



IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

The Idaho Conservationist

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FEATURING

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Stability in Unstable Times

Glenn Oakley



Rick Johnson

The cover of this issue features a photograph from ICL's 2017 artist in residence, Linda Lantzy: The Milky Way over the Sawtooth Mountains as viewed from the Boulder Mountains.

The present can be challenging enough. Yet for the last couple years, on top of our daily work on behalf of Idaho, we've been doing something else entirely focused on the future. And it's been a great success.

ICL's It's My ID campaign has been a major focus for members of the ICL board and staff. Our goal was to raise \$4 million to double the ICL endowment and build a climate fund to support our work to address climate change.

In late spring, we wrapped up the campaign. I'm a bit awed to say that—thanks to you—we exceeded our goal and reached \$4.8 million.

The ICL endowment fund will not be spent. Earnings support ICL's core work like wilderness and public land protection. We can also hop on breaking opportunities. The endowment is a stabilizing force in turbulent times, should unforeseen challenges arise.

On the other hand, the climate fund will be spent over time as we create Idaho responses to climate change, especially regarding energy and water. Our energy work addresses causes of climate change, while our water work focuses on impacts of climate here in Idaho. Both areas of work are important; neither was sufficiently funded prior to our campaign.

Most organizations build capital campaigns around something tangible, like a building or land. Ours was an investment in trust and the confidence that ICL's work must endure. With our success, we are deeply grateful.

You'll hear more in a full campaign wrap-up later this summer.

Rick Johnson
Executive Director
rjohnson@idahoconservation.org

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Eclipse by Day, Stars by Night

This summer, the sun will disappear behind the moon, providing the rare spectacle of a full solar eclipse. Here's the bonus, August 21 also showcases a new moon. So you can enjoy the month's best star-viewing opportunities on the nights just before and after the eclipse.

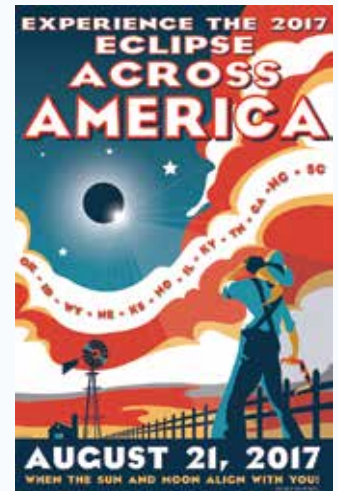
Many of the locations where views of the eclipse will be the best are the same places where you can see exceptional starry skies. A study released in 2016 indicated that eight of every ten Americans can no longer see the Milky Way because of light pollution. Being able to see a wealth of stars and celestial objects is not something we should take for granted. And it's not just a question of beauty. Many wildlife species depend on regular cycles of light and dark for their health and survival. That's why the Idaho Conservation League is part of a collaborative effort in Central Idaho to

create a "dark sky reserve," the first of its kind in the United States. Visit www.idahodarksky.org to learn more.

