In August of 1972, the United States Congress and President Richard Nixon ratified Public Law 92-400 creating the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

**Public Law 92-400**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That (a) in order to assure the preservation and protection of the natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and fish and wildlife values and to provide for the enhancement of the recreation values associated therewith, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area is hereby established.

Part of that law recognized the need to limit the development potential of private land parcels within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

**Public Law 92-400 Sec 3 part A**

The Secretary shall make and publish regulations stating standards for the use, subdivision, and development of privately owned property within the boundaries of the recreation area.

Since its inception the Sawtooth National Recreation Area has invested $68 million protecting the resource values for which the area was created. In that time the private lands program has:

- Purchased 496 parcels of private land totaling 6,500 acres for $24 million that are now public land.
- Facilitated the donation of four private land parcels into the public trust and one land exchange.
- Secured into public trust 43 condemned or abandoned parcels totaling 250 acres for $5 million.

Conservation and scenic easements help protect resource values of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area by purchasing certain property development rights from a private landowner. While the landowner retains title to the land, the easement limits subdivision and development on a given property even when ownership of the property changes.

- Since 1972 $44 million has been spent securing conservation or scenic easements on 104 parcels totaling 17,000 acres.

It is because of these investments that visitors to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area stop for antelope instead of traffic lights and see open space and mountains instead of strip-malls and subdivisions. Though much has been accomplished, there is more to be done securing the natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, fish, wildlife and recreation values for future generations. The Sawtooth National Recreation Area wishes to thank and recognize all those who have donated to or contributed to preserving and protecting those values for future generations.