



IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

2019 Annual Report

Cover: The Middle Fork of the Salmon River by 2019 ICL Artist in Residence Carl Rowe.
Oil on canvas, www.carlroweart.com.

FEATURING
ICL's Four Major Campaigns - 3
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Stability and Change

Glenn Oakley Photo



2019 was a busy year at ICL. After 24 years as executive director, Rick Johnson retired. ICL's board of directors unanimously elected me to serve as his successor. Leadership changes at not-for-profits, especially those that involve the departure of long tenured leaders, can be fraught with peril, but I believe we've successfully navigated this transition and continue to build a strong foundation for ICL's work.

Justin Hayes

As Idaho's leading voice for conservation, we feel the urgency of the work we do to protect Idaho's environment. And, as I've stepped into this new role, I've wanted to be an agent of two seemingly opposing attributes: stability and change.

With your help, ICL has a strong track record of success.

- We have played leading roles in permanently protecting 795,000 acres of wilderness and 316 miles of wild and scenic rivers.
- ICL helped steer the creation of a statewide roadless policy that protects and guides the management of 9.3 million acres of Idaho backcountry.
- We have stopped coal-fired power plants from being built in Idaho and have caused Idaho's utilities to expedite the closure of the coal-fired power plants they own – putting Idaho on a path to fossil fuel-free electricity by 2045.
- ICL has strengthened Idaho laws and rules that protect air and water quality, and we have ensured that Idaho communities and industries adhere to standards in place to protect human health and the environment.

Through efforts large and small, ICL has done much to protect and restore the environment in all corners of a state with one of the highest population growth rates in the country.

To succeed, our work must continue to successfully navigate Idaho's ever changing political, economic and social landscape — continuing to do this is stability.

Pressures both nationally and here in Idaho make protecting Idaho's environment seem daunting; to succeed we will need to evolve and grow our organization — this is change.

This report gives you, our supporters, a snapshot of the work that we — you and the staff of the Idaho Conservation League — did together.

2019 was a year of stability and change and of great accomplishment.

Thank you for your support.



Justin Hayes

Executive Director

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A New Strategic Plan



Lori Gibson Banducci

The board and staff have been hard at work the last few months developing a new strategic plan for ICL for the next three years. We also reached out to our membership and past board members for their input. The process reflects the way ICL works — collaboratively, with active dialogue and discussions.

What is the point of a strategic plan? It provides a framework that reflects a shared (board, staff, members and supporters) vision of the organization's role, values and priorities. It is not a "static" plan, because, as we all know, changes can happen quickly and, often, unpredictably — so the plan must be flexible.

A changing climate impacts everything we do — the air we breathe, the water we drink and the land we love. So, climate change is woven through the four major campaigns of the strategic plan.

Our vision is an Idaho where public lands remain public and are well managed, air is clean, lakes and rivers are healthy, fish and wildlife thrive, and a prosperous, sustainable future exists for all Idahoans.

The four primary campaigns of ICL's new strategic plan are:

**Making Idaho
carbon neutral**

**Restoring Idaho's
wild salmon and steelhead**

**Cleaning up the Snake River
across southern Idaho**

**Ensuring landscape-level
protection of public lands**

These are ambitious goals that will take many years to achieve. ICL is charting a course to accomplish them. In addition to these four major campaigns, ICL will continue to work on a wide breadth of issues that do not fit neatly into these categories.

Additionally, the new strategic plan recognizes the important role of advocacy in achieving our goals. The new plan focuses on developing ways to recruit, educate, train and collaborate with conservation advocates — both locally and statewide. This is in addition to the work we continue to do with the legislature, local governments and agencies.

Finally, we have reviewed our operations in an effort to consistently and predictably increase funding and to upgrade and streamline our systems and processes. This will ensure that we continue to be efficient, effective and nimble.

Our success will depend, largely, on our ability to bring disparate groups, organizations and communities together to accomplish our shared goals. Our members, supporters and advocates will play a critical role in our success. We're all in this together!



Lori Gibson Banducci

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Idaho Conservation League Board of Directors

A Focus on the Future: Four Big Goals and ICL's Plan of Action

Glenn Oakley Photo



Marie Callaway Kellner

As ICL's Executive Director Justin Hayes said in his introduction, 2019 was a year of stability and change. In order to continue to build on our stable track record of success and focus ICL's efforts on the most important conservation issues facing Idaho, we've changed the way we've organized our work.

