

# Sawtooth City Area Planning

- Monday, September 11, 2017

**49**

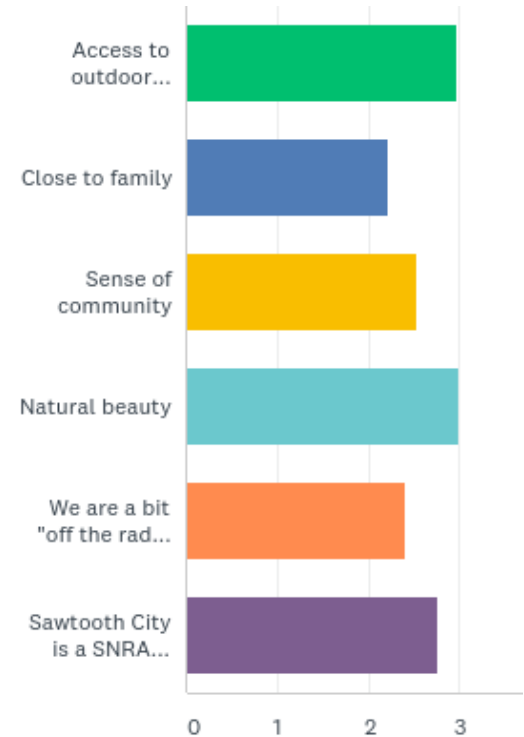
Total Responses

Date Created: Wednesday, June 28, 2017

Complete Responses: 49

# Q1: What do you value most about living in or visiting the Sawtooth City area?

	DO NOT VALUE	VALUE A LITTLE	VALUE A LOT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Access to outdoor recreation	0.00% 0	2.08% 1	97.92% 47	48	2.98
Close to family	29.27% 12	19.51% 8	51.22% 21	41	2.22
Sense of community	2.13% 1	42.55% 20	55.32% 26	47	2.53
Natural beauty	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 48	48	3.00
We are a bit "off the radar" with not too much regulation	19.57% 9	19.57% 9	60.87% 28	46	2.41
Sawtooth City is a SNRA designated community	2.17% 1	19.57% 9	78.26% 36	46	2.76



Answered: 49 Skipped: 0

**Q1 (open ended): Is there something else that you value? Tell us!**

Most frequent response:

Peace & quiet!



- Quality look and feel
- Peace and quiet
- peace and quiet
- The air field at Smiley Creek!
- The quiet that is there most of the time
- The peace and quiet of nature.
- The peacefulness.
- For me, the biggest issue is access to quality time in the outdoors.
- The airport. Having access to the Lodge. What does it mean to be A SNRA designed community?
- The regulation by the forest service of this community is over the top in relationship to what they should be doing. trails are a mess-the most used trail system -going to Alice lake does not have safe bridges to get to the lake-why not do some so travel there is easy not treacherous (until August) You have spent countless hours and seasons re arranging trails that have been in place for decades while not focusing on the most basic needs of the community. THE Forest Service has lost its compass and become a bureacratic mess.
- quiet, nature, solitude, wildlife viewing, peace
- access to private lots for hiking
- The beauty of the area. The lack of crowds
- Quiet atmosphere, Dark Skies.
- Clean air, excellent water, clean open community

## Q2: What changes in your neighborhood over the last 5 to 10 years are you most proud of?

### Most frequent responses:

Fire station established: 15

Roads cleared in winter: 8

Recycling station: 6

Growing sense of community: 4



- control of bark beetle and starting the fire district
- recycling
- Not sure
- The manner in which we attempted to mitigate the beetle kill.
- Fire station, snow plowing in the winter
- fire dept.
- Firehouse
- Recycling Center
- fire station, dust abatement spray on roads
- none
- A growing sense of community responsibility among Pettit Lake cabin owners.
- Creation and running of the Fire District
- Water System upgrade, plowing roads during winter
- Fire dept.
- Installation of a firefighting system locally.
- Establishment of the Fire Department, the ability to protect the Community
- No changes we are proud of
- We now have winter access to the homes up the hill from the Smiley Creek Lodge. This allows me to drive to my cabin in winter months.
- Recycling bins added to waste bin area.
- Plowing of roads in the winter.
- Fire Station and Recycling
- roads plowed in winter
- Having roads cleared in winter.
- The establishment of a fire station home.
- Smiley Creek Fire Department
- Plowing of the roads during winter
- Fire Department, increase in feeling of community, increase of year around residents.
- Fire Department
- Building codes, speed control signs and child safety signs
- Keeping it a family, visitor neighborhood with multiple uses
- Winter plowing, recycling
- Fire District/Department
- Continued community cohesion.

