



IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

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The Idaho Conservationist



FEATURING

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Collaboration and Respect at a Divisive Time



Glenn Oakley Photo

Justin Hayes

I was recently on a panel hosted and nationally broadcast by the Society of Environmental Journalists. Joining me to talk about how collaborative efforts are advancing conservation in conservative places were a rancher, a logger, the Chairman of the Nez Perce Tribe and U.S. Senators Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Ron Wyden (D-OR). Collaboration is not the right tool for every situation — but when it is, it can lead to durable, win-win solutions. It was a free ranging discussion but some themes emerged.

To succeed, participants need to be honest with themselves and each other. And participants need to be able to tease apart what they need — for ICL that means what the environment needs — from what they want. Needs versus wants can be a sticky discussion, but it can create the space for acceptable compromises. Also key is treating people with respect, even people who you really do not agree with. Disagreeing without being disagreeable can allow you to find solutions.

I'm very proud of ICL's track record of knowing how to collaborate and, importantly, when to collaborate, and when to recognize that collaboration is not the right tool. Sometimes there can be no compromise. This newsletter contains examples of ICL using the right tool in the right situations.

The lessons that we have learned about what it takes to work together to protect Idaho are life lessons for us too. As we enter the final weeks of the most divisive and consequential election in generations and struggle to shoulder the stresses of a global pandemic, national reckoning on race, and tremendous economic uncertainty, I strongly recommend looking to the outdoors to fill your heart and head with peace and wonderment. Make time for family and friends and get outside in the wild Idaho that you love.

For Idaho,

Justin Hayes

Executive Director
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**“Conservation
is humanity
caring for the
future.”**

~Nancy Newhall

Christina Smith Photo

A Shared Humanity for our Collective Future



Lori Gibson Banducci

Like all of you, the Idaho Conservation League continues to deal with the fallout from COVID-19 and those who refuse to take it seriously. This, combined with the current administration’s continued and aggressive rollback of environmental protections, underscores this quote from conservationist Nancy Newhall, “The more we fail to recognize our shared humanity, the more damage we inflict on each other and our environment.”

Fortunately, ICL’s amazing staff has risen to the occasion and our work continues unabated, including the Governor’s Salmon workgroup, wolverines, proposed land swap near Payette Lake, Midas Gold’s Stibnite mine proposal, solar powered irrigation, education science standards, state pesticide regulations, and monitoring groundwater quality in southern Idaho to name a few. As a resident of Valley County, I’m particularly connected to ICL’s efforts on Payette Lake and the Stibnite Project and their potential effects on our community and special places.

Meanwhile, our members, donors and foundation supporters have seen fit to maintain their support of our work during these most uncertain times. **THANK YOU.**

The board members of the Idaho Conservation League have also stepped up their engagement and involvement. Virtual board and committee meetings along with board get-togethers — all contribute to a shared sense of commitment and connection to our mission.

As I write this, the 2020 election looms large. As committed conservationists, I am certain that our members and supporters will make their voices heard by voting. It’s what we do. We get involved — by voting, educating ourselves, submitting comments on Idaho conservation and related issues, writing letters to the editor and to our elected state and national representatives, and by encouraging others to do the same.

Stepping aside, throwing our hands up in frustration and silencing our voices is, simply, *not an option*. Too much is at stake — in Idaho, our nation and around the world. ICL and all of you care way too much to do otherwise. Knowing this gives me hope for our shared humanity and future.

Lori Gibson Banducci

Chair

Idaho Conservation League Board of Directors

New Board Member Recruitment Underway



Tanya Anderson

For the past seven years, serving on the Idaho Conservation League's Board of Directors has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. I believe strongly in ICL's mission, our collaborative approach, and our willingness to take legal action when appropriate and necessary to accomplish our goals. I feel honored to represent eastern Idaho, and to share the perspective of a young(ish) female professional. Idaho is a diverse state; having diverse representation in the leading voice for conservation is important.

