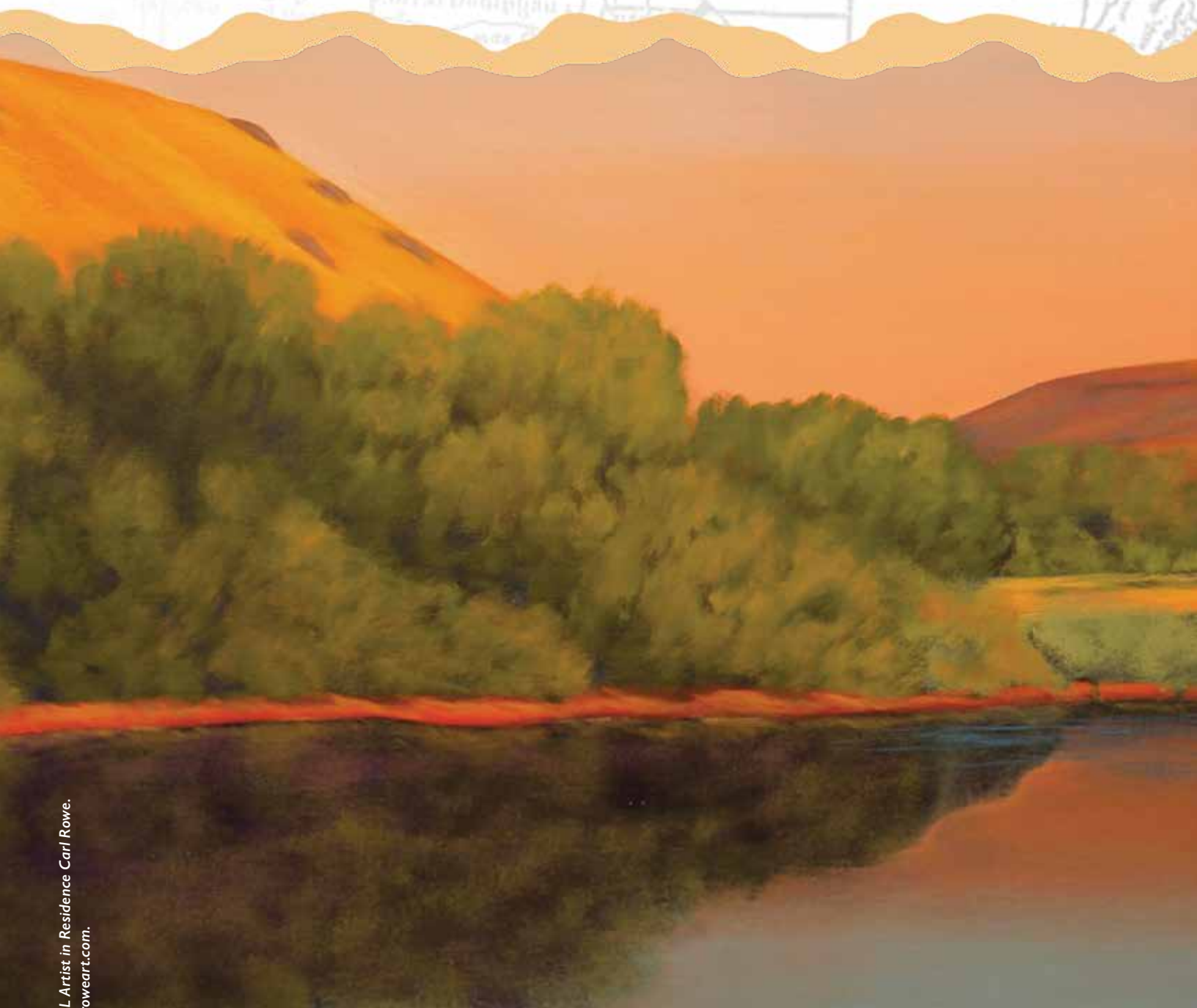




IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

Vol XXII No III
October 2019

The Idaho Conservationist



Cover: Snake River by ICL Artist in Residence Carl Rowe.
Oil on canvas, www.carlroweart.com.

FEATURING

Idaho Conservation League's Strategic Planning- 5

A Tale of Two Rivers - 8

The Future of Conservation- 14

Our Common Goal



Glenn Oakley Photo

Justin Hayes

Since stepping into the role of Idaho Conservation League’s executive director, I’ve travelled throughout the state and met with our members and community leaders. From Driggs to Sandpoint and all points in between, I’ve been heartily welcomed into your lives to share ICL’s work and to listen to all of you, our members.

Although vast distances separate the diverse landscapes of this beautiful state, it’s clear that we, all of us from

different communities and backgrounds, come together for a common goal. We all want to protect what makes Idaho so special — our wild places and wildlife, our rivers and communities.

To protect what we all care about, the wonderfully talented staff at ICL works both smart and hard on difficult issues all across Idaho. I love to talk about the work we do; sharing both our successes and our challenges. As we discuss ICL’s work, I prioritize remembering to say “thank you” because we could not succeed without you. Your support — both your membership and your activism — is critical for all of us as we tackle these tough issues and protect Idaho’s environment.

