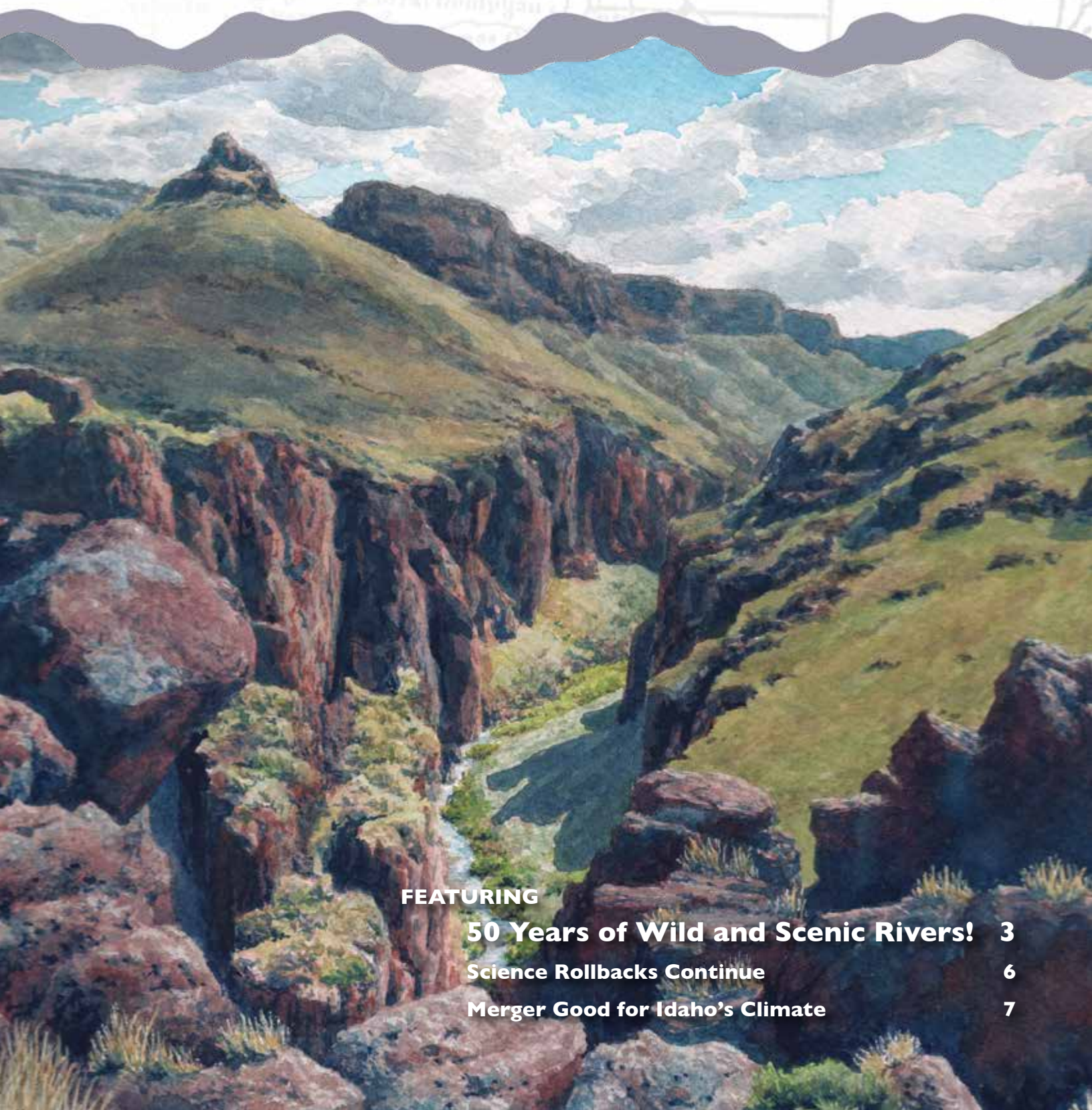




IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

Vol XXI No 2
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The Idaho Conservationist



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The Long Haul

Glenn Oakley



Rick Johnson

In June, I met with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, who was in Idaho to transfer Clean Water Act permitting to the state. Recent headlines focus on his ethical and legal lapses, suggesting that Pruitt may soon be gone. But as I clearly saw, behind the headlines is a rare intensity.