Serving on this volunteer board has been rewarding, but it is not always easy. Travelling around the state to quarterly board meetings is a highlight, and it also requires time. Monthly committee calls and project work, from vetting prospective board members to hosting events in my community, takes commitment. Finally, putting financial support behind my values and making ICL the top nonprofit I donate to takes dedication.

Every fall, ICL begins the process of finding and vetting potential new board members. This year, we are asking you to join us. We have two openings to fill. Are you a dedicated ICL member who believes in our mission and supports our values? Do you bring a skill set that is valuable to a board, such as experience in conservation, finance, law, fundraising, or outreach? Are you willing to commit time and energy to be a part of a highly engaged board, attending quarterly board meetings across the state and serving on at least one committee? Do you represent a community or demographic whose voice should be heard?

If you are interested in being considered for a position on the ICL board, please send a cover letter expressing your interest to icl@idahoconservation.org by November 15, 2020.

We will select our recommendations in January and present them to the membership for a vote in the spring. New board member terms start in May and last for three years.

Tanya Anderson

Governance Committee Chair
Idaho Conservation League Board of Directors



Your Voice for Idaho Conservation in Turbulent Times

Unless you've been living in a cave in Idaho's backcountry, you've likely heard about the political turbulence in Idaho, and across America. We're in the midst of a bitter presidential election which will have implications for policies that affect our health, our environment, our climate, our public lands, our children's education, and dozens of other important issues that impact us everyday. State and local elections will also decide each and every member of the Idaho State Senate and House of Representatives, along with both Idaho's Representatives in the U.S. House and one seat in the U.S. Senate.

While the Idaho Conservation League does not, and cannot, endorse candidates for local, state or federal office, for 47 years we've dealt with the results of these elections. ICL was founded to provide a voice for conservation in the Idaho Legislature and we anticipate an action-packed session when they reconvene on January 11, 2021.

To boot, we're in the thick of a global pandemic which has infected over a million Americans, with numbers continuing to grow as we enter what could be a deadly flu season.

As we saw during a three-day Special Session of the Idaho Legislature in August, tensions boiled over as unmasked protesters attempted to force their way into the House Gallery, shattering a glass door in the process. Arrests were made as some of the same protesters disrupted a hearing of the House Judiciary Committee.



Mary Beth Whittaker Photo

While the special session focused on issues of liability associated with the novel coronavirus, the upcoming regular session will cover a multitude of issues. It's unclear whether some of the same disruptive protests will carry into the upcoming session, and ICL and others remain concerned about public, legislator and staff safety.

What is clear, is that ICL will have a critical role to play in tracking legislative proposals, standing up for clean water, supporting access to our treasured public lands, promoting public health, addressing the root causes of climate change, and connecting our members and supporters to their elected representatives. Once again, I'll be trading in my hiking boots for my wingtips, in order to serve as ICL's staff lobbyist in the statehouse. I expect to see a mix of remote and in-person testimony and will be hosting online Legislative 101 presentations following the elections, letting you know how you can engage.

As plans for remote testimony and safe access to the Idaho Statehouse become more clear, we'll share this information to ensure that you can participate, have your voice heard, and connect with Idaho's decision-makers.

ICL will continue to provide weekly updates during the legislative session, spotlighting issues that impact our environment, water, fish and wildlife, public lands, climate, the Snake River and more. Sign up for these updates at idahoconservation.org.

While we don't know how the elections will turn out, we're hopeful that Idahoans and Americans will get out to the polls and do their civic duty. And we also know that working together, we can demonstrate the wide support for safeguarding Idaho's clean air and water, restoring salmon, combating climate change, protecting our public lands, and ensuring that our children and grandchildren can experience the wonders of Idaho.

Jonathan Oppenheimer

Director of External Relations

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ICL's Vision for Idaho and Abundant Salmon

A SURGE FOR SALMON AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

At the August meeting of Idaho Governor Brad Little's Salmon Workgroup, ICL's Executive Director Justin Hayes presented our vision for the future of Idaho, one filled with abundant salmon, thriving agriculture, affordable clean energy and healthy, vibrant communities.