The passion that you feel about our state is palpable. The urgency that you feel about addressing climate change comes across when we talk. You speak from the heart when you voice your support for protecting Idaho’s wild places and wildlife, our rivers and communities. It’s clear you are standing up for the special places that you call home and the places you dream about when you close your eyes.

I can’t say it enough. Doing this important work — succeeding in this important work — is a team effort. And it’s a lengthy effort. The era of easy wins on environmental issues, if there ever was such a time, is long gone. You play a vital role in protecting this great place. Know that every single day our staff at ICL works to honor the trust and generosity you share with us.

And as I’ve traveled the state and thanked you for your support, I’m always astonished and touched by how many people thank ICL back for the dedication and steadfastness in making Idaho an even better place to live and raise families. We are all in this together. Our collective passion for protecting our Idaho — for now and future generations — comes through loud and clear. It keeps all of us energized and moving forward. Together, we are stronger and more determined to make a difference. With each other’s support, I truly believe that, despite the difficulties, we will achieve all of our goals.



Justin Hayes
Executive Director
jhayes@idahoconservation.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Lori Gibson Banducci, *Chair, Boise*
- Rebecca Patton, *Vice Chair, Hailey*
- Judy Baker, *Treasurer, Boise*
- Bill Weppner, *Secretary, Boise*
- Tanya Anderson, *Victor*
- Patrick Bageant, *Boise*
- Matt Benjamin, *Ketchum*
- Carolyn Coiner, *Twin Falls*
- Paul Cunningham, *Boise*
- Jim DeWitt, *Boise*
- David Eichberg, *Boise*
- Scott Friedman, *Sun Valley*
- Alan Harper, *Athol*
- Steve Lockwood, *Sandpoint*
- Jim Norton, *Boise*
- John O’Connor, *Bonnars Ferry*
- Julie Richardson, *Hailey*
- Jerry Scheid, *Idaho Falls*
- Kim Trotter, *Driggs*
- Margrit von Braun, *Moscow*

STAFF

- Jenny Estes
Development Director
- Amanda Gardner
Development Assistant
- Justin Hayes
Executive Director
- Shelby Herber
Community Engagement Assistant
- Josh Johnson
Conservation Associate
- Marie Callaway Kellner
Conservation Program Director
- Scott Ki
Communications Associate
- Betsy Mizell
Central Idaho Director
- Matt Nykiel
Conservation Associate
- Jonathan Oppenheimer
Director of External Relations
- Ben Otto
Energy Associate
- Mallory Parsons
Accounting Assistant
- Haley Robinson
Development & Marketing Associate
- John Robison
Public Lands Director
- Julia Rundberg
Director of Finance & Administration
- Hannah Smay
Community Engagement Assistant
- Brad Smith
North Idaho Director
- Austin Walkins
Senior Conservation Associate
- Lana Weber
Community Engagement Coordinator
- Erin Zaleski
Office Manager

Boise
208.345.6933
icl@idahoconservation.org
www.idahoconservation.org

Ketchum
208.726.7485

Sandpoint
208.265.9565

Printed on recycled paper

Patience and Progress: Governor Little's Salmon Workgroup

Four years ago, Justin Hayes snorkeled the Salmon River upstream of Stanley, hoping to see a wild sockeye salmon. He didn't expect to because of the many obstacles Idaho's salmon and steelhead face swimming to the Pacific and returning to their spawning grounds. That day what he saw truly surprised him — a wild sockeye and chinook. More importantly, the very existence of these fish and their resilience gave him a bedrock of hope.

Despite abysmal return numbers for Idaho salmon and steelhead these past years, two more factors reinforced his hope that these fish could be recovered. Idaho's political leaders, Congressman Mike Simpson and Governor Brad Little, committed earlier this year to find ways to bring Idaho's fish back. And the Bonneville Power Administration, the federal agency that manages dams throughout the Northwest, faces urgent and serious financial pressure.

For Justin and ICL, the toughness of Idaho's fish coupled with these shifts in political and economic currents have combined to create a unique chance to take bold action to save Idaho's fish. As part of the political momentum for change, Justin sits on Gov. Little's salmon workgroup which wrapped up its third meeting on Friday, Sept. 20.

