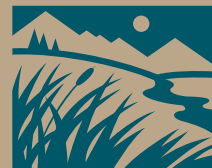


The Idaho Conservationist



Idaho Conservation League
Volume XVIII • Number 2 • July, 2015

Under the Climate Change Umbrella

Summer can really bring out the best in Idaho. As winter snows melt, Idaho's rivers fill with world-class whitewater, and fish that are special to Idaho—like salmon and bull trout—thrive. Long sunny days mean plenty of time to explore our state and cool off in a nice mountain lake. So the hearty among us strike off into the wilds to find the last remaining snowfields draped across Idaho's rugged mountains. Closer to home, we plant gardens and enjoy the cool nights brought by the dry air of our high desert climate. In Idaho, summer is the time to enjoy the outdoors.

The climate that makes Idaho such a unique place is changing before our eyes. We see big swings in temperature and rain from winter to summer. But the changes that we now see within a season are a new phenomenon. Slightly higher winter temperature has a drastic influence on whether we get snow or rain. Because we rely on Idaho's snowpack for 80 percent of our water, more rain and less snow leads to drought, as we will likely see this summer. Hotter and longer summers combine with this drought to create the perfect conditions for larger, more intense

(continued on page 3)

The climate that makes Idaho such a unique place is changing before our eyes. What are we to do?





2015 ICL Artist in Residence Peter Lovera

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**FROM THE DIRECTOR:
IN THE END, IT'S ABOUT IDAHO**



Pam Benham

Rick Johnson

Like many people, I got into this work to protect special places. Idaho's outdoors has long inspired people to take action. Over the years, however, I've found that special people inspire me just as much.

There is the loyalty to ICL and love of Idaho that I admire in our members and supporters. Every day, I see the dedication and professionalism in ICL's staff. From colleagues far and wide, I'm constantly inspired. And we all stand on the shoulders of those who came before, including ICL founders, long-time members, activists and former staff. They created ICL, kept it rolling through thick and thin, and made it the organization we're now entrusted with.

ICL has always been—and will always be—about people working together and building community.

Transitions are part of any community. People move or take other jobs. Board members are termed out. And ultimately we all pass on. This issue includes some transitions in the ICL family.

Our work is about Idaho. It is based around an organization that amplifies our individual voices and builds a bit of community. Over the years, the faces of our members and supporters change. The roster of board members shifts each year, and staff move on to new opportunities.

As the faces change, the purpose stays the same—to protect the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the lands you love. It's work we're deeply grateful to do because of the amazing people we do that work with.

*Rick Johnson
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Under the Climate Change Umbrella

(continued from page 1)

forest fires. Idaho's climate is changing; what are we to do?

At the Idaho Conservation League, we think about two basic goals under the umbrella of climate change: protecting the places we love while cutting carbon pollution. In this newsletter, you will learn about our work to protect healthy, resilient and connected landscapes such as the proposed Scotchman Peaks wilderness (see p.5). As the climate changes, we must protect landscapes where fish, plants and wildlife can best meet their specific habitat needs.

Because Idaho's vast public lands are so important to this effort, much of our latest work focuses on keeping public lands in public hands (see p. 4). As forest fires increase, we work to help remedy the burn and revive habitat like the Deer Creek project in the Wood River Valley (see p. 7). And the change from snow to rain has some folks looking to build giant new dams, including one proposed on the Weiser River (see p. 6). ICL's conservation work ensures that Idaho's landscapes and wildlife can adapt to climate change.

We are also trying to cut the main cause of climate change—carbon pollution. Over the past year, ICL dove into the long-term planning process at Idaho Power. There we compared the cost of coal-generated power with 23 different portfolios of clean energy sources.

And the results? Closing coal plants in 2020 will cut carbon pollution and save Idahoans money. Not only is it cheaper, but our analysis showed that developing clean energy means less reliance on

volatile gas prices, less exposure to the costs of carbon pollution, and less dependence on changing river flows.

Now that we know the results, we need Idaho Power to commit to closing one of its most expensive coal plants, the North Valmy coal plant, in 2020. We can then push other Idaho power companies to follow the numbers and close their coal plants.

Ben Otto
Energy Associate
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Learn More

To learn more about ICL's work on energy and climate change, go to www.idahoconservation.org



Idaho's Land Grab Stalls

Gospel Hump / Brad Smith



But proponents of the takeover scheme haven't faded completely out of the picture yet.