The workgroup so far has not reached consensus on removing the lower Snake River dams. ICL has concluded that dam removal needs to happen if we are going to restore Idaho's salmon. In an effort to work past this lack of agreement, ICL offered a path forward. We call it a "salmon surge and community investment strategy" to immediately maximize all activities that benefit salmon, short of dam breaching. This would include higher spill at dams and more habitat restoration, among other policies. Along with activities that benefit salmon, the region would identify and immediately pursue energy, transportation and community investments needed to address concerns about the impacts of dam removal. Potential projects include new electricity generation facilities, transmission lines, rail lines and grain loaders.

This surge of activity would continue for 10 years. If these actions restore Idaho's fish to abundance during that time, the lower Snake River dams could remain in place. But, if after a decade the dams still need to be removed to save salmon and steelhead, this could be done immediately because the region's investments in energy, transportation and communities will ensure that all communities are kept whole.

This vision has been further discussed within the workgroup and Idahoans have embraced the idea. At the August and September workgroup meetings, several people who made public comments supported the vision as the most realistic way of truly recovering Idaho's wild fish while ensuring all communities are made whole.

“This is a win-win for both salmon and local communities.”



2020 FISH UPDATE

Our state's anadromous fish remain near extinction, with few signs of improvement during this year's run. Wild salmon and steelhead returns to Idaho numbered about the same as prior years amid troubling signs for future years.

The Spring/Summer Chinook run is now complete, with 30,129 total fish (both wild and hatchery-origin) returning to Lower Granite Dam, destined for Idaho rivers. Assuming a wild to hatchery ratio about what it's been in the past, then about 6,000 wild fish returned, only 4.7% of the state's official goal for recovery.

A troubling sign in this year's Chinook run is the low number of jacks, or immature males, that returned in 2020. Fish biologists use jacks from one year to predict the size of the next year's total run. This year's jack population was the 2nd lowest ever recorded in the Snake River, which does not bode well for Chinook in 2021.

The sockeye salmon run is also complete, and while 2020 was a relatively large improvement over 2019, when just

81 fish returned, Idaho still only welcomed 636 sockeye this year. It's a wonder that any of these fish can still make it back in the face of enormous challenges, as sockeye are the species most heavily impacted by high water temperatures in reservoirs.

Idaho's steelhead run isn't complete, but early indicators are poor. At the end of September only 10,517 wild steelhead had returned to Lower Granite. This is around 10% of the state's recovery goal of 104,500 wild fish each year.

This year's dismal returns clearly demonstrate that we need to take quick, bold actions as part of a salmon surge and community investment strategy to restore our fish to abundance. If we fail, we lose not just the fish, but an integral part of our state's identity.

Mitch Cutter

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Spring Creek Stealth Art by Josh Udesen

Keeping Idaho's Rivers Poop-Free

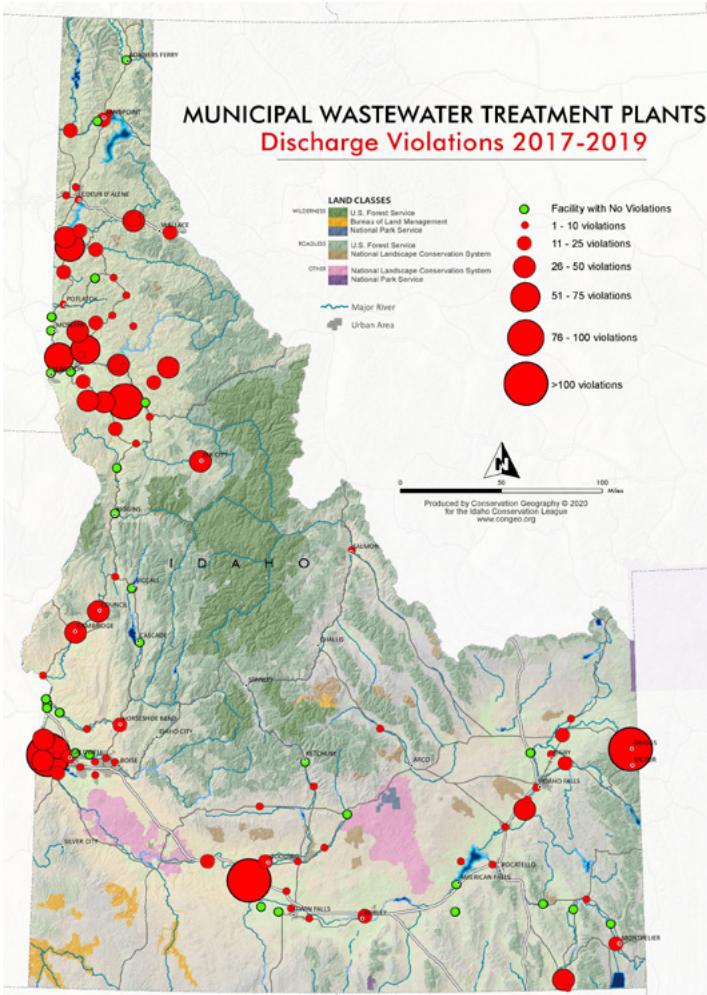
ICL's fourth annual Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) report shows improvements are occurring statewide, but there's still more work to do in protecting Idaho's rivers and lakes from these sources of pollution. From 2017 to 2019, over 75% of the WWTPs across Idaho struggled to comply with their water quality permits, reporting over 1,600 violations. The top 10 worst performing facilities continue to account for roughly half of all violations.