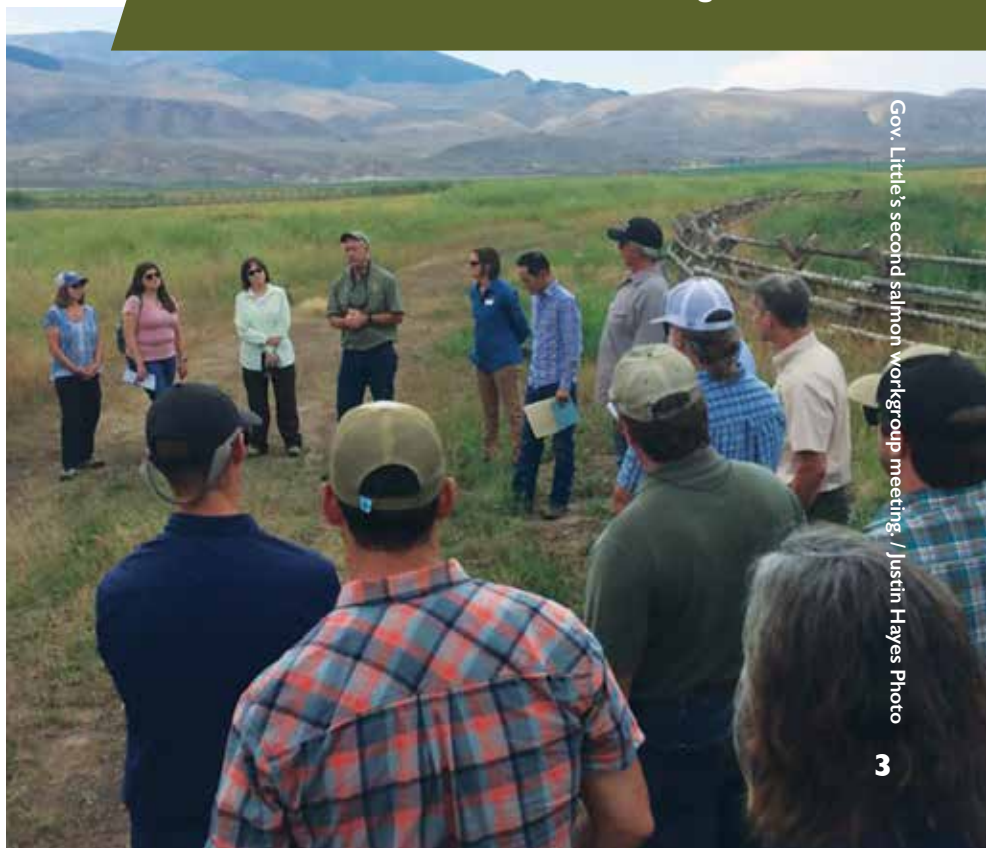
This workgroup brings together a diverse group of Idahoans to develop a solution to abysmal salmon and steelhead returns. During the course of these meetings, held, so far, in Boise, Salmon and Lewiston, members talk about all the barriers to Idaho's fish and how people in local communities are working to save these fish.

Workgroup members have only just begun to gain a better understanding of each other's interests and the crisis facing Idaho's salmon and steelhead. As meetings progress, workgroup members will learn more about available options and each other's different views while focusing on the hard work that lies ahead to finding a real, sustainable solution that brings back Idaho's fish in healthy, abundant numbers. In doing so, Justin and ICL hope the workgroup will find win-win solutions together that are equitable, just, sustainable, and prosperous for all Idahoans.

Workgroup meetings are also scheduled for Twin Falls and Boise later this year. Members expect to continue meeting throughout 2020.

 **Scott Ki**
Communications Associate
ski@idahoconservation.org

Speak up for salmon and steelhead in Idaho!
Visit www.idahoconservation.org/takeaction.



Gov. Little's second salmon workgroup meeting. / Justin Hayes Photo

**OUR PAST, OUR PRESENT, AND WHATEVER
REMAINS OF YOUR FUTURE, ABSOLUTELY
DEPEND ON WHAT WE DO NOW**

-Sylvia Earl

Dani Mazzotta Photo

Board of Directors Chair



Lori Gibson Banducci

Mid-August on the Middle Fork of the Salmon is a special time (well, let's face it, anytime on the Middle Fork is special). I had the good fortune of joining ARTA River Trips and a group of ICL supporters, current staff, past staff, as well as a family from the U.K. on a six-day journey in mid-August.

We were greeted at Indian Creek by a volunteer of the "Redd Alert Program" who briefed us on the current status of salmon runs (almost non-existent) and to warn us to steer clear of "salmon nesting" signs along the river — as they were there to protect spawning salmon.

We spent many evenings talking about the importance of restoring abundant salmon runs. We learned about the importance of oceanic nutrients brought by the salmon to the river and surrounding habitat. These nutrients sustain terrestrial wildlife, birds and riparian woodlands. Many communities depend on abundant steelhead and salmon runs for their livelihood and way of life. And, of course, the beloved Puget Sound orcas that depend on an ample supply of salmon for their survival.

In years past, the river would have been teeming with salmon making their way from the Pacific Ocean back to their spawning grounds. Sadly, we saw no salmon and no "salmon nesting" signs anywhere on the river. It would have been fair to ask these questions, "Why it is called the Salmon River?" Or "How did Redfish Lake get its name?"

Steelhead, "redfish" and other salmon runs are very low. Fortunately, there NOW seems to be a confluence of public and political interests as well as economics that make restoring runs of these anadromous fish a real possibility.

The pristine, free-flowing Middle Fork of the Salmon River is eagerly awaiting the return of its abundant wild salmon runs. We must seize this opportunity and do everything possible to restore these wild fish to abundance — we owe it to ourselves, local communities, the next generations, the wildlife, the river and the land. Will we succeed? We won't know if we don't try. To quote Sylvia Earl, "It absolutely depends on what we do now."



