. Through her positive community outreach and hard work, everyone who enjoys the Sawtooth National Recreation Area has and will continue to greatly benefit. Many of the participants at the event commented on how Carol is a tremendous goodwill ambassador for the Forest Service and how past due it was to recognize her efforts. Thank you Carol!

Sparky and Maryellen Easom were cited for having consistently demonstrated the importance of community involvement. Their positive example shows how much an impact involvement can have within a community. Participants at the event provided numerous examples of how both have given selflessly and each are natural born teachers benefitting the youth and students in and around Stanley. They have also answered the bell whenever EMT's have been needed over the past 25 years.

It was a joy for the Sawtooth Society to present this trio with the 2011 Bethine Church Awards. No one is more deserving and they are to be commended for their broad involvement in the area over the years.

The nominees were evaluated based on both how and what they have accomplished, including: volunteerism, stewardship, vision, leadership, on-the-ground effort and their level of commitment to the area. If you know of deserving nominees in either the private, or public sector, please contact Gary O'Malley at 208.721.2909 to have them considered for a 2012 award.