

**Sawtooth Vision 20/20**  
**Shared Strategies for the Future**  
of the  
**Sawtooth National Recreation Area**  
**2011 to 2013 Action Plan**

Sawtooth Vision 20/20 is a community-based strategy for the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA). The Strategy exists due to the efforts of local, county, state and federal governments, agencies, businesses, public and private organizations and individuals. It was produced through a collaborative workshop and public process convened in 2006 by the Sawtooth Society in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service. The Strategy is reviewed and updated every two years. The following priority actions are a result of a workshop held on June 8, 2011 in Stanley, Idaho.

**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 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.

Priority	Objective	Action (2011-2013)	Action Leader(s)	Measurement of Success (2013)
<b>AAA</b> (17)	Establish a stable workforce and help stabilize the local community and economy.	<p>Provide diverse affordable housing (tent, RV, and fixed structures) for people who are employed full-time, part-time or seasonally (and year-round) in the Sawtooth NRA (look at state land trade opportunities).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Form committee w/ all players</li> <li>2. Identify land</li> <li>3. Assess/review need</li> <li>4. Identify and get \$\$</li> <li>5. Obtain land</li> <li>6. Determine management</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While we still need seasonal housing and RV project, we also need year-round affordable housing</li> <li>• Specify housing type</li> <li>• Establish an economic structure</li> <li>• Start with rental housing for temporary employees, initially through a camp and progressing to RV housing</li> </ul>	<p><b>Keith Reese</b> <b>Tim Cron</b> <b>Identify action leader for help with feasibility study (logistics person)</b></p> <p>(Partners: City, FS, Chamber, County, F&amp;G, State, school district)</p>	<p>Identify funding and resources for feasibility study of pilot temporary employee housing project</p> <p>Complete feasibility study</p> <p>Implement Pilot Project</p>
<b>AAA</b> (17)	Create and implement a plan to retain local business operators (currently losing multiple beds and services)	<p>Create a healthy business climate that encourages local business development and retention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase year-round employment</li> <li>• Option tax awareness/approval, November</li> <li>• Stanley Geothermal Development Initiative (SGDI) – geothermal pools for recreation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Herb Mumford</b> (city of Stanley)</p>	<p>Stanley Geothermal Development Initiative Feasibility Study completed this year (2011)</p>
<b>AA</b> (11)	Secure permanent, professional emergency medical staff and search out alternative funding	<p>Improve stability and staffing for emergency services throughout the Sawtooth NRA</p> <p>Ensure Option Tax is reaffirmed by Stanley residents to support police and law enforcement</p> <p>Coordinate efforts of law enforcement across city, county, Forest Service and Fish and Game agencies.</p>	<p><b>Andy Gunderson</b></p> <p><b>Barbara Garcia, Forest Service</b></p>	<p>Option Tax approval in 2011</p> <p>Reestablish Forest Service</p>

Priority	Objective	Action (2011-2013)	Action Leader(s)	Measurement of Success (2013)
		<p>Reestablish the Forest Service enforcement officer presence in the SNRA</p> <p>Increase the number of trained EMT's to serve the SNRA area</p>		<p>Enforcement position</p> <p>Fund and establish EMT volunteer training program</p>
<b>BB</b>	Develop a long-term plan for infrastructure	<p>Develop a plan that identifies the principles for allowing improvements while protecting core values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stanley geothermal Development Initiative (SGDI) – Public Awareness</li> <li>• Salmon River Electric Cooperative (SREC) – need for backup power, extra board member</li> <li>• Explore cost effective energy alternatives</li> <li>• Include the topic of accessing band width</li> </ul>	<p><b>Herb Mumford</b> <b>Jeff Bitton</b></p> <p>(Partners: City, Chamber, counties, FS)</p>	<p>Stanley Geothermal Development Initiative Feasibility Study completed this year (2011)</p> <p>Initiate infrastructure plan</p>
<b>B</b>	Keep Hwys 21 and 75 safe, reliable, and open year-round	Raise awareness and priority with State officials	(Partners: City, Chamber, County)	Number of days each road remains open; number of reportable accidents
<b>B</b>	Increase awareness of Sawtooth NRA	Create Sawtooth NRA public relations / marketing strategy; participate in a shared common Web portal [NOTE: See also Recreation's "image" action item]	(Partners: FS, Chambers, Idaho tourism)	Top Google search for "SNRA"

