

Sawtooth Interpretive and Historical Association

Executive Director's Update

June 13, 2024

AGENDA ACTION ITEMS:

- *Approval of Finance Report*
- *Review and consensus on CeSaw Recommendation*
- *Review and approval of Housing Policy for summer crew*

THANK YOUs and SHOUT OUTs

- SIHA has had a lot of help over the last two months.
- Almost 20 people joined us on work days at Obsidian, some for all three days: Michael, Liesl, Erica, Dave, Melissa, Alicia, Jeff, Gary, Laurii, Terry, Stewart and a number of community members: Bruce Coburn, Julie Taylor, Tom Angel, Ryan Kolbe, Jim Stark, Cindy Walthall, Lisa Muscavage, and Carol Cole
- Gary problem-solved the SIHA car (and it's currently working), got the lawn mower going, and was helpful during some plumbing issues at Obsidian. He has also rebuilt the river pump which allows us to irrigate the Museum lawn.
- Alicia's return as our summer coordinator has made an immense difference in reducing the load of planning and training and she has taken on additional tasks, like social media marketing of the auction. A returning crew lead makes all the difference and we are lucky to have her back.
- Liesl, Michael, and Hannah join our roadside cleaning efforts on June 7th with about 10 other community members and Sawtooth Society folks.
- Jeff is taking on building and installing the new info kiosk at the visitor center and has helped remount the TV for a plan to retrofit the media room for dual use.

UPDATES

- We have scheduled a **welcome party** for Saturday, June 21st at 5:30pm at the Redfish Amphitheater. Join us to meet our summer crew and celebrate the end of training with pizza. **Please RSVP by June 20** and let us know if you have pizza preferences. If you are able to join, please bring a simple dessert or appetizer. The party will be followed by our first evening program, presented by Cush, "Nature's Neighborhoods: Sawtooth Habitats".
- The summer crew began moving into the **bunkhouse** at Obsidian on May 27. So far we've only had to call in a plumber once. It was likely a problem before the crew arrived but didn't fully materialize until we went from 0 to 6 daily users. We are hoping all the systems hold up from here on out.
- You will find a draft **housing policy** for review for the summer crew. Thanks to Alicia for pulling it together and Paul for doing a first review. It is lengthy but it would be great to have your review so we can adopt the policy and have the crew sign it as soon as possible.
- SIHA is **supporting the SNRA** in additional ways this summer due to reduced staffing. A naturalist is covering the Stanley Ranger Station front desk alone on Mondays (typically they would be supported by FS admin staff) and a naturalist and our volunteers will cover Thursdays. The volunteers will cover with a Forest Service staff member supporting them on Fridays. This will allow the ranger station to be open to the public three days a week.
- SNRA staff is using **Trail Map Funds** for the following needs: Partnership recognition and event expenses; Housing costs for 1 RV pad at SNRA headquarters for a volunteer to staff the HQ visitor center 3 days a week; and, school program supplies.
- The Sawtooth **Coalition** has asked SIHA to continue to act as fiscal sponsor. They extended their current NFF grant through October and submitted a request for new funding from the Catalyst Fund. They are

now looking at a second NFF grant. **Request:** I'd like to discuss this continuing relationship and ask for your feedback on how long you are comfortable with SIHA taking on the role of fiscal sponsor.

- We had another great **oral history** series, in partnership with the Stanley Library, with 164 attendees in person and via zoom.
- **Request:** The **FLS** poster is printed and we could use help distributing more of them. Let us know if you can post some in town or farther afield. I'll be using some funds from 2024 to advertise FLS programs online this summer in hopes to attract more attendees.
- **Salmon Fest** (Aug. 22-24) planning is well underway - mostly by the contract event coordinator IRU hired. There is a new website for the event: <https://www.sawtoothsalmonfestival.org> Kick off and storytelling will happen at the Stanley Museum on Friday. **Request:** We are looking for anyone who has a 5-minute salmon story to share after the FLS program. SIHA is planning to have an activity/booth set up at the Visitor Center to explain the Sockeye story on Saturday; we plan to have a book booth at the main event at Mountain Village; and, we hope to have some kind of activity available to the public at the Museum on Saturday as well. We may need help staffing some of these booths - let us know if you'll be in town and are up for it! On Sunday, the museum will be used as a gathering place for morning yoga and a meeting place for folks before they head to Sunbeam Dam historic tour.

