



Preserve • Protect • Enhance  
**SAWTOOTH SOCIETY**  
PO Box 209 Stanley Idaho

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**PAID**  
Boise, ID  
Permit No. 220

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# ADVOCATE

Summer 2013

## Get Your Tickets Now! Come and Join the Fun on July 27th.



Each year the Sagebrush Soiree is great fun and serves as the Sawtooth Society's primary fundraiser. This year it will be held on Saturday, July 27th at historic Busterback Ranch and if you have not yet purchased your tickets, please do so immediately as there are only a few left.

Here is your chance to see Busterback, enjoy one of the best views on the planet, dine on gourmet food, partake in beverages of your choice, and should the spirit lead you, dance the night away! All proceeds go to help a good cause and perhaps you can take home one of the unique auction items, including:

- Day and week-long river trips
- Vacation stays at premier Idaho resorts and destinations around the world
- A wide variety of artwork including glass, wood, photos and paintings

- Fishing and other outdoor-oriented trips
- Numerous outdoor education and research-oriented trips
- Beverages of your choice, including wine, port, beer and specialty liquors
- Over 60 fun-filled items to choose from!

Dust off your old cowboy or cowgirl hat and boots, or just come in casual wear, but please join us as we celebrate the tradition of the working ranches of the Sawtooth NRA. Talk with your friends and family to plan your bidding strategies today and if you cannot attend we welcome your absentee bids! Call 208.721.2909 for more information, to place an absentee bid or buy your tickets.

We promise an evening of unforgettable fun with old and new friends!



What could possibly be more fun than a glorious night in the Sawtooths?

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## The President's Letter A Proposal to Consider with Thoughtful Care

Since 1997, the Sawtooth Society has continually worked to protect and improve the unique values and qualities that make the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (NRA) so special. Helping negotiate and fund conservation easements covering several thousand acres of scenic vistas; investing over \$600,000 in recreational services, facilities and programs; and working closely for years with the Forest Service and others to address critical issues in the Sawtooth NRA - it is fair to say no other non-profit has done more for the area.

In this tradition, the Society has consistently supported efforts to provide additional permanent protection for the Boulder-White Clouds, which constitute a significant portion of the eastern Sawtooth NRA. Therefore, in view of Congress's inability to pass such protection during the last ten years, we understand and appreciate the new approach proposed by some to secure additional protection via a Presidential Proclamation of a National Monument.

However, no rules govern what a Presidential Proclamation may contain and a hasty or ill-conceived proposal could easily undermine the existing law (Public Law 92-400) that has so successfully kept the Sawtooth NRA special for 40 years. Thus, while we could support a sound National Monument proposal, we believe it imperative that any proposal preserves the primacy of Public Law 92-400 over any portion of the Sawtooth NRA that might be incorporated into a new National Monument. By explicitly recognizing this law's dominant reservation over all lands in the Sawtooth NRA, we insure this well established structure of protections and rights is not inadvertently undermined or conflicted. Adding new protection for the Boulder-White Clouds may well be desirable, but not at the price of jeopardizing the good things already in place.

In addition, the details of any new proposal (such as conservation goals, boundaries, and activity restrictions) should become publicly available as soon as possible. Only after this step can we begin the careful consideration and analysis that would ensure the proposal is effective at achieving appropriate protection and deserving of public support. An open, thoughtful and deliberate public discussion, involving all legitimate stakeholders in the Sawtooth NRA, affords the best chance to arrive at the most appropriate course of action. In our view, the Boulder-White Clouds, and indeed the entire Sawtooth NRA, deserve no less!

Whatever might be done, let's be sure we do it right!

Paul D. Hill, President



The Boulder-White Clouds are a special area, let's thoughtfully consider how best to provide any additional protection.



# Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer Program Off and Running

Formally formed early this year, the Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer Program is rapidly accomplishing a wide-array of projects in the Sawtooth NRA. Over the winter, in a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, the Society began pairing individuals and groups with key on-the-ground needs that have been identified by the agency.

The Society is squarely behind this long-term effort to help accomplish important recreation-related projects and we are delighted to cooperate with the Forest Service to bring these key projects to fruition. Joby Timm, Area Ranger for the Sawtooth NRA, states that “In these times of nationwide budget austerity, it is important to come together with partners and find ways to accomplish our priorities with less funding. This work by the Sawtooth Society is extremely helpful to all of us on the Sawtooth NRA and we are grateful to the Kraal family and others who have funded this effort and to those individuals and groups who have stepped forward to do the work.”