Several bills that sought to prolong Idaho's efforts to seize control of 32 million acres of public land were introduced and debated at the Statehouse this year.

Only one, which would have joined Idaho in an interstate compact to explore "legal and political mechanisms," made it through committee to the House floor. In the waning days of the session, that bill was voted down in the Senate Resources Committee, killing it for the year.

But proponents of the takeover scheme haven't faded completely out of the picture yet.

Funded largely by out-of-state interests, the Idaho Freedom Foundation and Utah-based American Lands Council argue that the success of ICL, sportsmen and thousands of Idahoans who have spoken out against this unconstitutional effort (somehow) indicates that they are winning.

At the same time that radical bills are shelved by the Idaho Legislature, the clock seems to be moving backward in Washington, DC.

This spring, Idaho Sens. Mike Crapo and Jim Risch, along with Rep. Raul Labrador, supported transferring public lands to the states. Standing out from

Roman Nose / Susan Drumheller

Who Gives? You Do!

Idaho Gives, the online giving day, raised over a million dollars for nonprofits around the state. We offer a huge thank you to everyone who donated and spread the word about ICL during Idaho Gives on May 7. It takes a community, and you definitely showed us the support!

- ▶ ICL raised almost \$31,000, the fifth largest amount in our category (large nonprofit).
- ▶ We met our match of \$11,500.
- ▶ We received \$2,500 in prize money.
- ▶ 47 donations came to us from brand new members.

Special thanks to Andersen Banducci PLLC and Buffington Mohr McNeal for their matching gifts and to the Idaho Nonprofit Center for its leadership and generosity.

Put May 5, 2016, on your calendar for next year. We'll give you the tools to spread the word about ICL. Then YOU can help us beat our 2015 goal!

Lana Weber
Development Associate
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the crowd, Rep. Mike Simpson made it clear at ICL's annual *Wild Idaho!* conference that we should instead find "real" solutions to the issues facing our public lands.

Jonathan Oppenheimer
Senior Conservation Associate
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Rep. Mike Simpson made it clear that we should instead find "real" solutions to the issues facing our public lands.



Mountain goat on Scotchman Peak / Brad Smith

Progress for Scotchmans

I had the pleasure of traveling to Washington, DC, the week of May 18 with executive director of the Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, Phil Hough, and president of the Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce, Kate McAlister.

We met with staff and congressional delegates from Idaho and Montana about our campaign to protect the proposed Scotchman Peaks wilderness. Most of the delegates and staff that we met gave us reasons to be optimistic about congressional action.

Key to our effort is Sen. Jim Risch, who maintains a seat on the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The senator told us that a good next step would be to hold a hearing in Sandpoint. I am confident that local citizens will make a strong showing of support.

To cap it all off, we were fortunate to attend a hearing about wilderness legislation for the Boulder-White Clouds, an issue that the Idaho Conservation League has worked on for over a decade. At the end of the hearing, Risch told the committee that the Scotchman Peaks represent the next opportunity to protect a special part of Idaho. Definitely an encouraging and motivating comment.

Brad Smith
Conservation Associate
bsmith@idahoconservation.org

The Right Path Forward

Weiser River / Marie Kellner



In early May, ICL helped bring together legislators, water planners, farmers, landowners, conservationists and recreationists for a closeup look at the free-flowing Weiser River, Weiser River Trail and proposed site of the largest new dam considered in Idaho in decades. The Idaho Water Resources Board is considering constructing the 282-foot dam estimated to cost more than \$500 million.

Nearly 40 people attended the first ever Weiser River & Trail Appreciation Day, touring approximately 20 miles of the Weiser River and its trail, 15 of which

would be inundated by the proposed dam. IWRB members Roger Chase, Al Barker and Chuck Cuddy attended.

Building a massive dam is an expensive proposition with major, permanent impacts on the surrounding community and ecosystem. We believe that water conservation and efficiency comprise a less costly and less damaging path. This approach would also make the most of Idaho's increasingly taxed water supply.

Marie Callaway Kellner
Water Associate
mkellner@idahoconservation.org

Type of Leadership We Need

Golden calm before storm / 2015 ICL Artist in Residence Peter Loveria



On June 9, the Boise City Council voted to give citizens the chance to create a \$10 million fund. This fund will protect our clean water and drinking water, wildlife habitat, critical open space, and native plants, and it will also enhance recreation and trails in areas like the Boise foothills and Boise River.

This type of leadership is what Boise needs to create a vibrant and sustainable future.