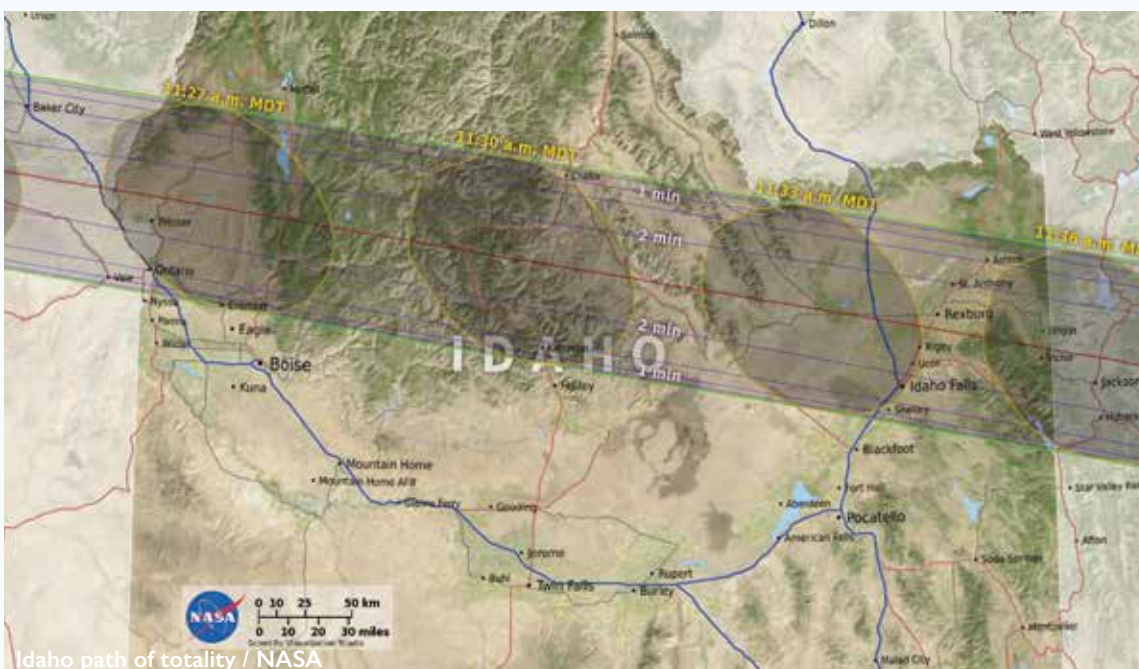
So where are the best spots to see both the eclipse and some spectacular stars? Take a trip to some place in the path of totality. Totality is the point at which the moon comes between the sun and earth, casting its shadow (known as the umbra) back onto the earth. This phenomenon is indescribable! But the key to a successful eclipse experience is planning ahead.

Idaho has abundant public lands and communities that will be in the path of totality. But be forewarned, it will be busy out there. If you choose to travel, arrive early and plan to stay off the roads on August 21. Purchase food and fuel ahead of time and have adequate water on hand. And to protect your eyes, remember to purchase certified eclipse glasses from

(continued on next page)



NASA



Idaho has abundant public lands and communities that will be in the path of totality.

Eclipse by Day, Stars by Night (cont.)

We encourage you to follow the seven Leave No Trace principles on any trips you make to our public lands.

ICL. They cost \$2 apiece and are available in our three offices statewide and from our online store (www.idahoconservation.org/ways-to-give/icl-store/).

If you plan to view the eclipse from our public lands, enjoy them responsibly and respectfully. We encourage you to follow the seven Leave No Trace principles (Int.org/learn/seven-principles-overview) on that occasion as well as any other trips you make to our public lands:

- ★ **Plan ahead and prepare**—Know the local regulations and be prepared for weather, hazards and emergencies.
- ★ **Travel and camp on durable surfaces**—Durable surfaces include established roads, trails and campsites. Camp at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.
- ★ **Dispose of waste properly**—Pack it in, pack it out. All solid human waste needs to be disposed of properly.

★ **Leave what you find**—Take a photo to enjoy a found treasure, but leave it for the next visitor to admire.

★ **Minimize campfire impacts**—The eclipse happens in the heart of fire season, so learn whether fires are banned at that time. Where permitted, use only established fire rings.

