



IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

2020 Annual Report



Sawtooths / Avery Shawler Photo

FEATURING
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Overcoming Challenges Together



Glenn Oakley Photo

Justin Hayes

I don't think I'm going out on a limb by saying 2020 was a challenging year for many of us (for obvious reasons), but it was also a year filled with significant victories for conservation in Idaho.

COVID-19 starkly reminded all of us that Idaho's outdoors and special places are essential for our mental and physical health. This year, I've been fortunate to get out with family and loved ones into the Owyhee Wilderness, Payette River, South Fork of the Snake, and the Sawtooths. People from far

and wide also visited these special Idaho places to seek solace in the outdoors and a safe recreational escape.

While COVID kept us from gathering together, it did not keep us from reaching out and engaging ICL's grassroots. Hundreds stood up for Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead during meetings of Gov. Little's salmon workgroup. And thousands submitted their opposition to Midas Gold's Stibnite project, which threatens public lands and fish and wildlife habitat near McCall and the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Many also tuned in to speak virtually to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to advocate for meaningful ways to combat climate change, including a quicker transition to 100% clean energy for our state.

Our collective voices matter. ICL's success depends on our ability to evolve and adjust to the pressures and changes in our state, our region, and nationally with a laserlike-focus on protecting Idaho's environment. And we are most effective when we bring together diverse partners, organizations, and communities to accomplish our shared goals.

Together, we defended wild areas and wildlife and helped pass national legislation to fund habitat restoration and protect public access to public lands. We pushed forward efforts to tackle polluted runoff and restore water quality in order to make the Snake River fishable and swimmable once again. Our work helped shut down another coal-fired power plant, created new investments in energy efficiency for businesses and homes here in Idaho, and we defended the right of all Idahoans to be part of the climate change solution with their investment in rooftop solar. Together, with conservation and Tribal partners we have brought new attention to the plight of Idaho's salmon and steelhead, and built new momentum for removing the dams that are killing them while pushing for investment in needed infrastructure to make communities whole.

2020 gave us plenty of reasons to be thankful that we live in such a beautiful state with people who support and want to protect Idaho's air, water, public lands, and fish and wildlife. This report gives you, our supporters, an annual review of the work that we — you, the staff, and board of the Idaho Conservation League — did together.

For Idaho,



Justin Hayes

Executive Director

jhayes@idahoconservation.org

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Challenges and Opportunities

“I’m beginning to think ‘Hindsight is 2020’ was some kind of message from a future time traveler that we all misunderstood.” — Anonymous

Whoa, what a year that was. As we all learned to deal with COVID-19 and the many other challenges thrown at us by 2020, Idaho Conservation League staff and board continued to move forward.



Lori Gibson Banducci

The ICL board’s primary responsibilities include:

Determine ICL’s mission and strategy

Oversee the affairs and business of ICL

Authorize ICL’s annual budget and financial dealings

Guide the programs of ICL

As you can see from the annual report’s financial information, ICL is in solid shape and taking steps to weather whatever financial storms might await us. That is the result of solid staff management combined with board oversight and, most importantly, the continued generosity and support from all of you.

Our board shares a passion and commitment to ICL’s mission. Of the 19 members: six live in Boise, five in the Wood River Valley, three in North Idaho, three in eastern Idaho, one in Caldwell, and one from McCall. The board is almost evenly split, with nine women and 10 men.

Board members also bring an incredible depth and breadth of knowledge and experience — in all sectors, including for-profit business, government, and not-for-profit. The board is drawn from a diverse set of professions — environmental scientists, attorneys, astronomers, doctors, forestry professionals, former government officials, academia, river guides, small business owners, wildlife experts, and private sector executives.

2020 saw the board move from in-person to virtual meetings for board and committee members. While this shift lacked opportunities for personal connection in the same room, it did allow for more board members to participate in more meetings and discussions throughout the year. Board committees include Conservation; Development; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice; External Relations; Finance and Administration; and Governance. Committees meet monthly and several board members volunteer on more than one committee. Together, with ICL staff, these committees oversee the affairs and programs of the nonprofit.

