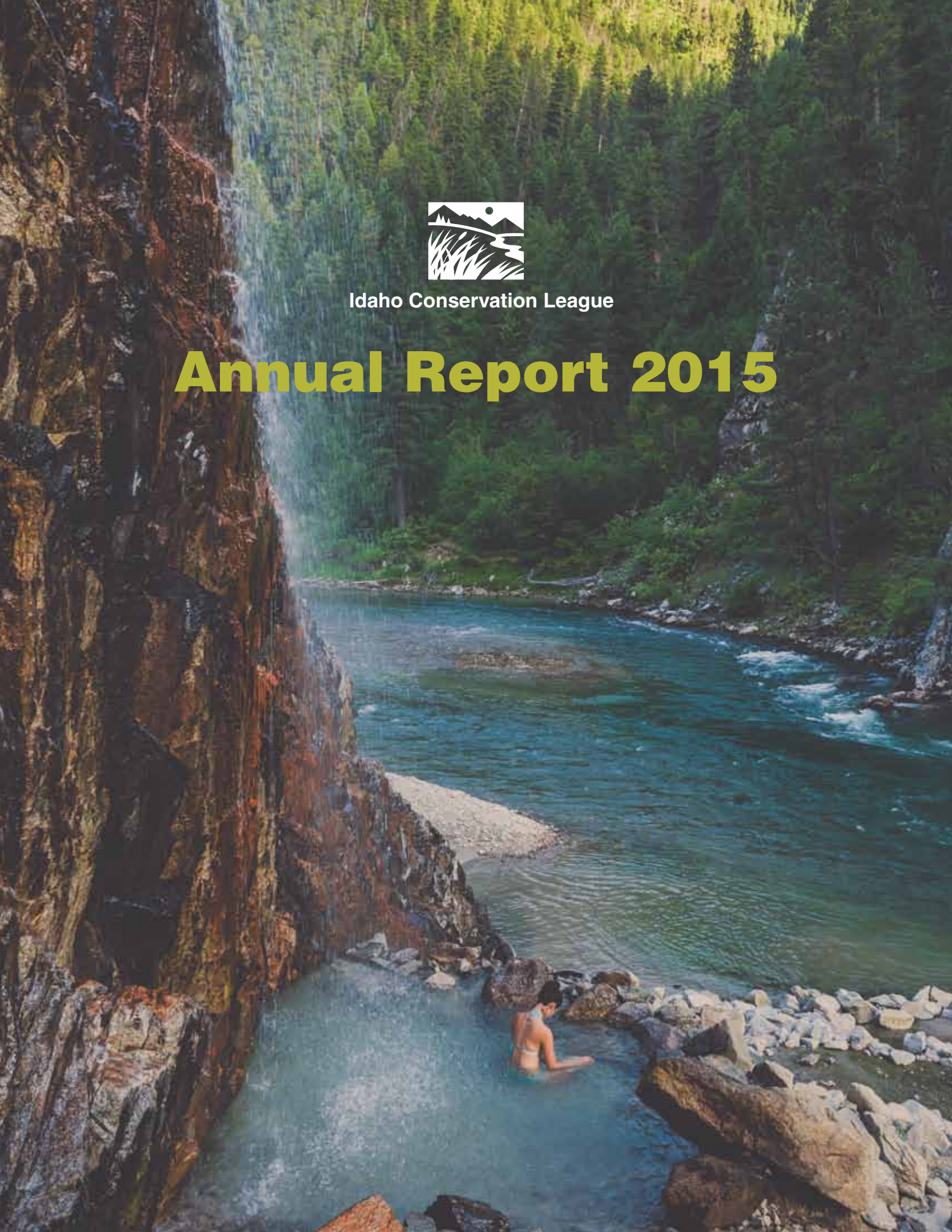




Idaho Conservation League

Annual Report 2015





Pine Flats hot spring, Boise National Forest / Peter Lovera

*Because you love
Idaho, the Idaho
Conservation League
protects the air you
breathe, the water
you drink and the
land you love.*



Glorious Idaho

The ICL artist in residence program explores the nexus between art and nature. 2015 brought us many glorious landscapes through the eyes and lens of photographer Peter Lovera. This year's annual report cover features one of his stunning images.

