



Sawtooth Vision 20/20

Shared Strategies for the Future of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area

June 2016 Ten Year Update

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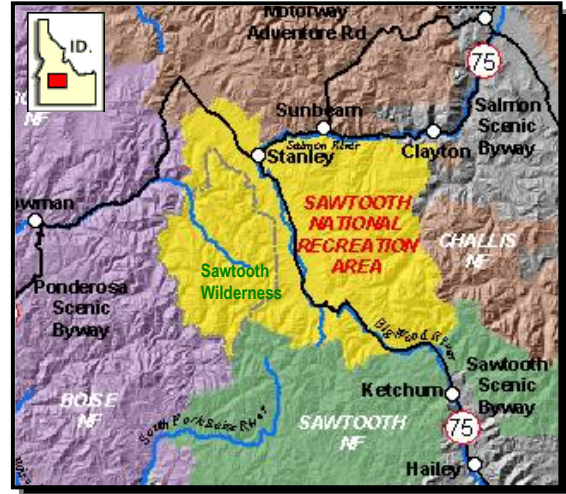
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INTRODUCTION

Background

Sawtooth Vision 20/20: Shared Strategies for the Future of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, referred to in this document as “The Strategy”, was created in 2006 by a collaborative conceived by two organizations dedicated to protecting and enhancing central Idaho’s Sawtooth National Recreation Area (Sawtooth NRA): The Sawtooth Society¹ and the USDA Forest Service.

In 2005, the Society’s President and Executive Director, Bob Hayes, discussed with Sara Baldwin, Sawtooth NRA Area Ranger, and Ruth Monahan, Sawtooth National Forest Supervisor, the idea of cooperatively developing a long-range vision and strategy for the Sawtooth NRA. The idea was grounded in a belief that Forest Service management of the Sawtooth NRA would benefit from a vision and set of strategies widely shared by organizations, businesses and individuals living, working and recreating in the Sawtooth NRA. Given the limited management resources available to the Forest Service in the Sawtooth NRA, the increasing number and variety of area users, growing conflicts among various agencies, organizations, and individuals, and the need for consistency in various agencies’ management policies addressing long-term issues facing the Sawtooth NRA, the benefits of a cooperatively developed and shared long-term vision and strategy were obvious.



The Forest Service and the Sawtooth Society established a Steering Committee, including Paul Hill (Chair), Jim Mitchell, Gray Reynolds, Jack Stevens, and Patricia Young, charged with creating the process that would yield the Strategy. They determined that the Strategy required four key elements to be successful:

- 1) **Long-term**, since many key issues require long-term solutions
- 2) **Comprehensive**, because most issues are interrelated
- 3) **Community-based**, so all key stakeholders in the Sawtooth NRA could have a voice in the process and a vested interest in its success
- 4) **Measurable**, so that progress can be monitored.

Through an interagency agreement between the Forest Service and the US Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, the committee retained a professional facilitator, Susan Hayman of North Country Resources, Inc, to oversee a collaborative process to create the Strategy. The process consisted of three workshops spanning six months, involving participants representing key interest areas and groups within the Sawtooth NRA. Thirty-seven dedicated individuals, representing over forty organizations, agencies and areas of interest, were selected to participate in the workshops. Between workshops, two rounds of public forums provided broad-based feedback that was diligently incorporated by workshop participants into the draft and final products. Over 100 people attended the five separate forums (two in Stanley, two in Ketchum, and one in Challis). The process culminated in the first publication of the Strategy in 2006. Since then the Strategy has been used as envisioned. It has been credited with keeping attention focused on critical issues in the Sawtooth NRA and helping achieve positive outcomes.

¹ A broad-based non-governmental/nonprofit organization dedicated exclusively to the Sawtooth NRA

In 2006 the collaborative that created the Strategy empowered the Steering Committee to continue in force to help with implementation. Recognizing the dynamic nature of the critical issues facing the Sawtooth NRA it asked the Steering committee to help update the document as needed, and updates occurred in 2009 and 20011. In 2015 the Steering Committee, consisting of Steve Botti, Terry Clark, Carol Cole, Kirk Flannigan, Gary Gadwa, Barbara Garcia, Paul Hill, Angenie McCleary, Herb Mumford, Gary O'Malley, Keith Reese, Jolie Turek, and Patricia Young, agreed that a major update was warranted (see Appendix 2 for Steering committee affiliations). It reconvened the collaborative under the professional facilitation of Barry Hicks of Wildland Fire Associates. Kurt Krapfl acted as administrator to document the meeting and publish the updated Strategy.