In 2020, board members also actively engaged in shaping ICL’s scientific analysis/comments on the latest Midas Gold Stibnite mine proposal, offered financial insight into the Bonneville Power Administration’s challenges and how that might impact the restoration of wild salmon and steelhead runs in Idaho, and guided ICL and its staff on the best options to deal with COVID-19 and many other issues.

Who knows what challenges ICL will face in 2021? But rest assured that with your continued support the staff and the board of ICL are ready to meet any future challenges head-on.



Lori Gibson Banducci

Chair

Idaho Conservation League Board of Directors

ICL's Legacy of Success Moves Forward

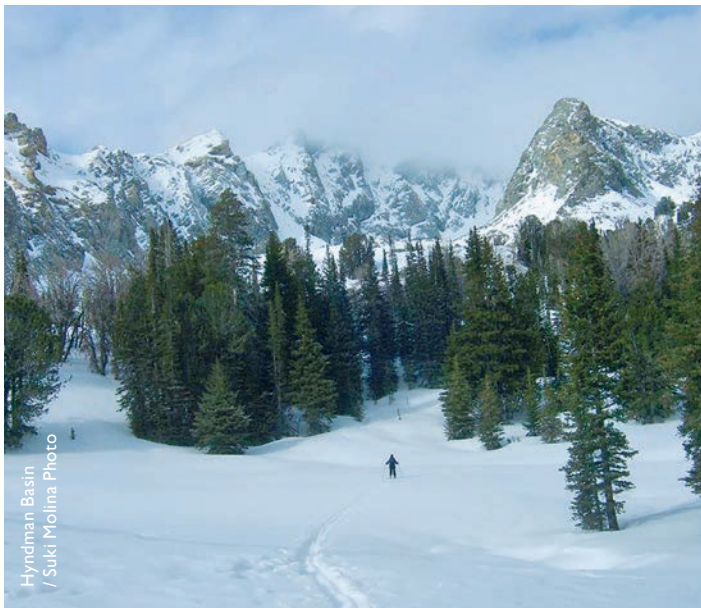
Glenn Oakley Photo



Idaho Conservation League staff take seriously our mission to create a conservation community and pragmatic, enduring solutions that protect and restore the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the land and wildlife you love.

Marie Callaway Kellner We inherited a rich legacy of successes from year's past and I often compare our work to running a marathon. Our successes this year would not have happened without those who came before us, blazed a trail, and set the pace. And we understand that one aspect of our work is preparing those who come after us to continue running this marathon to carry our mission forward and attain future successes in protecting and restoring the places we love.

This past year, in addition to our conservation successes, we implemented our new strategic plan to provide a more focused approach to our work and allow us to channel our resources for the present and future. We organize the majority of what we do around four primary campaigns: making Idaho carbon neutral, cleaning up the Snake River, ensuring landscape-level protection of public lands in Idaho, and restoring wild salmon and steelhead.



Hyndman Basin / Suki Molina Photo

Making Idaho Carbon Neutral

Our climate campaign strategically engages in opportunities to transition to clean energy and electrified transportation, and we are seeing measurable and meaningful change for now and the future.

ICL has strategically advocated for clean energy and energy conservation by engaging with Idaho's public utility regulators. When we started, Idaho Power used coal for more than 40% of its electricity. In October, Idaho Power closed its Boardman coal-fired power plant in Oregon, adding to ICL's legacy of success in halting the construction of similar plants in Idaho in the 1970s and 2000s. Idaho Power also exited its coal-fired Valmy Unit 1 in Nevada last year and plans to divest from Unit 2 by 2022, with more units closing by 2026 and the remainder by 2030. We're also hard at work on similar exits for Idaho utilities in Montana and Wyoming.