As ICL's Board Chair Lori Gibson Banducci outlined, we now have four overarching campaigns with ambitious, but achievable long-term goals. Not all of the work that needs to be done in Idaho to protect the environment fits neatly into one of these campaigns. Consequently, ICL also engages in projects big and small to protect the environment from uniquely local impacts that threaten communities across Idaho, responds to unanticipated threats to the environment, and takes advantage of unexpected opportunities to advance our organizational goals. With that in mind, here are ICL's four major campaigns and the tactics we will use to achieve them.

Making Idaho Carbon Neutral

The amount of carbon humans release into the atmosphere is causing the world to warm at an alarming rate, changing weather patterns and the way of life for people and wildlife. We see these impacts today in Idaho both to our natural world through shrinking habitat and warming rivers, and to our communities as asthma rates increase and searing heat impacts all of us.

As an Idaho-based organization, ICL is committed to protecting our communities while reducing Idaho's contribution to this world-wide crisis. Our long-term goal is to make Idaho carbon neutral. We will accomplish this by helping Idahoans conserve energy and getting our utilities to divest from fossil fuel energy sources in exchange for renewables, encouraging the further adoption of electric vehicles and mass transit, and finding ways to reduce

agricultural methane emissions and promote the adoption of carbon sequestration practices. While these goals are ambitious, we are well on our way!

In 2019, Idaho Power, the state's largest utility, committed to clean energy by 2045 in great part due to ICL's continued advocacy at the Public Utilities Commission and the company's long-term planning process. ICL's advocacy also helped move Idaho Power to kick off 2020 by exiting the first of many Valmy coal units. What's more? By 2030, both Idaho Power and Avista Corp committed to be out of coal entirely!

2020 promises more success for this campaign. We are currently hiring our first ever Conservation Analyst; a position aimed at providing technical analysis to support not just continued movement toward clean energy, but also our work for more electric vehicles, mass transit and methane capture.

With your support, ICL's climate team is able to do what is required to attain these ambitious goals. We participate in meetings, research policies and economics, write comments and briefs, and educate and inform our members and the greater public about about how to make our collective voices heard on behalf of all Idahoans. Together, we will achieve a carbon-neutral Idaho.



Lara Rozzell Photo



IDFG Mike Peterson Photo



USFWS, Sockeye Ryan Hagerthy Photo

Restoring Idaho's Wild Salmon and Steelhead

Idaho has vast, prime salmon habitat that is nearly vacant because four federal dams downstream from Idaho in the state of Washington have made the fishes' migratory pathway to and from the ocean lethal. The loss of wild salmon to Idaho has catastrophic ecological and economic implications for the Clearwater and Salmon river ecosystems, and the fish, wildlife and people who call the Northwest home.

Our long-term goal is to restore ecologically significant, harvestable populations of wild salmon and steelhead to Idaho. We will do this by engaging supporters locally and regionally to build bipartisan support for wild salmon recovery that leads to a solution for a financially pressured Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and supports removal of the four dams – an outcome experts say is necessary to restore our fish.

In great part because of ICL's groundwork, 2019 saw new and rejuvenated movement on salmon and



Wesley White Photo

steelhead recovery. In addition to U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson announcing his commitment to saving the fish, Idaho's Governor Brad Little created a Salmon Recovery Task Force and invited ICL Executive Director Justin Hayes to be a member. Justin also participates in the regional Columbia Basin Partnership. These groups are both venues where diverse stakeholders come together to discuss solutions for recovering Idaho's fish.

ICL's staffing on this important work also grew in 2019. Emerald LaFortune became our Salmon and Steelhead Campaign Outreach Assistant; she works full time to educate and empower Idahoans to speak up for these imperiled species. Increasing our technical ability to analyze and use data to support this campaign, Mitch Cutter became ICL's Salmon and Steelhead Campaign Fellow. Mitch holds a two-year position and he'll analyze utility and water flow information to help inform possible policy solutions to save Idaho's fish.



