



IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

The Idaho Conservationist

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 Bill Weppner, Boise

Reaching Out

Glenn Oakley



Rick Johnson

How we stay in touch with family and friends has changed a lot over the years. ICL is no exception. We have 10,000 friends on Facebook, and in the past year, we posted 900 updates there and more than 250 blogs on our website. A single public lands post reached over 60,000 in just a few days as it was shared far and wide. We are also very active on Twitter.

Communication tools are changing fast, and ICL is changing with them. Today an online presence is the anchor to any organization's identity. Since ICL's website is the hub for our grassroots engagement and information sharing, we're very proud of our brand new state-of-the-art website. Last year, our website reached nearly 75,000 users, an uptick of over 20 percent. With our website now being "mobile friendly," we expect another bump in users.

The cover of this issue features a painting "Two of a Kind" by ICL's artist in residence, Josh Udesen.

Complementing our website is our modernized logo. Check it out on the masthead of this newsletter. Not only did the design naturally evolve from our two past logos (see p. 9), but it's also more "digitally friendly." The new logo adds color and looks good on a computer screen, where it's seen most often.

These updates to our logo and communication tools are about reaching more people, about creating the next generation of Idaho's conservation community. Despite the changes to this rapidly evolving communication landscape, there is one constant: ICL's job is to inform, inspire and empower people to protect this very special place.

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Where Do You Like to Roam?

Whether it's a morning jaunt in the Boise Foothills, a long sojourn into the Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness or just an afternoon stroll along the shores of Lake Pend Oreille, chances are that a trail took you there.

Trails are the yarn that knits our communities together, draws us into the mountain's lofty heights and carries us to beaches and along shorelines. Sometimes they are an end unto themselves, invigorating and renewing us.

Rocky, dusty, graveled or paved, trails are the means by which we enjoy the great outdoors of Idaho—from our backyards to the backcountry. Paved pathways give us healthy alternatives for commuting, and our children, safe routes to school.

Over the years, the Idaho Conservation League has worked on several projects to expand trail networks and help people enjoy them. The Boise Foothills levy, the Blaine County open space ballot measure

and the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail campaign all improved the quality of life in Idaho communities.

Sometimes one trail project meanders into another. In Sandpoint, the Pend d'Oreille Bay Trail inspired us to lead an effort to develop a countywide trail plan with other local stakeholders and the Trust for Public Land.

After two years of work, including public outreach, meetings with agencies and trail advocates, and “ground-truthing,” the Bonner County trails plan is complete and stakeholders have embarked on what's sure to be a serpentine path toward building 490 miles of new trails, foot by foot, mile by mile.

A parallel project is also finished—the Greater Sandpoint Greenprint, an effort to map the high-priority lands around Sandpoint for conservation based on their value for recreation, water quality, wildlife and working landscapes.

(continued on next page)



Lri Sims

Rocky, dusty, graveled or paved, trails are the means by which we enjoy the great outdoors of Idaho—from our backyards to the backcountry.



Where Do You Like to Roam? (cont.)

Sometimes one trail project meanders into another.

Meanwhile, ICL staff and members participated in master planning for the Ridge to Rivers trail system in Boise with the intent of creating a community-supported sustainable action plan for the trails.

We recently signed on with the Ridge to Rivers adopt-a-trail program and will gather staff and volunteers at least twice a year to restore and maintain the Buena Vista Trail in the Boise Foothills. We are thrilled to add this boots-on-the-ground project to our breadth of work, connecting people with the places we love.

That’s not all. In south-central Idaho where people are eager to explore Idaho’s newest wilderness in the Boulder-White Clouds, ICL’s Ketchum staff is spearheading a volunteer stewardship program—called “guardians of the wild

places”—to care for the wilderness trails and wild character of the area. Interest in the program is high, and several groups and families have volunteered to keep trails clear, collect data and inventory wilderness characteristics over the summer.

For those who don’t want to adopt a trail, ICL offers volunteer-led hikes and outings around Idaho throughout the summer and fall. Information is available on our website or by calling one of our offices.

In ICL’s quest to protect Idaho’s clean air, clean water, pristine landscapes and quality of life, the path we take is sometimes, literally, the path we make.

Susan Drumheller
Conservation Associate
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A Wide-ranging Set of Issues

At our quarterly meeting in May, ICL staff updated the board of directors on the various issues in which the organization is engaged. The list is not only large (at 157) but also wide ranging in terms of topics and geography.

