

## Implementation Updates

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*Updates are listed in chronological order with most recent first.*

**Date:** Tuesday, May 15, 2007  
**Subject:** Sawtooth Vision 20/20  
**From:** Paul Hill  
**Re:** Update

Hello again to everyone and sorry this update didn't get out earlier.

Hope all of you enjoyed a Happy Easter. Below is an update on those 20/20 recommendations which several of you have moved to start implementing.

**1. OHV Project** - Norma Douglas is putting together her implementation team for this action. It includes, in addition to Norma as leader, Terry Clark and Leise Dean or Ed Canaday from the FS, Steve Frost or Troy Elmore from Idaho Parks and Rec, Gary Kimball from the Custer County Trailriders, Jim Bennetts from Challis (as an advisor) and Paul Hill from Stanley, as well as (we hope) one property owner/rancher from the Sawtooth Valley. Norma is now starting work on a proposed approach for the group to pursue on this effort as well as some funding for a possible facilitator to work with the group in developing a plan for implementation.

**2. Highway 21 Access** - The ITD and FS have finalized the avalanche mitigation plan to help keep Highway 21 open during the winter and expect to fully execute the plan during 2007 (final plans and approvals came too late in the winter to execute much of the plan this winter). ITD hopes this plan (which is the first of its kind we're told) will become a model in future years for avalanche mitigation work on other key roads, so they are anxious to see how well it goes on 21 over the next couple of years. The only possible glitch currently on the horizon is that the ITD Board or State Legislature fails to continue adequate funding for this plan in the ITD budget. In this regard, Gary McKinney (who is the ITD official coordinating the plan; tel. # 208-334-8935), says the best help all of us can give to this effort is to call or write our state legislators and representatives on the ITD Board urging them to continue funding for this important effort, which helps not only Stanley but all of Custer County as well as businesses in Boise County and the folks from the Boise area who wish to recreate in the SNRA during winter months. Contact information for the state legislators for Custer County (Lenore Barrett and JoAnn Wood) and Boise County can be found at the Idaho Legislature website and for the members of the ITD Board at the ITD website. The Idaho Legislature website can be found at [www.state.id.us](http://www.state.id.us) and the ITD website is [www.itd.idaho.gov](http://www.itd.idaho.gov).

**3. Affordable Housing** - Jeff Clegg has confirmed his desire to lead a group in an effort to really make some headway on this issue in 2007. Jeff is in the process of assembling his task force, which will include representatives from the City of Stanley, the Forest Service, both large and small local employers and others. Anyone interested in being part of this group should contact Jeff or me ASAP.

**4. Salmon Recovery** - Idaho Rivers United has developed a series of objective educational forums to be presented over the course of the summer to residents and visitors to the SNRA, with the first being held in Stanley in late May or early June. The programs will be conducted with support from both the Forest Service and the Sawtooth Society and will be focused on showing people the importance of salmon to the overall ecosystem of the SNRA and the current trends and future projections of salmon populations in the area. With the benefit of this objective information, people should be better equipped to reach their own, informed decisions regarding what steps should be taken (if any) to better protect salmon in the SNRA and hopefully some consensus for action will begin to develop.

**5. Dark Sky Ordinance** - Charlie Thompson has presented the idea of the City of Stanley adopting a dark sky ordinance to the City Council. The Council, while generally supportive of the idea, has concluded that this (as well as some other proposed new ordinances regarding building in the City) should be considered as part of a more comprehensive look at updating all of the City's planning, zoning and building ordinances, with the Council working in conjunction with a professional planner to review and revise these ordinances. Since many of these ordinances are interrelated and address common or related issues, this clearly makes good sense. The first step in this effort will occur later this spring when the Council holds a workshop to identify and articulate its vision of how, where and what the future development of Stanley should be.

**6. Sale of Stan Harrah Properties** - With help from Jim Bennetts, Hannah Stauts has established a dialogue with the brokers representing the Stan Harrah trust in the sale of these properties. This should enable Hannah, as Mayor of Stanley, to share with the brokers the vision that the City has for future development/use of these properties, as well as the concerns of the City regarding the properties (i.e. the continuing need for reliable jobs and affordable housing among other things). Hopefully, this information will provide some constructive direction for any prospective purchasers of the properties.