On a positive note, 28 cities or towns reported zero discharge violations during the three-year period of our review. Of these, 19 also had zero violations in our report last year (for years 2016–2018).

We focus on WWTPs because there are a lot of them across Idaho and they play a critical role in protecting water quality. Our report reviews data from over 100 WWTPs. Water quality permits are unique for each of these facilities and designed to protect the lake or river that receives the discharge. The permits also consider what the water body is used for, such as drinking, swimming, or fishing. As such, a WWTP that fails to comply with its permit endangers these uses and puts public health and the environment at risk.

Our report raises serious concerns, but doing so without offering solutions would fall short of what we're trying to do here. One of the most significant barriers cities or towns with struggling WWTPs face is access to funding. That's why ICL worked with stakeholders from across Idaho – including 45 cities – to request that Idaho's congressional delegation include funding for WWTP improvements as part of stimulus relief efforts.

Protecting Idaho's rivers and lakes takes collaboration, and we appreciated this opportunity to work with cities to address our shared interest. Our hope is to see increased funding to meet these needs, and that next year's report will show even more facilities coming into compliance, resulting in cleaner water for our rivers and lakes.



Austin Walkins
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Boise River - Scott Knickerbocker Photo.

The Latest on Midas Gold's Stibnite Project

On August 14, the U.S. Forest Service released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Midas Gold's open pit mining project in the historic Stibnite area, roughly 40 miles east of McCall. The project area and surrounding waters are treasured by many Idahoans and of prime importance to the Nez Perce Tribe.

Although Midas Gold presents Stibnite as a restoration project, with an emphasis on cleaning up historic mine waste and reopening passages for migratory fish, the company's plan will create many new problems and degrade swaths of the remaining pristine land and waters in the South Fork Salmon watershed.

For instance, Midas Gold's plan would nearly double the industrial mining footprint in the area, raise water temperatures nearly 7 degrees downstream, and degrade or eliminate spawning ground and habitat for Chinook salmon, bull trout and Idaho's state fish, westslope cutthroat trout.

ICL is equally concerned with what's not in the draft environment report released by the Forest Service. For

instance, Midas did not include a comprehensive plan for water use in the report. The company also does not outline methods for leak detection of toxic waste in the liner, or protective layer, of a storage facility for mine tailings. This is particularly concerning because this facility would be placed on top of the current channel of Meadow Creek.

ICL worked with other organizations and experts to highlight the draft plan's problems and shortcomings. It's our hope that a supplemental draft will be released, which provides more detail on incomplete and missing information, so that the impacts of this project can be more fully assessed.

Please check idahoconservation.org for updates on the project and ways you can take action.

