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SPONSOR A VOLUNTEER PROJECT!

Make a difference in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Learn more about sponsoring a project by contacting Gary@sawtoothsociety.org.

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Stay up-to-date on the Sawtooth Society. Like our Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SawtoothSociety>

The Sagebrush Soiree "Celebrating the Wilderness"



The Society will host its annual gala dinner and fundraiser on Saturday, July 30th, at The Nickum's Home on Shaw Mesa as it toasts the incredible Wilderness Country in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

Always a fun and high energy event, attendees will enjoy an elegant gourmet dinner and incredible views of the Salmon River, the Sawtooth and White Cloud Mountains. Plus, it is an opportunity to make new friends and reacquaint with former colleagues and neighbors. Invite someone to their first Soiree to learn about the

Society's efforts in protecting, preserving and enhancing the Sawtooth NRA and take in the grandeur it has to offer!

A wide variety of over 75 unique gifts will be auctioned, in both a silent and live auction, with all proceeds going to support the core work of the Society

and the protection of the Sawtooth NRA. There will be something for everyone! A sampling of the auction items includes:

- Original paintings and stunning photographs by regional artists.
- A museum quality bronze mountain goat sculpture by David LaMure
- Idaho Bounty, Sushi, Gourmet Dutch oven and Wild Game diners by fine area chefs
- Fabulous vacations in Corsica, Hawaii and the Oregon Coast
- Get-aways at Redfish Lake Lodge and Idaho Rocky Mountain Ranch



CHECK YOUR PLATES!

If it isn't a goat, it isn't giving to fund the important ongoing work of the Sawtooth Society. When you "Get a Goat", you "Give a Gift"!

- Rafting on the Bruneau River
- Fly-fishing packages
- Once in a lifetime Solar Eclipse experience with noted research scientists
- Varied and highly unique recreational opportunities
- An unlimited Sun Valley ski pass.
- Fine wines and a unique bourbon tasting, and
- An antique Amish-restored sleigh!

The date is quickly approaching and space is limited, please call now to get your tickets **208.721.2909**. If you cannot attend, but would like to receive the final gift list to place an absentee bid please let us know. Please come and participate in "Celebrating the Wilderness"!



The President's Letter

2016 is shaping up as another great year for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (NRA) and a very busy one for the Sawtooth Society. The winter of 2015/16 was heralded by many as reminiscent of the winters of 50 years ago. Plentiful snowfall resulted in widespread opportunities to participate in snowshoeing, powder skiing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, ice skating, and fat bike excursions. The Sawtooth Society sponsored several winter community recreational activities to benefit area residents and visitors alike. As July approaches, snow is still blanketing the higher elevations in the Sawtooths.

Now that summer is upon us, the campgrounds and the local facilities seem to be busier than ever, so the Sawtooth Society's mission to protect, preserve, and enhance the Sawtooth NRA becomes even more important due to the increased pressure that large numbers of visitors place on the landscape and infrastructure of the area. The Sawtooth Society's Austin Kraal volunteer program is already in full swing. Early season trail clearing (one of the Sawtooth Society's new initiatives), began in early June with the clearing of the Hell Roaring trail. We have several volunteer activities planned to benefit the Sawtooth NRA in conjunction with other organizations from across the state of Idaho to enhance the available area recreation activities while also providing people (often youth) with the opportunity to experience this wonderful place and teaching such life lessons as the importance of teamwork, the importance of being good stewards of our environment, and the satisfaction of participating in a job well done.

The Sawtooth Society is certainly proud of our role in helping secure the permanent protection of the new Wilderness areas within the Sawtooth NRA, and we are preparing to participate in the management planning process for those areas. The Sawtooth Society continues to work as an advocate for the private landowners in the Valley, as well as playing a pivotal in the Fire Collaborative effort. The Fire Collaborative effort is aimed at working with the Forest Service (and others) to undertake pro-active efforts to try to prevent a catastrophic fire in the Sawtooth NRA.

Clearly, the Sawtooth Society has a major impact on the Sawtooth NRA. In addition to the activities outlined above, we provide on average \$40,000 per year in grants through our license plate fund to support endeavors to enhance the recreational aspects of the area. We support Sawtooth Vision 20/20, a strategic planning collaborative originally established by the Sawtooth Society to set long-range goals for the area.

The Sawtooth Society, with its full-time staff of one individual relies heavily on volunteer support to perform its important role within the Sawtooth NRA. We also rely on partnering opportunities with other organizations to multiply our impact and to provide opportunities to others. For the hundreds of volunteers who have provided support over the years, as well as to our many donors, we offer a heartfelt THANK YOU! The fruits of our labors are evident all around us any time we are in the Sawtooth NRA. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to join in on one of our many projects and activities, give us a call or drop us a line. We can always use more hands and feet. Help us make this the most fruitful year of all time for the Sawtooth Society and the Sawtooth NRA!