The Sawtooth Vision 20/20 Strategic Plan update meeting occurred June 8th and 9th, 2016, involving 47 participants representing key interest areas and groups within the Sawtooth NRA. As in the original workshop, participants grouped critical values and issues into five separate (but interrelated) categories. Each category reflects a set of values identified in or affected by the legislation that created the Sawtooth NRA, and is critical to the overall long-term vision.

Categories <i>(alphabetical order)</i>
• Economic and Community Stability
• Fish and Wildlife
• Historic, Pastoral and Scenic
• Natural, Sustainable Ecosystems
• Recreation

How to Use this Strategic Plan

The Strategy is a road map of Sawtooth NRA stakeholders² shared views on what should be done to protect the values cherished in this remarkable area. It should be used to guide the establishment of priorities, resource allocation, and business plan development for not only the Forest Service, but for all agencies and governmental units involved with the Sawtooth NRA, as well as non-governmental organizations, businesses and individuals. By so using this product, these entities have an opportunity to work cooperatively toward common goals, pooling resources and experience, rather than pursuing conflicting agendas.

Commitment to Implementation

The Sawtooth Vision 20/20 Shared Strategy provides a unique opportunity to develop a shared approach to Sawtooth NRA management. Together with the Vision 20/20 partners and participants, the Forest Service will regularly reference the Strategy along with the Forest Service Strategic Plan, National Executive Priority Items, the Intermountain Region and Sawtooth National Forest Emphasis Areas, Sawtooth National Forest priorities, Public Law 92-400³ and the Sawtooth National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan to set clear, consistent priorities. The Forest Service commits to use the Strategy along with these other resources to assist in the allocation and utilization of staffing and budget resources.

Sawtooth Vision 20/20 partners and participants commit to actively monitor progress in implementing the Strategy and provide support in completing key action items or, where able, to assist other stakeholders in their efforts to do so.

The Strategy published below continues to offer great promise in addressing current challenges, thanks to the hard work and cooperative effort of everyone involved.

² Stakeholders hold emotional, physical, financial and other interests in the activities and management of this extraordinary place known as the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

³ Public Law 92-400 legislatively established the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

VISION

The following statement describes an inspirational and timeless vision for what stakeholders want this area to be and become.

Vision for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area

The Sawtooth National Recreation Area is a magnificent place with breathtaking views, majestic mountains, open spaces, clear skies, dark nights, quiet places, clean air and waters, and abundant native fish and wildlife. Visitors and residents cherish their experiences, including opportunities for inspiration, solitude, silence, diverse recreational challenges, and a sense of history in a rustic, Western⁴ setting.

The Sawtooth National Recreation Area showcases effective stewardship, where all stakeholders collaborate to protect the scenic, historic, pastoral and natural values, diverse native fish and wildlife, and promote responsible recreation in this unique setting. Sustainable natural ecosystems and local communities thrive. Managers, visitors and residents embrace the special nature of the landscape and are enriched by their experiences.

CRITICAL ISSUES AND PRIORITY ACTION ITEMS

Critical issues are grouped into five separate (but interrelated) categories, as indicated above. Each category reflects a set of values identified in or affected by the legislation that created the Sawtooth NRA, and is vital to the overall long-term vision. Critical issues were identified within each category by workshop participants. At the end of the workshop, participants were asked to rank critical issues by casting five votes which could be split amongst all categories or all cast within an individual category. Critical issues which received votes are listed below along with their percentage vote received within each category. Priority Actions were developed by participants within each category and represent tangible actions which upon completion will lead us closer to accomplishing Critical Issues; Priority Actions are listed below each Critical Issue. Categories are listed in alphabetical order and a complete list of Critical Issues and Priority actions is provided in Appendix 1. Workshop attendees for the 2016 meeting are provided in Appendix 2. A detailed breakdown of the voting results is provided in Appendix 3.

Economic and Community Stability

Overall Desired Condition

The Sawtooth NRA includes small, vibrant Western communities in a planned, sustainable economic environment, compatible with and complimentary to Sawtooth NRA core values. Communities comprise a stable core of residents who choose to live, work, play, and raise their families here while participating

⁴ It is noted here that, throughout this document, inclusion of the term “Western” was not supported by all workshop participants, some of whom felt that the term was vague and unnecessary.

in their community. Stable, year-round economies with dependable revenues sustain a variety of businesses, community and visitor services. Gateway communities, and communities within the Sawtooth NRA enjoy economic and community stability providing a quality living environment for residents, many of whom provide services and support to the Sawtooth NRA.