Josh Schreiter

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NORTHERN IDAHO

Battle to Protect Wolverine Continues



Ed Cannady Photo

ICL is part of a coalition of conservation groups that have been working for nearly two decades to add wolverine to the Endangered Species List. A decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on our most recent efforts was due to be submitted for federal publication on August 31. The agency's decision was announced Oct. 8, declining to add wolverine to the list. We're disappointed the agency decided not to protect the wolverine.

Wolverines build their dens under deep snowpack where they give birth to their kits and rear their young. Biologists estimate that wolverines could lose as much as 78% of their habitat in Idaho by the end of the century if we fail to curb greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. Unchecked dispersed winter recreation activities like snowmobiling can also displace wolverines from high-elevation areas with suitable denning habitat.

USFWS accepted public comments on a proposal to add wolverine to the Endangered Species list in 2013. The proposal was withdrawn the next year. Public records obtained through the Freedom of Information Act showed the proposal was withdrawn due to political interference.

Represented by EarthJustice, ICL and our conservation allies took the USFWS to court for their reversal. After a series of legal rulings and maneuvers, the agency agreed to reconsider whether or not to add wolverine to the Endangered Species List.

With the Trump administration declaring that the listing of wolverine is unwarranted, ICL is prepared to return to the courtroom to secure the protections they deserve.

Brad Smith

North Idaho Director
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EASTERN IDAHO

FishPower: A Pathway to Affordable, Reliable Energy and Abundant Salmon



U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Photo

In Idaho, 26 electric utilities are "Preference Customers" of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Preference Customers must be publicly owned by their own consumers, either as a cooperative or a municipal utility. In eastern Idaho, these utilities are Salmon River Electric Cooperative, Fall River Rural Electric Cooperative, and Idaho Falls Power. The energy BPA sells comes in part from the lower Snake River dams, which have impeded Idaho salmon and steelhead for decades, and placed them at the edge of extinction.

As Preference Customers, these utilities can work with BPA on solutions that keep power affordable and reliable, while recovering

salmon and steelhead by breaching the lower Snake River dams. ICL is looking to the three eastern Idaho utilities to start this discussion because we know that both fish and affordable power are important there. There is a way forward toward having both, if we work to find solutions together.

If you are a member of these eastern Idaho utilities make your voice heard!

Find more information at our webpage:
idahoconservation.org/fishpower

Mitch Cutter

Salmon and Steelhead Advocacy Fellow
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WESTERN IDAHO

Washington County Passes Unconstitutional Ordinances

In late September, Washington County commissioners approved three ordinances that attempt to limit public lands management. The 2 to 1 vote came despite the Idaho Attorney General and the county's attorney asserting that they would be unenforceable and unconstitutional.

The ordinances attempt to interfere with public land management within the county by limiting prescribed burning and road management, and authorizing ranchers to log and mine on federal grazing allotments. The measures also require the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to seek county approval. As such, the Idaho AG argued that the measures run afoul of the U.S. Constitution.

Commissioners also heard from residents, who were evenly split on the measures. Many

noted that the ordinances could expose the county to legal costs. Commissioner Nate Marvin echoed these statements, "I'm concerned what it could cost Washington County if this ever goes to court. We couldn't afford it. It could bankrupt the county."

Efforts to take over control or management of our public lands are nothing new in Idaho. A similar measure in Boundary County fell flat in the 1990s, and this appears to be the newest approach to seize and control our public lands.

We'll keep an eye out for similar attempts and will again coordinate with our local members and supporters to keep public lands in public hands.

Jonathan Oppenheimer

External Relations Director
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Washington County Photo

CENTRAL IDAHO

Keep the Wild Rapid River Corridor Non-Motorized

Congress implemented the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in 1975, designating the Rapid River as Wild when it formed the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area and Wilderness.

In September, U.S. Forest Service officials called for public comments on the Wild Rapid River corridor in the Payette National Forest, located next to the Hells Canyon Wilderness. They propose to open up the area to motorbikes on trails where they are now prohibited.

ICL strongly opposes the Forest Service proposal because motorized recreation within the Rapid River corridor would increase sediment from erosion and unauthorized trail creation in streams that are essential habitat for chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout.