## 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

Priority	Objective	Action (2011-2013)	Action Leader(s)	Measurement of Success 2013
AA (9)	Recover salmon & other threatened and endangered anadromous fish species returning to the Stanley area	Support Salmon Recovery by providing information and increasing public awareness and in turn public support: 1) Education Programs- (support annual Stanley Salmon Festival, SIHA-displays, lectures) 2) Increase visibility, utilize media opportunities & web 3) Identify & pursue partnering –IDFG, IRU, Morrison Knudsen Ctr & others 4) Facilitate discussion, collaborative processes& exchanges among diverse groups	<b>Byron Johnson</b> (Partners: Sawtooth Society, FS, political and downstreams entities)	Participation in more information programs, increased public awareness and public support of salmon recovery

Priority	Objective	Action (2011-2013)	Action Leader(s)	Measurement of Success 2013
<b>BB</b> <b>(5)</b>	Support "Watchable Wildlife" game & non-game species	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Public Education-programs and materials example: SIHA, Redfish Ctr</li> <li>2) Research-example: fisher, wolverine, lynx, antelope studies</li> <li>3) Identify and Utilize Partners-example:FS, IDFG,SSOC, SIHA</li> </ol>	<b>Janet Kellam</b>	<p>Increase of public awareness and public support of watchable wildlife programs</p> <p>Participation by the public in the wolverine study</p>
<b>B</b> <b>(2)</b>	Reduce wildlife mortality and improve motorist safety	<p>Identify and implement steps to reduce wildlife/vehicle collisions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Improve education, awareness example: entry portals-kiosk information, other venues</li> <li>2) Media &amp; Web products</li> <li>3) Partner with IDFG, FS, IDT</li> <li>4) Wildlife friendly fencing along roads-provide information to private landowners to help determine when/where possible</li> </ol>	<b>Janet Kellam</b>	Reduced wildlife roadside mortality

## HISTORIC, PASTORAL, 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.

Priority	Objective	Action (2011-2013)	Action Leader(s)	Measurement of Success 2013
<b>A</b> (8)	Protect critical scenic, recreation and other core value resources in compliance with Sawtooth NRA legislation	Purchase of development rights or fee simple purchase of priority wetlands along Valley Ck.	<b>Sawtooth Society</b>	Land or development rights purchased for priority properties
<b>A</b> (7)	Encourage development consistent with Sawtooth NRA values	Develop DVD that tells the story of the creation and success of the Sawtooth NRA	<b>Carol Cole , FS</b>  Sawtooth Society, SIHA, Idaho Public TV Forest Service	Production of DVD and distribution in 2012
<b>BBB</b> (6)	Protect critical scenic resources and compliance with Sawtooth NRA core values	Initiate land exchanges involving Idaho Department of Lands properties within the Sawtooth NRA (all of them?)	<b>Gary O'Malley</b>	Complete an "Agreement to Initiate" a land exchange

Priority	Objective	Action (2011-2013)	Action Leader(s)	Measurement of Success 2013
<b>B</b> (0)	Protect critical scenic resources	Enact dark sky ordinance	<b>Herb Mumford</b>	Reflected in city/county ordinances and FS implementation
<b>B</b> (1)	Protect critical scenic resources	Develop dark sky educational booklet Focus on Education Develop understanding of Dark Sky effort	<b>Sue Orb</b> (SREC Dr Stephen Pauley)	Development and distribution of booklet

## **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.

Priority	Objective	Action (2011-2013)	Action Leader(s)	Measurement of Success 2013
<b>AAA</b> (15)	Protect riparian and floodplain habitats from development in the Valley Creek floodplain	Stop development of lots along lower Valley Creek in Stanley by purchasing and/or exchanging lands and/or development rights.	<b>Sawtooth Society</b>	Permanent protection of Valley Creek via purchase of priority properties or development rights
<b>BB</b> (4)	Restore the aquatic ecosystem throughout the Sawtooth NRA by restoring in-stream flows to natural levels	Lease/purchase water rights, and acquire additional water through legal and administrative changes, to increase in-stream flow through legacy-like provisions and moving onto include new state designated in-stream flows initially on: Pole, Elk, Iron, Upper Valley, Fourth of July, Champion, Pole, Peach and West Pass Creeks. Designate instream flows for Salmon River Headwaters	<b>Mark Moulton, FS</b>	Water rights/additional water acquired  Established in-stream flows for Salmon River headwaters
<b>B</b> (3)	Increase the awareness, and control the spread, of existing land and aquatic invasive species	Establish inspection and washing stations, including livestock, boat and RV decontamination at all Sawtooth NRA entrances.	(Partners: Idaho Dept of Agriculture, IDFG, CWMAs)	Stations & equipment available and used
<b>B</b> (3)	Enforcement of all Natural Sustainable Ecosystems related laws and regulations	Advocate for compliance of Natural, Sustainable, Ecosystems laws and regulations. Consider a volunteer group to support compliance due to shortage of paid staff (a "Friends" Group)	<b>Barbara Garcia, FS</b> (Partners NOA, Fish & Wildlife, Idaho Fish and Game, Tribes)	Establishment of volunteer compliance officers  Increased presence of enforcement and patrol staff or volunteers  Increased web presence on education regarding compliance issues