Idaho utilities are making these decisions because they make financial sense, and ICL is helping them to see clean energy as their future. We added a climate analyst to our ranks this past year, who brings technical expertise to underscore the case for clean energy. We are also expanding our advocacy into the agricultural sector, where methane capture and carbon sequestration provides a great opportunity to curb Idaho's contributions to a warming climate.



Interior of Boardman Coal Plant / Wikipedia photo

Cleaning Up the Snake River Across Southern Idaho

Another primary focus is restoring the Snake River in southern Idaho to the fishable and swimmable river it once was. But we can't do this on our own. That's why, over the last year, ICL has built and broadened relevant relationships, and dug deeper into why a river that begins as a world renowned trout stream in eastern Idaho becomes a health hazard by the time it flows into Brownlee Reservoir on our western border.

ICL staff participated in the mid-Snake River Water Advisory Group, charged with setting water quality standards to meet the needs of the people, communities and others that rely on the Snake River. After a century of prioritizing water quantity, it's a significant leap forward for Idaho.

ICL also issued its second annual groundwater report on the health of the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer. The aquifer provides drinking water to more than 300,000 Idahoans, yet contains dangerous levels of nitrogen in many areas. We know this is in great part due to too much fertilizer applied to crops across the Snake Plain and the rapid growth of Idaho's dairy industry, resulting in more cow manure than can reasonably be put to use.

This report is a catalyst for working with government agencies on water quality research and regulation, and regional industries. Ultimately, ICL recognizes that restoring the Snake River will take local, statewide and national initiatives supported by people and private industry. And we're able to prioritize and

pursue such a long-term goal because of consistent and long-term member support.

Throughout Idaho, ICL monitors and reports on communities who violate their Clean Water Act permits for sewage treatment. Our fourth annual Wastewater Treatment Plant report provides an impetus for communities to clean up their act. Many who have violated their permits in prior years have reached agreements mandating compliance and improving water quality all over the state. We're pleased to report that six facilities improved their compliance during the reporting period and now have zero violations.

Speaking of the Clean Water Act, ICL is challenging the Trump administration's evisceration of one of the Act's key rules on waters of the United States. Science should guide how water is managed, and our lawsuit says so. We are hopeful that the new administration will address this, but if it doesn't, we'll press on.



Snake River Blue Heart Springs
Hannah Smay Photo



Snake River Dairy, John French
Ecoflight Photo



Ensuring Landscape-Level Protection of Public Lands

ICL was founded in part to be a voice for public lands, and this year gave us plenty of opportunities to celebrate. A high note was passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, a rare example of bipartisan support championed by Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson. The GAOA funds a Land and Water Conservation Fund that supports our nationwide legacy of high quality outdoor recreation and conservation areas. Every state benefits from the LWCF, yet its funding has been perpetually uncertain. Until now.

2020 also was an active year for us as we worked to protect wild places from imprudent mining proposals. ICL won in federal court, requiring mining company Otis Gold to go back to the drawing board in its environmental review of exploration related to a proposed open-pit, cyanide heap leach gold mine in eastern Idaho. ICL also helped secure limits on Australian mining company Newcrest Resources' proposed gold mining exploration in the headwaters of southern Idaho's Jarbidge-Bruneau river system.

ICL and its allies continued to work against U.S. Forest Service approval of Midas Gold's proposed Stibnite project in the headwaters of the South Fork Salmon River. We and our partners thoroughly analyzed the draft environmental study and concluded that the project would endanger public health and the area's salmon. Working together, we generated thousands of public comments against the project. Knowing that this fight will require long-term engagement, we are gearing up our efforts accordingly.

Restoring Idaho's Wild Salmon and Steelhead

ICL worked at all levels in our effort to restore Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead to healthy, abundant and harvestable numbers. At the local level, we engaged rural electrical cooperatives on how the four lower Snake River dams impede fish recovery and threaten energy affordability. At the state level, we worked collaboratively with other stakeholders on the Idaho Governor's salmon workgroup to develop policy recommendations to Gov. Little. And at the federal level, we engaged with



Idaho's congressional delegation in D.C on possible solutions. ICL staff spent 2020 working on ways to restore these fish and make people and communities whole.

