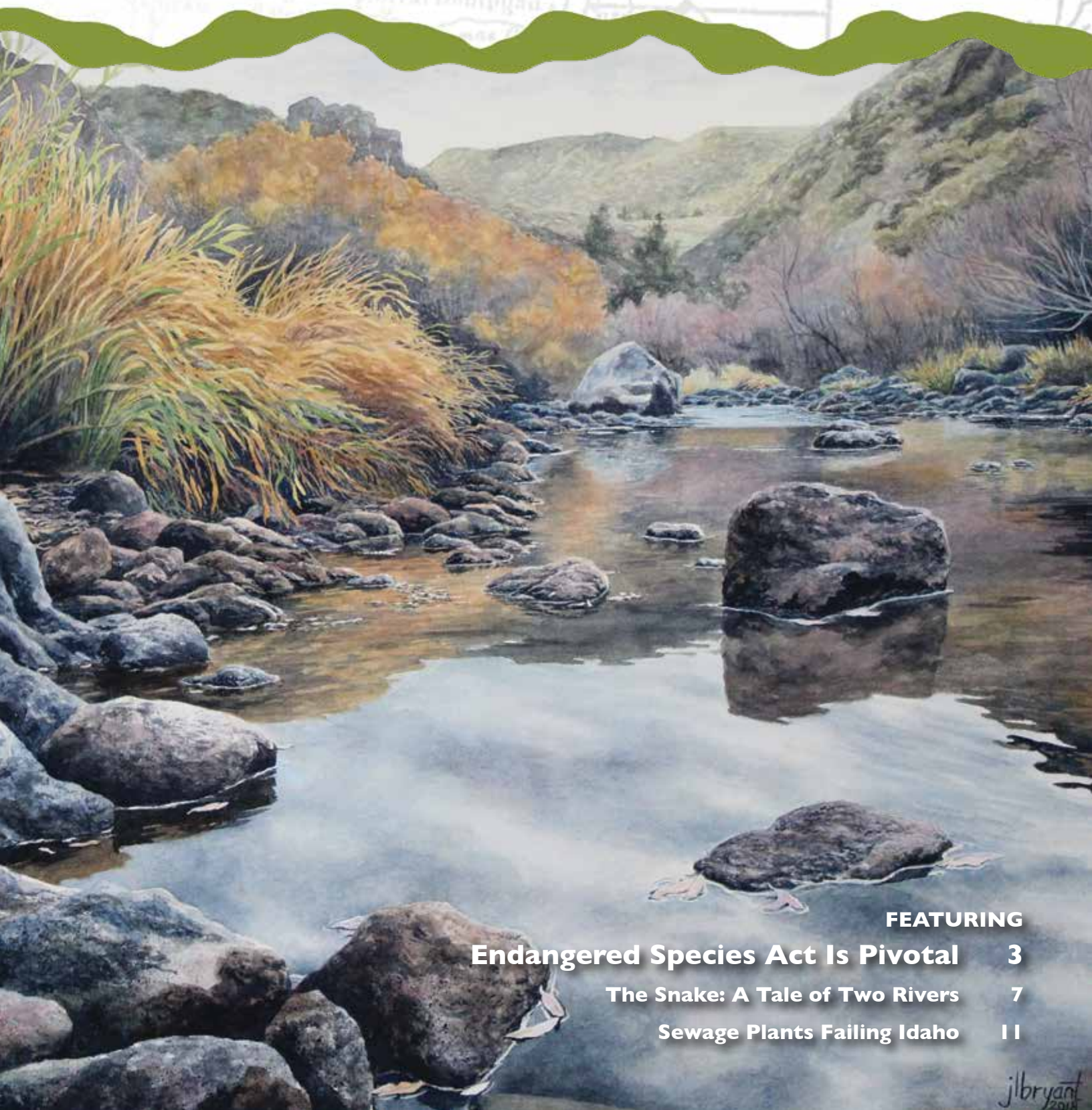




IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

Vol XXI No 3
September 2018

The Idaho Conservationist



FEATURING

Endangered Species Act Is Pivotal 3

The Snake: A Tale of Two Rivers 7

Sewage Plants Failing Idaho 11

*jlbryant
2018*

Use Your Voice: Vote!