As you would expect, many of those issues are related to Idaho's public lands, clean water, clean air and energy efficiency. ICL is active across the state on various site-specific plans and permits, and we are working on matters that have both statewide and national significance such as bonding for Superfund sites.

How does ICL learn about these issues? Sometimes, an ICL member alerts us to an issue. Often it is through staff monitoring that we become aware of inappropriate activities. Staff review public records, read articles in the media or simply observe something that concerns us.

Much of ICL's work focuses on upfront work collaborating with stakeholder groups and agencies. But some of our actions progress to intervening in public forums such as the Public Utilities Commission or even litigating. ICL is an advocacy organization: as such, we engage with federal, state and local agencies when they fail to do what they are legally required to do.

ICL is fortunate to have a capable staff who actively monitor and engage in the various issues mentioned above. In addition, our staff administer many day-to-day functions and organize events such as *Wild Idaho!*, science pubs, fun runs and many more. None of this work would be possible without your support.



Paul Cunningham

MB Whitaker

The list of issues in which ICL is engaged is large and wide ranging in terms of topics and geography.

Paul Cunningham, Chair
Idaho Conservation League Board of Directors



New Protection for the Salmon River



Salmon River / IDFG

For decades, we've had concerns with instream mining.

Based on an Idaho Conservation League petition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers corrected a historical error and, on June 2, 2016, formally designated the Salmon River as “navigable” under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

We have long been concerned with restoring and protecting the river. For decades, we've had concerns with instream mining. Near the town of White Bird in north-central Idaho, the Camas Gravel Company has been dredging gravel from the Salmon River bed for years. Despite concerns from ICL, fisheries experts and hundreds of Idahoans, the state of Idaho issued a five-year lease in 2012 for the continued mining operation.

Because only state permits were required, fisheries experts did not have to be

consulted. If the Salmon River had been deemed navigable by the Army Corps of Engineers, a permit from the federal agency would have been required. Although the river clearly met the navigable standard, the Army Corps of Engineers determined in 1933 that the river was nonnavigable.

Following a search of state and federal records, ICL concluded that the 1933 determination was clearly in error. So in 2014, ICL submitted a petition to the Army Corps of Engineers requesting reconsideration.

It took two years, but the Army Corps of Engineers finally agreed with ICL and redesignated the Salmon River as navigable. This designation, applying to 259 miles of the Salmon River between the town of Salmon and the river's mouth near Grangeville, ensures commonsense protections for sensitive fisheries and other public values.

Jonathan Oppenheimer
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Lupine blooms on a hill overlooking the Salmon River canyon.



It's Wilderness — Now What?

Congress passed the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act (SNRA+) last August, a bill that designated the Boulder-White Clouds as wilderness and gave it the highest level of protection. For wilderness to be incorporated into existing management, both the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management must integrate the designation into their plans.

This three-year process is kicking off, with a special team of BLM and Forest Service staff coming together to develop their management plans. Here's some interesting information about the legislation and planning process:

- Not only did the legislation create wilderness on BLM-managed lands, but it also “released” some wilderness study areas to multiple use. Prior, these WSAs were managed as wilderness. The BLM plan will guide management of both BLM wilderness areas and those lands released to multiple use.
- The Forest Service is a little different. SNRA+ did not release recommended wilderness on Forest Service-managed lands to multiple use. So the Forest Service plan will cover only land within the wilderness boundary. Management decisions to be made include group size, wilderness regulations and more.