### Q3: What changes in your neighborhood over the last 5 to 10 years concern you the most?

#### Most frequent responses:

Clutter: 8

Motorized vehicles/speeding: 7

Fire hazards: 4



- all changes!
- none
- modular homes, trailers, prefab housing
- River riparian changes without approval.
- Rapid growth that effects environment
- New construction and fire danger
- congestion
- people riding too fast on there 4 wheelers and snow machines in the residential neighborhood. Dogs running at large and no one cleaning up after them
- I was in the Smiley Creek area a couple years ago as a potential home buyer and I was concerned about the manner in which the neighborhood was not being keep up, as if the community was not proud of their homes and community! I am back in the area currently and I see the same concerns that I witnessed a couple years ago. I am concerned that the neighbors in the community are not following the covenants and there are covenants than there is not an agency that is monitoring and not enforcing those covenants. I can imagine that the inability to maintain the community has a negative impact on not only the pricing of homes but also on the value of the homes within the community. I am looking for a proactive group of neighbors that are proud of their homes and neighborhood. I was told that there are employee housing within Smiley Creek that are not maintained and I don't understand how this can happen!
- a lot of things around many homes, some unsightly
- chances for fire
- The noise and numbers of users of motorized boats on Pettit Lake, and the lack of signage and understanding of the rules to limit hours and types of crafts (jet skis not being allowed, for instance). I wish people would be more protective of wildlife with whom we share these special lakes.
- snow removal
- The bureaucracy of the SNRA. They devote close to no funding for maintenance. Trails and roads are degrading badly.
- Lack of cell phone services; ways to easily contact emergency services quickly
- The community has become more sloppy-
- Lack of community working together.
- Homes spreading outside of designated communities.
- increase in motorized recreation, lack of respect for non motorized values,
- Stored cars that do not run items that are not used



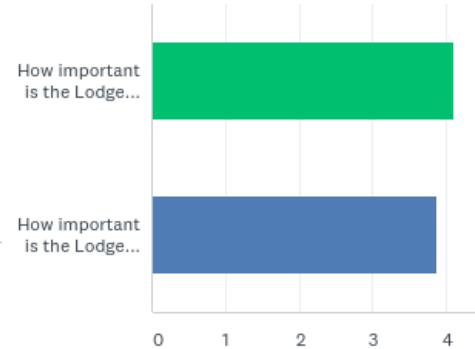
### Q3: What changes in your neighborhood over the last 5 to 10 years concern you the most? (continued)



- In the past decade, my husband & I have considered buying property in Smiley Creek. Unfortunately, the neighborhood continues to deteriorate: many old buildings have not been maintained, are clearly fire hazards & about ready to collapse, there is an abundance of heavy construction equipment & junk, old vehicles & boats, & propane tanks that are parked or placed randomly on lots & out in the open. Some of this has not been moved in years. It is our understanding that employees of Smiley Creek Lodge live in the rundown structures, and there have been numerous problems with drugs, and a suicide. Many older people who have owned cabins in Smiley Creek for years would like to sell but are unable to do so. We've been told by local realtors that they rarely show property there because of the appalling conditions & blight. If this continues, property values in Smiley Creek will continue to decline. Smiley Creek desperately needs proper & enforceable CC&R's to restore the community to the beautiful subdivision it was 20 years ago.
- Don't like the fact that some people feel it is necessary to make their own roads to access the back country. Example...people driving across the lot west of Vader drive that leads to Little Beaver.
- Employee housin within the subdivision and the condition of these properties, storage of Smiley Creek Lodge snowmobiles, trailers, signs on residential property. Commercial equipment i.e. Loader etc on residential property. Piles of debris/junk etc throughout subdivision. Propane tanks that have not been maintained or screened. Blue tarps vs earth tones. Residences that have not complied with the minimum planting of four trees. Other visible signs on structures. Maintanience of homes and outbuildings. Property value decline and difficultly for sellers with condition of community
- nothing I can think of
- Coordination between Blaine County Building Regs and SNRA building standards
- Property owners not keeping homes up to code. Signage that is faded and unreadable.
- Speeding on the local roads.
- snow plowing of roads
- More motorized vehicles
- The condition of the forest. There are old slash piles and much debris, it is a major fire Hazzard
- Speeding on both community roads and the Highway 75.
- We like it just the way it is.
- do not want it to become an exclusive or gated neighborhood
- USFS destroying trails in Pole Creek drainage
- Clutter -- Speeding in Community