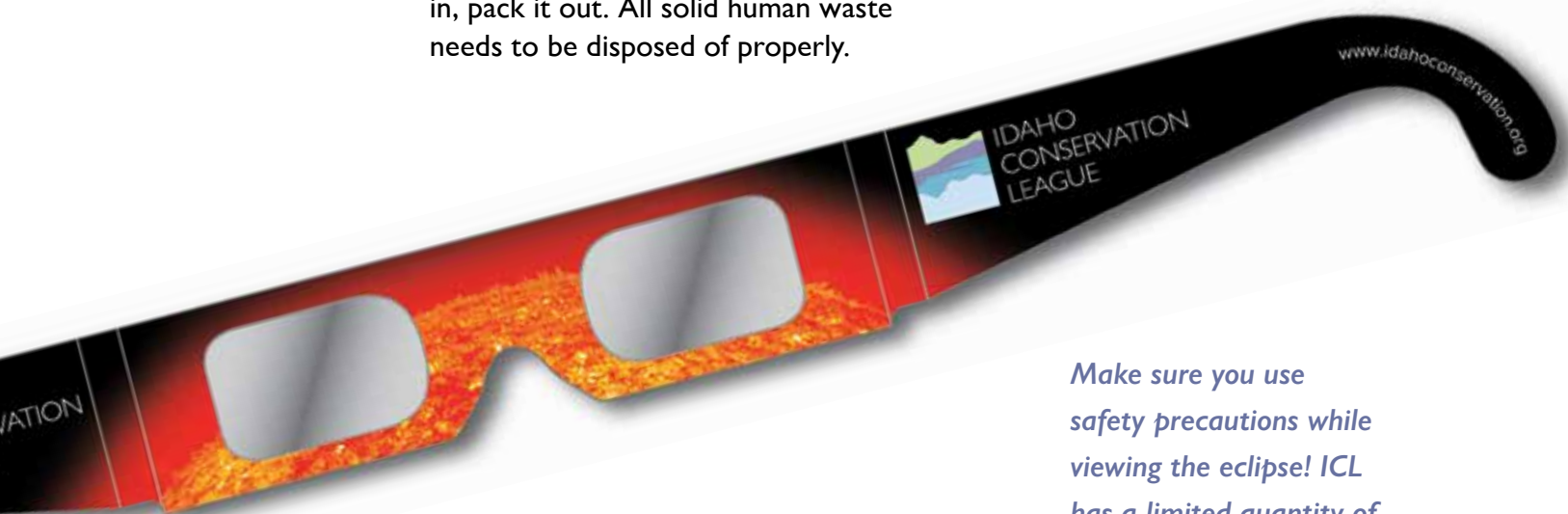
★ **Respect wildlife**—Observe wildlife from a distance. Store food and trash securely and control your pets.

★ **Be considerate of other visitors**

Check our website periodically for more tips on successful eclipse viewing.

Dani Mazzotta

Central Idaho Director
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Make sure you use safety precautions while viewing the eclipse! ICL has a limited quantity of certified eclipse glasses still available.

Our Road Forward

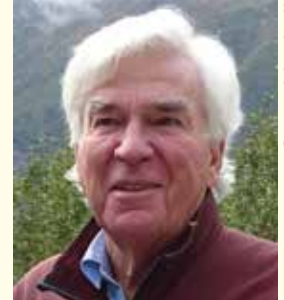
The road ahead for ICL gets steeper. Much steeper. For at least the next four years, protections for clean air and water and preservation of public lands will be under attack. But ICL is stronger than ever. We are stronger today thanks to you, our 10,000+ ICL members. Our strength is due to your generous support. When we launched our It's My ID campaign, \$4 million seemed a ridiculous goal. And yet together, we exceeded it by almost \$1 million!

This spring, some of the senior staff and board were talking about the road ahead. The point was made that neighboring blue states—like Oregon, California and Washington—are not as equipped as we are for these tough years. Because they have a larger environmental advocacy, their road has often been easier. A steep

road forward, however, is something ICL has traveled throughout its journey. Our staff has always worked on tough issues in a tough environment.

So, we are ready. The road ahead requires enlarging ICL's footprint by seeking new partners, alliances and members. We have often been bridge builders, creating innovative solutions with unlikely partners. Now we must step it up, broadening our already diverse set of partners and members. We recognize that ranchers, farmers, anglers, hunters and outdoor recreationists—many of whom we have worked with on numerous occasions—are all stakeholders in protecting what makes Idaho special. Please join me in embracing these challenges on the road ahead.

Steve Mitchell, Chair
Idaho Conservation League Board of Directors



Steve Mitchell

Steve Mitchell

The road ahead requires enlarging ICL's footprint by seeking new partners, alliances and members.



Well Closures a Decade Overdue



Oil, mud / CC Duncan Rawlinson

We are committed to making sure our groundwater is protected.

Last year, ICL discovered that the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) was illegally disposing of motor oil and fluids in wells throughout Idaho. The agency had nearly 100 sites with so-called motor vehicle waste disposal wells. These wells are essentially holes where waste is collected and then allowed to drain into the ground.