Rick Johnson

I've got one word for anyone who cares about the environment — VOTE. Given the challenges that Idaho, our nation and our planet face, low voter turnout makes me angrier than nutty policies we have to address. Nearly every challenge comes down to who's elected, yet too many people who say they care don't regularly vote.

As director of Idaho's leading voice for conservation and a life-long conservation advocate, I'm proud that our work is based on an optimism drawn from the oft-proven fact that, by working together, we make a difference. That said, many forget that the single greatest way for people of our nation to work together and make a difference is to step into a voting booth on Election Day.

Whether you're hearing about the midterm election for the U.S. Congress, Idaho's open governor race, healthcare in Idaho, or your city council or school board, come November 6, make an appointment with your country. In 2016, several million people who had voted in the prior election did not vote. While reasons for such a lack of engagement can be complicated, let's not allow cynicism to be one of them. Elections matter.

As a charitable organization, the Idaho Conservation League cannot tell you who to vote for. ICL leaders helped create an organization that can — Conservation Voters for Idaho — because we firmly believe that your vote matters.

We live with the results of elections every day. So do the air, water and special places that are counting on you.

Rick Johnson
Executive Director
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Cover: Owyhee River by ICL Artist in Residence Jessica L. Bryant. Watercolor on paper, 14" x 14", jessicabryant.com.

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Endangered Species Act Is Pivotal

Idaho is lucky to have almost the complete assortment of plants and animals that were here 200 years ago. This incredible diversity includes feisty bull trout and iconic bald eagles. While the population of any one species — such as Chinook salmon — may have decreased or its habitat been fragmented, most are holding on somewhere.

One reason is the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Considered one of our country's bedrock conservation laws, the act recognizes that extinctions make the world a poorer place and represent our failure to be good stewards. The act remains incredibly popular to this day, serving as a strong incentive to conserve threatened or endangered species and their habitat before they disappear.

Some Want to Gut the ESA

The value of looking after our cohabitants on this planet is lost on some special interests that prioritize unlimited development over

our wildlife heritage. These interests have the ear of policy makers in Washington, DC, right now and the results aren't good.

The administration has proposed changes that would weaken the ESA, including extending wait times for declaring species as threatened, avoiding designation of critical habitat, and adding red tape when protections need to be extended. If these reforms had been made earlier, Idaho's sockeye salmon would likely have disappeared forever — bald eagles would no longer grace the skies.

Need to Strengthen the ESA

Instead of weakening the ESA, we need to strengthen it. Despite ESA protections, Idaho's woodland caribou population crashed from 40 animals to just three in the last 20 years. While other populations remain in British Columbia, these herds are also declining due to habitat fragmentation.

(continued on next page)

The Endangered Species Act is pivotal to our fish and wildlife heritage — the legacy we leave our children.



Idaho Chinook salmon / Bureau of Land Management

Endangered Species Act Is Pivotal

The forecast for this unique species looks bleak because Canada's protections for wildlife are not as strong as those in the United States, which still failed the woodland caribou. Instead of pushing populations to the brink, we should consider safeguards that prevent populations from getting so dangerously low in the first place.

Because salmon is a keystone species in the Pacific Northwest, its extinction would have a domino effect.

We should also strengthen habitat protections for listed species. While the ESA requires federal wildlife managers to identify critical habitat in recovery plans, the law does not do enough to protect it.

What Do We Have to Lose?

The world lamented recently as a mother orca whale carried her dead calf for nearly three weeks and 1,000 miles along the Pacific Coast. The group of orcas she belongs to was listed as endangered in 2006, based on noise pollution,

environmental toxins and lack of a major food source, Chinook salmon.

Because salmon is a keystone species in the Pacific Northwest, its extinction would have a domino effect — from the Pacific Ocean where it nourishes orcas and other wildlife to landlocked Idaho where it fertilizes our forests.