## 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

Priority	Objective	Action (2011-2013)	Action Leader(s)	Measurement of Success 2013
AA (11)	Provide opportunities for motorized and non-motorized groups to enjoy their activities without conflict or resource impacts (particularly impacts on fish and wildlife)	Identify and designate motorized and non-motorized recreation roads, trails, and areas (closed to motorized use unless posted open): – Implement Pole Creek Pilot by Summer 2010 ----- Develop Galena Summer trail system plan ----- Identify other areas to apply Pole Creek (perhaps looking outside Sawtooth NRA boundaries- Thompson Cr etc)	<b>Jim Keating, Blaine County Recreation</b> ----- <b>Terry Clark , SIHA</b>	Successful implementation of the pilot; begin in 2011, finish in 2012 ----- completion of NEPA and funding for Galena Summer trail system plan. Complete planning in 2012 and implement in 2013, contingent on funding. -----

Priority	Objective	Action (2011-2013)	Action Leader(s)	Measurement of Success 2013
<b>AA</b> (9)	To improve economic opportunities through recreation development	Plan, design and construct the Redfish Lake to Stanley trail	<b>Steve Frost, FS</b> <b>Charlie Thompson</b>	Apply for grant funding in 2012 Complete planning in 2-5 yrs, depending on whether grant funding is received.  Trail is completed
<b>A</b> (8)	Provide easy to understand and up-to-date information, and create an expectation that this is a special place with unique values, opportunities and management	Develop and begin to implement a new visual identity for the Sawtooth NRA; write a grant for IDPR to fund improvement of the availability and quality of visitor information at portal sites, major trailheads and activity centers, and with the website Scenic Byway grant submitted, conceptual design in progress ----- Utilize current technology including web and social media	<b>Terry Clark</b> <b>Matt Phillips,</b> FS for portal <b>Julie Thomas,</b> FS for web  ----- <b>Greg Martin,</b> <b>BCRD</b>	Design completed; grant received
<b>BBB</b> (6)	Increase Education & information with focus on stewardship	Bring more partners to develop broader education effort	<b>Liese Dean &amp;</b> <b>Carol Cole, FS</b>	
<b>B</b> (3)	Increase effectiveness of law enforcement and user education efforts for motorized travel	Increase the number of trained individuals enforcing FS travel and other regulations, especially on weekends and hunting season. Identify partnership opportunities (objective 3 Peer Group)	*(Partners: City, counties, IDFG, FS) FS Lead	Increase number of enforcement-trained individuals available for duty
<b>B</b> (2)	Improve sustainability of existing recreation assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expansion of partners</li> <li>• Inventory and evaluation</li> <li>• Select pilot project</li> </ul>	<b>Jim Keating</b>	

Priority	Objective	Action (2011-2013)	Action Leader(s)	Measurement of Success 2013
<b>B</b> (0)		Develop Strategic Plan for actions for winter	<b>Jim Keating</b>	

### Steering Committee for Vision 20/20

Terry Clark, Sawtooth Interpretative Historical Association Executive Director

Carol Cole, Forest Service, Partnership and Outreach Coordinator

Barbara Garcia, Stanley Deputy Area Ranger

Paul Hill, Sawtooth Society President

Linda Hoffman, Sawtooth Society

Herb Mumford, City of Stanley Mayor

Angenie McCleary, Blaine County Commissioner

Gary O'Malley, Sawtooth Society Executive Director

Keith Reese, Sawtooth Valley Builders

Joby Timm, Area Ranger for Sawtooth National Recreation Area

Jolie Turek, Custer County Economic Development Director

Patricia Young, Sawtooth Society