Peter enjoyed several exciting photo safari opportunities over the year—including a videography trip along the Snake River with Alpenglow Press Productions, a visit to Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, a trip down the Middle Fork of the Salmon River with ARTA whitewater outfitters, rides in the Boise Foothills on a bike loaned by Idaho Mountain Touring, and a trail maintenance trip into the new Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness with ICL staff and the Idaho Trails Association. Peter's creative and positive energy were a treat to work with this year. Thank you, Peter! Follow Peter at his blog, <https://peterlovera.wordpress.com>, and see more of his photography at his online store, <https://loveraphoto.client-gallery.com/#/iclworks2015>.

ICL welcomes the 2016 ICL artist in residence, Josh Udesen. We are excited to work with Josh, whose passion for fish, art and Idaho's outdoors is sure to lead us in new directions. Look for more about Josh in the coming year! In the meantime, check out Josh's work at <http://www.tightlinestudio.com>.

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A Big Day, a Big Year

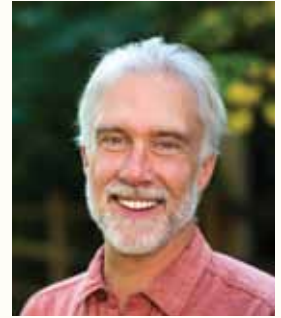
When your year includes the President saying “This must be a very big day for you” in the Oval Office, you know you’ve had a good one. Passage of the Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness was indeed a pretty big day for Idaho and for the Idaho Conservation League. But this success, decades in the making, was part of a much bigger story for ICL in 2015.

This report describes ICL’s accomplishments to protect Idaho’s water and wildlife. We took solid defensive actions to stop the state takeover of public lands, the destructive effects of mining, and degradation of our water. We also had a major victory on open space and advanced energy efficiency.

We outline impressive new steps for wilderness and wildlands, as well as describe our new capital campaign to further develop the organization that Idaho needs for the challenges of the 21st century. This campaign, called It’s My ID, will double ICL’s endowment and expand our water and energy work to ensure that your voice for conservation engages climate change at the state level. Idaho is a very special place. Together, we will keep it that way for generations to come.

From homes throughout Idaho and even from coast to coast, I’ve spoken with ICL supporters as never before. I find your love of Idaho inspiring and your confidence in ICL humbling. The greatest challenge for ICL each day is meeting—or even exceeding—the high expectations you have for us. And you know what? That’s a big and exciting challenge!

Rick Johnson
Executive Director
rjohnson@idahoconservation.org



Glenn Oakley

Rick Johnson

The greatest challenge for ICL each day is meeting—or even exceeding—the high expectations you have for us.

2015 Accomplishments

You make the difference, and we're very grateful. In 2015, together, we improved Idaho's future.

It's been a big year at ICL. Success came through perseverance, expertise, and your willingness to "have our backs," submitting comments, attending hearings and events, and generously supporting our work. Everything ICL does is based on our supporters. You make the difference, and we're very grateful. And in 2015, together, we improved Idaho's future.

Wild Idaho

Congressional designation of three wilderness areas totaling 275,665 acres in the Boulder-White Cloud Mountains was a huge victory. With many partners over four decades, our work to protect this incredible place finally paid off. Here, the headwaters of four major river systems originate, unique critters such as bighorn sheep and the elusive wolverine are found, salmon return to some of the highest elevations in

North America, and some rare plants found nowhere else occur. The Boulder-White Clouds offer something for everyone—hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, skiing, horseback riding and off-road motorized use. The core now has strong protections long missing.

The campaign to protect Scotchman Peaks as wilderness continued to move forward.

Across much of Idaho, wilderness values are not well documented. This summer, ICL inventoried more than 500,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands in southern Idaho for wilderness characteristics to help steer BLM's work.

A testament to collaboration benefiting our public lands is the 41,000-acre forest restoration project on the Salmon-Challis

Boulder-White Clouds / Peter Lovera





Doing trail maintenance in the new Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness / Peter Lovera

National Forest. The effort leading up to this project started in 2008 when ICL began working with the Lemhi Forest Restoration Group.

Sometimes we have to oppose projects. The Halstead Fire project on the Salmon-Challis National Forest would have harmed old growth, wildlife and fisheries. Based on our engagement, the project was withdrawn pending further analysis. In June, ICL appealed a management plan that would have allowed commercial trapping in the new Owyhee wildernesses. The environmental law firm Advocates for the West is representing us.