GRANTS

To be researched/submitted:

- ICF - June 15 deadline - general support
- TMobile Community Grant - June 30 - Shovel-ready project - possibility for roof replacement matching funds we need
- ISHS - July 1 Deadline - Funds for Oral History Project needs - 1 to 1 match required
- CHC Foundation - July 31 deadline - possibly for roof replacement project
- Goat Plate Fund - June 30 or Sept. 30 deadline - rec maintenance/infrastructure
- NFF - June 27 deadline - Matching Award Program - possibly for naturalists - Coalition is also interested
- SBFC Foundation Wilderness ed grant - October deadline - crew compensation at portals?

Submitted:

- 2026 Redfish Fund: Val A. Browning Foundation - \$40,000 awarded for 2025 Redfish crew compensation - this would cover 5 naturalists, and if we were able to get an NFF grant or additional funds we could hire 6 naturalists (back to normal with more ability to cover trailheads and other FS needs!)
- Denied - no feedback was provided: Janice Seagraves Family Foundation - \$7,500 - to support historic specialist wages
- Denied due to the number of requests, but said they'd be happy to receive other request in the future: Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation - \$15,000 - roof replacement of the Ice House/Tool Shed & office

Active Grants:

- Sawtooth WinterFest - \$2,100 - general support for Redfish program
- Idaho Heritage Trust - \$15,000 reimbursable - for roof replacement of the Ice House/Tool Shed & office. Bid from Heck Roofing out of Twin Falls came in at \$30,000. SIHA has \$3595 in dedicated funds for contingency with possible increase in costs due to tariffs. If we can secure additional funds this project will be completed in 2025. But we have 3 years to find additional funds before we lose the IHT grant.
- Sawtooth Festival - \$1550 awarded to support FLS and other programming by purchasing a new printer and a 20x20 tent- UPDATE: New printer purchased in January. Tent purchased and expected to ship by the end of June. Thanks to Stacey and Terry for letting us use their house as the delivery location to save on shipping and to Ed for being willing to let us use his address, too.
- 2025 Redfish Fund: Val A. Browning Foundation - \$25,000 awarded for 2025 Redfish crew compensation - this will cover 3 naturalists, we need an additional \$6-8,000 for a 4th naturalist.
- NFF - \$8,000 - Invited grant to support a SIHA naturalist with their Treasured Landscapes program.

- Redfish Wayfinding: \$1,783 awarded - Stanley WinterFest Community Grant for new information kiosk and wayfinding signs to be installed at Redfish once we are open and see how people are using the new path and parking lot. UPDATE: Our request to install this sign was approved by Kirk. Jeff Lindbom is working on completing this project by mid July.
- Sho-Ban Interp Project. Idaho Humanities Council, major grant cycle. \$5,550 awarded for Shoshone-Bannock Interpretive signage/exhibit. + 2022 Q1 License Plate Fund, \$6,500 awarded for Shoshone Bannock Interpretive project
 - Displays Complete: with IHC final report submitted and working to schedule a dedication ceremony (tentatively July 12, 2025) so we can wrap up the Goat plate funds side of the project.
 - Reimbursable: \$30,000 was awarded by the FS in 2023 for outdoor interpretive signs, more replica artifacts and an outdoor mobile classroom. UPDATE: On hold with project/spending until we know where the federal funding stands.

FUNDRAISING:

- SIHA raised \$6,200 during Idaho Gives from 40 donors. Thanks to everyone who contributed and got the word out!
- Our first online auction will be June 20-30. We have over 40 great items and experiences for auction thanks to all of you. Unfortunately your work isn't done because now we need bidders. Please help spread the word!
- Main Salmon raft trip tickets are on sale now at the Stanley Museum, Redfish Visitor Center, and online. We are selling 200 for \$53 a piece (SIHA turns 53 this year!)

IMPORTANT DATES

- FLS kick off - June 20 - 5:00pm at the Community Library in Ketchum
- Online Auction - June 20-30
- Crew Welcome Party June 21 5:30pm; Evening Program 7pm, "Nature's Neighborhoods: Sawtooth Habitats"
- Oral History Program - June 24 - 5:30pm at the Stanley Library
- FLS - 5:30 on Fridays at the Stanley Museum: July 11 & 25, August 8 & 22, Sept 12
- Our next scheduled board meeting is Thurs. August 22, 2025 at 10am MDT - Location TBD.

Submitted by Lin Gray

6/13/2025