Critical Issues

Issue #1: Develop city-owned or sponsored seasonal and year-round employee housing to bring stability to those employed in community services (40% within-category vote; 10% total vote)

- *Conduct needs analysis to identify amount and type(s) of employee housing needed*
- *Explore ownership options for housing (city owned vs. private business) to assist in rent price control*
- *Address logistical challenges of potential housing locations (regarding transport needs) by contemplating safe pedestrian travel routes to worksites*
- *Consider options for constructing campgrounds or repurposing existing campgrounds for seasonal employee housing*

Issue #2: Improve staffing and stability for emergency services throughout the Sawtooth NRA (31% within-category vote; 8% total vote)

- *Ensure option tax is reaffirmed by Stanley residents to support police and law enforcement.*
- *Coordinate efforts of law enforcement across city.*
- *Reestablish Forest Service enforcement officer presence in Sawtooth NRA.*
- *Increase number of trained EMT's serving the Sawtooth NRA (goal of paid-permanent staff, even if only for summer)*

Issue #3: Support river tourism for local outfitters (21% within-category vote; 5% total vote)

- *Work to extend day trip season later in the year*
- *Support continued availability of camping sites used by river outfitters*
- *On Middle Fork, maintain sustainable numbers of allowed outfitter trips/permits to balance economy and river health*

Issue #4: Improve public transportation in and out of the Sawtooth NRA (4% within-category vote; 1% total vote)

- *Encourage private enterprise that facilitates transport and auto tourism within the Sawtooth NRA*

- *Increase number of vehicle pull-outs and roadside interpretive areas*

Issue #5: Meet the need for a gravel source for area construction projects that protects sensitive visual resources (4% within-category vote; 1% total vote)

- *Identify suitable locations for new mineral material sources*
- *Work with State to keep existing pits aesthetically pleasing*

Fish and Wildlife

Overall Desired Condition

The Sawtooth NRA serves an important role in conservation biology, demonstrating the importance of habitat connectivity, continuity and functionality within a broader ecosystem. It provides a living, interpretive classroom that encourages scientific research, public education and appreciation of the intrinsic values of fish and wildlife, as well as fish and wildlife populations adequate to support traditional hunting and fishing activities. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA-Fisheries provide fisheries and wildlife expertise necessary to promote and sustain these important programs within the Sawtooth NRA. Partners in implementation include the Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho Transportation Department, and other federal, state and local agencies, interest groups and private citizens.

Appropriately managed forests promote a diversity of forested habitats, including aspen stands. Collaboration seeks to resolve conflicts and identify the desirable balances within the Sawtooth NRA between humans and wildlife, and between livestock grazing and wildlife and fisheries habitat. This results in mutual learning and understanding, creative problem-solving and peaceful coexistence.

Critical Issues

Issue #1: Recover salmon and other threatened or endangered anadromous fish species returning to the Stanley Basin (45% within-category vote; 5% total vote)

- *Disseminate the May 2016 federal ruling requiring a new NEPA/EIS analysis for salmon in the next two years*
- *Promote full public participation in the salmon/anadromous fish EIS process*

Issue #2: Increase professional and public understanding of climate change impacts upon fish and wildlife habitat in the Sawtooth NRA (30% within-category vote; 3% total vote)

- *Conduct studies quantifying localized impacts of climate change upon wildlife habitat*
- *Include climate mitigation and adaptation strategies in future wildlife management plans*

Issue #3: Protect keystone/vulnerable wildlife species in the Sawtooth NRA (25% within-category vote; 3% total vote)

- *Protect antelope populations*
- *Conduct Bighorn Sheep risk of contact studies between wild and domestic sheep*
- *Protect Sandhill Crane habitat*
- *Explore issues related to beaver trapping and the possibilities of area closures*
- *Preserve and restore predator-prey relationships in Sawtooth NRA*

Historic, Pastoral and Scenic

Overall Desired Condition

Visitors and residents of the Sawtooth NRA experience a tangible sense of place when they cross the NRA boundaries. Open, diverse and relatively natural scenic vistas are dotted by buildings and other developments consistent with the historic scale and design that characterize the area. Scenic view corridors include traditional, sustainable land uses such as ranches, with the visible presence of livestock and agricultural equipment. Clean air and water, along with a dark night sky, are valued characteristics of the area. Recreational and commercial activities and transportation corridors within the Sawtooth NRA generally reflect a quieter and slower pace. Private lands afford reasonable access to public lands. Preserved historic buildings and sites offer both a glimpse into the past and an educational opportunity for residents and visitors.