## Q4: Smiley Creek Lodge is a well-known business in the Sawtooth Valley. Please indicate the importance of the Lodge.

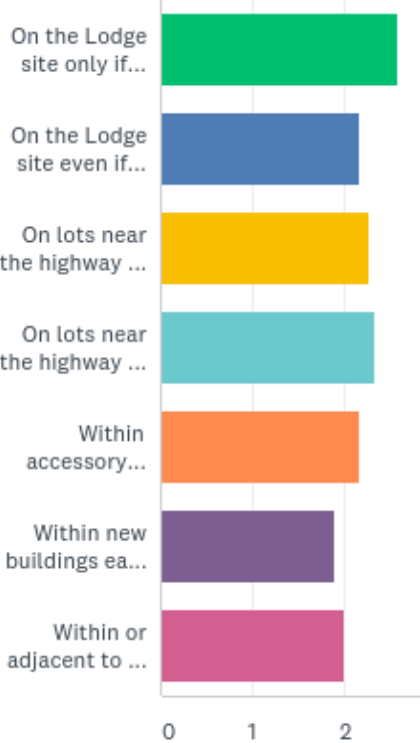
	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE	OF AVERAGE IMPORTANCE	VERY IMPORTANT	ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
How important is the Lodge to the character of the area?	0.00% 0	4.08% 2	14.29% 7	48.98% 24	32.65% 16	49	4.10
How important is the Lodge to the economic well-being of the area?	4.08% 2	4.08% 2	20.41% 10	42.86% 21	28.57% 14	49	3.88





**Q5: Employee housing has been identified as a need for Smiley Creek Lodge. Understanding that some of the choices below would require cooperation with the US Forest Service and/or the South Central Public Health District, which of these would you support for a limited amount of employee housing?**

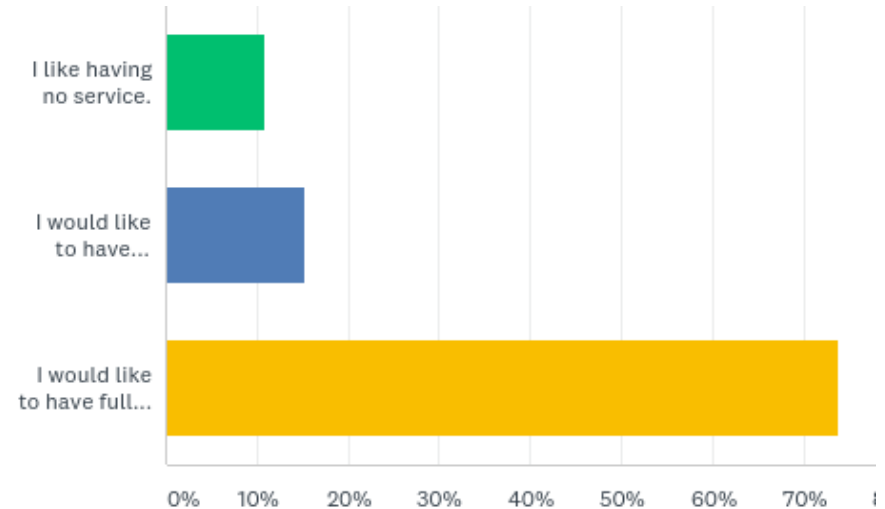
	DO NOT SUPPORT	MIGHT SUPPORT	FULLY SUPPORT	NOT SURE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
On the Lodge site only if all current regulations can be met.	6.25% 3	29.17% 14	62.50% 30	2.08% 1	48	2.60
On the Lodge site even if certain setbacks must be modified.	18.75% 9	50.00% 24	27.08% 13	4.17% 2	48	2.17
On lots near the highway so long as the scale and appearance of the buildings fit in.	20.83% 10	41.67% 20	27.08% 13	10.42% 5	48	2.27
On lots near the highway so long as the surrounding area is well maintained and current exterior storage is removed.	18.37% 9	40.82% 20	28.57% 14	12.24% 6	49	2.35
Within accessory dwelling units (mother-in-law apartments) in town, if allowed on larger lots.	25.00% 12	50.00% 24	8.33% 4	16.67% 8	48	2.17
Within new buildings east of the highway near the airstrip, if allowed.	51.06% 24	17.02% 8	21.28% 10	10.64% 5	47	1.91
Within or adjacent to the fire station.	46.81% 22	25.53% 12	8.51% 4	19.15% 9	47	2.00



Answered: 49 Skipped: 0

## Q6: Cellular phone service in the Sawtooth City area is spotty at best. Which of the following best describes your attitude about cell phone service?