But dams, warming water and a changing climate have affected salmon and steelhead runs so dramatically that less than 5% of historic populations return to their natal streams. We should oppose any changes to the ESA that could spell the end to these iconic creatures — and many others. We should think about the legacy we leave our children.

John Robison
Public Lands Director
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Help ICL Grow, Too

As most of you have heard, Idaho is currently the nation's fastest growing state. While neighboring Utah's growth is primarily internal (more people are born than die), ours comes from in-migration. This growth is projected to continue, with one estimate of an additional two hundred thousand plus Idaho residents by 2021!

What does this growth mean for the state, our environment and ICL? For the state, it means economic growth accompanied by rising housing costs. For the environment, it means increased public land and water use on a fragile ecosystem. For ICL, how are we positioned to carry out our mission of conserving and protecting our lands, rivers and lakes? How do we reach and inform Idahoans, particularly new Idahoans, of the changes, issues and threats to our environment?

ICL currently has eleven thousand members. Impressive? We need more. If the number of ICL supporters does not increase as our state population does, we run the risk of becoming a smaller and smaller voice for conservation. So, once again I ask your help.

The holiday seasons are just ahead. What better gift than a stake in our Idaho? Do this by giving a one-year membership (starting at \$30) to ICL. Or bring a friend or newcomer to an ICL event — the annual *Wild Idaho!* at Redfish Lake, or ICL's science pubs, hikes and work projects.

You and I are both advocates for the Idaho that touched our heart, brought us here and keeps us here. Help us keep that Idaho by growing ICL's base of support and members.

Steve Mitchell, Chair
Idaho Conservation League Board of Directors



Steve Mitchell

The holiday seasons are just ahead. What better gift than a stake in Idaho?



Mountain caribou / David Moskowitz



Star trek into the Smoky Mountains / Matt Benjamiin

Beware the Toxic Slime!



Brownlee Reservoir / IDEQ

Idaho's lakes and rivers are increasingly threatened. Not only are water temperatures warming due to climate change, but many waterbodies are also facing excessive nutrients from sources like animal feedlots, agricultural fields and roads.

This dangerous combination, which can resemble slimy pea soup, increases the occurrence of toxic algae — specific algae and bacteria that can seriously harm people, wildlife and pets — in waterbodies throughout the state. And this summer



Henrys Lake / Brian Reese, IDEQ

alone, Idaho has seen eight outbreaks of toxic algae across the state.

Toxic algae outbreaks can consist of several types of algae and bacteria, each linked to different health issues. If ingested, some attack the liver and kidneys while others attack the nervous or digestive systems. Some even cause death in as little as 15 minutes!

These toxins don't have to be ingested to be harmful. Swimming or wading in water with algae blooms can irritate the eyes, throat and skin. Besides the public health risks, any waterbody with toxic algae may be closed to recreation, harming local economies that rely on these activities.

Sadly, these outbreaks are becoming a recurring issue every summer. Our rivers and lakes will continue to warm with climate change, and Idaho has yet to get serious about stopping excessive nutrient pollution from entering our state's lakes and streams.

In the meantime, we need you to be on the lookout for algae. Use the bloomWatch app (<https://www.cyano.org/bloomwatch>), or call 208.373.0570 to notify the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality whenever you see a possible outbreak. Our clean water and public health depend on it.

Austin Hopkins
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The Snake: A Tale of Two Rivers

In Idaho, we have crystal-clear rivers that are sanctuaries for wild trout. And we have stagnant cesspools that can cause severe harm if you come into contact with them. The Snake River is both ... depending on where you stand (see map, pp. 8–9).

Along its headwaters in the east, the Snake River is a blue-ribbon trout stream. Moose amble along its banks, and birdsong fills the air. Anglers and boaters travel from afar to fish and float its peaceful waters, contributing millions to the economy.

On the other side of the state, high levels of pollution, low flows and warm waters create a breeding ground for toxic algae outbreaks in Brownlee Reservoir along the Oregon border. Signs warn you to use potable water to wash the Snake River off your skin if you touch it. In addition, highly toxic methylmercury is formed in the oxygen-starved waters. Every summer, pets, livestock and wildlife are injured or die because of contact with contaminated water.