Critical issues

Issue #1: Protect critical scenic resource and foster compliance with Sawtooth NRA core values and legislation (53% within-category vote; 9% total vote)

- *Initiate land exchanges involving Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) properties within the Sawtooth NRA*
- *Influence political leaders to secure funding for acquisition of conservation easements and include protection for scenic, recreation and other core values*
- *Support development of management plan for Valley Creek Preserve*
- *Support certification of Dark Sky Reserve in Stanley/Sawtooth NRA*

Issue #2: Develop an effective private lands program which provides clarity in interpreting private land regulations in the Sawtooth NRA (41% within-category vote; 7% total vote)

- *Publish “Lessons Learned” booklet focused on private land regulations and voluntary compliance within the Sawtooth NRA*
- *Host a series of public meetings focused on private land stewardship*

Issue #3: Encourage development consistent with natural conditions of the Sawtooth NRA (6% within-category vote; 1% total vote)

- *Discourage urban/private pond development*
- *Refine the stance of Sawtooth Vision 20/20 on the exchange of lands between federal and state government (Utah Initiative)*

Natural, Sustainable Ecosystems

Overall Desired Condition

Healthy, sustainable and functioning natural ecosystems characterize the Sawtooth NRA, making it resilient to human disturbance. Effective education and enforcement of regulations minimize resource degradation from inappropriate recreational uses. The Sawtooth NRA supports wild places (areas with minimal human impact), including those without roads and motorized trails where natural processes dominate the landscape, providing opportunities for scientific study, public education and appreciation. Collaborative efforts between the Forest Service, other agencies, interest groups and private citizens resolve conflict among human activities, resulting in ecosystem sustainability.

Critical Issues

Issue #1: Identify and protect unique and/or sensitive ecosystems and maintain species diversity (38% within-category vote; 8% total vote)

- *Protect Railroad Ridge ecosystem by managing access to limit visitor impacts*
- *Perform surveys to locate populations of rare and threatened species*
- *Support the role of predators in the ecosystem*

Issue #2: Protect Sawtooth NRA waterways and restore to natural conditions where appropriate (22% within-category vote; 5% total vote)

- *Protect riparian areas from development*
- *Increase water quantities by promoting irrigation efficiency*
- *Lease/purchase water rights and acquire additional water through legal means*
- *Support beaver reintroductions where appropriate*
- *Seek solutions between water needs for fish and water needs for agriculture*

Issue #3: Recognize the functional role of wildfire in the ecosystem and reintegrate a natural return interval for fire in the Sawtooth NRA (20% within-category vote; 4% total vote)

- *Support research and education efforts aimed at understanding historic fire return intervals in the Sawtooth NRA locality*

- *Promote a prescribed fire program creating landscape/vegetation heterogeneity*
- *Allow more fires to burn naturally, as opposed to immediate suppression efforts, in areas where public safety permits*
- *Support efforts of Wildland Fire Collaborative*
- *Increase interpretive signage around past burn areas*

Issue #4: Reduce the introduction and spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species (15 % within-category vote; 3% total vote)

- *Consider potential for invasive species introduction/spread when opening or expanding trails*
- *Maintain vehicle/livestock decontamination checkpoints at key entrance locations*
- *Replace lake trout fishery in Stanley Lake with a native fishery*
- *Disseminate information to public regarding identification, spread, and decontamination methods for current/potential invaders*

Issue #5: Develop an understanding of the potential impacts of climate change upon natural resources within the Sawtooth NRA (5% within-category vote; 1% total vote)

- *Examine climate change case studies and adaptation strategies used in similar localities.*
- *Encourage researchers to conduct studies focusing on climate change impacts upon natural resources in the immediate Sawtooth NRA vicinity.*

Recreation

Overall Desired Condition

The Sawtooth National Recreation Area provides a showcase for environmentally conscious recreation within outstanding scenic and sensitive natural resources. Residents and visitors find the deliberate lack of some modern conveniences and limitations on the nature and extent of their recreational activities to be a reasonable tradeoff for their experience in this pristine and rugged environment. The Forest Service manages recreation and effectively enforces designations and carrying capacities in partnership with other local, state and federal agencies, commercial outfitters, guides, permittees, interest groups and private citizens. Ongoing recreation planning and implementation occurs in coordination with county and other Forest Service plans, and accommodates continuous changes in recreation patterns, demand and technology.