Groundwater is an essential source of drinking water for 95 percent of Idahoans. In addition, much of our agricultural land is irrigated by clean water pumped to the surface. Despite our heavy reliance on clean groundwater, Idaho's aquifers have been unnecessarily endangered over the past decade as hazardous waste has been dumped and left to seep into the ground.

Given the risk of polluting fresh water sources, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency outlawed these wells in 2000 and required that all existing wells be closed by 2005. Yes, you read that right—ITD's wells should have been closed over 10 years ago!

ICL couldn't stand idle while these disposal wells polluted Idaho's groundwater, so we took action. With the help of Advocates for the West, ICL sued ITD over its failure to close these disposal wells as required by law. Thanks to our litigation, ITD has now committed to closing all of its motor vehicle waste disposal wells by this October.

Closure is only the first step. Once wells are closed, we will begin working with ITD to clean up any contaminated soil and groundwater.

Sadly, while ITD owns the largest number of disposal wells, there remain around 60 other disposal wells at private facilities in Idaho. The closure process takes time, but we are committed to making sure that disposal wells throughout the state are properly closed and our groundwater is protected.

Austin Hopkins
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Midas Gold Moves Ahead

Canadian mining company Midas Gold is advancing its plans for the Stibnite Gold mine in the headwaters of the East Fork South Fork Salmon River.

Previous mining activities in the area left a legacy of toxic pollution. In an effort to address these past impacts, the company has incorporated a restoration component into this project. However, we need to make sure that the additional mining—particularly on the massive scale proposed—doesn't make matters worse.

The current plan involves diverting a mile of the river into a tunnel, excavating an open pit underneath the riverbed, filling up surrounding valleys with waste rock from the mine, and burying over a mile of bull trout spawning habitat under several hundred feet of mine tailings.

ICL is recommending that Midas Gold take steps to reduce the overall size of the disturbance and increase the amount of restoration. We encourage everyone who cares about clean water to weigh in on the Stibnite Gold project before July 20. Go to the “Take Action” section of our website today.

Following this initial comment period, the Forest Service will be taking additional comments on the draft environmental impact statement, expected next year.

John Robison

Public Lands Director
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Stibnite / John Robison

A sign warning that ground-disturbing activities can release hazardous materials—this is exactly our concern with the Stibnite Gold project.

While Midas Gold's plan would restore some waterways, this section of Meadow Creek—spawning habitat for bull trout—would be permanently buried under several million tons of waste rock and mine tailings.



Coal Can No Longer Compete



Coal power station / jakubson

The economics of coal-generated electricity are not competitive with other forms of electricity generation.

Despite talk from the current administration, the economics of coal-generated electricity are not competitive with other forms of electricity generation.

The success of ICL's energy associate, Ben Otto, in getting Idaho Power to accelerate the retirement of the North Valmy coal plant in Nevada exemplifies this economic shift.

In North Idaho, a similar opportunity exists with Avista, the predominant electric utility for the Panhandle. Of the electricity that Avista provides its North Idaho customers, 10 percent comes from the Colstrip coal-fired power plant in Montana. Half of the

Colstrip facility is already set for early retirement in 2022.

ICL is participating in Avista's mandated resource planning process to help identify an economical and fair way to retire the second half earlier than planned and replace it with cleaner, less expensive energy.

Go to our blog to learn more about Avista and Colstrip. From there, send an email and let the company know that you support clean energy.

Matt Nykiel

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Scotchman Peaks in the Spotlight



Open house / Molly O'Reilly

Sponsored during the last session of the U.S. Congress by Sen. Jim Risch, the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness Act would protect nearly 14,000 acres of national forest land in Bonner County as wilderness. The area is now—and would remain—closed to off-road vehicles, snowmobiles and mountain bikes. The area would stay open to hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, camping and berry picking.

Risch's staff held an open house in Hope recently to assess people's views. Nearly 300 people attended, the majority supporting the wilderness bill.

Another open house is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18, 4–7 pm, at the Clark Fork

Junior-Senior High School. These open houses are designed to gauge whether the public backs or opposes the proposal.