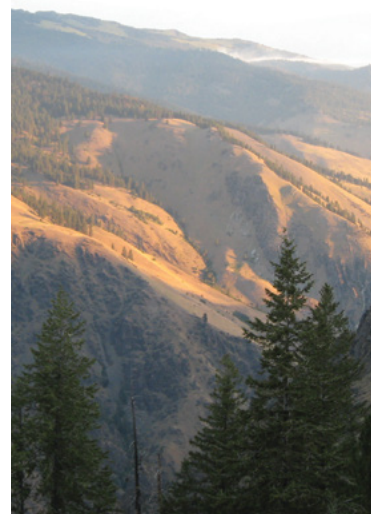
The Forest Service proposal also contradicts

a recent agreement. Ten years ago, the Forest Service reached a legal settlement with ICL, The Wilderness Society, and the Hells Canyon Preservation Council, which prohibits motorized use in the Wild Rapid River corridor and on adjoining lands within the watershed.

Thanks to ICL's supporters, 61 comment letters were sent to the Forest Service urging the agency to keep motorized recreation out of this remote and pristine watershed. We anticipate the Forest Service will release the Rapid River analysis in early 2021, allowing the public another opportunity to help shape this management plan. Please stay tuned for updates.

Randy Fox

Conservation Associate
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Brad Smith Photo

CENTRAL IDAHO

Volunteer Stewards Restore and Enhance Central Idaho



Muffy Ritz Photo

Volunteer stewards rose to the challenge of keeping Central Idaho's wilderness and frontcountry clean and pristine during a summer of heavy impacts from visitors who wanted to get outside during the global pandemic. With record numbers of campers and hikers this year recreating in Idaho's central mountains, ICL's wilderness stewards have been hard at work restoring, protecting, and enhancing public lands from the White Clouds to the Lost River Range.

Stewards volunteer their time to clean up trash, naturalize illegal campfire rings, report data to the U.S. Forest Service, and educate the public on wilderness ethics and how to leave the landscape better. Our stewards broaden the Forest Service's reach and have been crucial to keeping up with the impacts on popular areas like the Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

ICL also partnered with the Sawtooth Society, National Forest Foundation, the Sawtooth Association and the Sawtooth National

Forest to rally the Central Idaho community in an end-of-season fall clean up effort. More than 85 volunteers took to the Sawtooths at the end of September, cleaning dispersed campsites, trailheads, trails and the backcountry.

In total, these volunteers and ICL's wilderness stewards rehabilitated hundreds of campsites, addressed over 300 illegal fire rings, extinguished seven abandoned campfires, and cleaned over 125 instances of improper human waste disposal.

Kudos to all the volunteers who made a difference for Idaho's spectacular public lands this year!

Hannah Smay

Community Engagement Assistant
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Montana Seeks Limits on Selenium Pollution to Protect the Kootenai River

In our last newsletter, we reported that the Kootenai River is polluted with selenium that originates from coal mines in British Columbia, Canada. The selenium pollution is carried downstream into Lake Koocanusa and across the border into Montana. Water released from Lake Koocanusa through Libby Dam then flows west into Idaho carrying selenium pollution.

Selenium is a threat to water quality and wildlife. It accumulates in the bodies of fish and other aquatic species. Toxicological effects of selenium in fish include reduced growth, deformities, reduced liver function, and reduced reproduction. For example, anglers have caught cutthroat trout in the streams below the coals mines with no gill plates. Also, eating fish with high levels of selenium can be harmful to people.

Fortunately, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is taking steps to curb selenium pollution in the Kootenai River. The Montana Board of Environmental Review, which has authority over the state DEQ, approved the agency's request to initiate a rule-making process in September to set limits on selenium pollution.

The Confederated Kootenai and Salish Tribes, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Montana DEQ have collected several years of data to help track down the source of this pollution and provide a basis for protective limits on selenium pollution in Lake Koocanusa and the Kootenai River.

Visit our website to find out how you can show your support for limits on selenium pollution in the Kootenai



Cutthroat trout with no gill plates, Paul Samycia Photo

River. Montana DEQ is accepting public comments until November 23rd.