Critical Issues

Issue #1: Increase appropriate infrastructure and connectivity for recreationists in the Sawtooth NRA (87% within-category vote; 21% total vote)

- *Identify and develop new non-motorized and OHV trails/areas*

- *Assess adequacy of developed and dispersed camping areas*
- *Increase number of warming huts and yurts*
- *Increase number of toilet facilities near popular recreation areas for year-round use*
- *Increase number of designated road pull-offs and parking for auto tourists*
- *Build Stanley-to-Redfish trail (connecting Lower Stanley, City of Stanley and Redfish Lake)*
- *Provide well-maintained trail infrastructure (bridges, trails, trailheads, ect.)*
- *Increase community engagement in trail and wilderness planning*
- *Increase parking in high visitor-use areas*
- *Designate travel management as a high priority in Sawtooth NRA*
- *Further develop infrastructure related to water-based recreation (boating, fishing, rafting/kayaking, paddle boarding, ect.)*

Issue #2: Improve visitor education and opportunities to promote core values and user ethics in the Sawtooth NRA (13% within-category vote; 3% total vote)

- *Integrate real-time mapping info to inform recreationists of trail closures and hazards*
- *Manage conflicts amongst user groups*
- *Create and promote a recycling program for forest-users and community use*

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Foundation for Implementation

Workshop participants consistently affirmed that implementation of recommended actions was the only true measure of the success of this process. The following assumptions are critical to the success of implementation

- 1) As stated in the “Commitment to Implementation” section of the introduction to this document, the expectation is that a diversity of stakeholders (not just the Forest Service) will provide leadership for initiating and completing actions items identified in the Strategy.
- 2) The 20.20 Steering Committee will monitor progress on action items
- 3) Action leaders will coordinate with other organizations, agencies, etc. who may already be working on a similar action item so as not to duplicate effort, and to pool resources.
- 4) This document reflects a dynamic strategy. It will be assessed and updated periodically as priority action items are initiated and/or completed, or as new information affects the critical issues or action items identified in this strategy.
- 5) Stakeholder education/interpretation is a critical component of every value and issue.

Appendix 1: Complete List of 2016 Critical Issues and Priority Actions

Item #	Critical Issues	Priority Actions
Economic & Community Stability		
1	Develop city-owned or sponsored seasonal and year-round employee housing to bring stability to those employed in community services.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct needs analysis to identify amount and type(s) of employee housing needed. 2. Explore ownership options for housing (city owned vs. private business) to assist in rent price control. 3. Address logistical challenges of potential housing locations (regarding transport needs) by contemplating safe pedestrian travel routes to worksites. 4. Consider options for constructing campgrounds or repurposing existing campgrounds for seasonal employee housing.
2	Improve staffing and stability for emergency services throughout the Sawtooth NRA.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure option tax is reaffirmed by Stanley residents to support police and law enforcement. 2. Coordinate efforts of law enforcement across city. 3. Reestablish Forest Service enforcement officer presence in Sawtooth NRA. 4. Increase number of trained EMT's serving the Sawtooth NRA (goal of paid-permanent staff, even if only for summer).
3	Support river tourism for local outfitters	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work to extend day trip season later in the year. 2. Support continued availability of camping sites used by river outfitters. 3. On Middle Fork, maintain sustainable numbers of allowed outfitter trips/permits to balance economy and river health.
4	Improve public transportation in and out of Sawtooth NRA.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage private enterprise that facilitates transport and auto tourism within the Sawtooth NRA. 2. Increase number of vehicle pull-outs and roadside interpretive areas.
5	Meet the need for a gravel source for area construction that protects sensitive visual resources.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify suitable locations for new mineral material sources. 2. Work with State to keep existing pits aesthetically pleasing.
6	Develop a long-term plan for infrastructure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inventory and develop a plan to maintain, upgrade, or build new infrastructure (sewer, telecommunications, roads and transportation, power, water, airports, RV and boat storage and any other