We strongly oppose proposals to transfer federal public lands to state ownership. ICL turned people out to hearings across the state, the overwhelming majority testifying against state takeover. In addition, we developed the legal, economic, historical and environmental arguments. The committee exploring the issue stopped short of recommending that Idaho wrest control of our public lands from all Americans. Still, some state legislators introduced bills we opposed because they

would expose Idaho to unknown financial liabilities. An especially troublesome one passed the Idaho House but was stopped in a Senate committee.

Boise passed a levy to protect the Boise River and open space by a whopping 74 percent. In partnership with Conservation Voters for Idaho, ICL helped lay the groundwork by hosting events, staffing phone banks and more.

Water

ICL keeps water clean and flowing. This year, ICL helped defeat a proposal on the Big Wood River that sought a new water right to foster a trading scheme that would have reduced river flows for private profit. Given that this proposal was from the former director of Idaho Water Resources, this was a precedent-setting win for Idaho rivers.

North Idaho's Clark Fork Delta, one of our most important wetlands, is rapidly disappearing—about 15 acres a year—due to operations at Albeni Falls Dam. Invasive plants are also taking their toll. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is leading the charge to restore this delta.

ICL turned people out to hearings across the state, the overwhelming majority testifying against state takeover of public lands.



Blackfoot River / Cyndi Coulter, Idaho Department of Fish and Game

ICL challenged a plan for locating mining waste dumps on the Blackfoot River Wildlife Management Area.

For our part, ICL promoted the project and recruited hundreds of volunteers to plant about 100,000 native plants and monitor their survival.

ICL has long pressed for change regarding pollution in the Boise River. And it's working. This year, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality developed a draft plan for reducing phosphorus from sewage plants and fields. While the plan awaits approval, stringent permits for the wastewater treatment plants in Meridian, Nampa and Caldwell have already been drafted.

ICL's partnership with Trout Unlimited and the three phosphate mining companies in southeastern Idaho continues to restore the health of the Blackfoot River and Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Company funding, along with state and federal matches, and TU expertise have led to miles of stream restoration, revegetation, fencing, troughs for cattle, redirected trails, bridges and diversion screens.

Mining

We helped the Pioneers Alliance raise concerns over proposed mining exploration in the Little Wood River watershed. This proposal included 16 drill pads and 22 drill holes on public lands to look for barite, a mineral used to make fluids for exploratory drilling and fracking. The project would impact an inventoried roadless area and wildlife habitat, especially for elk and sage-grouse. The proposal was dismissed.

We continue to oppose the Golden Hand mine proposed on Big Creek within the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

ICL challenged a plan for locating mining waste dumps on the Blackfoot River Wildlife Management Area. This material will now go into an existing open pit far from the river and be capped. But improved capping material will come from within the WMA, affecting habitat. We're working with Agrium and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for better solutions.

Climate

Much of Idaho's electricity comes from coal-fired power plants in nearby states. ICL's energy program made progress toward replacing these polluting coal plants with clean energy. We worked with utilities to grow energy-saving programs and help Idahoans use power wisely. We also ensured that state regulators made saving energy financially viable for the utilities. And we engaged in Idaho Power's planning process to ensure closure of the Valmy coal plant in Nevada before 2025.

Proposed coal and oil facilities on the West Coast for export would massively increase train traffic of explosive Bakken crude and dirty coal through the Idaho Panhandle. Working with partners, ICL raised public awareness by generating hundreds of comments to elected officials, organized forums, and identified more than 750 supporters willing to speak up.

In Boise, ICL's sustainability advocacy helped the city implement a cutting-edge initiative that saves energy, enhances neighborhoods and integrates sustainable economic development.

ICL's Organizational Health

ICL prides itself on staff longevity and leadership. Nearly half our staff surpassed 10 years at ICL. Courtney Washburn and Sara Arkle "stepped up" into leadership roles with Conservation Voters for Idaho and the city of Boise respectively. ICL reorganized staff responsibilities and hired staff with needed skills. Jenny Estes joined our development team and Austin Hopkins, our conservation program. In addition to our "human capital," ICL is building a capital campaign, It's My ID, to build a stronger ICL for Idaho's future.

Outside affirmation is always appreciated—and we received that from our four-star Charity Navigator rating, the highest possible. This rating means that ICL executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way. Charity Navigator says we are a great philanthropic investment—but every contribution you make is an even greater validation. Thank you!