Cleaning Up the Snake River Across Southern Idaho

In eastern Idaho, the Snake River is a blue-ribbon trout river. As it flows west, the river picks up so much pollution that, by the time it reaches Idaho's western border, it is so contaminated that the State of Idaho warns people not to fish in it or touch it, or let their pets swim in it.

In between, the river is heavily managed for people and agriculture. State law allows all of the water that reaches Milner Dam (located between Burley and Twin Falls) to be diverted out for industry and agricultural use, essentially drying up the largest river in Idaho. Over the last century, these low water flows coupled with unregulated pollution have contaminated many of the stretches of the Snake River in southern Idaho.

Our long-term goal is to make the Snake River across southern Idaho safe, fishable and swimmable again. This is yet another ambitious goal, but we have a concrete, achievable plan. We will focus on discharges to the Snake River. ICL will ensure the

enforcement of regulated pollution discharges and reduce the amount of unregulated agricultural surface runoff and nitrate-laden groundwater discharges.

To do this, we are building capacity to empower grassroots supporters to call on their elected and industry leaders for solutions to provide cleaner surface and groundwater in communities from Idaho Falls to Hells Canyon. We also seek to secure creation and implementation of a new mid-Snake water quality standard, known as the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) pollution limit, with appropriately protective and stringent standards and instream flows.

In 2019, we actively participated in meetings regarding the mid-Snake TMDL. We held multiple public education events and hosted field trips with local stakeholders, including elected officials, media and interested citizens. And with your continued support, 2020 promises more time on the ground talking with stakeholders and decision-makers, helping to build the support to make the Snake River safe, swimmable and fishable again.

Ensuring Landscape-Level Protection of Public Lands

Approximately 70% of Idaho is publicly-owned. One of the primary reasons ICL was founded in 1973 was to be a voice for the land, water and wildlife that make Idaho so special.

Our long-term goal is landscape-level protections for public lands. Guarding against threats to sustainable management of large, connected landscapes is critical to protecting and restoring the ecological function of our public lands and the fish and wildlife that depend on them.

We use science, economics and collaboration to guide the sustainable management of large, connected landscapes. And we secure conservation benefits on public land via collaborative land management projects, supporting policies and actions that sequester carbon, and keeping public lands in public hands.

2019 was a busy year for Idaho's public lands and our public lands team. ICL staff commented on more than 100 projects and use permits; engaged with myriad mining companies in efforts to stop projects, protect species and/or ensure best practices; actively participated in person almost a dozen ongoing collaborative public land planning processes; and

our Central Idaho Wilderness Stewardship program continued to grow by leaps and bounds, connecting trained volunteers with land management needs.

We anticipate 2020 will be even busier. This winter, environmental analysis on Midas Gold's Stibnite gold project – an enormous proposed mining project in the headwaters of the East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River – will be released. Home to chinook salmon and other imperiled species, ICL will remain intensely engaged in the process.

ICL's Public Lands Director John Robison will continue to keep the "restoration" in forest restoration collaboratives, in great part via his role as the statewide conservation representative on Gov. Little's Shared Stewardship Advisory Council. Our Central Idaho Wilderness Stewards program will continue to grow. We'll continue to show up at collaboratives, working toward landscape and watershed protections that help ensure Idaho stays the wild Idaho that we know and love.



Marie Callaway Kellner

Conservation Program Director
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The Owyhees / Mark Lisk Photo



White Clouds / Ed Cannady

ICL and People Power: An Engagement and Communication Update

Glenn Oakley Photo



Jonathan Oppenheimer

Since 1973, the Idaho Conservation League has worked to protect and restore the health of Idaho's rivers, forests and communities. We've faced stiff headwinds in the Idaho Legislature and in Washington, D.C., we've battled adversaries in court, and we've worked with

Idahoans in unique communities and special places throughout our state to find common ground.

Faces may have changed, but one thing has remained constant...**We are effective because of the engagement and support of our statewide network of members and allies.** Through economic rollercoasters and political ups and downs, ICL and the community of Idaho's conservation advocates have stuck together, and we are stronger for it.

In 2019, we activated our members and supporters on dozens of issues. We continued to thwart the legislature's attempts to seize and control our public lands, we fended off efforts to undermine solar power at the Public Utilities Commission, and we trained and supported volunteers as on-the-ground stewards in Central Idaho's designated and recommended wilderness areas.