Appendix 1: Complete List of 2016 Critical Issues and Priority Actions

Item #	Critical Issues	Priority Actions
Economic & Community Stability		
		infrastructure services) to meet the long-term needs of the Sawtooth NRA. 2. Initiate Stanley Geothermal Development Initiative (SGDI). 3. Explore cost effective community energy alternatives. 4. Develop emergency planning infrastructure for sewer system, which may involve generator-based or solar backup pumps.
7	Create a stable, year-round economy which encourages local business development and retention.	1. Keep Highways 21 and 75 between Salmon, Challis, Ketchum, Stanley, and Boise safe, reliable and open year-round. 2. Maintain avalanche awareness and Highway 21 priority with State officials. 3. Develop public identity for Stanley as a year-round recreation destination.
8	Stabilize the workforce and add families to the community.	1. Relocate at least 1/2 of Sawtooth NRA Headquarters employees to the Stanley Basin. 2. Establish a high school in the Stanley area.

Appendix 1: Complete List of 2016 Critical Issues and Priority Actions

Item #	Critical Issues	Priority Actions
Fish & Wildlife		
9	Recover salmon and other threatened or endangered anadromous fish species returning to the Stanley Basin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disseminate the May 2016 federal ruling requiring a new NEPA/EIS analysis for salmon in the next two years. 2. Promote full public participation in the salmon/anadromous fish EIS process.
10	Increase professional and public understanding of climate change impacts upon fish and wildlife habitat in the Sawtooth NRA.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct studies quantifying localized impacts of climate change upon wildlife habitat. 2. Include climate mitigation and adaptation strategies in future wildlife management plans.
11	Protect keystone/vulnerable wildlife species in the Sawtooth NRA.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect antelope populations. 2. Conduct Bighorn Sheep risk of contact studies between wild and domestic sheep. 3. Protect Sandhill Crane habitat. 4. Explore issues related to beaver trapping and the possibilities of area closures. 5. Preserve and restore predator-prey relationships in Sawtooth NRA.
12	Increase public appreciation and understanding of fish and wildlife.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance public education related to vulnerable species in the Sawtooth NRA. 2. Promote public involvement in quantifying significance of wildlife services in Sawtooth NRA.
13	Reduce wildlife mortality and improve highway motorist safety in the Sawtooth NRA.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement a wildlife-vehicle reduction program. 2. Request lower nighttime speed limits. 3. Mark blind corners.

Appendix 1: Complete List of 2016 Critical Issues and Priority Actions

Item #	Critical Issues	Priority Actions
Fish & Wildlife		
14	Provide habitat continuity across differing ownerships.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue work in implementing wildlife-friendly fencing on public and private lands. 2. Organize volunteer groups to remove unauthorized fencing in Sawtooth NRA.
15	Develop an understanding of the impacts of magnesium chloride road salt upon wildlife, vegetation and watersheds.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect monitoring data in Sawtooth NRA and organize data from elsewhere related to magnesium chloride effects upon the landscape.
16	Encourage collaboration amongst agencies to solve fish and wildlife issues.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage the participation of agency representatives in future Sawtooth 20/20 meetings. 2. Solicit involvement from Idaho Power in Sawtooth Vision 20/20, as well as salmon and water recovery efforts/events.

Appendix 1: Complete List of 2016 Critical Issues and Priority Actions

Item #	Critical Issues	Priority Actions
Historic, Pastoral & Scenic		
17	Protect critical scenic resource and foster compliance with Sawtooth NRA core values and legislation.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiate land exchanges involving Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) properties within the Sawtooth NRA. 2. Influence political leaders to secure funding for acquisition of conservation easements and include protection for scenic, recreation and other core values. 3. Support development of management plan for Valley Creek Preserve. 4. Support certification of Dark Sky Reserve in Stanley/Sawtooth NRA.
18	Develop an effective private lands program which provides clarity in interpreting private land regulations in the Sawtooth NRA.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Publish “Lessons Learned” booklet focused on private land regulations and voluntary compliance within the Sawtooth NRA. 2. Host a series of public meetings focused on private land stewardship.
19	Encourage development consistent with natural conditions of Sawtooth NRA.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discourage urban/private pond development. 2. Refine the stance of Sawtooth Vision 20/20 on the exchange of lands between federal a state government (Utah Initiative).
20	Focus actions on how and what to save and restore, based upon core values and desired conditions.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Restore, protect, preserve and interpret historic sites. 2. Develop and implement an action plan to identify, inventory and prioritize all historic sites within the Sawtooth NRA, including those outside the immediate Stanley area. 3. Work with Forest Service to priorities future conservation easements.
21	Restore and prevent loss of scenic vistas along Hwy 21.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish clearing of lodgepole pine encroachment along Highway 21 and 75 as an ongoing priority.