As the year ended so too does Gov. Little's salmon workgroup, on which ICL's Executive Director Justin Hayes sits. A group of diverse stakeholders representing everyone from grain growers and the Port of Lewiston to outfitters and guides, Tribes and more, the workgroup met for nearly two years, and forwarded its recommendations to Gov. Little.

ICL used this opportunity to learn about the needs and concerns of other stakeholders, and to educate others about the needs of the fish. The group's recommendations, if implemented, are a meaningful accomplishment with actions the State and Idahoans can take to help our fish, but it is not a recovery plan. The charge of the workgroup was to find "consensus recommendations" and the group could not find consensus on dam removal. The science is clear, in order to restore endangered salmon and steelhead to abundance, we need to remove the lower four Snake River dams in Washington state, which requires action at the regional and federal level.

Idaho's fish remain on the edge of extinction, and the year ahead will find ICL staff tirelessly working on their behalf. From organizing grassroots support to advocating at the highest levels of government, we won't give up.

Thank You

At ICL, we'll continue running this marathon for conservation, knowing that our past successes and those I've highlighted from this past year, depend on others moving forward to ensure that future generations are able to breathe clean air, drink clean water, and take solace in the land and wildlife we all love so much in Idaho. All of us at ICL are committed to continuing the hard and long-term work of ICL's mission and with you, our supporters and members, we know that we'll have the support we need to continue creating a conservation community and pragmatic, enduring solutions to protect and restore what makes Idaho such a special place.



Marie Callaway Kellner

Conservation Program Director
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Together We Are Succeeding for Idaho

Glenn Oakley Photo



Jonathan Oppenheimer

In 2020, ICL organized its External Relations team to connect our critical campaign work to our dedicated members and supporters by aligning and expanding our communications, engagement and government relations efforts.

The timing could not have been better.

With all the challenges that came at us in 2020, finding new ways to connect with our supporters was a necessity. From hosting our annual Wild Idaho! conference online to empowering Climate Heroes virtually in support of clean energy to sharing stories via the media and revamping our website, 2020 demonstrated that ICL's creative, energetic and committed staff could rise to meet these challenges head-on.

But the real reason we continue to be successful is because of you. The ongoing commitment from our members allows us to engage with Idahoans across the state to protect our water, air, wildlife and wildlands.

From your house to the Statehouse, the courthouse, and the White House, ICL's collective voice continued to be heard. We may not have been able to gather in usual ways, but we connected using digital platforms to protect Idaho's environment. And we did it successfully.

Eight-year-olds and eighty-year-olds spoke up for ensuring a future full of abundant salmon in Idaho. Hundreds of families asked our decision-makers to support Idaho's carbon-free future. Thousands took action in opposition to Midas Gold's Stibnite mine, hundreds rose up to oppose a misguided land exchange proposal that threatens Payette Lake. During 2020, tens of thousands of Idahoans opened their morning papers to read about what ICL is doing to protect our environment.

We connected directly with people through social

media, our website, calls to take action, and virtual advocacy even when we could not engage with them in the same room. And we'll continue to use these tools to spread our message far and wide and to engage those who may be distant geographically but with us in support.

From the Clearwater to the Caribou-Targhee, from Sandpoint to Swan Valley, ICL is there because you care.

As we move forward into a new year, we celebrate our record of successes in 2020 and know we can do even more as 2021 dawns. We're excited to announce changes that will help us connect with even more supporters and advocates. We're adding new capacity in the External Relations team to find even more innovative ways to communicate, engage and activate. We've grown from a team of five to eight, and are investing in new tools to increase our reach and effectiveness. We have stayed focused on ICL's goals, and found new ways to reach new audiences, including underrepresented communities, to raise our collective voices to protect our air, water, wildlife and public lands.

Working together with you, we look forward to another year of success and remain committed to working with partners across the state to protect the air you breathe, the water you drink and the lands you love!