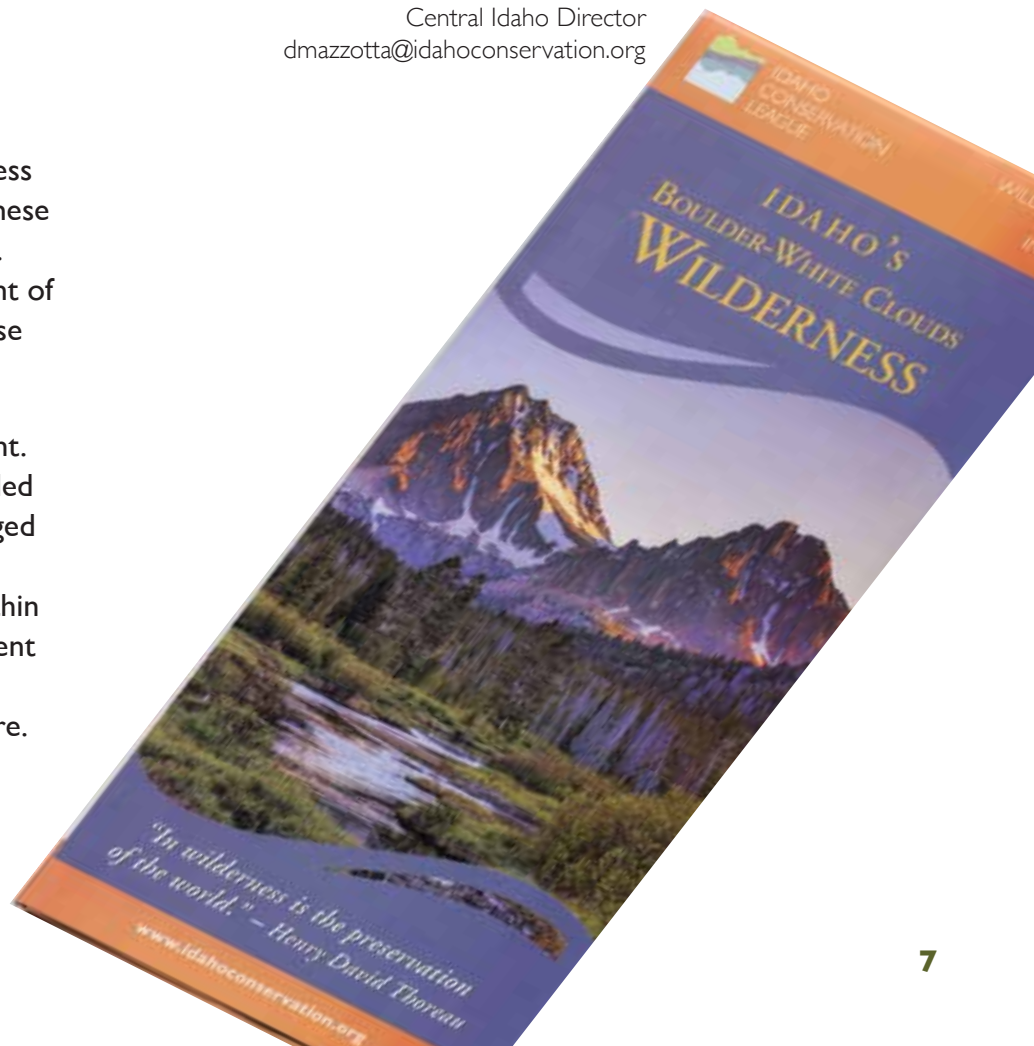
SNRA+ allows for voluntary permanent retirement of grazing allotments in the Boulder-White Clouds area. ICL is helping to shepherd this process. We are also piloting a wilderness stewardship program in which stewards are collecting data on wilderness quality. They will also identify places that may need work to improve the land and wilderness experience.

Want a map of Idaho's newest wilderness? Stop by any of our three offices and pick up your free copy!

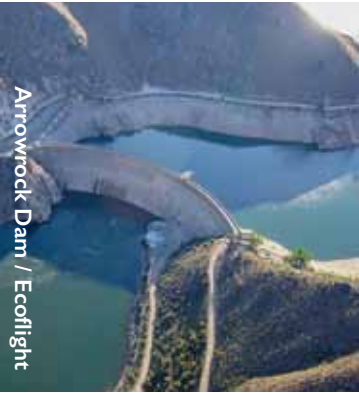
Stop by any of our three offices to pick up your free copy of Idaho's newest wilderness map!

Dani Mazzotta

Central Idaho Director
dmazzotta@idahoconservation.org



Dam Will Not Be Raised!



Arrowrock Dam / Ecoflight

After seven years of study, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently found that it is not cost effective to raise Arrowrock Dam on the Boise River, so the agency will no longer pursue the project. The proposed 74-foot dam raise had been a joint effort of the Army Corps of Engineers, interested in flood control, and the Idaho Water Resource Board, interested in additional water supply.

This decision is great for the Boise River, its fish and its human enthusiasts. It is also the perfect impetus for the Treasure Valley to roll up its collective sleeves and figure out how to more flexibly and responsibly manage the water it already has as our water needs shift from primarily agricultural to urban uses.