Lori Gibson Banducci

Chair

Idaho Conservation League Board of Directors

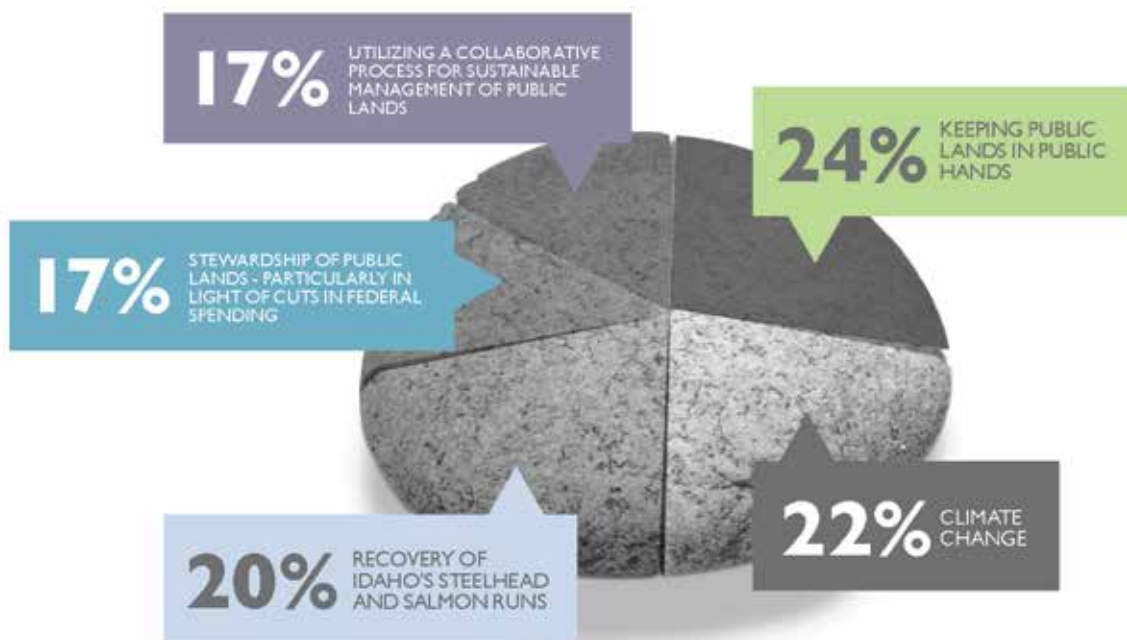
ICL's Strategic Plan

Every three years, the ICL board and staff develop a strategic plan to clearly define our big picture strategic objectives over the next 3, 5, and 10 years. Our last strategic plan was developed in 2016, so it's time to develop an updated plan. The strategic planning process is critical to the long-term success and effectiveness of ICL.

This year, we sent out a survey to ICL supporters seeking input regarding our key strategic planning objectives. We were heartened by the response:

- **Over 480 of you responded**
- **95% of respondents live in Idaho some, or all, of the time**
- **31 different counties were represented in the responses**

One of the major questions we asked in the survey was, "what are the most pressing challenges ICL will face in the next 5-10 years?" This question was designed to help us understand what our members and supporters identify as our priorities for our work. Here is what you indicated is important to you.



Your input is invaluable as we move forward in the strategic planning process. We believe our 3-5 year strategic plan will reflect your priorities. Stay tuned for an update on the strategic plan in early 2020. And, THANK YOU, again, for taking the time to share your thoughts with us.



Lori Gibson Banducci

Chair

Idaho Conservation League Board of Directors

NORTHERN IDAHO

Potential Solutions Emerging for Toxic Mine Waste in Lake Coeur d'Alene

Toxic waste from over 100 years of mining in the Silver Valley lurks below the surface of Lake Coeur d'Alene. 75 million tons of mine waste, in fact. Every spring, 150 tundra swans, on average, are found dead or sick along the Coeur d'Alene River floodplain because of this waste. It's a tragic and heartbreaking fact of life in North Idaho and a visible sign of a fragile

balance in the lake's water chemistry. If this balance isn't managed responsibly, the mine waste lying on the bottom could create an even bigger disaster.

Managing the lake chemistry responsibly means keeping nutrient contaminants like phosphorus and nitrogen at low levels. Lawn fertilization and forest clear-cuts cause excess phosphorus and nitrogen runoff in Lake Coeur d'Alene and these contaminants promote algae and plant growth in the lake. As plants grow and die, they deplete oxygen levels in the lake, and if oxygen levels fall too low, the mine waste on the lake bottom can dissolve into the water we drink and play in. That's why ICL is alarmed by monitoring data showing increasing levels of nutrient pollution in Lake Coeur d'Alene.



Brook Vinnedge Photo

This summer, ICL and others began urging the EPA to seek new funding sources to help protect Lake Coeur d'Alene. While this funding hasn't yet been made available, the EPA has shown signs that additional resources may be available to help protect the lake. But money alone is only part of the solution. The counties, towns, and communities within the Lake Coeur d'Alene Basin also need to take an active role in reducing the nutrient pollution that washes into the lake. This means using more care when fertilizing lawns, buffering the shoreline with native plants, repairing old septic systems, and reducing timber clear-cuts.

Please help share this story with your friends and family. To learn more, read the High Country News story, "A dangerous cocktail threatens the gem of North Idaho."