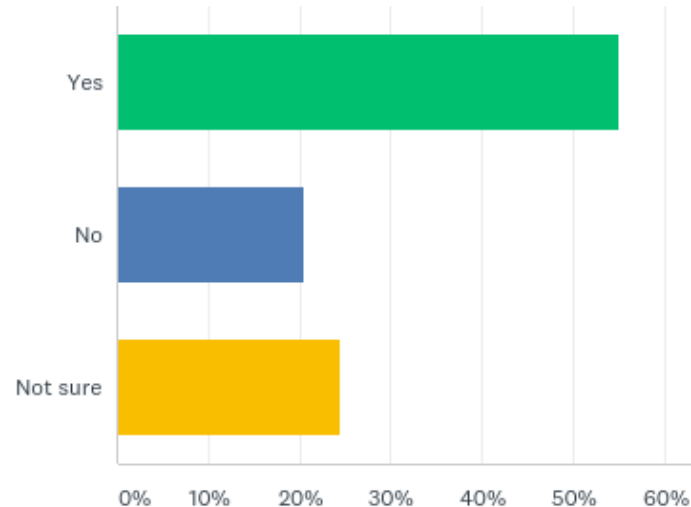
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I like having no service.	10.87%	5
I would like to have emergency-only service in the area.	15.22%	7
I would like to have full service in the entire area.	73.91%	34
TOTAL		46



Answered: 46 Skipped: 3

## Q7: Should the regulations about tree removal in Sawtooth City be changed to allow for defensible space (e.g. 30' clear zone) according to Firewise practices?

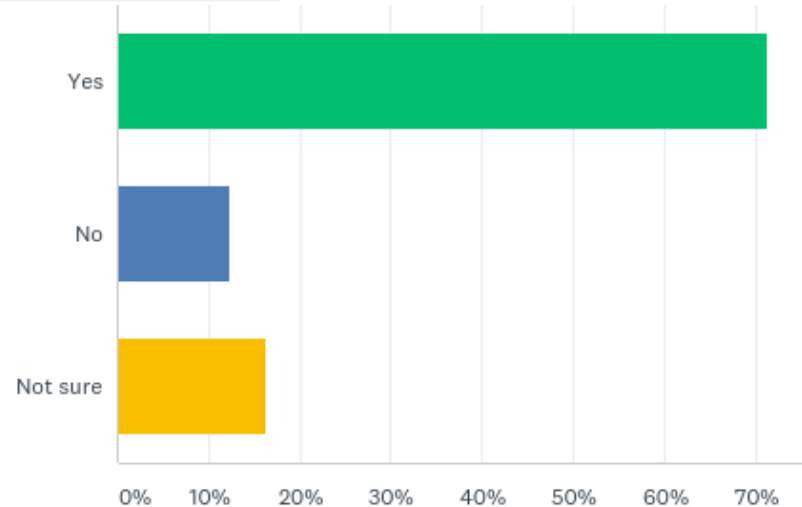
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	55.10%	27
No	20.41%	10
Not sure	24.49%	12
TOTAL		49



Answered: 49 Skipped: 0

## Q8: Should the regulations in Sawtooth City be changed to allow for residential solar panels?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	71.43%	35
No	12.24%	6
Not sure	16.33%	8
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>49</b>

