

FY2024

Sawtooth Society

Funding Request

General Information

Agency Name:	The Sawtooth Society
Project Name:	Facilitation and Implementation of the Sawtooth Valley Wildlands Fire Collaborative (SVWFC)
Contact Person:	Kathryn Grohusky, Executive Director, The Sawtooth Society
Address:	PO Box 820 Hailey, ID 83333
Email:	kathryn@sawtoothsociety.org
Phone Number:	(208) 721-1495

Organization Profile

Organization Mission

To preserve, protect and enhance the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA).

Operational Description

The Purposes of the Sawtooth Society:

- a. To preserve and protect the SNRA's natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, fish, and wildlife values.
- b. To preserve and enhance the recreational values of the SNRA.
- c. To preserve and enhance recreational, educational, interpretive, scientific, research, and experimental opportunities on the SNRA.
- d. To increase public awareness, understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of the SNRA, and to enhance public support for the preservation of these values listed above.
- e. To raise, manage, and administer such funds as are necessary and appropriate to carry out the purposes of the Corporation.

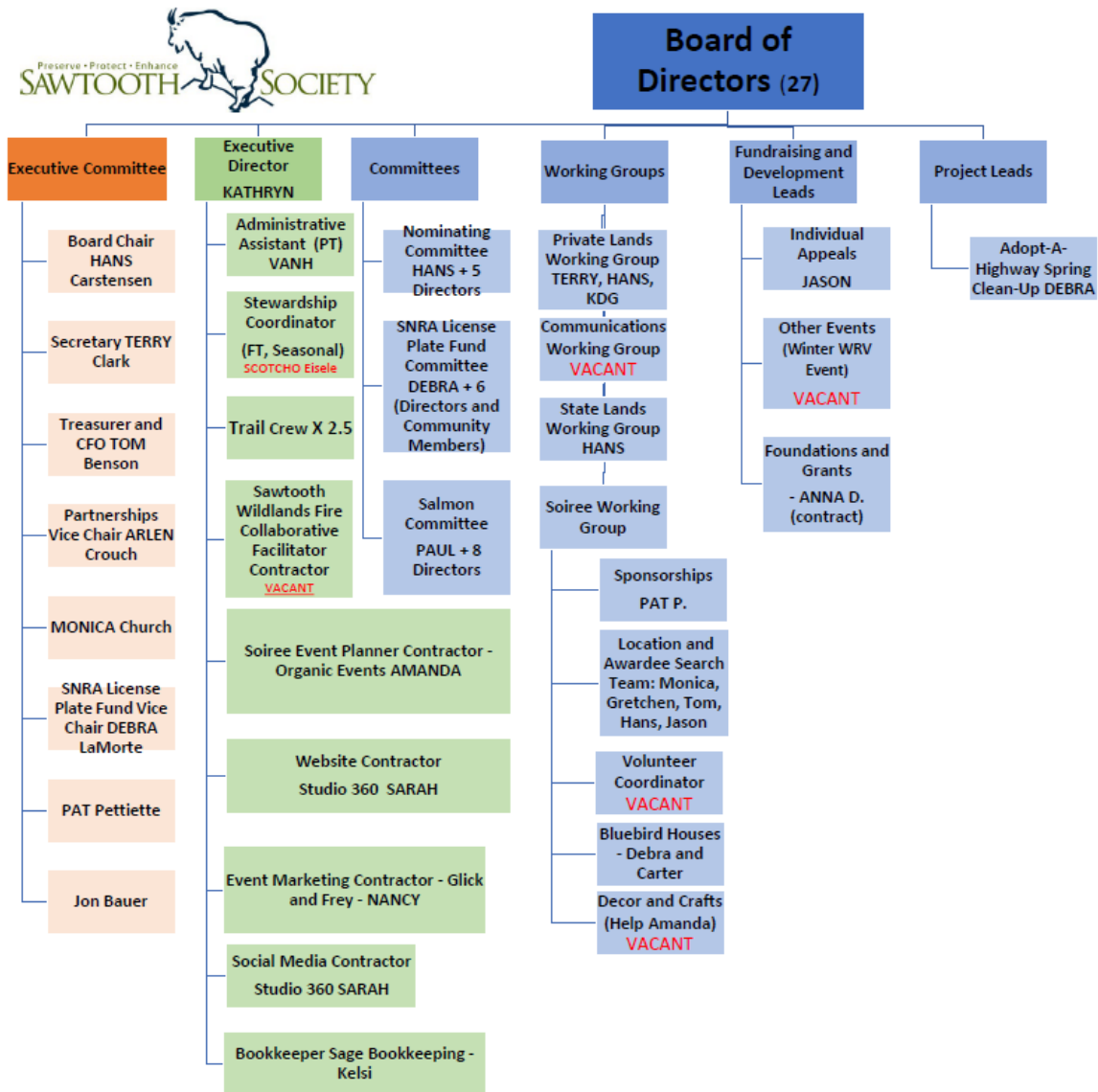
The Strategies of the Sawtooth Society:

The Society accomplishes these purposes and responds to threats against the SNRA by engaging in Advocacy, Collaboration, and Stewardship. The Society works in close partnership

with the Forest Service, National Forest Foundation (NFF), Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR), Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association (SIHA), plus other agencies, state and county governments, non-profits, recreation groups, local businesses, and individuals to preserve and protect the SNRA.

Organizational Structure

The Sawtooth Society employs two Hailey residents for a total of 1.5 FTEs year-round. We also hire 3.5 seasonal positions for the summer season. The rest of our work is accomplished by contractors, many of whom live in Hailey plus volunteers. NOTE: Our Organization chart is nearly ALL VOLUNTEERS:



DRAFT Document and work-in-progress. KDG 5/19/23

FY23 Fiscal Year Review

NOTE: In 2022 and 2023 the Society requested funds for educational efforts in the Blaine County portion of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. This year, for 2024, we are ready to expand our efforts from disseminating education regarding FIREWISE and Leave No Trace to facilitating and implementing the Sawtooth Valley Wildlands Fire Collaborative in the Blaine County portion of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

FY23 Performance Metrics

(Provide a bulleted list of at least 3 performance metrics - Note – going forward these should be reported on year-over-year as well as a history of this data)

- Approximately 500 homeowners received FIREWISE information via email and/or social media.
- At least 3000 educational messages with fire mitigation information were opened via print, email, and social media distribution.
- At least 3000 Leave no Trace messages were opened via email and social media distribution.

FY23 Fiscal Year Highlights

(Provide a bulleted list of three to five highlights from FY23 – should tie directly to budget requests and approvals from current FY and how the budget approvals help(ed) your organization achieve your metrics)

1. Increased and more targeted engagement on the Sawtooth Society's social media platforms help disseminate critical Leave No Trace and FIREWISE information that helps improve both **sustainability** and **community wellbeing**.
2. Increased traffic to our website's online resources helped disseminate critical Leave No Trace and FIREWISE information focused on **sustainability** and **community wellbeing**.
3. Promoting the protection of the SNRA as "Blaine County's Wild Backyard" gives residents and visitors more **sustainability** and **community wellbeing** by keeping our trails, camping areas, and wild places litter and damage free. Engaging the public also increases the number of people taking positive action and helps the Sawtooth Society recruit volunteers to maintain the SNRA – thus increasing sustainability and community well being in a cyclical way.

FY24 Fiscal Year Budget Request Highlights

Requested Resources and Associated Costs

(Identify any significant budget requests and applicable information to support the requests. Explain how the requests will support increased performance of the above identified performance metrics.)

Leadership History of the SVWFC

In 2012, the SVWFC was started by many local stakeholders, including the Sawtooth Society. Approximately five years later, the project was handed over to the National Forest Foundation (NFF). In the winter of 2023 the facilitator of the SVWFC, Dani Southard, who worked for NFF, left the NFF for another opportunity. At that point in time, the NFF offered the Sawtooth Society the chance to provide leadership to the SVWFC. As of 2023, the Society is once again leading the SVWFC. This will require approximately \$25,000 to \$35,000 annually. We are requesting a \$15,000 portion of this funding from Blaine County.

Background and Statement of Work:

The Sawtooth Valley Wildland Fire Collaborative (SVWFC) was formed after the Halstead Fire burned 179,000 acres in 2012 and is a broad-based group of stakeholders, including federal, city, and county government, private landowners, businesses, and local concerned citizens. The goal of the group has been **to identify and recommend to the Forest Service the location, type, and scale of fuel treatments and other wildfire risk reduction strategies**. For the past five years, the group has met approximately once a year.

With the recent Ross Fork fire, there is a renewed interest in invigorating this collaborative effort, including developing an action plan to address the risk of catastrophic fire, mitigation strategies, and emergency response planning. The Fire Collaborative, if facilitated and implemented well, can help the community better understand potential significant consequences (and proactive responses to the threats) of wildfire to homes, power supply, infrastructure, economy, and environmental assets.