Matt Nykiel

North Idaho Conservation Associate
mnykiel@idahoconservation.org



SOUTHERN IDAHO

New Pathways Project on the Horizon in the Treasure Valley

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Boise River Greenbelt, a continuous path stretching 25 miles and connecting three communities in the Treasure Valley. The Greenbelt has provided cycling and pedestrian commuters a safe, convenient alternative to their cars. As we celebrate, let's also reflect on the vision, hard work, and dedication that went into building the path so many love today. Let's also ask ourselves what we want our community-based trails and pathways to look like 50 years from now.

Paths like the Greenbelt provide tremendous open space and recreational opportunities. As the Treasure Valley grows we desperately need more alternative transportation options. That's why ICL is part of a coalition working to use our

region's vast network of canals and create parallel multi-use pathways for commuting and recreation. We can use the canal networks that already exist and develop pathways alongside them for pedestrian and cyclist use. It's an ambitious effort that could improve connections between communities across the Treasure Valley in a new and exciting way.

Idaho — and the rest of the world — is experiencing the effects of climate change. We are simultaneously trying to stop contributing to climate change while adapting to more intense wildfires, smoky summers, toxic algae in our water, and warmer temps. **Transportation is currently Idaho's biggest contributor of greenhouse gases.** Fighting climate change in Idaho means working toward smarter transportation — including more cycling and pedestrian infrastructure and smart planning as our communities grow.

So ask yourself: what sort of pathways do we want to see in 50 years? Let's start working toward that today. Will it be easy? Almost certainly not. But ask anyone who enjoys the Greenbelt or paths like it and I bet they'll say it's worth the effort.

Austin Walkins

Senior Conservation Associate
awalkins@idahoconservation.org



EASTERN IDAHO

Protecting Wildlife and Clean Water Near Yellowstone National Park

In November 2018, ICL and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition (GYC) sued the U.S. Forest Service for approving mine exploration work near Kilgore in East Idaho's Centennial Mountains, roughly 50 miles west of Yellowstone National Park.

This potential gold mine project lies in the heart of a major wildlife corridor that connects the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem with the rest of the Northern Rockies, home to everything from 600-pound grizzly bears to nearly weightless Columbia spotted frogs. The project is also near the head of the Camas Creek watershed, which flows through the Camas National Wildlife Refuge and is a key water source for farmers further downstream.

ICL and GYC are represented by Advocates for the West. The case focuses on concerns that the Forest Service did not properly analyze impacts from extensive drilling and road construction activities. ICL is also concerned

that the next phase of mine exploration will have unanticipated negative impacts on grizzly bears and other wildlife, and could contaminate springs, seeps and streams at the headwaters of West Camas Creek. The Canadian mining company, Otis Gold, has subsequently intervened in the case and a hearing was held in Boise in October and we expect the judge to come back with a decision in the coming months.

ICL works to safeguard Idaho's public lands by raising the bar on mining practices and calling out irresponsible projects. In this case, we are asking a federal judge to require the Forest Service to do a more thorough environmental analysis and incorporate additional protections for wildlife and water quality. At the end of the day, some places are just too special to mine.



Josh Johnson

Central Idaho Conservation Associate
jjohnson@idahoconservation.org



Josh Johnson Photo

CENTRAL IDAHO

ICL Stewards Help Keep the Wild in Wilderness

"Pristine," "inspiring," and "beyond what you could ever imagine" are just some of the ways visitors to Idaho's wilderness areas have described their experience to ICL's wilderness stewards. From the Sawtooths to Craters of the Moon, these stewards have been hard at work all summer greeting and educating visitors, and restoring, protecting and enhancing Central Idaho's awe-inspiring wilderness areas.

ICL's Central Idaho Wilderness Stewardship Program is now in its fourth year and has grown to include over 60 groups of stewards who volunteer their time to clean up trash, remove illegal campfire rings, report data to the U.S. Forest Service, and educate the public on wilderness ethics and management guidelines. Since there are only a handful of Forest Service rangers who patrol the 670,000 acres of designated wilderness in Central Idaho, our stewards play an important role in wilderness management by broadening the agency's reach with our service.

Our wilderness stewards join the program because they love wild places and want to keep them wild by putting their boots on the ground and getting their hands dirty. While the season for wilderness stewardship isn't over quite yet, our stewards have already patrolled for more than 1,281 hours, cleaned and destroyed 153 illegal fire rings, extinguished three abandoned campfires, packed out 50 pounds of trash, and encountered 1,574 wilderness visitors.

If you see a steward out on the trail, thank them for their efforts to help keep these areas wild!

Interested in joining our wilderness stewardship program next year? Email Hannah at hsmay@idahoconservation.org for more information!



Hannah Smay

Community Engagement Assistant
hsmay@idahoconservation.org



Betsy Mizell Photo

A Tale of Two Rivers

As we floated through a precipitous canyon carved into crumbling cliffs of basalt, I sensed movement out of the corner of my eye. Straining to locate the source while bouncing up and down on the raft was tough, but I finally spotted it — a golden eagle! Majestically soaring above the canyon rim, the eagle seemed at home among all of the other wildlife we had seen that day — blue herons, deer, and coyotes to name a few. It's not that unusual of a scene for a state full of beautiful public lands that teem with wildlife. The only catch: we weren't floating the wild and scenic Salmon or the Selway or the Clearwater. We were floating the Snake River through southern Idaho, mere miles away from a busy interstate freeway.