ICL members and supporters stood up, spoke up and took action. Together, we sent more than 12,000 emails to decision-makers and attended hundreds of events and hearings across our great state. And as we have done every year since

our founding, we spent countless hours watchdogging the Idaho Legislature from our office two blocks from the marbled halls of the Idaho Statehouse.

As we stand on the brink of a new decade, we continue to face serious challenges. The climate is changing, wild salmon and steelhead numbers are crashing, and Idaho's population growth is straining our infrastructure. In order to achieve continued success, **we must reinvigorate our efforts to empower advocates and volunteers to create the public and political will to achieve our goals.**

We've done this work well, but we must do even more.

That's why we've invested in new staff and resources to tackle these challenges. In 2019, we brought on a seasoned communications professional, Scott Ki. Together, we are targeting and reaching new audiences with our messages. We are increasing our media and public outreach, helping shape public policy and raising awareness. We also brought on new outreach and engagement staff in Central Idaho, on behalf of strategic priorities including restoring the Snake River and bringing back robust runs of salmon and steelhead.

We're excited about 2020 and invite you to recommit yourself to take action this year. After all, we can't do it alone...we never have.



Jonathan Oppenheimer

External Relations Director

joppenheimer@idahoconservation.org



Ben Otto Photo



Scott Friedman Photo



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A special thank you to all ICL members and supporters! Listed below are those who donated \$250 or more, either through financial or in-kind support between October 1, 2018, and September 30, 2019.

Gifts toward pledges for the It's My ID campaign are listed separately on page 11.

**Members of ICL's Advocates for Idaho monthly giving club who made gifts totaling \$250 or more.*

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Joan & William Yost
Patricia G. Young
Mark & Erin Zaleski*

It's My Idaho Donors

The following ICL members made gifts toward their pledges made for the It's My Idaho campaign between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019.

Anonymous (1)
Mary Bachman & Bill Downing
Amie & Tony Bell
Chuck Blair & Signe Sather-Blair
Brooke Bonner & Kyle Baysinger
Perry & Desiree Brown
Gilbert Butler
Gene & Elsie Cheston
Carolyn & Chuck Coiner
Paul & Heidi Cunningham
Mark & Vickie Daly
Jane & Ken Dunbar
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Susan Gilliland
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Jim & Lorna Irwin
Jim & Wendy Jaquet
Marie & Jeff Kellner
Larry & LaDawn Kidd
Diane & Jack Leaverton
Don & Maureen Martin
Clay Napper & Charlie Barnett
Carl & Jane Nellis
Jim Norton & Natasha Dolezal
Jennifer Durbin & John O'Connor
Beth & Jonathan Oppenheimer
Ben Otto
Rebecca Patton & Tom Goodrich
Buddy Paul & Bev Lingle
Marylyn & Steve Pauley
Mike & Michelle Purcell
Julie & Alan Richardson
John Robison
Tracy & Carl Rowe
Laura Todd
Bob Vestal & Jyl Hoyt
Don & Sheri Weber
Chris & Carol Yoder
Erin & Mark Zaleski
Fred & Melly Zeillemaker



Remembering ICL Board Member Steve Lockwood



With great shock, loss and sadness, we share the news that Sandpoint-based ICL board member Steve Lockwood passed away unexpectedly in mid-January. Our heartfelt condolences to his family, especially his wife Molly.

Steve was a kind soul who cared deeply for the natural world and ICL's work to protect it. He dropped by our Boise office just a few weeks ago to wish us all a Happy New Year. It was clear that he cared a lot about the people who make up ICL.

I'll miss his thoughtfulness and his wit — and the twinkle in his eye. Please raise a toast to Steve — and remember to cherish all that is good in this world and those that you love.



Justin Hayes

Executive Director
jhayes@idahoconservation.org

Join ICL's Legacy Club

By including the Idaho Conservation League in your planned giving, you offer a lasting investment in Idaho. Legacy gifts ensure that ICL will be here, protecting Idaho's environment for generations to come. Consider something simple, like including ICL in your will. We can provide you with language, or you can find it on our website at www.idahoconservation.org/legacygifts. You can choose to be acknowledged in our Legacy Club, or keep your gift anonymous.