R. J.

Much of Idaho's electricity comes from coal-fired power plants in nearby states. ICL's energy program made progress in replacing these polluting power plants with clean energy.



What Is the Role of the ICL Board?



Paul Cunningham

You may wonder what the ICL board does. Our role is to provide strategic direction and oversight to the staff so that the organization can effectively protect Idaho's water, air and land.

Comprising a range of backgrounds and expertise, board members come from across the state and share a strong commitment to conservation in Idaho. While the rest of the staff are supervised from within, Rick reports to the board.

The full board meets four times a year, and we hold additional conference calls for board or committee business as needed. Much of the board work is done within our four standing committees. But we create ad hoc committees when warranted.

The conservation committee is not only where we discuss conservation issues but also where staff first request approval to

litigate an issue. The finance committee develops and monitors the budget and oversees our various investments. ICL staff and an outside financial advisor do the rest. The marketing committee works to build the ICL brand and communicate it to our members and the public. And the governance committee recruits, vets and nominates board members and writes and reviews our bylaws.

The only ad hoc committee we have right now is charged with the capital campaign, It's My ID. This committee will sunset when the capital campaign is finished.

I can speak for the entire board in saying that the work we do for ICL is rewarding, especially in years like this when we see so many conservation wins resulting from everyone's hard work.

*Paul Cunningham
Idaho Conservation League Board Chair*



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 Morgan Zedalis & Sean Gould
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IN MEMORIAM

The following beloved ICL members passed on this year. ICL honors their passion for Idaho. This listing is complete to the best of our knowledge. We sincerely apologize for any oversights.

Gretchen Albrecht-Hellar
 Mildred Asker
 Spike Baker
 Burton Baldwin
 John Barker
 Richard Bland
 Joe Bockino
 Dix Brown
 David Carmen
 John Cronin
 Tom Gable
 Joni Hadden
 Keith Hasselquist
 Gerri Hayes
 Mary Kelly McColl
 Grace Koehler
 Julie Kreiensieck
 AJ Linnell
 Oliver Manley
 Mary Mattoon
 Evelyne Pickett
 Russell Pietz
 May Potter
 Ken Pursley
 Scott Reed

2015 Financial Statement

Total revenue for our 2015 fiscal year (10/1/14–9/30/15) was \$2,433,495. Grants from foundations were \$984,297, and our event and sales revenue totaled \$96,532.

Contributions from individuals increased to \$1,374,991. This amount includes \$725,628 in cash and pledges to the It's My ID campaign. This campaign is slated to generate \$2 million to advance critical climate and communications work. It is also intended to double our endowment to ensure ICL's sustainability and generate annual earnings for programs that support our wilderness work and other breaking conservation opportunities.

Program expenses for the year totaled \$1,588,697 and administration costs were \$196,319. Fundraising costs totaled \$251,699, an amount that includes It's My ID campaign expenses. At fiscal year end, our endowment totaled \$2,145,345, with an investment loss of \$22,325.

Statement of Activities 2015

(for the year ending September 30)

Revenue and Other Support

Grants	\$984,297
Individuals.....	\$1,374,991
Events, book sales, other revenue.....	\$96,532
Investment income.....	(\$22,325)
Total Revenue	\$2,433,495

Expenses

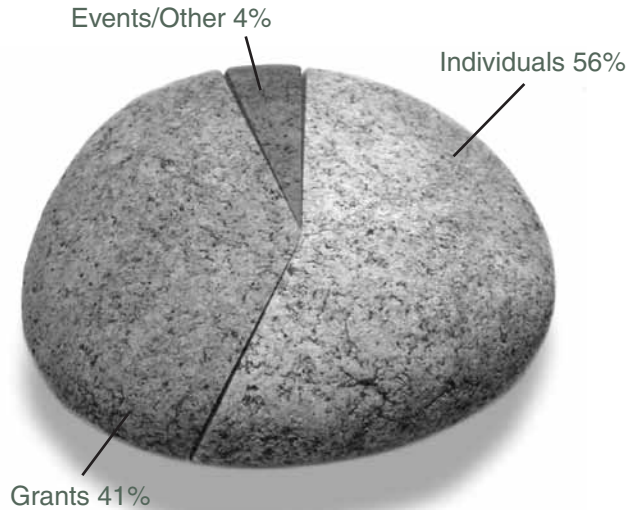
Program services.....	\$1,588,697
Administration	\$196,319
Fundraising.....	\$251,699
Total Expenses	\$2,036,715