Based on the numbers, Risch will decide whether to reintroduce the bill, modify the proposal or drop the effort altogether. So even if you attended the Hope open house, show up—and speak up—again. Your voice is crucial on this issue.

Brad Smith

North Idaho Director
bsmith@idahoconservation.org

Wait, the Snake Is Two Rivers?

The Snake River's Shoshone Falls was a magnificent sight this spring—in all its 900-foot-wide, 212-foot-high glory. Yet despite being one of the largest natural waterfalls in the country, the falls aren't always so impressive.

Idaho's epic water year meant that flows over the falls peaked around 22,000 cubic feet per second this spring, as opposed to the normal peak flow of 3,300 cfs. In summer, Shoshone Falls drops to a required "scenic flow" of 300 cfs.

The river drops that low because of Idaho's "two rivers" policy, also called the zero flow at Milner policy. It is state policy to completely dry up the "first river"—Idaho's eastern stretch of the Snake River—at Milner Dam. The policy allows springs and tributaries downstream of Milner to rebuild the "second river" over the hundreds of miles to the Hells Canyon complex of three dams.

This policy has wreaked ecological havoc along the large middle stretch of the Snake. Recently, it's exacerbating an additional problem.

Most towns discharge their wastewater into rivers. Those discharges must meet water quality standards that are based on anticipated low flows in those rivers. The two rivers policy, coupled with effects of climate change, means that mid-Snake flows are so low that some towns' discharges are no longer meeting the required standards.

While facility upgrades are part of the solution, relaxing the two rivers policy would also help. It would treat the river more like the one river it is rather than as two fictional, disconnected rivers.

Marie Callaway Kellner
Water Associate
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Shoshone Falls / Justin Hayes

The two rivers policy, coupled with effects of climate change, means that mid-Snake flows are so low that some towns' discharges are no longer meeting the required standards.



Trail Runners Support Public Lands



By working with people like Luke, ICL can be creative and nimble and encourage people to raise their voices.

Idaho has 32 million acres of public lands. From hunters, anglers, hikers, climbers, bikers and bird watchers, most who spend time outdoors in Idaho spend it on public lands.

As the administration relentlessly attacks our national monuments by threatening to remove protections from places like Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve in Idaho, we are looking for ways to push back. Sometimes pushback comes in the form of rallies and petitions; sometimes it uses other means.

Recently, ICL partnered with Luke Nelson, a spokesperson and Patagonia-sponsored trailrunner as well as race director for the Scout Mountain Ultra Run in Pocatello. As he started coordinating logistics for the race, he had an idea...

The Scout Mountain race is wholly held on public lands. With nearly 300 registered

runners, Luke wanted to link the race and public lands stewardship. And he called ICL to be part of the promotion.

At event registration, ICL talked to hundreds of runners and collected postcards and statements of support for Craters and other monuments. The next day, those cards were on a plane to Washington, DC, to be handed over to the Department of the Interior.

If the status of our national monuments is changed or removed, these places could be developed and forever changed. By working with people like Luke, ICL can be creative and nimble and encourage people to raise their voices—ensuring that our public lands remain in public hands today and into the future.

Lana Weber

Community Engagement Associate
lweber@idahoconservation.org



A Creative Plan for the Future

As ICL works to preserve Idaho's air, water and exquisite places, we have not only Idahoans today but also future generations of Idahoans in mind. Our hope is that future citizens can experience the truly transformative gift of spending time in the wild.

After a grueling election cycle, many of us had a wake-up call—young people especially. They are fired up and want to take action. And now, ICL has a place for them to focus that energy. This summer, ICL is initiating a new program, Emerging Leaders for Idaho's Environment (ELIE).

ELIE will be made up of nine to fifteen young professionals who fall within the 25–39 age range and want to protect what we all love about Idaho. Over their 18-month term, ELIE members statewide will get involved with their communities, introduce new people to ICL's work and

encourage their peers to join the greater conservation community. They will be ambassadors for ICL's mission: they have the capacity, creativity and autonomy to engage Idaho's youth in new ways—of making our work accessible to the next generation of conservation advocates.