Wayne Hughes
 President, Sawtooth Society

The Volunteer Program is in High Gear!

The Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer Program is off to a great start! The summer started with 14 volunteers clearing the Hellroaring trail followed by 7 volunteers installing fire rings at the Iron Creek campground.

The Sawtooth Brewery and the Sawtooth Society gathered 14 people to work the Hellroaring trail on June 4th. Though the temperatures were high for early June, the crew was able to clear 4.5 of the 5-mile trail to the lake of downed logs. They also maintained all water bars to the lake. At the end of the day, the Sawtooth Brewery generously donated some of their locally brewed libations to the effort – a wonderful end to the hot day.

The following week, the Magic Valley Boys and Girls Club traveled from Twin Falls for their 7th volunteer project! This group of teens spent two days tearing out worn metal fire rings and replacing them with new

ones at the Iron Creek campground. It was a chilly weekend but thanks to Hans and Terry Carstensen, the volunteers were able to spend their nights out of the cold and in donated accommodations.

The weather did not stop the youth from having some fun out at Redfish Lake and getting some campfire s'mores at Gary and Sari O'Malley's residence after a delicious barbecue.

With these two successful projects in the bag, the Sawtooth Society is starting the summer of volunteer work off right. Next on the calendar is a 5 – day backcountry project with the Great Old Broads for Wilderness.

Twelve volunteers from all over the west will travel to Stanley to participate in this project. The volunteers will hike into the backcountry of the Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness to install the new permanent Wilderness signs.



Two volunteers work diligently to clear a three-log pile with the cross-cut saw on the Hellroaring trail.



Youth volunteers relax around a fire, roasting marshmallows after a long day of work.



This important and necessary project is the first of many projects in the new Wilderness areas. After all the hard work the Sawtooth Society and others put into getting legislation passed to establish the new Wilderness areas, we are excited to celebrate the end result by continuing our hard work through our volunteer program.

While the rest of the summer is full of youth and adult volunteer groups doing good work in the Sawtooth NRA, there will be one major change. The Sawtooth Society Volunteer Coordinator, Kelly Conde, is stepping down to take a new position in Pocatello with the Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust. Fortunately, local resident Ashley Baker is stepping up to temporarily fill the role. With Baker at the helm, the volunteer program is still in good hands!



Magic Valley Boys and Girls Club posing, out with the old fire rings and in with the new.

SAWTOOTH VISION 20/20 WORKING TO ENSURE THE SAWTOOTH NRA REMAINS A SUCCESS

Sawtooth Vision 20/20 is a stakeholder collaborate group dedicated to identifying and addressing issues and opportunities facing the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. Created in 2006 with support from the U.S. Forest Service and the Sawtooth Society, the group is comprised of businesses, government agencies, elected officials, a wide variety of organizations and concerned citizens.

In a meeting held in Stanley on June 8th and 9th, more than 50 invited participants updated the current priorities and identified new actions the collective group can take to achieve desired conditions in the decades come. While many successes can be traced to the group's work and the networks it has created, it is important to continually update the strategies.

This two-day effort focused on the five key values of PL 92-400, which created the Sawtooth NRA – economic and community stability; fish and wildlife; historic, pastoral and scenic; natural and sustainable ecosystems; and recreation.

"The energy, enthusiasm and focused discussion always amazes me. The dialogue and outputs will serve us well as a management tool for the years to come", reported Keith Reese, Co-Chair of the Steering Committee that coordinates Vision 20/20.

A number of key focus areas surfaced, including: the opportunity to enhance EMS services, travel management

planning, salmon recovery and establishing an effective private lands program. The Steering Committee will be assembling the outputs into a draft priority and strategy document in the weeks to come and will continue to bring the group together to address these topics. To learn more about Sawtooth Vision 20/20 go to sawtoothvision2020.org.



Deep into its deliberations, Sawtooth Vision 20/20 stakeholders discuss key issues facing the area.

Sawtooth Valley Wildland Fire Collaborative Progress

Since the fall of 2012, immediately following the 179,000-acre Halstead Fire, a broad-based group of stakeholders have met to identify and recommend the location, type and scale of fuel treatments and other wildland fire reduction strategies. The Collaborative has examined the potential of various actions, and success in other similar areas, which would go well beyond the normal, albeit helpful, historic actions by the Forest Service, including Firewise, meadow encroachment work and small scale thinning of largely beetle-killed timber.

In the last several years the Forest Service has initiated the implementation of a ten-year Redfish 210 Project along Road 210 south of Redfish Lake. That project, strongly supported by the Collaborative, is a great example of the scale of project envisioned and there is a belief that it can make a difference to build a defensible space to control a fire when (not if) one starts.