Marie Callaway Kellner
Water Associate
mkellner@idahoconservation.org

Though the dam raise didn't pencil out, the Army Corps of Engineers stated that zoning regulations and infrastructure improvements could assist flood control efforts.

Delta Restoration Doing "Awesome"



Delta plantings / Kathy Cousins

The Clark Fork Delta is one of the top ten most important wetlands in the state, according to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Last spring, ICL recruited volunteers in North Idaho to help the state agency with a restoration project in the delta. Volunteers planted thousands of native plants—all part of an effort to reduce erosion and improve habitat for wildlife.

the heat and the drought. So we were delighted to learn this spring that all those young plants are doing "awesome," according to Kathy Cousins, Fish and Game's project mastermind. While Cousins cautioned that plants need up to two years to become successfully established, we are optimistic that the project will be a success. Thanks to all our North Idaho volunteers!

Brad Smith
North Idaho Director
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North Idaho then endured one of the hottest and driest summers on record. Needless to say, we were very concerned that those plants would not survive

Monitoring the Scofflaws

Idahoans who cherish our rivers are troubled by scofflaw miners who refuse to follow laws designed to protect clean water and sensitive fish habitat around the state.

Since 2013, dredgers in Idaho have been required to obtain federal Clean Water Act permits and to avoid dredging in sensitive fish habitat. While some miners have abided by these new requirements, others (many from outside Idaho) have refused.

Some of these miners have held protests in the Salmon, South Fork Payette and South Fork Clearwater Rivers, openly flouting restrictions and inviting federal

enforcement. But to date, there has been no enforcement.

In response, ICL is monitoring illegal dredge mining in sensitive streams, and we will evaluate our options for holding miners accountable under the citizen-enforcement provisions of the Clean Water Act. After all, clean water is a priceless asset—just because a small group doesn't like the rules, it doesn't mean that they can break them.



J. O.

ICL Sports a New Look!

Since ICL's beginning, our logo has evolved naturally to represent our mission to protect Idaho's environment. ICL's first logo, drawn by Ron Walker in the 1970s, served until Beth Workman designed a new one in the 1980s. Beth's design lasted for three decades, even as ICL's visual brand was updated several times around it.

Our fresh logo, created by Seattle-based design firm Hansen Belyea, graces this issue's cover and symbolizes ICL's commitment to conservation in Idaho and the threshold from which we move into the future.

Our website, also revamped by Hansen Belyea, has a new visual emphasis, thanks to several photographers who generously shared their work. It is mobile friendly for the increasing number of viewers who access it from their devices. And you can search for events and hikes by region and for blogs by topic.

Play around on the new website and discover the beauty and easy navigability!



Mary Beth Whitaker

Editor & Designer

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Water Use Needs to Be Sustainable

It's often said that water is our lifeblood—and for good reason. We all rely on it every day, as do fish, other species, communities and businesses. To ensure that Idaho's water can sustain the needs of Idahoans into the future, the Idaho Water Resource Board has drafted the state's first-ever water sustainability policy.

Sustaining unsustainable practices at the expense of the health of Idaho's rivers is not acceptable policy.

Based on our concerns about water sustainability, ICL welcomed the draft policy and reviewed it carefully. The policy has some great elements: it emphasizes the importance of clean drinking water, collaborative solutions to water concerns, and conservation best practices. We thank the state for prioritizing them.

But other elements indicate that, to guide “sustainability,” the state intends to prioritize status quo use—that is, maintain water overallocation and rely on aquifer recharge combined with new or larger

dams to take care of the future. Sustaining unsustainable practices at the expense of the health of Idaho's rivers is not an acceptable “sustainability policy.” Also disheartening is that the policy doesn't include the terms “climate change” or “fish.” Both are especially relevant to water issues here.

The process does invite citizens to share their input. The policy is in draft form, and the Idaho Water Resource Board is taking it around the state this summer to hear from the Idahoans whom it's intended to protect. We'll be keeping you updated on those meetings and our specific concerns.

Check out ICL's website to read the three-page policy, find a meeting near you and learn how you can submit comments.

M. C. K.



Great News About It's My Idaho

I have great news to share with you about our It's My ID campaign, and many of you helped make this news possible.