Not only has good work on the ground begun, it has brought new groups together to work side-by-side and enabled youth, many of whom would not be able to have a “Sawtooth Experience”, to learn first-hand the importance of preserving, protecting and enhancing the Sawtooth NRA. Work completed or underway this year includes:

- Trash cleanup along river banks, shorelines, campsites and roadways
- Pulling noxious weeds
- Modifying fences to allow better wildlife passage, especially for antelope
- Constructing fencing in areas to protect key values
- Trail work, including removal of logs early in the season and trail maintenance
- Riparian and campsite restoration
- Adoption of trails and lakes

It is not too early to contact us for your future involvement. If you, your family, or a group to which you belong, wants to get involved please let us know. Your involvement can be tailored to your available time, group size and the collective skills of your group and the involvement of children is highly encouraged! I hope you share our enthusiasm for this new program and that you will help honor the legacy of Austin Kraal, who had a deep passion for the Sawtooth Mountains and the tranquility they provide. To learn more contact the Society or go its website at sawtoothsociety.org.

Another way to help out is to provide information about trail problems and concerns so we can share that information with the Forest Service and use it to help prioritize the scheduling of trail maintenance. So as you hike throughout the Sawtooth NRA we would encourage you to report these trail conditions by completing the enclosed form and either scan it to gary@sawtoothsociety.org or mail to The Sawtooth Society at PO Box 209, Stanley ID 83278. You may also complete it online at our website [www.sawtoothsociety.org](http://www.sawtoothsociety.org).




Boys and Girls Club of Magic Valley volunteers and Sawtooth Society members celebrate the completion of two projects.



Sponsored by the Sawtooth Society



Alex Orb demonstrating his newly learned skills to clear trails of fallen timber.



SAWTOOTH NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

TRAIL CONDITION REPORT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email /Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Trail Name and/or Number \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Travel:    Foot            Stock            Bicycle            Motorcycle            ATV

Route(s) Traveled, Trailhead noted: \_\_\_\_\_

TRAIL OBSTRUCTIONS				
Trail Section	Type of Obstruction	Details	Remarks	Photo (Y or N)
Within first mile after junction with Alpine Lake trail	Tree downfall	3 trees < 10" diameter 1 tree 25" diameter	Small trees can be stepped over. New trail being created around large tree. Difficult for horses to get around.	Yes am sending

Snow Level Encountered at \_\_\_\_\_

Other Comments \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU for helping to keep trail reporting current!

Please scan to [gary@sawtoothsociety.org](mailto:gary@sawtoothsociety.org) or mail to Sawtooth Society, PO Box 209, Stanley, ID 83278

For a full-size form please visit [www.sawtoothsociety.org/trailform](http://www.sawtoothsociety.org/trailform).



Check your plates! If it isn’t a goat, it isn’t giving to fund the important ongoing work in the Sawtooth NRA. When you “Get a Goat”, you “Give a Gift”!

# Fire Collaborative Group Formed to Advise Forest Service



Unfortunately this sight, from last year’s Halstead Fire, has become more common in the Sawtooth’s and many homeowners, businesses and recreational users are concerned about the future risk.

Last summer the Halstead Fire impacted the Sawtooth NRA for months creating economic and human health impacts and significant impacts to the environment. On its heels the Sawtooth Society, City of Stanley and Custer County reached out to the Forest Service and encouraged a fresh look at any steps that could be taken to reduce the risk of another catastrophic fire, particularly in the area from Stanley Lake, to Redfish Lake and along the Sawtooth Front to the Smiley Creek area.

As a result, for the past six months a collaborative, stakeholder-based group has worked diligently to define the wildfire hazard problem in the Sawtooth Valley and surrounding areas, and explore potential strategic approaches to reduce that hazard. The group’s recommendations are being finalized and will soon be more broadly shared with the public and presented to the Forest Service. The recommendations will identify the type, location, and scale of actions that the Forest Service and private landowners should take to reduce the probability of a catastrophic wildfire.

This attention on the fire risk in the Sawtooth NRA is expected to be ongoing and the group will continue be a sounding board for the Forest Service and play a role in reviewing the implementation of the plan. While the more than two-dozen individuals who participated in the effort deserve everyone’s thanks, the Forest Service deserves special thanks for its willingness to work with these stakeholders and share its extensive efforts to-date and to help shape these ideas. This has truly been the collective effort of a broad-based coalition of concerned stakeholders.