ICL won't be the only beneficiary of this program. Through leadership trainings, workshops on conservation advocacy and strategic planning/organizational seminars, ICL will mentor these young leaders on essential skills to pursue careers in conservation. By mentoring those who follow us, we create a better future for each other and for Idaho.

To learn more about ELIE, contact me.

Jenny Estes

Development Associate
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Hells Canyon / Aimee Moran

This summer, ICL is initiating a new program, Emerging Leaders for Idaho's Environment.



ICL Awards



At ICL's Wild Idaho! conference in May, the Robb Brady Award for Environmental Journalism went to Amanda Peacher (above left) for her thoughtful Oregon Public Broadcasting coverage of the occupation at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.



Sen. Michelle Stennett (above center) received the Keith and Pat Axline Award for Environmental Activism for her years working as an advocate for conservation philanthropy and as a leader in the Idaho Legislature.



Elaine French (above right) received a special award for her board service and leadership of the It's My ID campaign that successfully raised almost \$5 million for ICL's endowment and climate work.

Peter Lovera photos

In-Kind Donors

The generosity of these businesses supports our conservation programs throughout Idaho.

The Idaho Conservation League appreciates the businesses that gave in-kind donations of goods or services valued at \$250 or more over the last year. We use these donations for our auctions, raffles and other fundraising functions. The generosity of these businesses supports our conservation programs throughout Idaho. Thank you!



ICL Artist in Residence Linda Lantzy

- ARTA
- Avalanche Graphic Design
- Big Creek Ranches
- Black Diamond Equipment, Ltd.
- Blue Creek Press
- Blue Sky Broadcasting
- Bogus Basin Ski Resort
- Boise Art Glass
- Cabela's
- Cole Calvin, Jeweler
- Crane Creek Country Club
- Fleet Feet

- Hotel 43
- Hotel Terra
- Idaho Steelheads
- Joe Spano Custom Stone
- Mosaic
- Keokee Publishing
- Klinefelter Studio
- Knitting Factory
- Entertainment
- Lava Lake Land & Livestock
- Outdoor Experience
- Patagonia

- Pride of Bristol Bay
- Pure Barre Boise
- Remedy Skincare
- Riverside Hot Springs Inn
- Sage Yoga and Wellness
- SOAR Northwest
- Solar Concepts
- Staples
- Sun Valley Ski Resort
- Sun Valley Trekking
- The Grove Hotel

Aimee Moran
Development Director
amoran@idahoconservation.org

Meet the Heltons

Justina Gooden-Helton, her husband Rob Helton and their son Cole moved to Idaho two years ago and were immediately struck by the captivating beauty of the state! They began exploring places like Craters of the Moon, Mesa Falls and Targhee National Forest. Soon, the trio took up flyfishing and discovered more Idaho treasures.

When they lived in Virginia, they benefitted from all that the Chesapeake Bay had to offer, and to give back, they were active with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. At the end of last year, the family began looking for an Idaho conservation organization, similar to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, that they could support.

That's when they found the Idaho Conservation League. "Imagine my surprise when I received a call from Aimee Moran, thanking me for my donation!" Justina said. "We had a lovely conversation and Aimee offered to facilitate a meeting with another Idaho Falls ICL member and her husband." Since then, it's been full speed ahead for the Heltons!

After spending the weekend with the staff and board, the Heltons are impressed and grateful for the work that ICL is doing.

Justina and Rob attended their first *Wild Idaho!* in May at Redfish Lake Lodge and had a wonderful time. Not only did they find the ICL community welcoming and engaging, they also learned about a number of conservation issues, including many specific to Idaho.

After spending the weekend with the staff and board, the Heltons are impressed and grateful for the work that ICL is doing to keep Idaho's environment vital for generations to come.

For their next adventure, the three will float the main Salmon River with ICL in August!

A. M.



Photos courtesy Justina Gooden-Helton

Hello and Goodbye!

Peter Lovera



Elaine French

Welcome to our board, **Judy Baker!** She spent her career working for the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Though Judy has always been involved in outdoor activities—backpacking, skiing and canoeing—she is now concentrating on birding and travel. She loves living in her solar timber-frame house on the Payette River west of Emmett.