It's moments like these that continue to inspire me and the work I do for the Idaho Conservation League, whether it's working to clean up pollution in the Snake River, protecting additional rivers as wild and scenic in the mountains of Central Idaho, or stopping the construction of a new massive open pit mine in a key wilderness area. Floating that portion of the Snake River below Lower Salmon Falls Dam opened my eyes to a different side of the river, one that harkens back to the distant past. It is difficult to picture today, but the Snake in much of southern Idaho was once teeming with salmon and other wildlife.

Over the course of the past century, the Snake River has become a predominantly “working” river. Numerous dams impede the mighty river's flow and an extensive canal system whisks away the Snake's water to irrigate large tracts of agricultural land and sustain industrial dairy operations with tens of thousands of cows. Using the river in this way has been profitable. Valuable crops are grown on hundreds of thousands of acres and Idaho's dairy industry is now among the largest in the nation. But this proliferation and profit has come with a price — the health of the river. That point was driven home by a recent visit to Milner Dam where, during this time of year, you can literally stand in the dry riverbed of the

Snake as nearly every last drop of the river is diverted for agriculture.

ICL has been making significant strides in our campaign to clean up the Snake River. In July, we released a detailed report on declining groundwater quality in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, which is a crucial source of drinking water for residents in southern Idaho. This is an issue that people clearly care a lot about — at a recent presentation in Twin Falls, people were spilling out the door because the presentation room was completely full of folks wanting to learn more. We also continue to work on the pollution problems that plague the Snake River itself. Not only do we work with state agency staff and other stakeholders on ways to reduce the amount of pollution released into the river, we are also stepping up our public outreach to the community on this issue. For example, in late August, we organized a field tour of key sites along the mid-Snake to highlight some of the river pollution issues we are working on.

I have been very encouraged by the leadership shown by our members and others who care deeply about the river's health. Achieving the goal of making the Snake River safe to fish and swim in again will require us all to work together — from local communities, to stakeholders in industry and agriculture, to local political leaders. Together, we can make a difference for the health of this invaluable river.

To learn more about ICL's campaign to save the Snake and make the river swimmable and fishable again, please visit www.idahoconservation.org/snakeriver.



Josh Johnson

Central Idaho Conservation Associate
jjohnson@idahoconservation.org

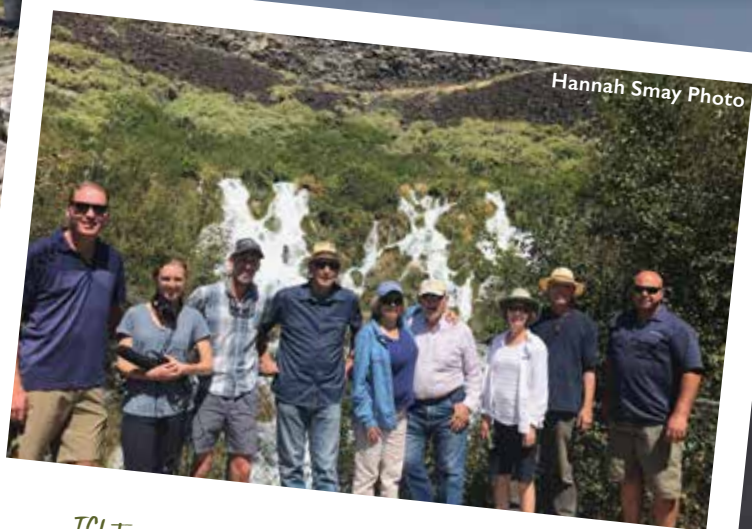
“Together, we can make a difference for the health of this invaluable river.”

Josh Johnson Photo



The dry riverbed below Milner Dam in late summer

Hannah Smay Photo



IGL tour group in front of Niagra Springs along The Snake River

Hannah Smay Photo



A peaceful morning in the canyon of the Snake River below Lower Salmon Falls Dam



Flickr Creative Commons Photo

Avista Should Fund Energy Conservation with Unexpected Income

Breaking news – we won a new, \$1.6 million program to fund energy savings projects for Avista customers in Idaho. This new program will complement existing energy savings programs by providing a more flexible funding source distributed by a committee of local stakeholders. And while the fund is initially set at \$1.6 million, this is an ongoing project with possibilities for more money in the future.

This project has been in the works for at least a year. Recall when Avista sought to merge with Hydro One last year? There ICL negotiated a commitment that Hydro One would fund a new energy savings program.

When the Idaho Commission denied the merger, we were disappointed to miss out on \$5.4 million in new funds.

Over the past few months ICL engaged in Avista’s recent request to raise electric rates. We looked to prevent unnecessary spending on fossil fuels, support new clean energy projects, and increase funding for energy savings programs. Now we have negotiated a settlement that achieves these goals and more.

We thank Avista, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission Staff, the Idaho Forest Group, Clearwater Paper, and the Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho for supporting this project and agreeing to the new funds.