The goal of the 2023 and 2024 collaborative meetings will be to develop a longer-term action plan centered on local wildfire risk reduction and emergency preparedness. In other words, a reinvigorated SVWFC can better provide a forum for residents, Forest Service managers, and state and county representatives to share concerns and ideas about how to protect lives, property and resource values in the Sawtooth Valley and adjacent communities.

General Specifications

- (a) Description of Work – This Request is for facilitation service related to the SVWFC to accomplish the following:
1. **Convene steering committee leaders of the SVWFC** to inform next steps for collaborative meeting processes, frequency, and action plan development.
 2. Organize and host up to **three annual SVWFC steering committee** meetings per year, in 2023 and 2024, to advance the development of a community-based wildfire risk reduction strategy.

3. Organize and host at least **two annual collaborative meetings in 2023 and 2024**. This will include prework and stakeholder surveys to organize the meeting and facilitation during the meeting. Additional tasks include sending meeting invitations; assigning and managing notetaking during the meeting; reviewing those meeting notes for accuracy after the meeting; and following up on action items developed during the meeting.

Facilitator Requirements and Specifications

- Specifications—Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the following:
 - Professionally and effectively communicate through written communications.
 - Answer all emails sent to the project-specific email address with timely responses (auto responder acceptable when not on duty to the project).
 - Professionally and effectively communicate via phone and video through spoken communications.
 - Ensure communication with all current and potential members of the collaborative.
 - Market the collaborative by assisting in creation of social media posts for all member organizations; write blogs, press releases, and any other types of marketing; present the opportunity to participate in the collaborative to any relevant gatherings or meetings of potential participants.
 - Facilitate the meetings with a change-minded orientation; bring a bold and brave approach to the conversation; offer a broad process and idea-oriented approach; be flexible, be quick to respond and act; be a low-profile catalyst for forward movement towards collaborative goals; be a people-person with an extroverted approach to the meetings that encourages others to participate and communicate.
 - Take direction from the ED of the Sawtooth Society and work with other organizations who comprise the collaborative.
- People; Facilities; Equipment; Programming Costs; Other Requested Resources:
 - **Budget Request:** Provide partial funding to Contract a Facilitator to Implement the Sawtooth Valley Wildlands Fire Collaborative
 - **Associated Cost of Request:** \$15,000
 - **Sustainability and Community Well Being** are the strategic priorities of this request.

FY24 Fiscal Year Anticipated Highlights

FY24 Anticipated Projects, Performance and Highlights

(Provide a bulleted list of at least 3 anticipated highlights based upon budget requests or anticipated projects.)

4. **Anticipated Highlight 1: The Society will receive full funding for the Facilitator position and associated costs. (Partial funding has been received.)**

2023 – 2024 sources of funding. Target: \$25K annual project funding

- Jan 23 – Dec 23 - secured from National Forest Foundation (NFF): \$5,000
- Jan 23 – Dec 23 - secured from SPUR Foundation: \$10,000
- May 23 – April 24 - request-in-progress – NFF Invited Grant: \$6,300
- **Oct 23 – Sept 24 – REQUESTED Blaine County contracted funds: \$15,000**
- Jan 24 – Dec 24 – anticipated request to SPUR Foundation: \$10,000

5. Anticipated Highlight 2: The Sawtooth Society will hire a year-round SVWFC Facilitator.

- The May 31, 2023, SVWFC meeting will be led by a USFS facilitator from a neighboring Forest District. Future meeting success hinges on securing the right person to fill the position. Funding from Blaine County will help the Society in our search for a long-term contracted facilitator and will ensure we have the resources needed for the Facilitator to carry out their tasks effectively, efficiently, and with the best possible outcome for completing SNRA fire mitigation and emergency preparedness to preserve and protect Blaine County.

6. Anticipated Highlight 3: Two annual meetings will be conducted by the SVWFC.

- The next SVWFC meeting is scheduled for May 31st at the Stanley Community Building. This three-hour meeting will address the current wildland fire risk and how previous fuel treatments have impacted fire behavior. We have received a lot of interest in this coming gathering. We will recruit stakeholders to join the collaborative.
- A September SVWFC meeting will be scheduled. This meeting is anticipated to be an all-day discussion about how to best stand-up a re-invigorated fire collaborative.
- Two meeting for 2024 will be scheduled. The anticipated schedule is to hold these meetings before and after the fire season – in May and late September of 2024.