Elaine French just completed three terms on the ICL board, serving as chair from 2013 to 2015. I met Elaine when she was chair of The Nature Conservancy board and could see that she was an impressive leader. Due to Elaine’s experience and “can do attitude,” she brought our board’s fundraising to a new level. Most recently, she chaired our It’s My ID campaign, which raised close to \$5 million for the future of ICL. Thank you, Elaine!

Glenn Oakley



Lori Sims

We bid adieu to a staffer as well. **Lori Sims** was a key player in ICL fundraising’s efforts for the last two years. Her fundraising experience with the Monterey Bay Aquarium came in handy, and she boosted ICL’s monthly giving and Idaho Gives revenue. Lori is pursuing a new career in real estate, and we wish her well!

Suki Molina
Deputy Director
smolina@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).



Volunteers

Our thanks to the volunteers without whom our achievements would not happen. (2/15/16 – 6/15/17)

Clint Anderson	Vicki Longhini
Dana Anderson	Emmi Lynch
Emil Berg	Meredith Lynch
Farley Boden	Ron Mamajek
Payton Bokowy	Adele Marchiando
Bonner County EMS	Meg Marchiando
Sadie Brass	Jim Mellen
Lauren Brassell	Rachel Meyer
Barbara Brown	Sonciery Mitchell
Crockett	Becky Mills
Eric Brubaker	Megan Murray
Todd Chavez	Stefani Nostdahl
Jesse Crockett	Julie Nye
Tom Crockett	Erik Olson
Larry Davidson	Kathleen Olson
Patrice Davies	Kaori Parkinson
Caroline Davis	Danette Phelan
Carolyn Davis	Gina Pucci
Prairie Davis	Brandt Quirk-Royal
Lexie de Fremery	Kathy Riba Crane
Carrie Despot	Ed Robinson
Deborah Dickerson	Deb Ruehle
Nancy Dooley	Jan Rumore
Eileen Doten	Paul Rumore
Susan Drumheller	Don Silvernell
Bill Eastlake	Kerri Silvernell
Teague Edmundson	Michael Spurgin
Maureen Fallon	Laurel Taylor
Mariah Fowler	Chris Thompson
Slate Frago	Judy Thompson
Walt Gammill	Sawyer Treadaway
Tom Gibson	Will Valentine
Tracy Gibson	Susan Valiquette
Philip Gordon	Becky Walker
Celeste Grace	Paula Warren
Jan Griffiths	Mollie Weinberg
Jen Harkness-Nagel	Emily Williams
Dave Heep	Bob Witte
Deb Hunsicker	Sherry Wollrab
Carol Jenkins	Susan Wood McKean
Abby Johnson	Michelle Woodward
Mark Kenerth	Shawn Woodward
Tricia Kennedy	Sloan Woodward
Susie Kubiak	Henry Worobec
MaryEllen Largent	Renee York
Terri Lawrence	Zena Zaleski
Steve Lockwood	Denise Zembryki
Ross Longhini	

Welcome, Interns!

This summer, our Boise office is mentoring two interns, Haley Robinson and Will Wicherski.

Haley is a master's student in public administration at Boise State University, focusing her studies on water quality. With a background in communications and marketing, she will help work on outreach for ICL's many important projects to protect water, air and special places.

Will, a Boise native, earned his bachelor's in geology and history from Williams College in Massachusetts. His passion for the environment and interest in nonprofit work led him to ICL where he will work on policy issues before pursuing his master's in Colorado.



Haley Robinson



Will Wicherski

Haley Robinson
2017 Summer Intern



Participants at ICL's Wild Idaho! conference in May enjoyed lots of activities including this geology fieldtrip led by ICL's Austin Hopkins.

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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**Enjoy being outdoors while caring for
the Idaho lands and waters you love!**

**Check our website for ways
to recreate responsibly
and sustainably.**

**We also have unique ways for you
to get involved in outdoor adventures
and projects to care for our public lands.**

**Learning how to take good care of Idaho
is a key part of getting outside!**

www.idahoconservation.org/events/adventuring-responsibly/