The Montana Board of Environmental Review is tentatively scheduled to approve the proposed limits on December 11. If approved, the new limits would be enforced through an international treaty with Canada and protect water quality and fisheries in the Kootenai River in Idaho.

Brad Smith

North Idaho Director

bsmith@idahoconservation.org

Carbon Credits for Idaho Landowners

During the summer, the Growing Climate Solutions Act (GCSA) was introduced in both the U.S. Senate (S. 3894) and House of Representatives (H.R. 7393). This bill would establish a new USDA program to help farmers, ranchers, foresters and landowners receive carbon credits through best management practices on their land.

A carbon credit is a certificate or permit representing the right to emit one metric ton of carbon dioxide. Carbon credits can be bought and sold to allow carbon sequestering operations to offset the carbon produced by carbon emitting operations, which helps combat the effects of climate change.

The goal of the GCSA is to provide support and information for farmers who want to sequester carbon, reduce emissions, improve soil health, and make their operations more sustainable. These best management practices also will help make forestry and agricultural operations more resilient to climate change while reducing the amount of greenhouse gases emitted from working lands.

Federal incentives and support for farmers, ranchers, and landowners to enter into the carbon credit market — especially the voluntary carbon credit market — is essential for market-based solutions to successfully offset climate change. The GCSA can support and reward farmers, ranchers, foresters and landowners for their contribution to solving climate change.



Idaho farmers could benefit from carbon credits, EcoFlight Photo

Supporting the practices of Idaho farmers to capture and store carbon is a key component of ICL's climate work. Making Idaho carbon neutral means we have to pull carbon out of the atmosphere and store it in the ground. Thankfully, Idaho's farmers, foresters, and land managers have been doing this for generations.

The only difference now is we'd like to see them compensated for their efforts in helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change. With over 25,000 farms and ranches in Idaho producing more than 185 different commodities, the GCSA and climate-smart agriculture could have a big impact on Idaho.

Dainee Gibson-Webb

Conservation Analyst

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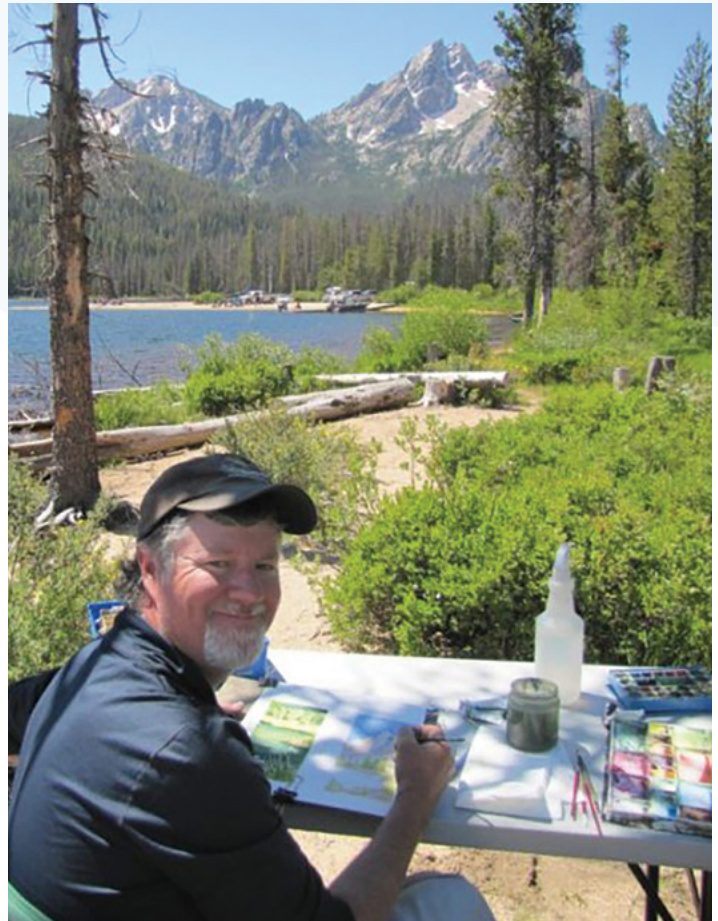
ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Andy Sewell's Watercolor and Oil Paintings

The cover art of this newsletter (and on all the newsletters you've received this year) was painted by ICL's 2020 Artist in Residence, Andy Sewell. The Artist in Residence program was launched in 2013 in an effort to explore the nexus of art and Nature, to share the beauty of the places we work to protect, and to tell the story of Idaho in creative new ways.