**7, Exchange of IDL Parcels** - As some of you may already know, while discussions between the Forest Service and IDL to effect this exchange (which is part of a much larger set of proposed exchange parcels) are well underway, it will probably take 3 to 4 years to actually implement the exchange (due to the various appraisals and studies required in order to implement the exchange). On a positive note, both the FS and IDL appear to very much want the SNRA parcels to be exchanged. The major potential obstacle appears to be the mineral leases (read gravel) the ITD holds on some of the IDL parcels in the SNRA. These are very favorable to ITD and, at present, there appears to be little incentive for ITD to want to give these up (even in exchange for leases on other mineral sites) and the FS does not feel it can or should take these parcels unless it can either remove or significantly modify the leases so another Fourth of July gravel pit event does not occur. The best avenue to eliminating the lease issue currently seems to be to persuade the new Governor (and the ITD Board) that the ITD should be willing to negotiate a reasonable resolution of the lease issue in the interest of protecting the SNRA for Idahoans. The Sawtooth Society has made this one of the primary challenges it will

seek to address during 2007 and plans to discuss it with the Governor soon. However, any help that any of you feel you could provide on this difficult issue would be welcome; just please let me know what you think you might be able to do. In the meantime, members of the Sawtooth Society are also trying to work with ITD to get operating procedures at the Fourth of July gravel pit modified so they will be less objectionable.

**8. Historical Sites Inventory** - The Sawtooth Historical & Interpretive Association has employed an unusually well qualified and interested intern for the summer, and one of her primary duties will be to review the available information on historical sites at the Forest Service and from Floris Neusteder's previous survey of sites (as well as any other appropriate sources) and to draft a plan for conducting a current inventory. SIHA will also begin a major restoration effort on the Doc Day cabin in 2007.

**9. Private Land Certification** - Keith Reese is currently gathering input from a variety of individuals who have had experience dealing with the current and past certification processes. With this data assembled, he plans to meet by early summer with appropriate folks at the Forest Service who are responsible for the certification process to determine how the process can be simplified, streamlined and made more user-friendly.

So as you can see from the above, folks are starting to move on a number of fronts. I encourage each of you to be supportive of these efforts and to get involved in any of them that spark your interest. Our success in all of these is dependent on how strongly we all commit to making some things happen in 2007.

Thank you for your continuing support of Sawtooth Vision 20/20 and we will periodically update you again as things progress.

Paul

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**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2007

**Subject:** Sawtooth Vision 20/20

**From:** Paul Hill

**Re:** Update

We've had several conversations with folks in Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Forest Service Office. They are starting work on their 2007 business plan and expect the results of 20/20, including the recommended actions, to provide major input and strategy direction for that plan.

We are also planning a meeting between the Sawtooth Society and appropriate Forest Service folks from the Sawtooth NRA, the Sawtooth National Forest, and the Intermountain Regional Office. The primary purpose is to discuss how each of these levels of the Forest Service and the Society can best use and support 20/20 as we move forward.

Additionally, I hope at this meeting (or before) we can agree on the appropriate individuals to fill the slots identified for the Resource Support and Facilitation Teams in the Implementation section of 20/20. As soon as these individuals are identified, we will let you know so those involved in implementing actions can contact them as needed. The Facilitation Team should also come up with a plan for monitoring progress on implementing the actions recommended in 20/20 and publicly reporting on this at least annually.