Ben Otto
EnergyAssociate
botto@idahoconservation.org



Citizen Science / Randy Fox Photo

Community Science on the Boise National Forest

On September 10, ICL partnered with the Boise National Forest and the Boise Forest Coalition to sponsor a Community Science work day in the High Valley Forest Restoration project area east of Cascade, Idaho. Ten Forest Service specialists staffed four different stations to train volunteers to collect data before and after restoration work is completed. Training focused on establishing photo points to assess changes in forest canopy and shade, setting game cameras to see if the treatments improved wildlife habitat, and conducting hydrology studies related to wetlands and riparian restoration.

The newly-trained Community Scientists included ICL staff and volunteers, Boise Forest Coalition members, the Idaho Recreation Council, private citizens, Forest Service volunteers, and local Master Naturalists, a crop of well-informed volunteers administered by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The monitoring project is part of a larger effort by the Boise National Forest to engage with surrounding communities and advance landscape-scale restoration efforts throughout the forest system. ICL’s goal is to establish a group of individuals who can work independently to monitor these forest restoration projects to assess whether the restoration treatments were implemented as proposed, if they achieved the desired results, and if there were any unexpected benefits or negative impacts so we can adjust future projects accordingly.



Randy Fox
2019 Conservation Fellow
rfox@idahoconservation.org

Shared Stewardship: A Good Approach If Used Correctly

A thicket of young grand fir hides a rustic log cabin in the Payette National Forest. Although it's an idyllic scene, this family's summer escape full of heartfelt memories is really a tinder box set to ignite during a wildfire.

We viewed the cabin during a tour of a fuel reduction project led by rangers who manage the forest. In this landscape, a lack of natural fires created a dense buildup of small trees — hazardous fuels that can ignite quickly, risking lives and property.

The Forest Service's goal is to thin excess trees and return fire to the landscape, but getting rid of hazards around the cabin is the property owner's responsibility. That's why coordinating with homeowners is a critical part of restoring healthy forests and protecting local communities.

With this in mind, ICL is cautiously optimistic about a new "Shared Stewardship Strategy" announced by the Forest Service and the State of Idaho. According to this strategy, the goal is to focus on thinning and prescribed burning on 6.1 million acres of insect and disease affected areas and to work on neighboring state and private lands "within large landscapes that protect communities from wildfire, improve forest and watershed health, and sustain jobs and local economies."

The first piece of this strategy came together this past summer when the Forest Service and State of Idaho designated two Priority Landscapes, one in North and one in South Idaho, where they'll coordinate fuels reduction efforts. Within each of these 2 million-acre areas, federal and state officials will work with private property owners and forest restoration collaboratives to design individual projects.

In addition to thinning and prescribed burning, these projects will include some commercial timber harvests. It's important to note that not all restoration efforts require commercial logging, and not all commercial logging is restoration. Also, ICL will be closely monitoring coordination between state and federal officials, especially any moves toward the state taking control of public lands.

As ICL's public lands director, I serve on the Governor's Shared Stewardship Advisory Group. My goal is to represent conservation interests in that group to help make sure the program is ecologically beneficial and that the partnerships are consistent with Idaho's public lands staying in public hands.



John Robison

Public Lands Director

jrobison@idahoconservation.org





Photo Courtesy Hannah Smay

Welcome Hannah Smay, ICL's New Community Engagement Assistant

Hello! I'm Hannah Smay and I'm thrilled to join ICL as Central Idaho's community engagement assistant. I work out of the Ketchum field office to support ICL's outreach and stewardship programs throughout central and eastern Idaho.

Born and raised in Idaho, I grew up playing in the Boise River, dashing through Ponderosa pine forests, and jumping into sparkling rivers, lakes, and streams all over Idaho. From witnessing salmon spawning in Stolle Meadows as a child to backpacking into the area that is now the Cecil D. Andrus-White Clouds Wilderness with my family, my life has truly been shaped by Idaho's clean water, fresh air, and wild places.

Inspired by my upbringing among Idaho's natural treasures, I earned a B.A. in environmental studies and English from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. On campus, I worked to promote renewable energy investments and energize student environmental activism. I went on to pursue my M.S. in environmental humanities from the University of Utah, where I researched earthquakes in the West and taught undergraduate writing courses.



Hannah Smay
Community Engagement Assistant
hsmay@idahoconservation.org



Photo Courtesy Jonas Seiler

Meet Jonas Seiler! ICL's Conservation River Fellow

Hi, I'm Jonas Seiler — ICL's new Conservation River Fellow! Although originally from Steamboat Springs, Colorado, I consider Idaho home. As a river guide, fly angler, skier, and kayaker, I learned to love Idaho's wild rivers and fish, and developed a special relationship with many of Idaho's wild places.

At ROW Adventures, where I'm a lead guide, I educated many of ROW's river guests and staff about the plight of Idaho's salmon and steelhead. I am also a dual citizen who is equally at home in Denmark and I am fluent in Danish. My sense of oneness with the outdoors led me to pursue a Bachelor of Science at Colorado State University, where I studied Natural Resource Recreation and Tourism.

As ICL Conservation River Fellow, I will be working closely with ICL staff and our conservation partners to build relationships with outfitters across the state to bring about local and statewide conservation policy change for salmon, steelhead and Idaho rivers. I will be working with ICL through April.