Jonathan Oppenheimer

External Relations Director

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Wilderness Clean Up
Bruce Becker Photo

Our Donors

A special thank you to all ICL members and supporters! Listed below are those who donated \$250 or more, either through financial or in-kind support between October 1, 2019, and September 30, 2020.

*Members of ICL's Advocates for Idaho monthly giving club who made gifts totaling \$250 or more.

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Kim & Tom Gattiker *

Stacy Gebhards

Suzanne Gerlits

GiveGab

Barry Glanzer

Steve & Roxanne Goodrich

Corey Graham *

Cynn timer & Wayne Griffin

Jacqueline Groves

Harry Guelzow

David Gullion & Linda
Hummel

The Gullion-Hummel
Charitable Trust

Amy Haak *

Carol & Stanley Hafferman

Rex & Elisabeth Hagans

Kirk & Betsy Hall

Jeanna Harwood *

Antonia & Howard Hedrick

Dr. & Mrs. Richard
Heimsch *

Tom Henderson

Nancy Hirsh

Alene & Douglas Hix

Wendy & Greg Hosman

Douglas Houston & Nancy
Taylor

Denise & Dave Hunt

Hollie Hunter & Stephen
Gardner

Terry Iddins *

Anne Jeffery & Jack Sept

Craig D. Jensen

Harold & Ann Marie Jones

John & Jan Kee *

Virginia Kelly *

Randy & Karis Kemp

Larry & LaDawn Kidd

Herbert & Eunice Klein

Claudia Klokke

Barbara Knudson & James
Fields

George Booth & Christina
Knutson

Deb & Kevin Kraal

Bob Kresge & Maggie
Hefner

Augusta, Erica & Drew
Laidlaw

Bob Lamm

John & Wendy Lawrence

Kevin Learned
& Amy Stahl *

Paul Leclerc

Becki Legg

Madonna Lengerich *

Dan Lenihan *

Frank & Linda Leone *

Pam & Peter Leschak

Steven & Linda Lester *

Robert Leth & Laura
Wilson

Ed & Joyce Lider *

Bert Lindler

Melinda Lindsey

Kristin Linzmeyer

Don & Cecelia Lojek

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Donhowe *

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& Brady Lux

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Marilynne Manguba
& Tom Larson *

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Johnson

Ursula Mardis *

Kevin Marsh

Bill & Susan Mauk

Kathleen McCarter *

LouAnn McCune *

Scott McDougall

Tom & Patty McGrath

Ben McGreevy *

Steve & Julie Meyer

James F. Miller *

Dave & Sheila Mills

Nels Mitchell & Mary
Kimmel

Margot Molloy *

Stephen Montamat

Bill Moore

Laura & Erin Moore *

Aimee & Greg Moran

Mike Morey

Mark & Marla Morgan

Suzanne & Glenn Mosher

Steve Mullin & Carol
Holmes

Bill & Colleen Mullins

Charles and Anne Murphy
Memorial Fund

K.C. & Diane Murphy

Flying M Coffee

Robert Myers

Virginia B. Neil

Janet Nelson *

Nancy & David Nelson

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Advised Fund

Elizabeth & Steve Neuder
 Teri Norell
 & Chuck Roth *
 Betsy Olberding & Stanley
 Hall
 One4All Charitable Fund
 Jeannie Owens
 Matthew Park *
 Sarah & Dean Park
 Bill Parks & Donna Holmes
 Parks
 Laird & Shawna Parry *
 Mallory & Devin Parsons
 The Perlman Family
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 Alex Piet *
 David & Melissa Pinney
 Theresa Potts *
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 Douglas Proctor
 Picabo Livestock Co., Inc.
 Daniel Quattrone
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 Kevin Reagan
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 Terry Ring, Silver Creek
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 Robinson *
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 Kirsten Severud *
 Eric Shaver
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 Shea
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 Jim Van Ark & Patricia
 Weber
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 Dorothy & Doug Vanerka
 Douglas and Dorothy
 Vanerka Charitable Trust
 Anne Veigel
 Robert Vestal & Jyl Hoyt *
 Joseph Wakefield *
 Steve Wall
 Karen & William Ward *
 John Warkins & Esther
 Mulnick
 Water Bear Bar
 Nathan Welch *
 John & Nancy Werdel
 Kathleen Whitson
 Linda Wiemann *
 Andy Wilper & Sarah
 Hollopeter
 Jim & Caroline Wood
 Ian & Leigh Woodruff *
 Derek & Karen Wright
 Mitch & Leslie Wyss
 Anthony Yates
 Laurel York Odell & Kelly
 Odell *