I'm delighted to report that a number of you have already stepped forward to act as Action Implementation Leaders, recognizing there is a lot that can and should be started as soon as possible. In particular:

- 1) Norma Douglas has agreed to coordinate development of a plan for appropriate OHV activity in and around the SNRA and adjacent areas, as well as designation and protection of those areas where OHV activity is not appropriate. She will work with Terry Clark, Dan Smith, and Liese Dean plus representatives of OHV users.
- 2) Working in concert with Norma, Liese will spearhead development of a coordinated education and enforcement plan that can be started in 2007 and mesh with the new trail access policy for the Sawtooth Forest that will go into effect in 2008.
- 3) Jeff Clegg has agreed to lead an effort to develop affordable housing in the Stanley area working with Hannah Stauts, some of the City Council members and some F.S. folks as well as others.
- 4) Keith Reese will tackle simplifying and streamlining both the private lands certification process and the conservation easement review process; he has already begun dialogue with Sara and others in the F.S. on this subject. This may eventually expand to include an effort to broaden the easement and private land regulation enforcement tools available to the F.S.
- 5) Hannah Stauts is leading an effort by the Stanley City Council to try to insure, to the extent practically possible, that the sale and possible redevelopment of the Stan Harrah Properties in Stanley result in a positive impact on Stanley and the SNRA.
- 6) Charlie Thompson is working with the Stanley City Council to get an appropriate "Dark Sky" ordinance adopted before the sale of the Stan Harrah properties is finalized. (Nils Ribbi has been a great help in providing examples of how the Sun Valley City Council addressed this issue.)
- 7) Tom Stuart is willing to help coordinate an effort to develop both an effective program to educate Salmon River communities on the challenges, issues and benefits of salmon recovery and, depending on the outcome of that, an appropriate program to promote salmon recovery efforts in those communities.
- 8) Gary Gadwa, as the new Executive Director of the Sawtooth Interpretive & Historical Association, plans to have SIHA head up a serious effort to identify,

inventory and evaluate historic structures and sites in the Sawtooth Valley and Stanley Basin so that ones that deserve rehabilitation and/or interpretive signs can be properly addressed. Eventually, this can pave the way for establishing historical walking and auto tours of the area. In addition to other SIHA directors (several of whom participated in Sawtooth 20/20), Gary is working closely on this and other historical projects in the SNRA with Carol Cole, who handles the liaison responsibilities between the F.S. and SIHA.

- 9) Hannah and I are also working with ITD and the F.S. to try to expedite implementation of IDT's new plans to use avalanche mitigation techniques this winter on Highway 21, so it can remain open a good deal more of the snow season.

In addition to the foregoing, the Sawtooth Society is examining how it can best play a role in: Facilitating and expediting the exchange of IDL lands in the SNRA so that they can be brought under appropriate F.S. control; accelerating the identification, prioritization and acquisition of additional scenic/conservation easements on critical private lands in the SNRA; and helping develop (together with Tom) an effective program to educate Salmon River communities about salmon recovery.

The Society will also consider whether it is suited to play some leadership role in educating property owners and visitors in the SNRA about the dangers of invasive species to the SNRA and developing a more comprehensive approach to controlling existing and new infestations of such species (the Society was identified as a potential implementation leader in this area).

As you can see, a lot of activities are being planned and, if they move ahead as planned, 2007 should be a rewarding year. But, as was said several times during our workshops, the success of these efforts (and indeed Sawtooth Vision 20/20) depends heavily on your continued involvement and support. In this regard, I would ask that any of you who are willing to take on a leadership role in implementing an action dear to you or your organization who have not already stepped forward please consider doing so. Alternatively, you may want to get on board one of the efforts listed above and work with the identified leader. **NOW IS THE TIME!** If you will let me know of your interest, I can promise I will work with you to the best of my ability to make positive things happen. You can reach me via phone at 541-552-0211 or e-mail at: [paul@pahill.com](mailto:paul@pahill.com).

Please stay in touch and let me know of any questions, ideas or concerns you may have about Sawtooth Vision 20/20. As Susan Hayman has noted, this is a dynamic plan and must continue to evolve and adapt as circumstances change and new thoughts develop. As those most familiar with the plan, you are best suited to guide these changes. For my part, I promise to keep you periodically updated on what's going on.

Thanks again for the time and effort you have spent on 20/20. It is a plan that you can and should be proud of (already we've received a number of positive comments from sources outside the workshop participants), and it provides a series of steps that should have a very positive, long-term impact on this special area we all cherish so long as we remain committed to making it happen.

Thanks, Paul

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