While there are no guarantees this project will be successful to stop a fire, and any projects have inherent risks associated with them, there is also significant and potentially catastrophic risk of being too timid or late in our approach to hazard

fuel reduction efforts. These substantive and negative risks include: loss of homes and businesses, curtailing power supply and sewer infrastructure, business failure risk from a lengthy pall of smoke, shutting down of rivers, trails and lodges, significant environmental damage and a scarred viewshed from the major roads for decades to come.

The Collaborative is meeting on a regular basis and recently has focused on a set of specific ideas for Zone D, west of Stanley, that build upon the series of strategies contained in the Strategic Recommendations prepared by the Collaborative in October 2013. This includes two projects proposed by the Salmon-Challis NF and a third jointly by the Salmon-Challis and the Sawtooth National Forests.

- 1. Cape Horn** -- Prescribed fire and anchor-point thinning from existing roads in the Cape Horn area, along and to the South of Highway 21
- 2. Flat Creek** -- Prescribed fire and anchor-point thinning from existing roads in the Flat Creek area, along and to the south of Highway 21
- 3. Elk Creek** -- Prescribed fire and anchor-point thinning from existing roads in the Elk Creek Meadows area to the south of

Highway 21
Based upon discussions with Forest Service fire staff and third-party groups, the Collaborative believes that a minimum scale for substantive vegetative breaks in these largely beetle-killed forests should be at least one-third to one-half mile wide and at least several miles in length. Further, if possible, these breaks should leverage off natural breaks in the forest, such as meadows or rock outcroppings to enhance the likelihood of stopping a fire. These three projects meet these criteria and there is a strong belief that they can make a fundamental difference to the risk of another catastrophic wildfire.

These projects will continue to be developed and a field trip to view them is planned for this summer. The goal is to have firm proposals by the end of the summer with the first project ready for implementation by Fall 2017.

The community is urged to become educated on the work of the Sawtooth Valley Wildland Fire Collaborative. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact one of the two co-chairs – Steve Botti, Stanley City Council President, or Gary O'Malley, Executive Director of the Sawtooth Society.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE BETHINE CHURCH AWARDS

The Sawtooth Society's Bethine Church Award honors individuals who have made important contributions to the betterment of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (NRA). This award is bestowed on a periodic basis when the Society believes it is important to recognize particularly significant contributions to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

The award honors both the recipients and Bethine Church, the Society's founding President. Bethine played a major role in helping

to make the Sawtooth NRA what it is today, and it is important and appropriate to be able to connect her legacy with others who have also given much to benefit this area and each one of us.

The Sawtooth Society is proud to sponsor these awards and if you know of a worthy private or public sector nominee please contact Gary O'Malley at gary@sawtoothsociety.org. Please take a moment to recognize someone deserving.

An Open Letter to our Members,

For those of you who haven't heard, I am stepping away from my position as the Volunteer and Membership Coordinator for the Sawtooth Society to take a job as the Conservation Manager for the Pocatello based Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust.

I made this decision after a lot of thought and it is definitely bittersweet. While I am very excited about this new opportunity, I am very sad to leave Stanley and the Sawtooth Society community.

I feel so grateful for the past two and a half years. I came to this organization in love with the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and excited to help it in anyway I could. Through the Sawtooth Society I had the opportunity to meet a community of people who care as much for the area as I do. Through the Sawtooth Society I was able to witness this community turn that love into action. It has been highly rewarding to play a role in doing so.

I want to thank each and every one of you for all the care you've put into the Sawtooth NRA. Thank you for coming out and working hard as a volunteer for the Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer Program. Thank you for all the energy you put in to making the Sawtooth Society a successful organization for which I was proud to work. Thank you for inspiring me to work as hard I could everyday for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

Leaving this job and this incredible area is going to be hard. But knowing that there is a community of people who will always be there, ensuring that the Sawtooth National Recreation Area continues to be the incredible place it is today makes it a little easier. I know the torch is in good hands!

Sincerely,

Kelly Conde

Your support matters!

The Society is reliant on the support from many individuals and volunteers who donate their time and resources. The Society is also grateful for significant donations from a variety of businesses and foundations, who support our core work.

Here, Executive Director Gary O'Malley, accepts a donation from Scott Gipson, Board Chair of the Whittenberger Foundation.



"The mountains are calling
and I must go" - John Muir



Celebrating the Wilderness

Dinner, Bluegrass Music, Silent & Live Auctions

SATURDAY, JULY 30

At a private home in the Sawtooth Valley
*Surrounded by the Majestic Sawtooth
and White Cloud Mountains*

gary@sawtoothsociety.org
(208) 721-2909