I was unprepared for Pruitt's command of issues and ability to speak to "the base." Don't get me wrong: ICL opposes just about everything he is doing. But it's valuable to observe and understand a skillful opponent — to see how he works his craft. And despite other aspects of his service, he's good at what the president appointed him to do. We read the news and wonder how he's still in office, yet air and water safeguards are falling under this reaper's scythe and "the base" loves it.

In a private meeting with "stakeholders," Pruitt spoke enthusiastically about changes that almost everyone thought were great. Oddly, given the name of the agency Pruitt heads, I was the only environmental advocate in the room.

Outside were protesters. Outside was the media. Was he afraid to meet them? Worse than that — they simply don't matter to him.

ICL navigates challenging waters every day, reviewing every Idaho water permit. We know that Idaho must abide by the same laws as the EPA. The transfer of permitting doesn't change that.

Still, protecting Idaho values in this climate is going to be a long haul. And we need to be in these rooms. With your support, we are.

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*Cover: Big Jacks Creek from Parker Trail by ICL
Artist in Residence Jessica L. Bryant. Watercolor
on paper, 8" x 9", jessicabryant.com.*

50 Years of Wild and Scenic Rivers!

Fifty years ago, Idaho's U.S. Sen. Frank Church spearheaded the landmark Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Church was spurred to action after a mass die-off of Chinook salmon at Oxbow Dam in Hells Canyon. He knew that many of our nation's fisheries and the natural beauty of our rivers would be lost if some were not permanently protected. And no river spoke to him more than our own Salmon River.

On October 2, 1968, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was established to keep certain rivers free flowing, acknowledging their "outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values." Under the act, rivers receiving a wild and scenic designation are classified as either wild, scenic and/or recreational.

Idaho featured prominently in the original act: the Middle Fork Salmon and

Middle Fork Clearwater — including its tributaries, the Lochsa and Selway rivers — were among the original eight rivers protected nationwide (see map on p. 8).

This legislative session, ICL worked with lawmakers to pass Senate Concurrent Resolution 132 to celebrate Idaho's fantastic wild rivers and fisheries. The resolution commemorates the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act's 50th anniversary and honors the role that Idahoans played in its creation. This resolution unanimously passed Idaho's Senate and had no opposing debate in the House. This was an almost unheard of outcome for conservation in Idaho's Legislature and a true testament to the majesty of Idaho's rivers.

Today, the act protects 891 river miles on 22 different rivers in Idaho. ICL is proud to have been at the negotiating table when Idaho's most recent wild and scenic (continued on next page)

This legislative session, ICL worked with lawmakers to pass Senate Concurrent Resolution 132 to celebrate Idaho's fantastic wild rivers and fisheries.



50 Years of Wild and Scenic Rivers! (cont.)

Although Idaho boasts more than 100,000 river miles and countless of those miles deserve protection, less than 1 percent are actually designated wild and scenic.

designations were made via establishment of the Owyhee Canyonlands wilderness areas in 2009.

Yet work remains to be done. Although Idaho boasts more than 100,000 river miles and countless of those miles deserve protection, less than 1 percent are actually designated wild and scenic.

ICL is working hard to pave the way for future wild and scenic rivers here in Idaho. We're engaging in processes to revise resource management plans for the Salmon-Challis National Forest in the central part of the state and Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests in north-central Idaho.

As part of those processes, agencies must evaluate all river reaches for eligibility to and suitability for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Management of an

area must be designed to preserve any river segments recommended for wild and scenic designation until Congress decides whether to include the segments in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. By working with local communities and management agencies, we want to make sure that Idaho's spectacular rivers are recommended for inclusion.

How can you show your love for Idaho's rivers? Get out and spend time on these rivers. This year, ICL is partnering with other groups around the state to celebrate our wild and scenic rivers, both those already established and those we hope to see protected in the future. Keep your eye on the ICL events calendar and join us when you can!

Marie Callaway Kellner

Water Associate

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Idaho's Waters and Lands

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act turns 50 this year, born of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Next month, near the confluence of the Lochsa and Clearwater rivers, the ICL governing board of directors will gather to the theme of “Idaho’s waters.”