There are also other ways to include ICL in your planned giving, 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 professional.

For more information, contact me at (208) 345-6933 x17, or jestes@idahoconservation.org. If you decide to include ICL in your planned giving, I hope you will let me know. These types of gifts are incredibly special and meaningful. They remind us that there is great hope for Idaho's future.



Jenny Estes

Development Director
jestes@idahoconservation.org

Legacy Club

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

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Anonymous (2) | Daralene & John Finnell | Stephani & Paul Hilding | David Marshall |
| Eileen Atkisson & Lawrence Blakey | Michael Flanagan | Antone Holmquist | Wayne Melquist |
| Judy Baker | Elaine & John French | Rick Johnson & Roberta Crockett | Walter Minnick & A. K. Lienhart Minnick |
| Dede & Larry Binder | Lori Gibson Banducci | James Johnston | Steve Mitchell & Louisa Moats |
| Alida Bockino | Susan Gilliland | Polly & Don King | Suki & Bill Molina |
| Ed Cannady | Craig Groves | Malcolm & Pam Kinney | Greg & Aimee Moran |
| Bill & Jeanne Cassell | Amy Haak | Trish Klahr & Lee Melly | Bill & Colleen Mullins |
| Bill Clark | Pat Haas & Alison Beck Haas | Gregg Lewis | Carl H. & E. Jane Nellis |
| Paul & Heidi Cunningham | Michael & Irene Healy | Tracy L'Herisson | Jerry Nielsen |
| Mary & David Dudley | Dave Heep | Steve Lockwood & Molly O'Reilly | |
| Bryan DuFosse & Shanna Kittell | June Heilman | Gregory & Ann Lyle | |
| Joyce Fabre & Craig Randle | Charles Herrington & Ilene Shell | | |

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.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Kenneth Archer | John Keller | Colleen McNichols | David Proctor |
| Patsy Batchelder | Barbara Littlejohn | Kathryn Merriam | Holly Reese |
| Richard Boyer | Steve Lockwood | Jeanette Miller | Hadley Roberts |
| Frederick Bracker | Lan Lowen | Sam Monger | James Rountree |
| Marshall Brown | Paul Martin | Pauson Paull | Joseph Shaver |
| Mary Curtis | Kay McCarter | David Peterson | Everell Vanderpool |

The Business of ICL

Glenn Oakley Photo



Julia Rundberg

Thanks to the support of our dedicated members and foundations, ICL ended fiscal year 2019 in a strong financial position. Member support continues to be our largest source of income, and it is a constant reminder that we are all in this work together, as partners. ICL could not protect what we all love about Idaho without your support. Thank you!

Our finances reflect the dedication of our members, and we work hard to ensure that every contribution is used wisely and intentionally to help protect Idaho’s air, water, wildlife and special places. In 2019 ICL received it’s fifth consecutive 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, the highest rating they offer. According to Charity Navigator’s

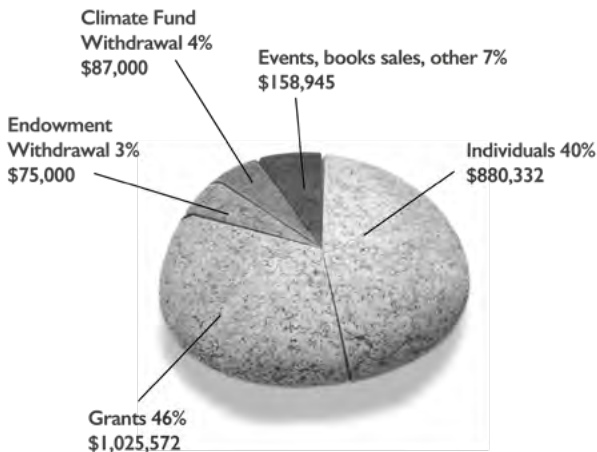
President & CEO Michael Thatcher, “Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive the distinction of our 4-star rating. This adds ICL to a preeminent group of charities working to overcome our world’s most pressing challenges. Based on its 4-star rating, people can trust that their donations are going to a financially responsible and ethical charity when they decide to support ICL.”