Jonas Seiler
Conservation River Fellow
jseiler@idahoconservation.org

Randy Fox: It's Never Too Late

For several years, I attempted to break into the conservation field with little luck. So when I was awarded the 2019 Conservation Fellowship with ICL, I didn't hesitate to forego a summer of guiding Grand Canyon river trips for the opportunity.

This summer, Public Lands Director John Robison introduced me to the intricacy of working with coalitions, the tedium of reading dry documents and the importance of drafting thorough comments, and the rewarding feeling of accomplishment and making a difference. These past three months were a graduate course in public lands management and conservation.

I learned the ICL team works tirelessly to fulfill their mission: protecting the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the lands you love, and I couldn't have had a better experience or mentors. At 50 and quite possibly one of the world's oldest interns, I also confirmed that life is wide open, there is room to take a fresh run. And it's never too late to make a difference.



Randy Fox
2019 Conservation Fellow
rfox@idahoconservation.org



Randy Fox Portrait

Thank you, Megan Murray!

We had a fabulous intern in our north Idaho office this summer — Megan Murray! A University of Idaho student pursuing a B.A. in history, communication and arts, Megan brought a unique twist to our ICL world. Megan also has a fun connection to ICL — years ago her mother, Susan Drumheller, was ICL's first staff member in our Sandpoint office!

This summer, Megan traveled around the region from Bonners Ferry to Sandpoint to Coeur d'Alene spreading awareness, creating connections, and building our membership and supporter base through tabling at events such as Kootenai River Days, the Festival at Sandpoint, and the Coeur d'Alene Triathlon. In-between these outings she took on a grant research project focusing on identifying new foundation prospects that aligned with ICL's work.

Megan's passion, motivation and dedication helped our office cover immense ground this summer! She truly was a fantastic intern not only for our office, but ICL as a whole. We wish her the best on her next adventure!



Shelby Herber
Community Engagement Assistant
sherber@idahoconservation.org



Photo Courtesy Megan Murray

The Future of Conservation



Photo Courtesy Koenig Family

Riley - Advocating for Fish

Hi! I'm Riley. I have about 40 chickens. Some of the money I get from selling eggs, I get to share with any group or place I think needs a little help. I like fish and wildlife. I asked my mom to help me find a group that supports fish in Idaho. I go out fishing sometimes and I think it's fun. I also love to go boating on rivers and lakes. And I care about the fish in those lakes.



Riley, Age 9 & Jill Koenig



Photo courtesy Bruce Family

Allie - Caring for Conservation

Conservation has always (since I remember being told about it) been something I've wanted to, and have, supported and something I really care about. I think conserving our wild lands is more important than some people realize. People don't think about the animals they are harming, the rivers they're polluting and the lands they are destroying. But we all should. Most people don't know about how our public lands are being exploited, often times by our own president. In some small way, I am trying to help those who have already seen that our Earth needs protecting. I hope that before Earth is even more critically endangered, people will realize that conservation is something that needs to be brought up more in our society. I just want to protect the places and spaces I find the most joy and peace in. *For the past two years, in lieu of birthday gifts, Allie has raised money to donate to ICL.*



Allie Bruce, Age 14



Photo Courtesy Lexi Black

Lexi - Working to Protect Idaho

Growing up in and around the Idaho wilderness has been one of the greatest privileges I've received in my lifetime. It's hard for me to remember a time that I didn't consider the protection of the wilderness a pressing matter; I was equally lucky to be involved in activities and an education that capitalized on local conservation issues and general outdoor education, and therefore have always considered the topic of conservation in Idaho as integral to being an individual that interacts in the state's wild spaces. In high school, in an effort to encourage my peers to spend more time outdoors and raise awareness around local conservation issues, I began selling t-shirts with Idaho-themed designs and donating the profits to the ICL. Giving the money to a conservation organization has always been at the center of this project, and the ICL seemed the obvious choice, with tremendous recent successes such as the Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness area and the later establishment of the Dark Sky Reserve.



Lexi Black, Age 22

Volunteer with ICL!

We are so grateful for our volunteers! Our work is only possible thanks to your generous energy and efforts.

Volunteer with us! Volunteering for ICL is a valuable way to contribute to the conservation community and Idaho. Opportunities to get involved include events and outreach, ICL Stewardship Programs, mailings and administrative tasks, as well as training to become an ICL Advocate. Volunteers are needed statewide. To learn more, please visit www.idahoconservation.org/volunteer.



Remember the Idaho Conservation League in Your Estate Plans

We hope you will consider the Idaho Conservation League in your estate planning. Memorial gifts and bequests are placed in our endowment fund so that these gifts can permanently support conservation in Idaho. We welcome inquiries about bequests to Jenny Estes at 208.345.6933 x 17 or jestes@idahoconservation.org. If you wish to make a provision in your will, the following general language is suggested: "I give, devise and bequeath to the Idaho Conservation League, an Idaho not-for-profit corporation, located on the date hereof at 710 North 6th Street, Boise, Idaho, 83702 [written amount or percentage of the estate]."





IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

208.345.6933
PO Box 844
Boise, ID 83701

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Idaho
Conservation
League

Electronic Service Requested

Thank you

for being one of over 11,000 Idaho Conservation League members working to protect Idaho's clean air, clean water and special places.