

## June Board Report

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As I write this we are one day away from kicking off our daily summer hours at the Stanley Museum and Redfish Visitor Center! As always, it has been a whirlwind of intense training and we are excited to see what our new crew brings to our visitors and programs.

Jeff and I left the Sawtooths in mid-October and after a nice month of travel through eastern Nevada and Utah, we spent the winter in Fort Collins, CO. I continued to work off and on for SIHA, doing social media posts and updating or improving workflows and documentation, including carrying out online marketing for Idaho Gives and starting to put together a Program Coordinator (PC) Procedures manual. My aim is to create a resource for future incoming PCs who are new to the area, as well as the position, and reduce some of the burden on Lin with information sharing. Jeff and I made our way back to the SNRA in May, and after a brief stay at the Gadwas (thank you again, Gary and Laurii for a place to “land”) we moved into the Redfish Cabin on May 15th. For the next 12 days we were able to chip in on the incredible work so many of you have been doing over the winter preparing the bunkhouse for staff arrivals! Thank you all for your hard work, with an additional thanks to Michael and Liesl for the many hours you’ve given to the development of the Center for the Sawtooths and bunkhouse.

Staff arrived on May 27th and 28th, and we jumped right into training the next day. This year’s training was different for me, but our more “normal” schedule. There were presentations by USFS staff, history tours with Bernie, work days at the museum, roving scenarios, trailhead portal practice, and setting up the Visitor Center. Thank you to everyone who came and shared their knowledge and time with our staff during training and for helping on our workday. Like last year, some favorite non-topic events were rafting, horseback riding, and we even got to do the traditional campout this time - which included some training like, how to ensure your campfire is “dead out,” and learning to do a bear hang (note to self - make sure the bear bag is weighted before you pull it up when doing a demo or it won’t weigh enough to lower it, and you might have to ask your 6’4” historic specialist to stand on a chair and use a trash grabber holding a stick to pull the bag back down. That *could* happen.)

Bear bag antics aside, it really has been a nice time getting to know our new staff. We’ve got a great crew with two Naturalist returners (Cush and Eddy), two new Naturalists who have family history and experiences in the Sawtooths (Bailey and Sara), and two Historic Specialists who go to college in Idaho but are new to the SNRA (Isaac and Eoin). We also had the good fortune to bring on two experienced volunteers at the last minute, Pam and Wendy, who have a long history of working for and volunteering for national parks and other public lands. Besides their usual visitor center and museum responsibilities and projects, our naturalists and volunteers will also be assisting at the Stanley Ranger Station 3 days a week: Monday, Thursday, and Friday.

As this report is going out before we open at the Visitor Center, I don’t have any numbers to report from there, though we’ve already assisted about 20 people with area information who have come to the door during training, but we have formally welcomed visitors to the Stanley

Museum for the last three weekends. Over those 7 days (Memorial Day included) we had 253 visitors. These numbers are higher than last year's Memorial Day and pre-daily weekend openings (190), however the increase in visitation hasn't resulted in increased sales, as Erica will discuss more. Erica spent a lot of the winter reviewing new educational items and gifts for our bookstores, and we'll be working with staff this summer to try a few new things, such as book review and item highlights in the Visitor Center and Museum to try and bump sales. We've also brought in multiple new artists and previous artists who have not been in our gallery for a few years to broaden the variety of art available there.

We've also made some changes to our schedule this year, shifting some programs and roving times earlier or later, plus adding a Nature Adventure single activity oriented program for kids which will be down at the beach. Our goal is to try and "meet people where they are at" a bit more. Below is our Visitor Center program schedule for the end of June, with daily programs starting June 13th. We hope to see you all at the Summer Crew & Board Member get together on June 21st at 5:30 pm at the Redfish Amphitheater, followed by Cush's evening program: *Who's Afraid of the Dark*. We have a wide variety of topics and presentation styles within our crew, so if you have a chance this summer, come by and spend some time with our Naturalists and Historic Specialists!

SUNDAY-WEDNESDAY + FRIDAY

10:00 Ranger Talk  
12:00 Patio Talk  
1:00 Junior Ranger

THURSDAY AND SATURDAY:

10:00 Ranger Talk  
12:00 Patio Talk  
1:00 Junior Ranger  
6:00 Evening Program\*\*  
(\* \*\* 7 pm on June 21st)