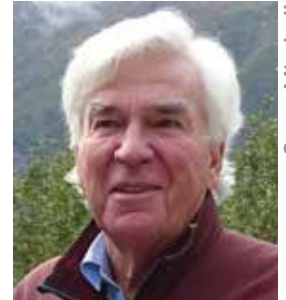
In Idaho, we honor and strive to protect our rivers — the lifeblood of our state and everything that makes it a great place to live. We’ll look at the state of our streams, lakes, rivers and reservoirs. However, land use affects our water, so we’ll also move beyond water issues to our public lands.

In 2017, hunters, fishers and other recreationists joined environmental groups on the lawn of our state capitol to shout support for our public lands. We may disagree on some land usage issues, but we agree on the value of public lands to Idaho.

At this July retreat on the Lochsa, the board will meet with ICL staff and together review our strategic plan to guide the organization and identify priorities: Idaho’s waters, public lands and climate.

Challis’ Clarence Stillwell once wrote: “This state may be called the gem of the mountains, but the true gems flow in her valleys and sparkle on her canyon floors.” If rivers are our gems, then Idaho’s treasure trove is our vast amount of public land. We will work with all interests to protect our public lands — and when we can’t find common ground, we will vigorously defend them.

Steve Mitchell, Chair
Idaho Conservation League Board of Directors



Steve Mitchell

Steve Mitchell

If rivers are our gems, then Idaho’s treasure trove is our vast amount of public lands.



Science Rollbacks Continue



Colstrip / Henry Worobec

Our nation relies on science to protect Americans' health and the environment for one simple reason: it works. Science has shown that air pollution can shorten people's lives, that mercury in the fish we eat can cause neurological damage, and that the changing climate is affecting wildfires, insect infestations and wildlife.

So creating environmental policy based on anything except the best available science jeopardizes everyone's health and our ecosystems. Unfortunately, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt wants to do just that.

Part of his strategy to roll back environmental regulations is to limit what science can be used when developing new policies aimed at protecting our health and environment. Pruitt's goal is to consider only those scientific studies that favor polluting industries.

To protect the air we breathe and water we drink, we must craft policy based on good science. ICL is tracking rollbacks and making sure you know how and when to speak up for what's right!

Austin Hopkins

Conservation Associate
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Setback for Scotchman Peaks



Goats / Friends of Scotchman Peaks

Our campaign to protect the Scotchman Peaks as wilderness experienced a setback in May.

During the primary election, this issue was put to an advisory vote in Bonner County. Forty-six percent of primary voters there favored the 14,000-acre wilderness proposal, with 54 percent opposing it. After the vote, Sen. Jim Risch, who had first introduced the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness bill in 2016, said that he would not reintroduce legislation.

Regardless of the outcome, ICL thanks our campaign partners, Friends of Scotchman Peaks Wilderness and Conservation

Voters for Idaho. We also thank the many organizations and businesses that endorsed the proposal, our hardworking volunteers, and Bonner County voters who showed their support at the ballot box.

The silver lining is that more than 4,800 voters in Bonner County favor a wilderness proposal for Scotchman Peaks. This number cannot be ignored. We are not giving up or going away; we are determined to protect Scotchman Peaks for now and the future. Stay tuned for our next steps.

Brad Smith

North Idaho Director
bsmith@idahoconservation.org

Boise foothills trail maintenance / Aimee Moran

Merger Good for Idaho's Climate

ICL looks for opportunities to move Idaho toward a clean energy future. When Avista, the utility serving much of North Idaho, proposed a merger with Hydro One, of Ontario, Canada, we saw a way to invest in clean energy and address Avista's share of the dirty Colstrip coal plant in Montana.

Building on a framework used by our allies in Washington state, ICL engaged in Idaho's regulatory process to ensure that this merger benefited Idaho. One result? Avista and Hydro One shareholders promise to invest \$5.3 million over 10

years into new energy conservation programs in Idaho.

Also, ICL negotiated for Avista's accelerated divestment from its portion of Colstrip. Using our expertise across a range of issues — coal economics, utility law, federal taxation and depreciation — we are proving that coal is expensive and risky.

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission must still approve the merger. Given the gains we've made, ICL hopes that it does.

Ben Otto

Energy Associate
botto@idahoconservation.org



Powerline / Public domain

ICL looks for opportunities to move Idaho toward a clean energy future.