Essentially, the Snake River has big problems ... and ICL wants to fix them.

It's complicated though and will take decades. As with any thousand-mile journey, it begins with one step.

We'll focus on increasing natural flows in the river, especially spring floods; building

support for clean water protections; and coordinating with regulators to tighten pollution controls.

We can't make the Snake River fishable and swimmable overnight, and we can't do it alone. We'll count on you to help us "save the Snake." And we'll work with conservation partners, agricultural interests, communities and regulators. After all, the Snake River belongs to all of us.

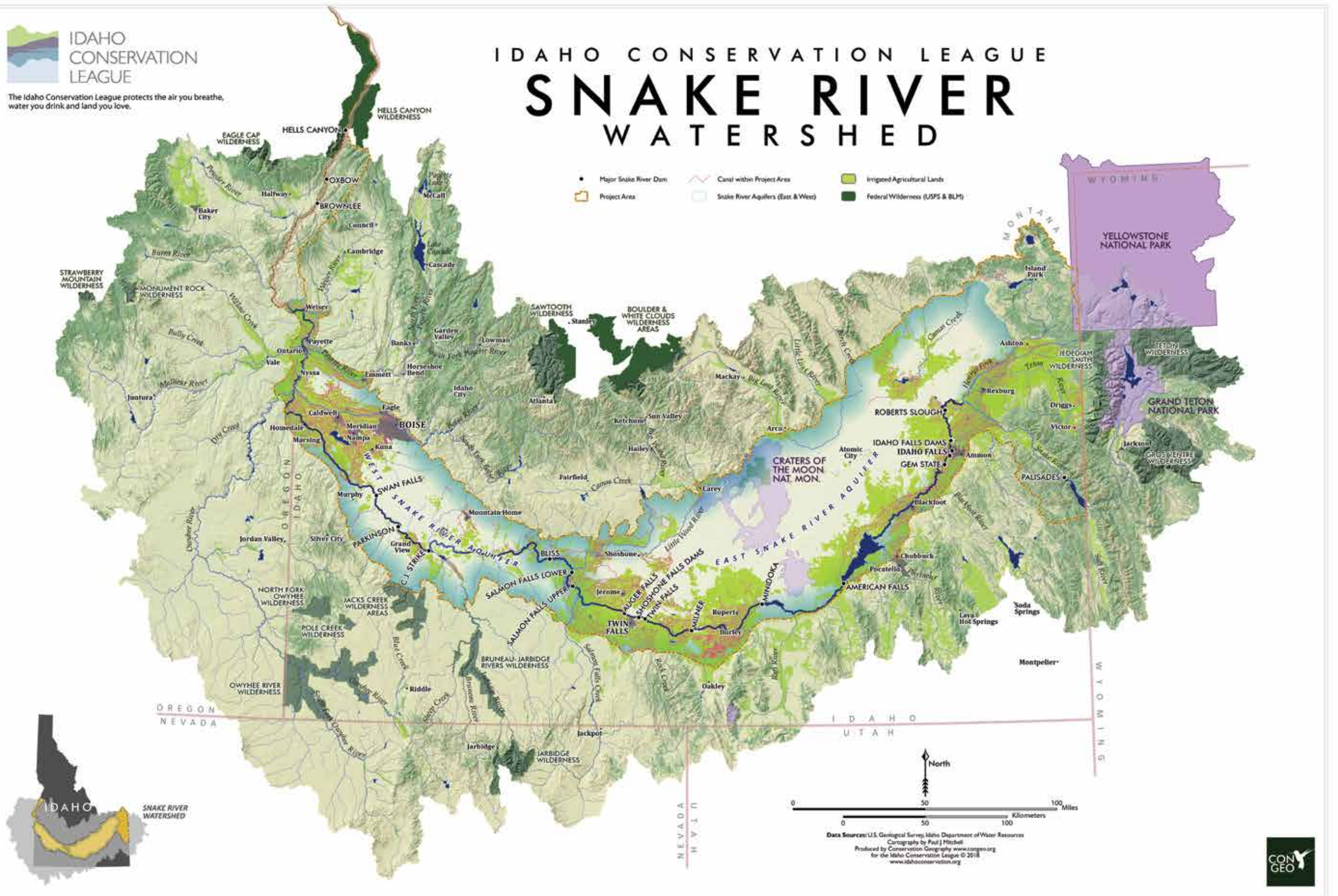
Jonathan Oppenheimer
Government Relations Director
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Dairy and waste water lagoons