We and our partners—Conservation Voters for Idaho, Trust for Public Lands, The Nature Conservancy and Land Trust of the Treasure Valley—have formed a

ballot measure campaign called Boise for Clean Water and Open Space.

Together, we are working to pass a smart, accountable levy to fund clean water and open space.

This fund will cost the average homeowner less than \$3 a month—about the price of a six-pack of soda—for the levy's two-year lifespan.

More information at www.iloveboise.org!

Jonathan Oppenheimer
Senior Conservation Associate
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A New Approach to Restoration

Some may remember the heavy rain that literally moved mountainsides in the Wood River Valley just weeks after the Beaver Creek fire of 2013. Challenging safety and ecological conditions forced land managers to close some areas.

While residents understand the situation, for many, being unable to use favorite trails and camping spots has highlighted the importance of our public lands.

In response, a collaborative group—5B restoration coalition or 5BRC—formed to support restoration efforts led by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

5BRC is also exploring ideas for improving community resiliency to wildfire. Over the next year, 5BRC will focus on improving ecological conditions and sustainable recreational access in the Deer Creek drainage.

As an active partner in 5BRC, ICL is helping to connect the group with funding opportunities like Blaine County’s land, water, and wildlife program and promoting information about living in a wildland-urban interface.

Dani Mazzotta
Central Idaho Associate
dmazzotta@idahoconservation.org



Photo courtesy 5BRC



Rick Johnson testifies in DC / Phil Hough

ICL Executive Director Rick Johnson was asked to testify in May before the U.S. Energy & Natural Resources subcommittee that was considering the bill to protect the Boulder-White Cloud mountains as wilderness. Rick spoke for the broad coalition that now supports the bill. Sen. Jim Risch commented during the hearing that the numbers and wide diversity in support are “really impressive.”

Goodbyes!

Staff Goodbyes!

We say good-bye to two ICL staff. **Sara Arkle**, ICL's conservation community associate since 2007, recently became the city of Boise's open space manager. We miss Sara's sweet smile and energy and wish her the best!

Courtney Washburn has headed our community conservation program since 2006 and broken all records as the ICL lobbyist for 10 years! Now Courtney is stepping up as executive director of Conservation Voters for Idaho. We will stay in touch as we collaborate with CVI.

Welcome, Board Members!

David Eichberg, an ICL volunteer since 2005, has over 17 years' experience in marketing and communications. He works at Hewlett-Packard in Boise.

Steve Lockwood relocated to Sandpoint in 1999 after spending eight years sailing the Pacific. He is active in the environmental community and also serves on the Idaho Smart Growth board.

Traveling around the West, **Jim Norton** works to raise Ecotrust's endowment to invest in food, farms, fisheries, forests, climate and energy. Jim splits his time between San Francisco and Boise when not working as a river guide.

Bill Weppner, a native Idahoan, has spent most of his career in medical education and now works as a staff physician at the Boise VA Medical Center and assistant professor of medicine for the University of Washington.

Farewell and Thank You

Perry Brown made it to the nine-year board finish line, serving as treasurer for seven of those years. Also, because of his busy travel schedule, **John Warren** stepped down from the board after seven years. Thank you, Perry, for your time and expertise—and to you, John, for your strategic planning and business insights.

Suki Molina
Deputy Director
smolina@idahoconservation.org



Sara Arkle



Courtney Washburn



Perry Brown



John Warren

ICL Loses Three Friends

The Idaho Conservation League lost three dear friends this spring. Each contributed greatly to creating the organization we have today.

Mary Kelly McColl was ICL's executive director in the 1980s. A volunteer coordinator who would later lead ICL, Mary helped steer ICL as professional program staff increasingly took on work that had for so long depended on volunteers.

Budgets grew and strained past nonprofit models for fundraising. Mary helped ICL through these and other changes as she built a board and staff that could respond to the needs. Many who have had long careers in conservation were first hired by Mary at ICL. That includes me.

Spike Baker loved the outdoors. He and his wife Judy retired from land management agencies and traveled far and wide to experience nature. They recognized how much Idaho had given them and viewed ICL as a way to give back. Their engagement with us led to deeply enriching friendships over the years.

They have attended our events for years, and Spike's extraordinary wildlife photography has long been featured in our auctions. Having purchased his first large-format camera in 1957, Spike turned his appreciative eye on nature via his photography. He sought to raise awareness about wildlife and special places through his art.