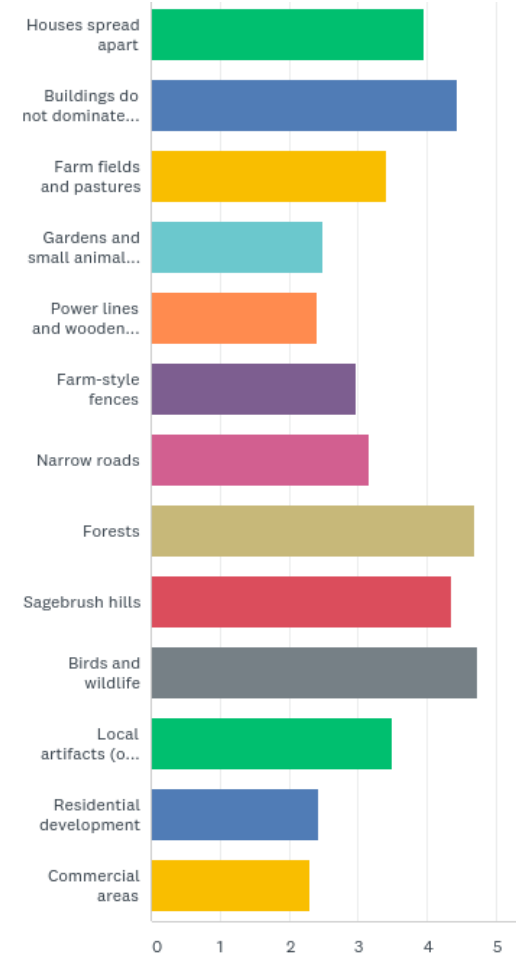


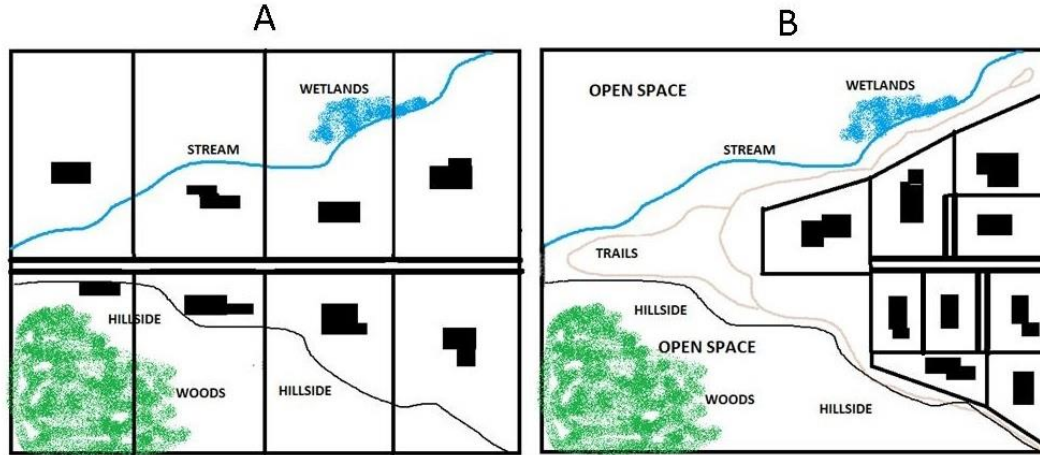
Answered: 49 Skipped: 0

# Q9: How important are the following elements to your ideal rural landscape?

Answered: 49 Skipped: 0

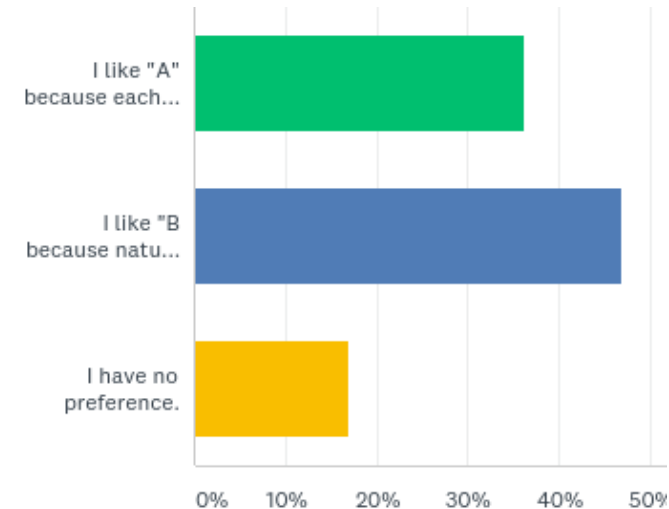
	NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL	OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE	OF AVERAGE IMPORTANCE	VERY IMPORTANT	ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Houses spread apart	4.17% 2	4.17% 2	20.83% 10	33.33% 16	37.50% 18	48	3.96
Buildings do not dominate the landscape	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	12.24% 6	32.65% 16	55.10% 27	49	4.43
Farm fields and pastures	12.24% 6	8.16% 4	28.57% 14	28.57% 14	22.45% 11	49	3.41
Gardens and small animals like chickens	23.40% 11	25.53% 12	34.04% 16	12.77% 6	4.26% 2	47	2.49
Power lines and wooden power poles	34.09% 15	11.36% 5	38.64% 17	11.36% 5	4.55% 2	44	2.41
Farm-style fences	15.22% 7	13.04% 6	36.96% 17	28.26% 13	6.52% 3	46	2.98
Narrow roads	10.64% 5	12.77% 6	40.43% 19	23.40% 11	12.77% 6	47	3.15
Forests	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	4.17% 2	22.92% 11	72.92% 35	48	4.69
Sagebrush hills	0.00% 0	4.08% 2	14.29% 7	24.49% 12	57.14% 28	49	4.35
Birds and wildlife	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	8.70% 4	10.87% 5	80.43% 37	46	4.72
Local artifacts (old signs, chainsaw bears, etc.)	10.42% 5	8.33% 4	22.92% 11	37.50% 18	20.83% 10	48	3.50
Residential development	29.79% 14	10.64% 5	48.94% 23	8.51% 4	2.13% 1	47	2.43
Commercial areas	30.43% 14	15.22% 7	47.83% 22	6.52% 3	0.00% 0	46	2.30





**Q10: The two simple drawings above show alternative ways of developing land. Please indicate your impressions of each.**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I like "A" because each home has a large lot and plenty of space around the house.	36.17%	17
I like "B" because natural areas are preserved and each house has access to the stream, woods and hillside.	46.81%	22
I have no preference.	17.02%	8
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>47</b>



**Q11: Sustainability is a popular theme in land use planning. A frequently quoted definition of sustainable development is “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” What does "sustainable land use" mean to you?**

9 respondents agreed with the quoted definition.

Other responses are shown under four main categories:

(continued on following page)

#### **Conservation/active management**

- Conservation of resources
- This is very important to ensure that our area stays as beautiful as it is now, with clean air and water, abundant snow and wildlife and habitat. To me it means being responsible to our community and to our future. Now, we don't have to make trade-offs, we can walk lightly on the land and live well.
- limited degradation to landscape and wildlife, low impact. the term "needs" could be explored a bit...
- forests should be thinned out to help stop uncontrolled fires.
- Sustainable means to me development that uses only resources from the natural environment that the natural environment can renew of it's own accord on average each year. This means water demand, pollution dissipation/breakdown, etc can be absorbed by the environment each year. This is a natural area, we should not be devoting much of this space to additional development. Especially as there are always places for sale in our area. We have ample places for single family residences to take advantage of.
- Management is important, especially in this area to make sure that the land isn't altered in a way that will cause landscape and hydrology issues (watershed).
- we as custodians / owners are allowed to use / occupy the property in a manner that minimizes our impact to the area and provides a use of the property that can continually be put into use and not have a long term negative impact to the property or its possible future uses.



**Q11: Sustainability is a popular theme in land use planning. A frequently quoted definition of sustainable development is “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” What does "sustainable land use" mean to you? (continued)**

**Preservation/"leave as is"**

- Not changing general use of the land as it is now.
- leave it rural maintain what we have so we can pass something great along to other generations.  
operative word Maintain
- I don't think there should be a need for always growing and developing. Leave wild spaces wild.
- Preservation of the natural landscape and ecosystems.
- The National Recreational Area preserves a set period in time and place. It needs to remain unchanged so that future generations may see and participate in the qualities of that period.
- Predictability, with few to no variances
- Continuing the limited building allowance and keeping the forest intact.