Snake River Plain / Jonathan Oppenheimer photos



ICL's work to save the Snake River watershed revolves around complex issues such as population growth, agriculture and industrial facilities. These all contribute pollutants that end up in the river.

Because a majority of Idaho's population and agriculture industry are located along the Snake, we need to strike a balance that will protect clean water.

Read the related article on the previous page.

Forest Planning in the Clearwater



Kelly Creek / Brad Smith

The Clearwater region of north-central Idaho is one of Idaho's wildest places, harboring blue-ribbon fisheries, salmon and steelhead runs, and incredible wildlife. In this area, the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests are now updating their forest plan.

Forest plans are important because they specify which areas are available for logging, grazing, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, recreation and other uses. They also seek to reduce effects of resource development to fish and wildlife, water quality, cultural and historical sites and other resources.

As part of the Clearwater Basin Collaborative, ICL works with diverse interests to craft recommendations for the revised forest plan. The CBC's goal is to reach consensus on potential new wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, forest management and recreation.

The forest plan will be open for public comment sometime in 2019. Watch for future updates and ways you can provide feedback.

Brad Smith
North Idaho Director
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Stewards Fill a Gap

This summer, a wilderness steward spoke with an Idaho father who wanted his children "to experience the real Idaho wilderness." That's why our wilderness stewardship program is so important.

A handful of U.S. Forest Service rangers patrol the 670,000 acres of designated wilderness in central Idaho. The stewards help fill the gap by enabling individuals and families who care about our public lands to pay their love forward. Among other things, these stewards educate visitors on wilderness values and save the American taxpayers and Forest Service money.

This joint effort by the Forest Service and ICL boasts over 60 volunteers. Two months into the season, our stewards had patrolled for 645 hours, packed out 76 pounds of trash, naturalized 45 illegal campfire rings, extinguished two abandoned campfires, and encountered 1,233 wilderness visitors.

As of this writing, stewards are still hard at work, so we haven't learned the full value of their service. You can bet it's substantial!

Emily Williams
Volunteer Wilderness Steward



Stewards / Rebecca Gettelman

Central Idaho Seeks Common Ground



Collaborative tour / Dani Mazzotta

The Salmon-Challis National Forest, in the heart of Central Idaho, boasts miles of wild rivers, high mountain peaks and expansive public lands. The Salmon-Challis is revising its forest plan, a key document that guides how the area is managed. The plan also sets sidebars for natural resource use such as mining, timber harvest and grazing.

For nearly two years, ICL has been part of a broader community-based effort — the Central Idaho Public Lands Collaborative — involved in the forest plan revision. This group brings together diverse interests to discuss opportunities and challenges

associated with the revision and to seek common ground.

Engaging in collaboratives such as this one allows ICL to voice and negotiate conservation needs. Moving forward, we'll offer numerous opportunities for you, our members, to engage in the process. After all, these lands belong to all of us.

Dani Mazzotta
Central Idaho Director
dmazzotta@idahoconservation.org

Sewage Plants Failing Idaho

Idaho has 114 plants that treat sewage and discharge to our rivers. As reported in ICL's second annual assessment, over the last three years, they violated the Clean Water Act 1,742 times. Only 20 plants operated without violations. The remaining 94 facilities unlawfully discharged *E. coli*, phosphorus, heavy metals and solids (poop) or other pollutants — threatening downstream users, human health and fish.

Just 10 facilities accounted for 848 violations — that is, nearly half of all violations that occurred statewide. Amazingly, Inkom, the worst performing facility in the state, comprised 11% of all violations.