Joan & William Yost
 Patricia G. Young
 Mark & Erin Zaleski *
 Joe Zimmer

In Memoriam

The following beloved ICL members passed on this year. ICL honors their passion for Idaho. This listing is complete to the best of our knowledge. We sincerely apologize for any oversights.

Jill Bryson
 Richard Carlson
 Archie Clemins
 Ann Finley
 Katy Flanagan
 John Freemuth
 Janice Gardner
 Mary Grunewald McGown
 Merine Heberger
 Kelly Hove
 John Kahm
 Budd Kehne
 John Keller
 Arlene Kloepfer
 Steve Lockwood
 Harold Lyons
 Brian Marcus
 William Mattox
 Kathryn Merriam
 Herb Meyer
 Randall Miller
 Jeanette Miller
 Sam Monger
 Maxine Roberts
 Arthur Shultz
 Evelyn Smith
 Bob Voris
 Bruce Wendle

Join ICL's Legacy Club

Glenn Oakley Photo



Jenny Estes

By including the Idaho Conservation League in your planned giving, you offer a lasting investment in Idaho. Legacy gifts ensure that ICL will be here, protecting Idaho's environment for generations to come. Consider something simple, like including ICL in your will. We can provide you with language, or you can find it on our website at www.idahoconservation.org/legacygifts. You can choose to be acknowledged in our Legacy Club, or keep your gift anonymous.

There are also other ways to include ICL in your planned giving, like trusts, gift annuities, bequests and more. If you have complex questions about how to include ICL in your planned giving, we are happy to connect you with a professional.

For more information, contact me at (208) 345-6933 x 117, or jestes@idahoconservation.org. If you decide to include ICL in your planned giving, I hope you will let me know. These types of gifts are incredibly special and meaningful. They remind us that there is great hope for Idaho's future.



Jenny Estes

Development Director

jestes@idahoconservation.org



Legacy Club

ICL's Legacy Club members have made provisions to support ICL after their passing.

Anonymous (2)
 Eileen Atkisson & Lawrence Blakey
 Judy Baker
 Cynthia Billings
 Larry & Dede Binder
 Alida Bockino
 Ed Cannady
 Bill & Jeanne Cassell
 Bill Clark
 Paul & Heidi Cunningham
 David & Mary Dudley
 Bryan DuFosse
 Joyce Fabre & Craig Randle
 John & Daralene Finnell

Michael Flanagan
 John & Elaine French
 Lori Gibson Banducci
 Susan Gilliland
 Craig Groves
 Amy Haak
 Patrick Haas & Alison Beck Haas
 Mike & Irene Healy
 Dave Heep
 June E. Heilman
 Charles Herrington & Ilene Shell
 Stephani & Paul Hilding
 Antone Holmquist
 Rick Johnson & Roberta Crockett

James J. Johnston
 Polly & Don King
 Trish Klahr & Lee Melly
 Gregg Lewis
 Tracy L'Herisson
 Gregory & Ann Lyle
 David Marshall
 Wayne Melquist
 Walter Minnick & A.K. Lienhart Minnick
 Steve Mitchell & Louisa Moats
 Suki & Bill Molina
 Tom & Carol Mooney
 Greg & Aimee Moran
 Bill & Colleen Mullins