You may recall that we are in the midst of our ambitious It's My ID campaign to raise \$4 million: \$2 million to double our endowment and \$2 million to build our climate fund.

We're getting close! We still need to raise \$115,000 for the endowment and \$550,000 for our climate fund. Interest earned on the endowment helps fund our wilderness and wildlands work and develop our communication strategy, while the climate fund will address energy and water issues.

And this fund will be crucial for an emerging priority for ICL. ICL's program director, Justin Hayes, believes that our biggest conservation win still lies ahead—to restore the health of the Snake River

and protect the Eastern Snake River Aquifer, the only source of drinking water for more than 300,000 Idahoans.

According to Justin, "The Snake River is in trouble, polluted by waste from factories and runoff from fields. Our plan for the Snake is simple—leave more water in the river and reduce the amount of pollution dumped into the river. Simple. But in Idaho, this is considered bold."

The campaign steering committee, board and staff are spreading the news about It's My ID to get us across the finish line. At *Wild Idaho!* this May, we kicked off the community phase of the campaign. You'll be hearing more about It's My ID in the coming months!

At Wild Idaho!, we kicked off the community phase of the campaign with a champagne toast.

Suki Molina

Deputy Director

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Creating Lasting Change Together

Here at ICL, we look for opportunities to partner with organizations and businesses to effect change. One of our recent partnerships was with KEEN Footwear, a company that not only makes footwear for adventure but is also “committed to preserving the places we all play.”

Last year, KEEN Live Monumental rolled across the United States to promote federal protection of 3 million acres. They filmed their journey, their automotive troubles, the people they met and five special places—including the Boulder-White Clouds of Central Idaho.

This year, KEEN toured again, this time with the Wild & Scenic Film Festival and the inspiring film about their first tour.

We partnered with them to bring the film tour to Boise, promoting it heavily through social media. And in watching the film, we were pleased to see that some footage of our executive director, Rick Johnson, made the cut!

There are many ways to evolve the art of conservation, and KEEN has definitely taken it to the next level. As one KEEN leader noted, “This film and the Live Monumental movement is a rally cry to encourage all of us to live in favor of the future.”

And that’s a rallying cry that ICL can get behind. Thanks, KEEN Footwear, for providing leadership in a way that transforms how corporations and organizations can partner to create change. It takes guts as a business; it takes creativity, investment and trust. As for the Idaho Conservation League, we know that it takes innovation and thinking outside the box to grow a conservation ethic.

Lana Weber

Community Engagement Associate
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Getting excited at the Boise stop of the KEEN Live Monumental tour.



Stewards Are Hitting the Trails

This summer, nearly a year after the Boulder-White Clouds were designated as wilderness, the Idaho Conservation League is partnering with the U.S Forest Service to implement a wilderness stewardship program. Over the winter, we all put our heads together to create this program, which encourages volunteers to become stewards—or guardians—of several Central Idaho treasures.

Early this spring, we advertised for 10 individual volunteer stewards, but the concept was so popular that we are now training 15 steward groups who will look after sections within the Sawtooth, Hemingway-Boulders, Jim McClure-Jerry Peak and White Cloud Wildernesses.

These 15 groups comprise families, retired Forest Service employees, doctors, professors, teachers, landscapers and outdoor enthusiasts who are coming from Jerome, Clayton, Wood River Valley and Boise to participate in this program. How awesome is that?

Our volunteers have completed an extensive wilderness and “Leave No Trace” training, to help them restore,

protect and enhance wilderness characteristics within these areas.

Volunteers hit the trails in mid-June to collect data and inventory their sites. If you happen on any of our wilderness stewards as you hike in the Sawtooth, Hemingway-Boulders, Jim McClure-Jerry Peak or White Cloud Wildernesses this summer, give them a well-deserved pat on the back and your heartfelt thanks. They’re working hard to protect what we all love about Idaho!

Betsy Mizell

Community Engagement Associate
bmizell@idahoconservation.org

The stewardship concept was so popular that we are now training 15 steward groups who will look after sections of the new Boulder-White Clouds Wilderness.



White Clouds / Peter Lovera

Changes in Staff and Board

Glenn Oakley



Susan Drumheller

ICL’s conservation success in North Idaho was founded by **Susan Drumheller’s** strong work ethic and conservation instinct. Since opening our Sandpoint office ten years ago, Susan has championed the Pend d’Oreille Bay Trail, fought increased coal and oil train traffic, and worked on many other important issues.