Municipal sewage treatment plants are vital for protecting water quality and human health. Properly built, operated and maintained, these plants help keep our rivers and lakes fishable and swimmable. Clearly, many sewage treatment plants in Idaho need significant structural or operational improvements.

Go to bit.ly/2015_2017ICLWastewaterRpt online to learn how your community did and what you can do.

Justin Hayes
Program Director
jhayes@idahoconservation.org



2015-2017 Wastewater Report

Keeping an Eye on Otis Gold's Plans

We make sure than mine exploration and development cause the least harm possible and don't threaten clean water and community health.

Watchdogging mining has been and always will be an integral part of ICL's public lands program. The industry boom-and-bust cycle means that Idaho sees a surge in new proposals when prices go up — which is happening now. ICL makes sure that mine exploration and development cause the least harm possible and don't threaten clean water and community health. We raise the bar on some projects and call out others that just don't make sense.

A Canadian company, Otis Gold, has been exploring for gold in a portion of the Centennial Mountains on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest in East

Idaho. While the company's exploration activities have been relatively small, ICL's past engagement led to improvements, including shifting the operating season to reduce impacts to grizzly bears, adding more water quality monitoring and restoring whitebark pines.

The company is expanding its exploration program and has stated its intent to develop an open-pit, cyanide heap leach mine if gold reserves are confirmed. ICL's team has reviewed the new proposal, and we are concerned about potential effects to water quality, wildlife and the wild nature of the Centennial Mountains.

As such, ICL and conservation partners recently filed an objection to the company's plans. It is still too early to tell whether our concerns can be addressed by adjusting the plan or whether we need to consider other actions. Regardless, ICL will stay the course to ensure that the values we all hold dear in the Centennials are preserved.

John Robison
Public Lands Director
jrobison@idahoconservation.org



Centennial Mountains / Bureau of Land Management

Meet Chuck and Julie!

Chuck Wemple and Julie Britton-Wemple from Idaho Falls have been Idaho residents since 1991 and ICL members since 1998. They have embraced many activities in Idaho's special places — hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, birdwatching and more. This summer, they added another adventure, a stunning six-day float trip down the Middle Fork Salmon River with ICL and ARTA River Trips!

Chuck and Julie also appreciate the less obvious benefits of Idaho's public lands, including providing valuable habitat for birds and wildlife and preserving Idaho's cultural heritage. They recognize that the solitude of these areas becomes a more precious commodity every year.

Chuck was raised in upstate New York, Julie in southern Indiana, so they have seen the effects of rampant growth and environmental degradation. As a result, Chuck and Julie are passionate about protecting our beautiful and relatively pristine state. To achieve that, they strongly support ICL's work on local engagement and collaboration.

Julie has been a certified Idaho Master Naturalist since 2010. To "actively work toward stewardship of Idaho's natural environment," she volunteers for many agencies, including Idaho Department

of Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management, Camas National Wildlife Refuge and Audubon Society. She serves mostly as a citizen scientist involved in collecting data and helping establish what plants and animals appear at particular sites, with a long-term goal of documenting changes over time.

Huge thanks to Chuck and Julie for their support of ICL and for helping make our work possible!

Jenny Estes
Development Program Manager
jestes@idahoconservation.org

This summer, they added another adventure, a stunning six-day float trip down the Middle Fork Salmon River with ICL and ARTA River Trips!