Endowment fund value **\$2,145,345**

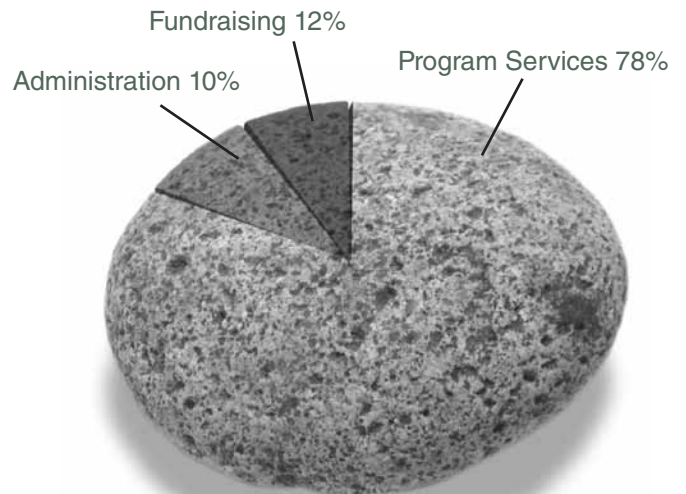
Suki Molina
Deputy Director
smolina@idahoconservation.org

Revenue

(excluding investment income loss)



Expenses



Notes to Financial Statements:

- ▶ The Idaho Conservation League is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.
- ▶ This financial information is drawn from audited financial statements by the accounting firm Harris & Co., P.A.

If you have questions or comments about finances, call Suki Molina, Deputy Director, 208.345.6933 x 18.

A Campaign for Idaho's Future

ICL first created its endowment fund in the 1990s. The goals were greater financial stability in times of turbulence and income to do good work each day. As much as anything, the endowment campaign of the 1990s turned ICL into an enduring institution. ICL grew from activists addressing challenges of the day to a strategic team with a vision for Idaho's future. Creating and growing our endowment changed our messages, our strategies, and our relationships with people in power; it helped ICL evolve to the organization it is today, with a staff of 20 in three offices and a safety net of \$2.1 million.

It's time to step up our efforts again. ICL's leadership has quietly stitched together an ambitious \$4 million capital campaign, It's My ID, to further ensure our strength as Idaho's leading voice for conservation.

The goal is twofold: double the endowment and build a climate fund to support our water and energy work. The endowment's interest income provides ICL with annual earnings to support our work. And the new climate fund will be leveraged over time to fund our water and energy programs across all of Idaho.

You're going to be hearing more about the It's My ID campaign in 2016. Our campaign steering committee includes Chair Elaine French, Mary Bachman, Jerry Brady, Paul Cunningham, Mark Daly, Dennis Fitzpatrick, Wendy Jaquet, Walt Minnick, Steve Mitchell, Tom Pomeroy, Julie Richardson and honorary members Cecil Andrus and Mary Lou Reed. Our staff coordinator for the campaign is Suki Molina.



The campaign goal is twofold: double the endowment and build a climate fund to support our water and energy work.

R. J.

It's My ID Campaign Gifts and Pledges

(as of fiscal year end, 9/30/15)

\$500,000+

John & Elaine French

\$250,000+

Judy Baker
Walter Minnick & A.K.
Lienhart Minnick

\$100,000+

Bob Swandby

\$50,000+

Anonymous
Lori & Tom Banducci
Paul & Heidi Cunningham
Mary Bachman & William
Downing
Molly & Tom Page
Lewis & Connie Ulrey

\$25,000+

Mark & Vickie Daly
Dennis B. & Tracy L.
Fitzpatrick
Steve Mitchell & Louisa
Moats
Margrit von Braun & Ian von
Lindern

\$10,000+

Jerry Brady
Carolyn & Chuck Coiner
Mike & Irene Healy
Steve Lockwood & Molly
O'Reilly
Jim Norton
Julia & Alan Richardson
Jerry & Carrie Scheid

\$1,000+

Tanya Anderson
Kahle & Kathy Becker
Bonners Books, LTD
Perry Brown & Desiree
Brunette
Wendy & Jim Jaquet
Buddy Paul & Beverly Lingle
Tom Pomeroy
Kim & Frank Trotter

Make a Gift for Idaho's Future

LEGACY CLUB

ICL's Legacy Club members have made provisions to support our conservation efforts after their passing.