We are so appreciative of the incredible work Andy has done this year of some of Idaho's most beautiful places. You can see a full collection of his watercolor and oil paintings on his website, www.finewatercolors.com. And as you begin to think about buying meaningful gifts this holiday season, I hope you will consider one of his original works or a print! Andy has something for everyone, and his paintings are a great way to share the beauty of Idaho and the great outdoors.

To learn more about the Artist in Residence program visit www.idahoconservation.org. We are currently accepting applications for the 2021 Artist in Residence through November 10.



Andy Sewell Photo

STAFF UPDATES

ICL has continued to see many changes this year as we said goodbye to several staff members and an intern. Meanwhile, we welcomed a new member to our team.



Matt Nykiel

Goodbye Matt

Matt Nykiel joined ICL in 2016 and became part of a team of conservation associates who monitor and protect public lands, clean air and clean water across the state of Idaho. Based in Sandpoint, he watchdogged pollution in North Idaho. And, as a licensed attorney, Matt ensured that polluters were held accountable to federal and state environmental laws. Over the summer, he followed his partner to Colorado. His calm demeanor and sly humor will be missed as he seeks his next adventure. Thank you Matt for your passion and dedication to protecting Idaho's special places.



Emerald Lafortune

Goodbye Emerald

As ICL's Campaign Outreach Assistant, Emerald LaFortune came on board last year to organize, empower and mobilize supporters to take action to bring back Idaho's wild steelhead and salmon. With her extensive experience as a steelhead angler and active whitewater and fly fishing guide on the Middle Fork, Main and Lower Salmon River as well as the Hells Canyon section of the Snake, ICL benefited from her invaluable, down-to-earth background and perspective. Thank you Emerald for all your work to save Idaho's salmon and steelhead from extinction.



Haley Robinson

Goodbye (sort of) Haley

Haley Robinson spent her three years at ICL contributing her marketing, writing and editing skills to both the development and external relations teams. Her experience and guidance directly led to ICL's recent focus on media relations and external communications. At ICL, she managed the membership program, a large part of ICL's fundraising efforts. She was also involved in all aspects of communications both externally and internally and was an expert in understanding how to reach people, learning their stories, and telling them to a wider audience. She joined a Boise public affairs group but continues to work part-time with ICL to facilitate its leadership program, Emerging Leaders for Idaho's Environment (ELIE). Thank you Haley and we're glad you're still part of ICL.



Photo Courtesy of Brooke Bonner

Welcome Brooke

In September, ICL welcomed Brooke Bonner to serve as our Grants Manager. She brings more than 20 years of nonprofit experience, ranging from board roles to staff fundraising, marketing, and management positions. Brooke grew up in the Wood River Valley, where she forged a permanent love of Idaho's mountains, rivers, and wide expanses of crisp, clean sky. After a brief stint on the East Coast getting her bachelor's degree from Princeton University, Brooke returned to Idaho. We are excited to welcome to our team this long-time ICL supporter who enjoys river rafting on her cataraft with her hubby and two dogs.



Photo Courtesy of Josh Schreiter

Thank you Josh

ICL was fortunate to have Josh Schreiter join us to help out our Public Lands team. Josh interned at ICL from August to mid-October as an Andrus Scholar with Boise State University's Andrus Center for Public Policy. He is a Boise native and currently a junior in Boise State's geoscience program studying hydrology. After his undergraduate degree, Josh plans on continuing his education. While he's not sure which path he'll take, he knows he wants to continue working on issues related to public lands. Thank you Josh for all your work at ICL, particularly on Midas Gold's Stibnite Project.



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