For Fish It's a Race Against Time

For millennia, humans and Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead successfully coexisted. But those days are increasingly in the rearview mirror — and recovery is increasingly complex. That's why ICL works with a broad coalition of colleagues to recover these endangered fish. But time is running frighteningly short.

Idaho has two principal stocks of steelhead; one of them, the B-run, is vanishing. Though they are powerful fish, their numbers drop every year. Fewer than 200 wild pairs are expected to spawn this year. If the status quo continues, they will become extinct.

It's an interesting year for the status quo, though. Soon, Idaho will elect a new governor. And it's hard to imagine that any candidate wants the legacy of salmon or steelhead extinction.

To prevent this extinction, all of us who care about these fish have to speak up. As part of ICL's participation in recovery efforts, we will invite you to engage when formal occasions arise. Meanwhile, let your officials know that you care.

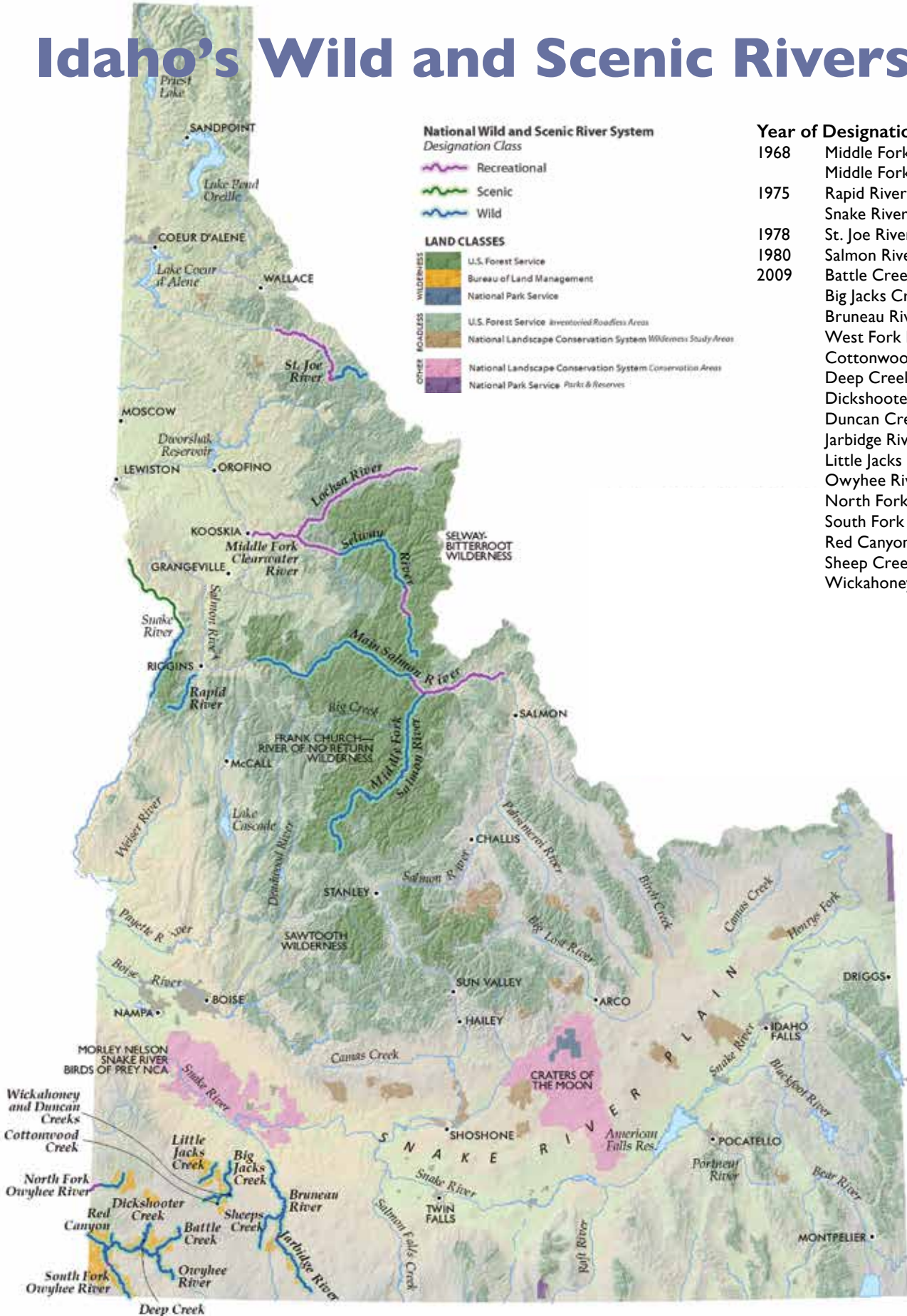
Lana Weber

Community Engagement Associate
lweber@idahoconservation.org



Sockeye salmon / Wilson Hui

Idaho's Wild and Scenic Rivers



Year of Designation

- 1968 Middle Fork Clearwater River
- 1968 Middle Fork Salmon River
- 1975 Rapid River
- 1975 Snake River, Hells Canyon
- 1978 St. Joe River
- 1980 Salmon River
- 2009 Battle Creek
- 2009 Big Jacks Creek
- 2009 Bruneau River
- 2009 West Fork Bruneau River
- 2009 Cottonwood Creek
- 2009 Deep Creek
- 2009 Dickshooter Creek
- 2009 Duncan Creek
- 2009 Jarbidge River
- 2009 Little Jacks Creek
- 2009 Owyhee River
- 2009 North Fork Owyhee River
- 2009 South Fork Owyhee River
- 2009 Red Canyon River
- 2009 Sheep Creek
- 2009 Wickahoney Creek

We Are ICL Members

The Idaho Conservation League was founded in 1973 to protect Idaho's special places. Some of us have been members since then; some of us weren't born yet.

Today, our ICL family is over 10,000 members strong, and our mission has broadened to protecting the air you breathe and water you drink, as well as the lands you love.

Here are a few reasons why we care about ICL's work to protect Idaho:

- ▶ "I grew up exploring Idaho's wild places and want my children and others to do the same."
- ▶ "It's through nature that one can understand what's really important in life, connect with the true essence of self, and gain insight into who we are at our core."
- ▶ "I'm a native Idahoan and the smell of sagebrush after a spring rain is ingrained into my memories. Conservation is important to me because it's the way I can protect this place we call home and