Anonymous (5)
Cecil D. Andrus
Judy Baker
Lori & Tom Banducci
Larry & Dede Binder
Alida Bockino
Ed Cannady
Bill & Jeanne Cassell
Bill Clark
Paul & Heidi Cunningham
Barbara Dargatz
Joyce Fabre & Craig Randle
Michael Flanagan
John & Elaine French
Susan Gilliland
Craig Groves
Patrick Haas & Alison Beck Haas
Mike & Irene Healy
Antone Holmquist
Rick Johnson & Roberta Crockett
James J. Johnston
Trish Klahr & Lee Melly
Tracy L'Herisson
Gregg Lewis
Steve Lockwood & Molly O'Reilly
David Marshall
Wayne Melquist
Walter Minnick & A.K. Lienhart
Minnick
Steve Mitchell & Louisa Moats
Aimee & Greg Moran
Bill & Colleen Mullins
Carl & Jane Nellis
Jerry Nielsen
John Osberg
Rebecca Patton & Tom Goodrich
Gary Paul
Tom Pomeroy
Julia & Alan Richardson
Kim Skyelander
Bob Swandby
Robert Vestal & Jyl Hoyt
Dr. Kenneth & Virginia Wright

Your commitment to the Idaho Conservation League is important. Consider strengthening that commitment by including ICL in your planned giving. Join our Legacy Club and make your love for Idaho last.

A planned gift is a lasting investment in ICL, enabling us to protect Idaho today and for future generations. Consider something simple like including ICL in your will. We can provide you with language or you can find it on your website (www.idahoconservation.org/legacygifts). You can choose to be acknowledged in our Legacy Club or keep your gift anonymous.

You can include ICL in your planned giving through other tools like trusts, gift annuities, bequests and more. If you have complex questions about how to include ICL in your planned giving, we are happy to refer you to a planning professional.

For more information on planned giving to ICL, contact me at 208.345.6933 x 15 or the email below. Please let me know if you've included ICL in your planned giving.

Aimee Moran
Development Director
amoran@idahoconservation.org

Taking care of the future / Courtesy Kahle Becker



Eyes on the Future, Feet on the Ground

Passage of the Boulder-White Clouds bill prompted many of you to ask “What’s next?” The short answer is Scotchman Peaks, a wilderness campaign whose time has come. Wilderness advocacy is about making protection “politically inevitable.” Through advance work on the ground, we clear such an obvious path to protection that our politicians want to step forward. That groundwork has been set and we hope to see significant steps for Scotchmans this year.

That said, have you ever wondered how ICL does so much without being spread too thin? First, we have a great team, but we also plan effectively. I recently heard, “We have a strategic plan. It’s called doing things.” That’s partially true, but a well-developed strategic plan is the underpinning of almost every effective organization. The iterative process that creates a good plan is where the real

power lies. Here ICL’s board and staff work to match what we wish we could do with what’s actually possible. Our ambitious vision is complemented by pragmatic, results-oriented work. Eyes on the future, feet on the ground.

In 2016, we will be creating a new multiple-year strategic plan to keep us aiming high but being realistic. This will also be a big year for our It’s My ID campaign, a focused effort to double our endowment and create a new climate action fund. These are just three pieces—policy, planning and philanthropy—of the very interesting puzzle that we will build this year.

R.J.



Scotchman Peak / Brad Smith

Passage of the Boulder-White Clouds bill prompted many of you to ask, “What’s next?”



Mountain goat, Scotchman Peak / Brad Smith

Membership Renewal Made Easier! *Your annual membership renewal date is printed on the mailing label below. Please help save costs by renewing your membership before it expires. Renew online at www.idahoconservation.org or use the enclosed envelope.*



Idaho Conservation League

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Boise, ID 83701

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Happy New Year!



Glenn Oakley, oakleyphoto.com

The ICL team—from the back, left to right: John Robison, Mary Beth Whitaker, Ben Otto, Austin Hopkins, Justin Hayes; Betsy Mizell, Jenny Estes, Susan Drumheller, Lori Sims, Brad Smith, Marie Kellner; Lana Weber, Dani Mazzotta, Jonathan Oppenheimer, Rick Johnson, Aimee Moran, Suki Molina. Not pictured: Natalie Chavez, Nancy Dooley, Erin Zaleski.