Scott Reed's contributions to conservation also began before ICL was formed. Scott and Mary Lou were involved in ICL's founding in 1973. His legacy is bound in law since he helped create what is now called environmental law in Idaho. Scott was a persistent and creative legal advocate. In over 45 years of cases, Idaho's lakes, rivers and springs, plus public access to them, were well served.

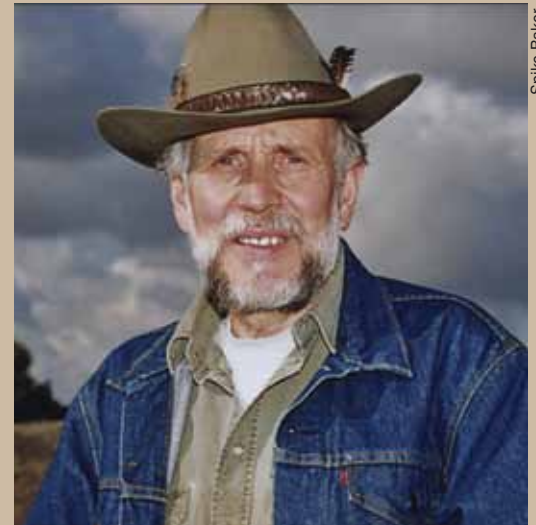
No mention of Scott's legacy is complete without mention of Tubbs Hill, a 165-acre park in Coeur d'Alene. Scott was a powerful voice in stopping development and building grassroots support to preserve Tubbs Hill "for the benefit of people forever."

Conservation work has always been about leaning on each other, especially since conservation work in Idaho can be difficult. With Mary, Spike and Scott, here were three folks we all very gratefully leaned on, and our journey has been the brighter for it.

R. J.



Mary Kelly McColl / Jeannette Germain



Spike Baker



Scott Reed / Diane Ronayne

Awards Presented at *Wild Idaho!*



Wild Idaho! 2015 / Betsy Mizell



Ilah Hickman and Rick Johnson / MB Whitaker



Rep. Mike Simpson / MB Whitaker

Every year ICL honors a handful of people at ICL's annual *Wild Idaho!* conference with awards. Here are this year's recipients:

- ▶ The Keith and Pat Axline Award for volunteer environmental activism—Gary Payton, Danette Phelan, Alan Reynolds
- ▶ The Robb Brady Award for environmental journalism—Jon Alexander, Twin Falls *Times-News*
- ▶ The Pat Ford Award in honor of sustained conservation commitment and accomplishment on behalf of the Idaho Conservation League—Spike Baker

A certificate was also presented to conference presenter 8th-grader Ilah Hickman honoring her initiative, five years of dedication, influence and inspiration in pursuing designation for the Idaho giant salamander as Idaho's state amphibian.

Mary Beth Whitaker
 Editor & Designer
 mbwhitaker@idahoconservation.org



Rich Howard demonstrates how to throw an atlatl / MB Whitaker

Volunteers

Our thanks to the volunteers, without whom our achievements would not happen. (February–June, 2015)

Kinsey Bolinder	Jennifer MacDonald
Lauren Brassell	John McCarthy
Janie Burns	Alisa McGowan
Todd Chavez	George Meintel and Cynthia Wallez
Patrice Davies	Rebecca Mills
Carrie and Taylor Despot	Keena Myers
Jane and Ken Dunbar	Lori Ode
Jenny Estes	Thomas Paul
Joyce Fabre	Gary Payton
Liz Fortune	Kathy Peters
Vanessa Fry	Danette Phelan
Jim Glaeser	Lynne Schnupp
Sarah Havens	Jim Smith
Gaye Kaiser	Judy Thompson
Patricia Kennedy	Susan Valiquette
Terri Lawrence	

And It Was Fun!

ICL and Friends of the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail teamed up for the 3rd Annual Bay Trail Fun Run/Walk on June 7. The Bay Trail Fun Run benefits efforts to preserve and enhance North Idaho's treasured waterfront trail and takes runners out and back along Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail, the region's newest unpaved trail. The trail features stunning views of the lake, creek and white-capped mountains.

Thanks to perfect weather, more than 50 fantastic volunteers, generous sponsors, a beautiful waterfront course, a record number of runners and the most enthusiastic crowd of walkers ever, the Bay Trail Fun Run was a rousing success! A huge thank you goes out to everyone who participated in this fun community event.

Together, we raised over \$13,000 to fund trail efforts. Well done, team!

