



WELCOME!

As I complete my first year as the Area Ranger for the Sawtooth NRA, I want to take a brief moment to recap past highlights, look forward to this summer and beyond, and to encourage you to get out and enjoy your National Forest.

This past year was highlighted by the designation of our two new wilderness areas and continued partnerships with local non-profits, private land owners, volunteers, Tribes, elected officials, and engaged citizens.

Beyond the projects highlighted in this newsletter, you will see ongoing efforts on the new roads at Redfish Lake; design for a new campground at Stanley Lake; continued planning for the Stanley to Redfish trail; the completion of a new non-motorized trail system at Galena Lodge; additional restoration efforts associated with the Salmon River and its tributaries; and a renewed effort to work collaboratively with the private land owners within the Sawtooth Valley.

These projects, and the many others we work on are focused on protecting the resource and providing you with outstanding opportunities on your local public lands. So please take time to get out and enjoy your National Forests, as they depend greatly on active and engaged land stewards. It is through personal experience in the outdoors that a strong land ethic is formed!

Kirk Flannigan
Area Ranger

Things just got a little more wild...

In August 2015, Congress designated three new wilderness areas in central Idaho - White Clouds, Hemingway-Boulders and Jim McClure-Jerry Peak.

The new Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness, the majority of the White Clouds Wilderness, as well as the existing Sawtooth Wilderness are located within and managed by the Sawtooth NF. The new Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness is managed by the Salmon-Challis NF and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The respective agencies are working together to develop management plans for the three new wilderness areas. As the planning moves forward, information and opportunities for public involvement will be publicized on the web, through local media, and at forest and BLM offices.

Pole Creek Project Receives Awards

The Intermountain Region 2015 Sustaining Forests and Grasslands External [Award](#) was presented to Mike and Mark Henslee, of the Salmon Falls Land & Livestock Company, for their efforts to restore Pole Creek within Sawtooth Valley. The Henslee Family, and the full cross-section of partners engaged in the effort, also received the 2015 Partnership Award from the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts. ([project details](#))

An important tributary of the Salmon River, Pole Creek provides critical habitat for three species of imperiled fish. This partnership was successful in re-establishing necessary late summer streamflow while maintaining viable ranching operations. It also serves as an excellent model of innovative land stewardship and creative problem solving among diverse groups.



Headquarters Office/North Fork Visitor Center 208-727-5000

Stanley Ranger Station 208-774-3000

fs.usda.gov/sawtooth



BIG WOOD TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN

This proposed Travel Management Plan would revise the designated system of roads and trails for public access and recreational travel in the Upper Big Wood River Valley drainage. The plan would address resource impacts due to use and location of roads and trails and identify non-system routes that require rehabilitation.

This proposal would revise the existing Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) for the Big Wood watershed to address changed conditions and align road and trail use with the Forest Plan, laws, and regulations.

Check the [project webpage](#) or contact one of the Sawtooth NRA offices for more information about the travel planning process.



SAWTOOTH VALLEY WILDLAND FIRE COLLABORATIVE

The Sawtooth NRA and the Salmon-Challis NF have been a part of and working with the Sawtooth Valley Wildland Fire Collaborative since 2013 to identify opportunities to reduce the risk of large scale wildland fires, improve point protection, and enhance wildfire education for the public.

In 2015, working within the framework of the Farm Bill, the Collaborative identified the Redfish 210 Project south of Redfish Lake as the initial project for implementation. Currently, the Collaborative is working on identifying additional project areas, with the hope of beginning formal planning later this fall.

For more information on the Collaborative Group's efforts, contact the Sawtooth NRA Headquarters Office.



IT'S ALL YOURS...

Jump in, Get involved, Learn more!

The Sawtooth NRA works with many dedicated partners who offer a variety of services and opportunities to get involved. You can enjoy some of the fun and educational programs offered by the Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association (SIHA) at the Redfish Visitor Center and the Stanley Museum. (discoversawtooth.org)

Another option is to volunteer through the Sawtooth Society's Austin Kraal Memorial Volunteer Program and give back to this place we all love. (sawtoothsociety.org)