Rebecca Patton

With her journalism degree and 14 years at the *Spokesman Review*, Susan will serve as grant writer for the Clark Fork settlement agreement and work with organizations to fund natural resource conservation and recreation projects in

the lower Clark Fork Basin. All the best, Susan, we’ll miss you!

Welcome to **Rebecca Patton**, ICL’s newest board member, who splits her time between Hailey and California. She and husband Tom discovered the beauty of Idaho 30 years ago and she especially loves hiking the mountains in Central Idaho. Rebecca brings 15 years of experience in conservation as well as years in the private sector.

S. M.

And the Award Goes To...



ICL honored four recipients with conservation awards at ICL’s annual conference, *Wild Idaho! 2016*:

- 🌿 J. Robb Brady Award for Environmental Journalism: **Idaho Public Television’s Outdoor Idaho**
- 🌿 Keith and Pat Axline Award for Environmental Activism: **Marcia Argust**
- 🌿 Cecil D. Andrus Award for Conservation in Public Service: **Rep. Mike Simpson**
- 🌿 Cecil D. Andrus Award for Conservation in Public Service: **Lindsay Slater**

This year marked the 30th *Wild Idaho!* conference, and we’d like to thank the owners and staff of **Redfish Lake Lodge** who hosted us for most of those years. Every year, they graciously and cheerfully open the lodge a week early for us so that we can put on a great event—rain, snow or sun!

Our thanks go also to the **businesses and individuals** who donated to the auction—not to mention those who bid on the items. Our auctions are a key part of the conference excitement and provide significant support for ICL’s work to protect Idaho’s environment.

M. B. W.

Volunteers

Our thanks to the volunteers without whom our achievements would not happen. (2/16/16 – 5/31/16)

Sophie Allen	Andy Kennaly
Rachel Aramburu	Patricia Kennedy
Rod Barcklay	Bella Martin
Janet Beckley	Kris Martin
Lauren Brassell	Craig McClure
Jim Brookshire	Lori Ode
Mackenzie Case	Gary Payton
Ken Casler	Kathy Peter
Todd Chavez	Danette Phelan
Vail Dark	Art Piltch
Patrice Delaney-Davies	Sandy Piltch
Rachel DenHartog	Bernie Rawlings
Carrie Despot	Melissa Rees
Eileen Doten	Drew Riemersma
Marilyn Eagleton	Linda Sanders
Bill Eastlake	Shane Sater
Josie Englert	Lynne Schuppe
Walter Gammill	Jill Trick
Polli Hamlin	Susan Valiquette
John Hastings	Paula Warren
Mahalie Hill	Richard Warren
Rebecca Holland	Carol Wilburn
Anna Jenny	Susan Wood-McKean
Leata Judd	Denise Zembryki

A Passion for Nature

One of ICL's founding members, Kenneth Ivan Cameron, tied his last fly March 4, 2016, in Sagle, Idaho.

Ken practiced optometry in Boise in the early 1970s while spending his free time fishing the streams and hiking the trails. In 1973, he and several others who shared his passion for the outdoors founded what has become Idaho's premier environmental organization.

In 1979, Ken moved north to continue his optometry practice and hone his fly-fishing skills in some of Idaho's best streams. He was a catch-and-release angler with great respect for the creatures that best understand a river's secrets. As a family elder, Ken passed on his love of nature. After retirement, he had more time to fish with his grandchildren and extended family.

Ken is survived by wife Gail of Sandpoint, two sons from his first marriage to Mindy Cameron—Matt (Andrea) of Battle Ground, Wash., and Tim (Cathy) of Seattle—and grandsons Sage, Riley and Henry.

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).

Learn More

We invite you to browse the ICL website to find out more — maybe you want to learn about ICL's new solar power setup, trails for your next adventure, the effort to get Scotchman Peaks designated as wilderness, or the new ICL merchandise. Take your time to explore the beauty and features of our new website. It's waiting for you at www.idahoconservation.org!

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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Come Join the Fun!



It's summer—the perfect time to get outside and enjoy all that you love about Idaho.

ICL has exciting adventures and events planned near you. We hope to see you at our next hike, trail project, potluck or porch party!

For information on upcoming adventures and events in your area, check out our website at www.idahoconservation.org.