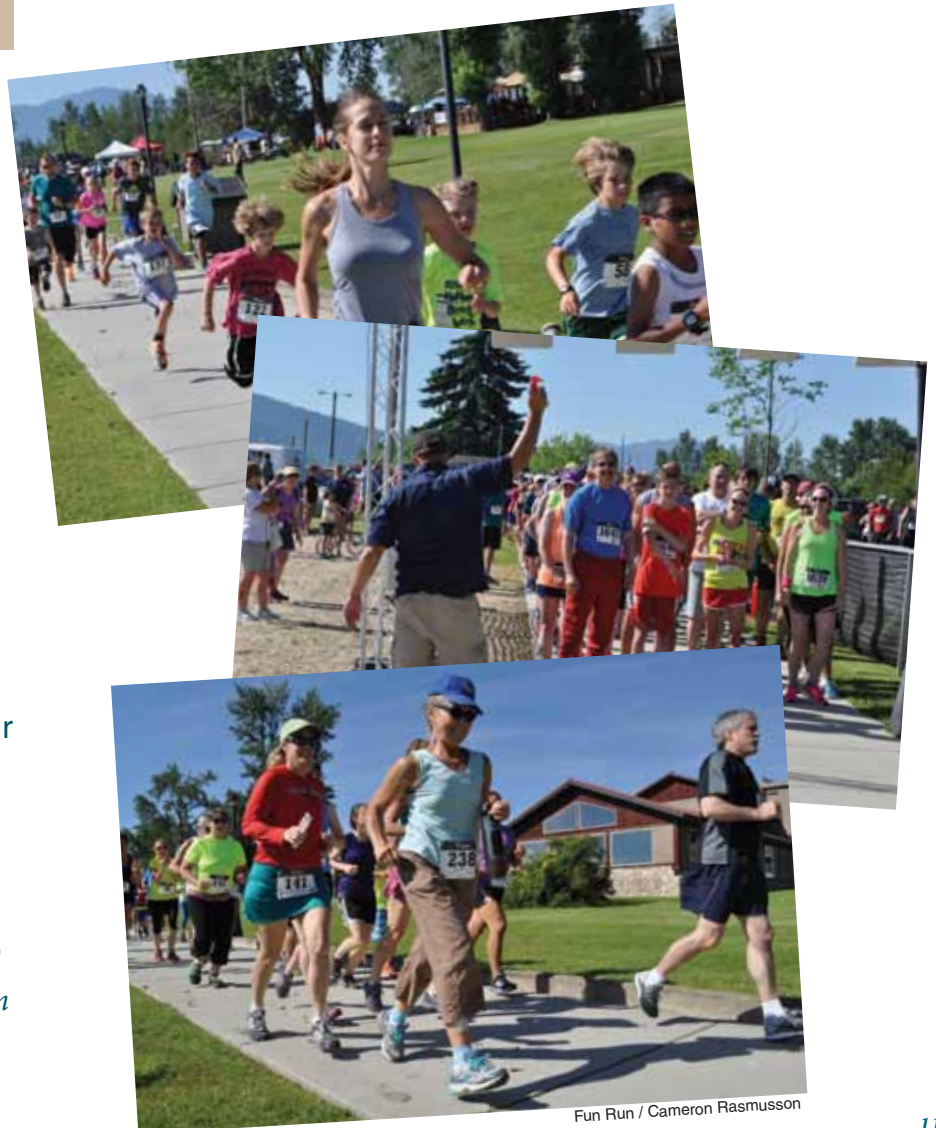
Nancy Dooley
North Idaho Outreach Coordinator
ndooley@idahoconservation.org

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 Aimee Moran at 208.345.6933 x 15 or amoran@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, the sum of \$____" (or specifically described property).



Fun Run / Cameron Rasmusson

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.



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Don't Get Locked Out!

You arrive at your favorite hiking, camping, fishing or hunting spot only to find a No Trespassing sign or locked gate. This could happen!

Idaho's public lands belong to ALL Americans. They are a national treasure to be protected—today and for future generations.

Moneyed, out-of-state special interests want to take what is yours and make it theirs. They want to privatize public resources—timber, energy and wildlife—for their financial gain.

Public lands belong in public hands. Help ICL fight the takeover of your public lands!

Make a gift today and it will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$15,000. Send your gift in the enclosed envelope.

Want to learn more?

Contact Aimee Moran at 208.345.6933 x 15 or amoran@idahoconservation.org