Carl H. & E. Jane Nellis
 Jerry Nielsen
 Steve Lockwood & Molly O'Reilly
 Rebecca Patton & Tom Goodrich
 Gary Paul
 Tom Pomeroy
 Jim Rice
 Julia & Alan Richardson
 Harriet Shaklee
 Kim Skyelander
 Diana & Walt Sledzieski
 Bob Swandby
 Robert Vestal & Jyl Hoyt
 Dr. Kenneth & Virginia Wright

The Business of ICL

Glenn Oakley Photo



Julia Rundberg

We began the fiscal year updating budget and accounting processes, fundraising and communications tools, and human resources practices to ensure our business operations could support the aggressive program goals outlined in our strategic plan. We did not have “able to withstand a pandemic” as a measurement of success. Fortunately, ICL leaders over the years understood that success would be most likely if the organization was lean but strong, able to balance day to day needs and long term operational goals. They had the foresight to establish an endowment, and require a careful and consistent approach to financial management. That foundation, along with ongoing support from members, allowed ICL to be resilient, adapt to challenges, and close the fiscal year in a strong financial position. ICL met the operating budget goal of just over \$2.14 million. In addition, donors contributed \$224,853 to the endowment.



Julia Rundberg

Director of Finance and Administration
 jrundberg@idahoconservation.org

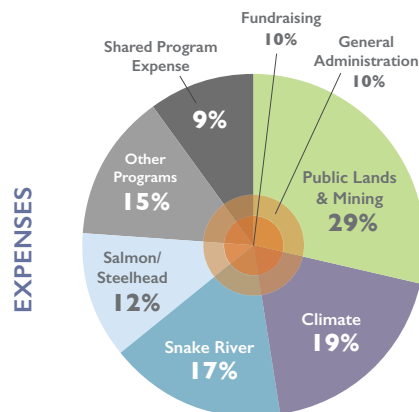
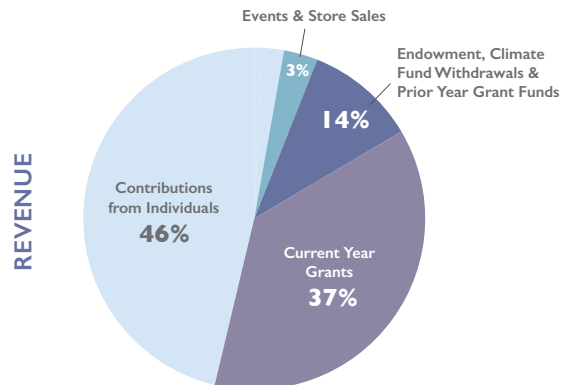
Statement of Activity (for the year ending Sept. 30)

REVENUE AND OTHER SUPPORT

Direct Contributions	\$993,245
Non-Government Grants	\$798,789
Program Sales & Fees	\$18,435
Other Revenue	\$2,818
Special Events	\$47,710
<hr/>	
Endowment, Climate Fund Withdrawals & Prior Year Grant Funds	\$285,000
<hr/>	
Total Operating Funds	\$2,145,997

EXPENSES

Public Lands	\$491,413
Climate	\$316,369
Snake River	\$290,580
Salmon/Steelhead	\$207,272
Other Program Work	\$254,805
Shared Program Expense	\$149,327
<hr/>	
Total Program Expense	\$1,560,439
General Administration	\$223,990
Fundraising	\$207,071
<hr/>	
Total Expense	\$2,140,827



NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- The Idaho Conservation League is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, and uses accrual basis accounting.
- Multi-year grants are counted as income the date they are awarded.
- Audited financial statements, prepared by Harris & Co., P.A., are available on our website.

If you have questions or comments about finances, call Julia Rundberg, director of finance and administration, 208.345.6933 x 118



IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

208.345.6933
PO Box 844
Boise, ID 83701

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Happy New Year!

From all of us at the Idaho Conservation League, we wish you a happy 2021!
Thank you for your continued support as we all work together to protect the
clean water, clean air and special places that make Idaho, Idaho.

Thank you for standing with us and may your new year bring you many
beautiful adventures in wild Idaho.