Appendix 1: Complete List of 2016 Critical Issues and Priority Actions

Item #	Critical Issues	Priority Actions
Natural, Sustainable Ecosystems		
22	Identify and protect unique and/or sensitive ecosystems and maintain species diversity.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect Railroad Ridge ecosystem by managing access to limit visitor impacts. 2. Perform surveys to locate populations of rare and threatened species. 3. Support the role of predators in the ecosystem.
23	Protect Sawtooth NRA waterways and restore to natural conditions where appropriate.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect riparian areas from development. 2. Increase water quantities by promoting irrigation efficiency. 3. Lease/purchase water rights and acquire additional water through legal means. 4. Support beaver reintroductions where appropriate. 5. Seek solutions between water needs for fish and water needs for agriculture.
24	Recognize the functional role of wildfire in the ecosystem and reintegrate a natural return interval for fire in the Sawtooth NRA.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support research and education efforts aimed at understanding historic fire return intervals in the Sawtooth NRA locality. 2. Promote a prescribed fire program creating landscape/vegetation heterogeneity. 3. Allow more fires to burn naturally, as opposed to immediate suppression efforts, in areas where public safety permits. 4. Support efforts of Wildland Fire Collaborative. 5. Increase interpretive signage around past burn areas.
25	Reduce the introduction and spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider potential for invasive species introduction/spread when opening or expanding trails. 2. Maintain vehicle/livestock decontamination checkpoints at key entrance locations. 3. Replace lake trout fishery in Stanley Lake with a native fishery. 4. Disseminate information to public regarding identification, spread, and decontamination methods for current/potential invaders.
26	Develop an understanding of the potential impacts of climate change upon natural resources within the Sawtooth NRA.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examine climate change case studies and adaptation strategies used in other localities. 2. Encourage researchers to conduct studies focusing on climate change impacts upon natural resources in the Sawtooth NRA vicinity.

Appendix 1: Complete List of 2016 Critical Issues and Priority Actions

Item #	Critical Issues	Priority Actions
Natural, Sustainable Ecosystems		
27	Mitigate the potential for catastrophic wildfire impacts at the wildland-urban interface.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote the adoption of “Firewise” practices and seek official recognition as a Firewise community. 2. Create/maintain defensible space near developments and facilities. 3. Develop “personal responsibility” policy for implementing appropriate fire protection measures at difficult-to-defend properties.

Appendix 1: Complete List of 2016 Critical Issues and Priority Actions

Item #	Critical Issues	Priority Actions
Recreation		
28	Increase appropriate infrastructure and connectivity for recreationists in Sawtooth NRA.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and develop appropriate new non-motorized and OHV trails/areas. 2. Assess adequacy of developed and dispersed camping areas. 3. Increase number of warming huts and yurts. 4. Increase number of toilet facilities near popular recreation areas for year-round use. 5. Increase number of designated road pull-offs and parking for auto tourists. 6. Build Stanley-to-Redfish trail (connecting Lower Stanley, City of Stanley and Redfish Lake). 7. Provide well-maintained trail infrastructure (bridges, trails, trailheads, ect.). 8. Increase community engagement in trail and wilderness planning. 9. Increase parking in high visitor-use areas. 10. Designate travel management as a high priority in Sawtooth NRA. 11. Further develop infrastructure related to water-based recreation (boating, fishing, rafting/kayaking, paddle boarding, ect.)

Appendix 1: Complete List of 2016 Critical Issues and Priority Actions

Item #	Critical Issues	Priority Actions
Recreation		
29	Improve visitor education and opportunities to promote core values and user ethics in Sawtooth NRA.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate real-time mapping info to inform recreationists of trail closures and hazards. 2. Manage conflicts amongst user groups. 3. Create and promote a recycling program for forest-users and community use.
30	Promote resource sustainability and maintenance of existing infrastructure.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase law enforcement presence monitoring OHV compliance. 2. Create stewardship programs (ex. adopt-a-trails, ambassador programs) which endorse sustainable recreation. 3. Improve signage in areas exceptionally vulnerable to user-induced degradation. 4. Provide opportunities for motorized and non-motorized groups to enjoy their activities without conflict or resource impacts (particularly impacts on fish and wildlife).