allow my granddaughters to experience the natural and wild parts of Idaho — and allow them to still be able to share it with their grandchildren."

- ▶ "I came to Idaho and saw trout and salmon in the rivers. I knew I needed to be a conservationist. Now, Idaho Conservation League is my family."
- ▶ "ICL is a wonderful organization staffed and supported by smart, dedicated, passionate people advocating for Idaho's environment. I knew right away that I wanted to be a part of what they are accomplishing here."
- ▶ "There is no greater satisfaction than working to protect the things you love."

Let us know your reasons!

Jenny Estes

Development Program Manager
jestes@idahoconservation.org



Board, Staff and Volunteer News

Scott Friedman



Scott Friedman

A big thank you to **Kahle Becker** and **Tom Page**, who have completed three terms as board members (nine years each!). Their dedication to conservation and ICL's mission has been outstanding. We will miss you both.

In their stead, we welcome **Scott Friedman** and **Jim DeWitt** to the board. Scott, who lives in the Wood River Valley, has volunteered for ICL since retiring as a physician. Besides his interest in conservation, he enjoys hiking, biking, fishing and skiing in Idaho. He has served on several nonprofit boards.

After 40 years of practicing law in Fairbanks, AK, long-time ICL member Jim relocated to Boise in 2015. He is a birder, bird photographer and author. Jim brings a background in nonprofit law and significant nonprofit experience, including ten years on the Alaska Conservation Foundation board.

Amanda Gardner is ICL's new development assistant. She helps ICL stay connected to you, our members, and makes

sure you get the thanks you deserve! She also manages our monthly giving program, *Advocates for Idaho*, and our workplace giving program.

With a double major in environmental sustainability and commercial recreation and tourism, Amanda has supported several environmental organizations, including the West Virginia Sierra Club, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and International Ecotourism Society. Inspired by her experiences, she believes that collaboration can strengthen relationships among communities, people, environments, and organizations.

Amanda appreciates the many places she has been in Idaho and plans to explore more. Her Idaho highlights include fishing, hot springing, floating, hunting and boating.

Julia Rundberg

Director of Finance and Administration
jrundberg@idahoconservation.org

Jim DeWitt



Jim DeWitt

Glenn Oakley



Amanda Gardner

Congratulations, Award Recipients!