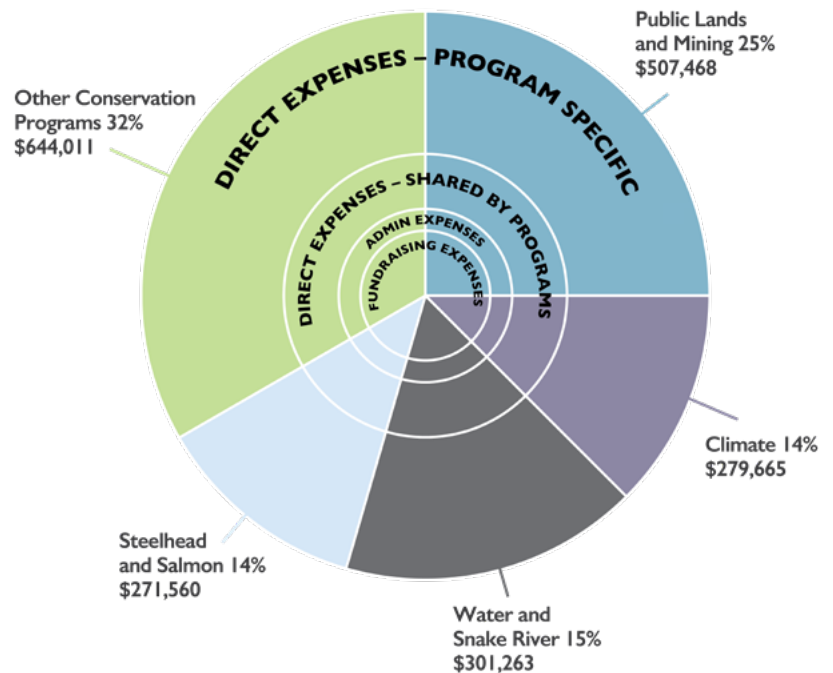
Julia Rundberg

Director of Finance and Administration
jrundberg@idahoconservation.org

FY19 OPERATING FUNDS BY SOURCE



FY19 OPERATING EXPENSES BY PROGRAM



ENDOWMENT ACTIVITY

Gifts to the Endowment	\$435,009
Investments, Net Income (Loss)	\$138,511

NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- Recent changes in IRS requirements for nonprofits has changed how administrative expenses are reported.
- The Idaho Conservation League is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, and uses accrual based accounting.
- Multi-year grants are counted as income the date they are awarded.
- Audited financial statements, prepared by Harris & Co., P.A., are available on our website.

For more information, contact Julia Rundberg, Director of Finance and Administration, 208.345.6933 x 18

New Artist In Residence Announcement!

The cover art for this annual report was painted by 2019 Artist in Residence Carl Rowe. Thank you, Carl, for your hard work and creating more than 50 beautiful pieces of art as part of your ICL residency. We are honored that we got to share such beautiful paintings of Idaho throughout the year.

Glenn Oakley Photo



Jenny Estes

We are thrilled to announce ICL's 2020 Artist in Residence Andy Sewell!

Andy lives and works full-time on his paintings in Viola, Idaho, among the rolling wheat fields of North Idaho known as the Palouse. He grew up in Ketchum and has a deep appreciation for Idaho's beautiful landscapes and wildlife. He portrays this admiration through his oil and watercolor paintings.

Andy travels during the summer, displaying and selling much of his award-winning art in venues and shows mostly throughout Idaho. He loves to paint flowers and Northwest landscapes as well as fishing scenes, wildlife, rural farms and the countryside. The Sewell Studio & Gallery is located on his property and is open to visitors when he's

home. Call first, then stop by for a visit! His work can also be viewed on ICL's website and his own, www.finewatercolors.com.

We are looking forward to seeing which of Idaho's special places and wildlife Andy will share through his paintings this year. Welcome, Andy!



Jenny Estes

Development Director

jestes@idahoconservation.org



Courtesy Andy Sewell



Courtesy Andy Sewell



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Happy New Year!

From all of us at the Idaho Conservation League, we wish you a happy 2020! Thank you for your continued support as we all work together to protect the clean water, clean air and special places that make Idaho Idaho.

Thank you for standing with us and may your new year bring you many beautiful adventures in wild Idaho.