Appendix 1: Complete List of 2016 Critical Issues and Priority Actions

Item #	Critical Issues	Priority Actions
Recreation		
31	Increase safety for recreationists in the Sawtooth NRA.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase number of trained individuals enforcing FS regulations (especially on weekends and during hunting seasons). 2. Create peer-group to assist law enforcement officers. 3. Recognize cost of search and rescue for non-residents and find ways to expand and reimburse local resources. 4. Develop a bike-pedestrian safety program in the Sawtooth NRA.

Appendix 2: List of 2016 Workshop Participants

Dan Armstrong – *Idaho Department of Transportation*
Sarah Baker – *University of Idaho*
Robert Boren – *Salmon River Electric Co-op*
Steve Botti – *Stanley City Council*
Mandy Clark – *Mountain Village Resort*
Terry Clark – *Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association*
Jeff Clegg – *Redfish Lake Lodge*
Carol Cole – *U.S. Forest Service*
Tim Cron – *Stanley Hotel/Baking Company*
Chad Fealko – *NOAA Fisheries*
Bobbi Filbert – *U.S. Forest Service*
Kirk Flannigan – *U.S. Forest Service*
Josh Franks – *Papa Brunees*
Gary Gadwa – *Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Society*
Abbie Gongloff – *Idaho Governors Office of Species Conservation*
Bob Hayes – *Sawtooth Society Founding Director*
Barry Hicks – *Wildland Fire Associates*
Paul Hill – *Sawtooth Society*
Susan James – *U.S. Forest Service*
Nina Jonas – *Mayor of Ketchum*
Al Jones – *Smiley Creek Lodge*
Jim Keating – *Blaine County Recreation District*
David Keiski – *Sawtooth Ski Club*
Kurt Krapfl – *Sawtooth Vision 20/20*
Kathleen Krekow – *Valley View Subdivision*
David Langhorst – *Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation*
Meribeth Lomkin – *Idaho Department of Lands*
Stan Mai – *Off-road Vehicle Community*
Jon Marvel – *Western Watersheds*
Angenie McCleary – *Blaine County Commissioner*
Peter McPherson – *Challis School District*

Appendix 2: List of 2016 Workshop Participants

Betsy Mizell – *Idaho Conservation League*

Mark Moulten – *U.S. Forest Service*

Kit Mullen – *U.S. Forest Service*

Herb Mumford – *Stanley Mayor*

Gary O'Malley – *Sawtooth Society*

Keith Reese – *Sawtooth Valley Builders*

Nils Ribi – *Nils Ribi Photography*

Jeff Richards – *Idaho Department of Fish & Game*

Burton Stanley – *Sawtooth Valley Snowmobile Club*

Michelle Stennet – *Idaho State Senate*

Kathy Stice – *Wildland Fire Associates*

Tom Stuart – *Idaho Rivers United*

Jolie Turek – *Custer County Economic Development*

Wes Wills – *Sawtooth Valley Landowner*

Keri York – *Wood River Land Trust*

Patricia Young – *Retired Idaho Magistrate Judge*

Appendix 3: Voting results

Category and action item	% within category vote	% total vote
Economic & Community Stability		
Develop city-owned or sponsored seasonal and year-round employee housing	40%	10%
Improve public transportation	4%	1%
Improve staffing and stability for emergency services	31%	8%
Meet the need for a gravel source for area	4%	1%
Support river tourism for local outfitters	21%	5%
Economic & Community Stability Total	100%	26%
Fish & Wildlife		
Increase professional and public understanding of climate change	30%	3%
Protect keystone/vulnerable wildlife species	25%	3%
Recover salmon and other threatened or endangered anadromous fish species	45%	5%
Fish & Wildlife Total	100%	11%
Historic, Pastoral & Scenic		
Develop an effective private lands program	41%	7%
Encourage development consistent with natural conditions	6%	1%
Protect critical scenic resource and foster compliance with Sawtooth NRA core value	53%	9%
Historic, Pastoral & Scenic Total	100%	17%
Natural, Sustainable Ecosystems		
Identify and protect unique and/or sensitive ecosystems	38%	8%
Understand the potential impacts of climate change upon natural resources within the Sawtooth NRA	5%	1%
Protect Sawtooth NRA waterways	23%	5%
Recognize the functional role of wildfire in the ecosystem	20%	4%
Reduce the introduction and spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species	15%	3%
Natural, Sustainable Ecosystems Total	100%	22%
Recreation		
Improve visitor education and opportunities to promote core values	13%	3%
Increase infrastructure and connectivity for recreationists	87%	21%
Recreation Total	100%	24%