



A NATIONAL MONUMENT FOR THE BOULDER-WHITE CLOUDS AREA?

Last year the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (NRA) proudly celebrated its 40th anniversary. Although the Sawtooth NRA took a great deal of effort and decades to create, the founders got it right and by most measures it is considered a tremendous success.

Some are now calling for the creation of a National Monument to protect the Boulder-White Clouds area, using the President's power under the Antiquities Act. Although the details of the proposal are still unknown, **the proposed monument is intended to provide additional protection for the Boulder-White Clouds area, and hence portions of the existing Sawtooth NRA.** This drive to create a monument is completely understandable given Congress's inability to pass Wilderness designation for the area.

In considering this proposal, it is important to understand that a Presidential Proclamation could be very broad, **significantly impacting recreational and other uses in the proposed National Monument and the Sawtooth NRA, perhaps in unexpected ways, so careful scrutiny of the proposal's details is clearly warranted.**

As the leading non-profit advocate for the Sawtooth NRA, the Sawtooth Society has long supported appropriate permanent protection for the Boulder-White Clouds area and continues to do so. The Society also recognizes possible benefits of a National Monument.

However, because no set rules govern what provisions a Presidential Proclamation creating a National Monument can contain, **we believe it vital that this proposal explicitly preserve the primacy of PL 92-400 (the Act that created the Sawtooth NRA) in protecting and managing the entire Sawtooth NRA including any portion of it included within the monument boundary.** This approach, used in other recent Presidential Proclamations creating National Monuments that overlap existing protected areas like the Sawtooth NRA, helps avoid confusion and unintended consequences that otherwise might undermine existing protections.

In addition, we strongly believe any action to further protect any part of the Sawtooth NRA should:

- Consider the legitimate interests of all Sawtooth NRA stakeholders
- Be done in an open and transparent manner
- Be done in a way that accomplishes the desired goals lawfully and effectively

The Sawtooth Society wants the Sawtooth NRA to remain a special place and avoid adverse and unintended consequences that could result from a hasty or ill-conceived National Monument declaration.

To ensure this, let's pursue:

- 1) a transparent stakeholder process that thoughtfully and deliberately considers additional measures of protection that may be needed for the Boulder-White Clouds area, and
- 2) a reasoned discussion of the merits and concerns regarding a proposed National Monument. Given the potential for conflict, legal impasse and the possibility that the area could be "loved to death," the gem that is the Sawtooth NRA deserves it.

Paid for by the Sawtooth Society. Formed in 1997, the nonprofit, nonpartisan Sawtooth Society is the only organization dedicated exclusively to protecting, preserving and enhancing the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. To learn more about our specific activities and accomplishments, visit sawtoothsociety.org.