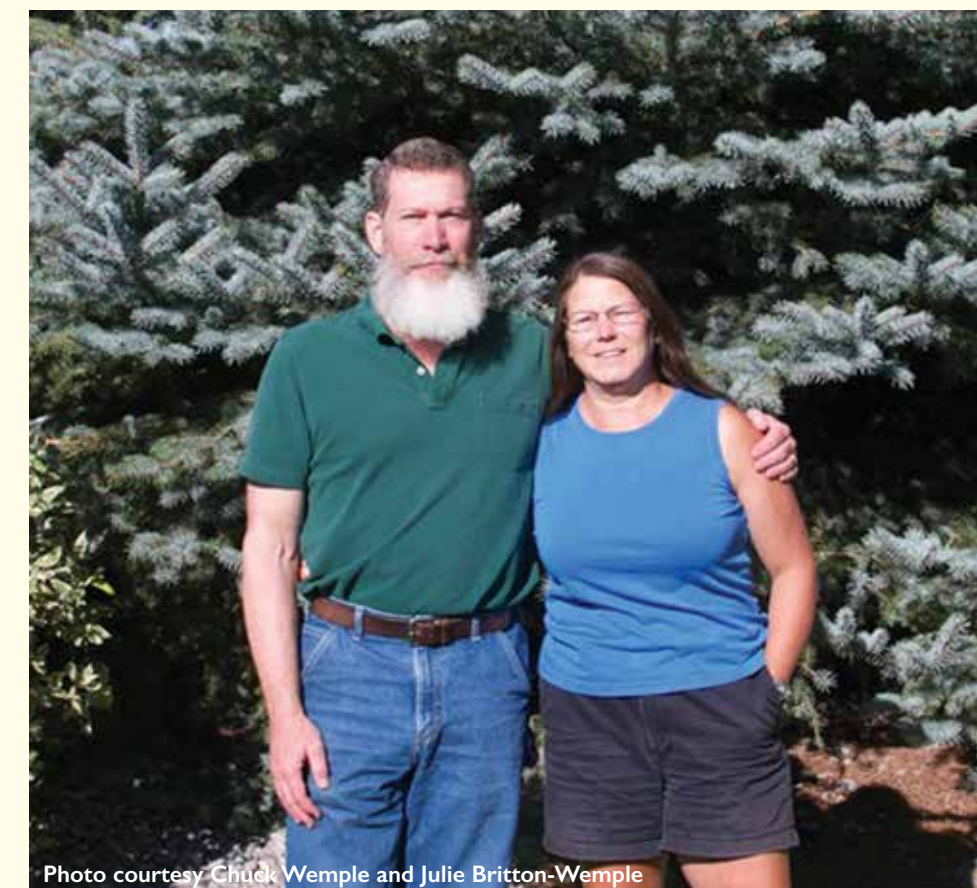


Photo courtesy Chuck Wemple and Julie Britton-Wemple

ICL Bids Farewell to Dani Mazzotta

Glenn Oakley



Dani Mazzotta

After anchoring our Central Idaho office for nearly six years, Dani Mazzotta is moving on. Dani is a passionate and knowledgeable advocate for Idaho's environment and has been a steady hand in ICL's leadership in the Wood River Valley and statewide.

Dani's time at ICL has been marked by some notable successes — including the designation of the Cecil Andrus and Jerry Peak Wilderness Areas, creation of the Central Idaho Dark Sky Reserve and innumerable other accomplishments that

help to protect and restore the land and wildlife that make Idaho such a special place to live.

Dani is leaving ICL to become the Northern Rockies program manager for the National Forest Foundation. We will miss her but are glad that she will continue her efforts to bring people together to restore and enhance national forests all across the Northern Rockies.

Justin Hayes
Program Director
jhayes@idahoconservation.org

Summer Interns Stepped Up

Every summer, ICL mentors college students or recent graduates through our internship program. This summer, we welcomed two outstanding interns and a fellow to help us with our public lands, community engagement and transportation work. We thank them all and wish them luck.

Hannah Zimmerman, a Boise State University senior majoring in environmental studies, spent the summer drafting comments for over a dozen U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management project proposals and participating in objection resolution calls.

Dana Kerins, a recent BSU graduate, assisted our community engagement program. She planned river stewardship activities for the South Fork Boise River, led

successful events and laid the groundwork for revitalizing our statewide volunteer program.

Ryan McGoldrick, a BSU graduate student of public policy, assessed public opinion on transportation issues throughout the Treasure Valley, focusing on underserved groups and ways that ICL can best aid these groups with their transportation needs. He continues to work on transportation issues as a volunteer for ICL. We're lucky to have committed people like Ryan supporting ICL!