**Energy**

- In terms of "sustainable land use," the biggest issue is energy efficiency and energy sourced from sustainable means.
- Energy efficiency

**Misc.**

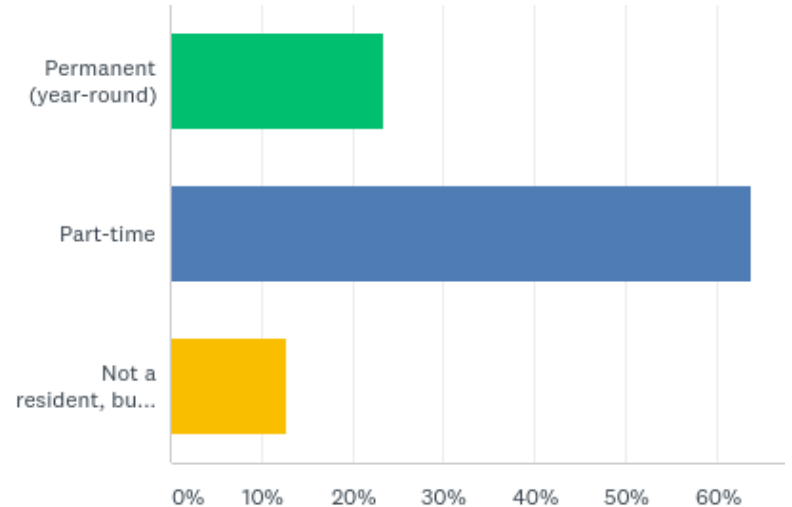
- No overcrowding
- Enough resources are existing

## Q12: Please tell us a little about yourself. What year were you born?

	Year Born	#
• engineering and forestry	1929	1
• I live ~2-6 months per year in Smiley Creek and have spent significant time in Blaine County for about 40 years.	1930	1
• Been going up to Smiley Creek since I was a toddler to stay in our family cabin. Love the area. I don't want to see it change.	1934	3
• Berkeley, California	1938	1
• Calif	1939	1
• <u>widow</u> that does not like change.	1941	2
• own a claim in the Vienna Mine District, visit once a year	1944	2
• Long-time property owner at Smiley Creek with three more generations of my family looking to be long-time owners and participants in community	1945	1
• <u>we</u> are not part of the subdivision. <u>we</u> are a separate subdivision and have been here for 35 years. <u>we</u> have had many FS employees work with us. The best being Ruth Wooding who worked hand in hand with the community finding solutions rather than being a rules driven FS employee. We are all nostalgic for Ruth!	1946	3
	1947	2
	1949	2
	1952	1
	1954	2
	1957	4
	1958	1
	1960	1
	1961	2
	1962	2
	1964	1
	1966	2
	1969	1
	1974	1
	1977	1
	1981	1

## Q13: Are you a resident of the Sawtooth City area?

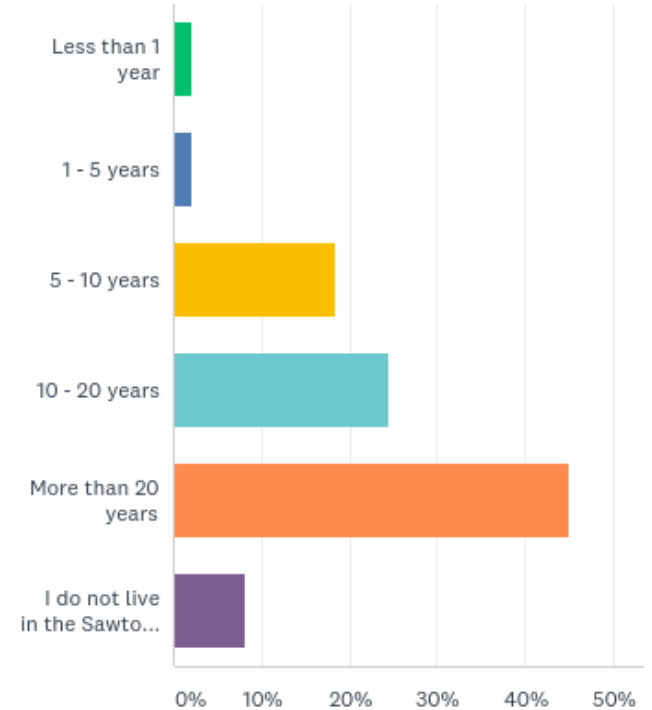
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Permanent (year-round)	23.40%	11
Part-time	63.83%	30
Not a resident, but a frequent visitor	12.77%	6
TOTAL		47



Answered: 47 Skipped: 2

# Q14: How many years have you lived (even part-time) in the Sawtooth City area?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1 year	2.04%	1
1 - 5 years	2.04%	1
5 - 10 years	18.37%	9
10 - 20 years	24.49%	12
More than 20 years	44.90%	22
I do not live in the Sawtooth City area.	8.16%	4
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>49</b>



Answered: 49 Skipped: 0