At ICL's *Wild Idaho!* conference in May, **Sandy Compton**, Friends of the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, received the Keith and Pat Axline Award for Environmental Activism. Sandy's work with Friends of Scotchmans as a wilderness steward, educator, writer and advocate is inspiring. Plus, he's lived at his family's historic homestead in view of Scotchman Peaks his whole life. His home grounds his conservation advocacy, and his spirit and love for the area have been shared with hundreds of people.

Steve Pauley was honored with the Pat Ford Award for Sustained Conservation Commitment and Achievement. Steve has been an articulate and groundbreaking advocate for protecting Idaho's amazing star-filled night sky. His local work on behalf of dark skies set the stage for international designation of the Central Idaho Dark Sky Reserve. Further, Steve has been an advocate for salmon recovery for decades. Steve's dedication to conservation has been extraordinary.

Rick Johnson

Executive Director
rjohnson@idahoconservation.org

Wild Idaho! 2018 / Matthew Wordell



Calendar

► Wednesday, August 15

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

REI Boise, 8300 W Emerald, Boise

Our Wild and Scenic Rivers

Idaho has some of the nation's most remarkable rivers, including the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. Join ICL's Lana Weber at this event to learn more about the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Middle Fork of the Salmon specifically. Lana will be fresh off a recent Middle Fork trip and enthusiastic to share her photos and stories. Space is limited and registration is required. Reserve your spot with Lana at lweber@idahoconservation.org or 208.345.6933 x 16.

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 where these gifts will 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, the sum of \$____" (or specifically described property).

Volunteers

Our thanks go out to all our amazing volunteers without whom our achievements would not happen. (3/1/18 – 5/31/18)

Alicia Abbot
Chris Bachman
Rod Barcklay
Janet Beckley
Lauren Brassell
Mary Jo Butler
Todd Chavez
Don Childress
Mark Cochran
Hannah Combs
Andie Corcoran
Aaron Couture
Todd Crossett
Paul Dawson
Lexie De Fremery
Denise Dombrowski
Amber Dopp
Eileen Doten
Susan Drumheller
Jim Dubaisson
Alison Dunbar
Sherry Ennis
Maureen Fallon
Deborah Ferguson
Rick Ferguson
Doug Ferrell
Mary Franzel
Walt Gammill
Grete Gansauer
Annie Gassmann
Jan Geren
Kathy Giel

Celeste Grace
Hank Graves
Marjolein Groot
Nibbelink
Emmy Harbo
Alan Harper
Jesika Harper
Dave Heep
Rebecca Holland
Deb Hunsicker
Dave Hussey
Sparrow Ivy
Carol Jenkins
Julie Kallemyn
Mary Kallemyn
Michelle Kemner
Andy Kennaly
Tricia Kennedy
Jen Kreiner
Suzie Kretzshner
Kate Kulchak
Terri Lawrence
Madonna Lengerich
Steve Lockwood
Marsha Lutz
Cynthia Mason
Kate McAlister
Julie McAllan
Cheryl McKee
George Meintel
Judy Meyers
Becky Mills

Molly O'Reilly
Shawna Parry
Joyce Pence
Joseff Pentico
Kathy Peter
Jack Petersen
Margaret Petersen
Danette Phelan
Dave Pietz
Suzy Prez
Rick Price
Sandy Provant
Aaron Qualls
Lori Reid
Ed Robinson
Bruce Schoeberl
Jessie Sherburne
Kerri Silvernell
Lori Sims
Clare Stansberry
Casey Steenhoven
Kiddo Steenhoven
Bill Stuble
Ken Thacker
Jill Twa
John Twa
Kate Walker
Cynthia Wallesz
Brad Williams
Susan Wood-McKean
Hannah Zimmerman



Owyhee River / Bob Wick, Bureau of Land Management

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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Idaho —

*An extraordinary place
to live, work and play!*



And your support of the Idaho Conservation League keeps it that way. Thank you!

Know others who enjoy all that Idaho has to offer but aren't yet ICL members?

Invite them to join our conservation community! Together, with our friends and family, we can accomplish so much for Idaho's air, water and special places.

To help your friends and family become ICL members, go to idahoconservation.org or call Jenny at 208.345.6933 x 17.

Let's build a strong community for Idaho's future.