John Robison
Public Lands Director
jrobison@idahoconservation.org

Lana Weber
Community Engagement Associate
lweber@idahoconservation.org

This summer, we welcomed two outstanding interns and a fellow to help us.

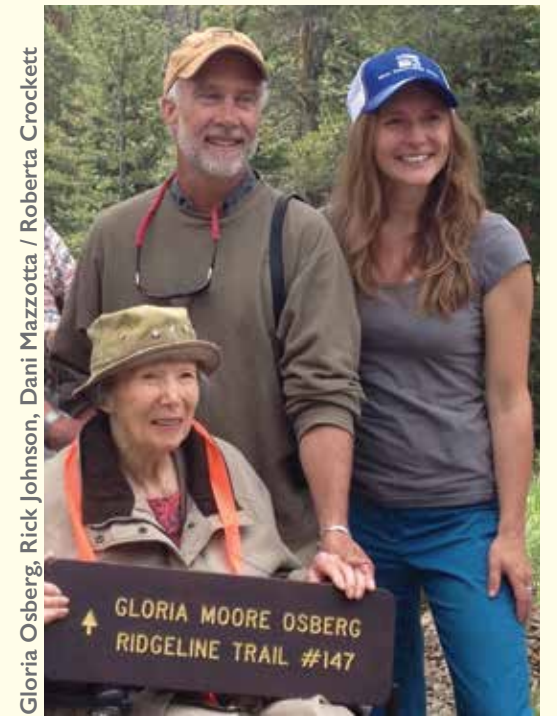
A True Champion for Idaho

Gloria Osberg passed away July 5, after many years with Parkinson's disease. Having visited Gloria and her husband John many times, I knew the depth of her commitment to ICL and Idaho's outdoors. Her spirit fed my own. One photo, taken at their cabin facing the Boulder Mountains, shows Gloria and me holding the plaque for the Osberg Ridgeline Trail. Her smile warms the coldest of days.

Gloria wrote *Day Hiking in Sun Valley* in 1987 with friend Anne Hollingshead. She later passed publication of this popular guidebook to ICL; proceeds from it and later republications supported our work. Honoring her commitment to getting people into her beloved Idaho mountains, ICL honored Gloria in 2004 with the Idaho Conservation League Keith and Pat Axline Award for Environmental Activism.

More recently, she was a champion of our It's My ID campaign, ensuring ICL's future. More than anything, Gloria vowed "to be happy and bring happiness into the lives of others." She truly did that.

Rick Johnson
Executive Director
rjohnson@idahoconservation.org



Gloria Osberg, Rick Johnson, Dani Mazzotta / Roberta Crockett

Volunteers

Our thanks to the volunteers without whom our achievements would not happen. (6/1/18 – 8/17/18)

Mike Abbott
Bruce Becker
Janet Beckley
Martha Bibb
Bill Blount
Karen Bossick
Greg Boylston
Kathy Boylston
Lauren Brassell
Matthew Cain
Rebekah Cain
Aaron Couture
Amber Dopp
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Pam Duquette
Scott Friedman
Jeremy Emerson
Rebecca Gettelman
Sara Gress

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Roger Inghram
Randy Kemp
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Kathleen Krekow
Terri Lawrence
Heidi Marcum
Ruby Marden
Virginia McConnell
Ryan McGoldrick
Barry Miller
Heather Miller
Becky Mills
Mackenzie Moss
Tim Norton
Bryce Parker

Terry Patterson
Kathy Peter
Danette Phalen
Scott Ransom
Barbi Anne Reed
Karen Roberts
Matt Robinson
Kerri Silvernell
Lori Sims
John Sisko
Sharon Steiner
Sloan Storey
Ted Stout
Mark Sugden
Joey Terra
Greg and Sheri Thomas family
Aaron Wanner
Vicki Watson
Don Weber
Sheri Weber
Emily Williams
Martha Williams
Susan Wood McKean

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, the sum of \$____" (or specifically described property).

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But here's the real value! Our merchandise lets you share your appreciation for clean water, clean air and wild places.

Visit our online store at bit.ly/iclstore to buy some fun swag!

Make a statement.



Find it at bit.ly/iclstore