



IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

The Idaho Conservationist

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Justin Hayes

The Seasons Turn

Autumn is my favorite season. Though maybe it is not necessary to pick a favorite, when each season in Idaho has its own special offerings. But the changes that happen in the fall are wonderful, and welcome after the heat of summer.

Wildfires, more intense and lasting longer because of climate change, are dying out and the air is clear. The yellow and orange licks of flame have been replaced by golden and red bursts of fall colors. Aspen are spectacular. The larch are turning yellow. In the high country, the moon is now surrounded with a halo of light reflecting off of ice crystals in the sky.

Even before fall was seen on the landscape, sockeye salmon, returning from the ocean to spawn in wild Idaho, brought a flash of red to the Salmon River. Glorious. As is their way, salmon die after spawning. Their final gift to Idaho is to feed the river, and creatures large and small, with the nutrients that they amassed during their lives. Not all that different from the decay of leaves enriching the soil. The cycle of life and death continues.

The mountain tops have seen their first dusting of snow, and before you know it, winter will be here. Bears will be hibernating and wolverines denning in deep snow, a snow pack needed for healthy rivers and lakes, the land, and people alike.

Together, our work touches all of these things – the waters of our state, fish and wildlife, healthy and dynamic landscapes. And together, we are working all across Idaho to protect and restore wild Idaho and to tackle climate change, ensuring these cycles continue as they have since time immemorial. Your support makes this all possible. Thank you.

Justin Hayes

Executive Director

jhayes@idahoconservation.org



Protecting Idaho's Wildlife Heritage



Rebecca Patton

“Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man.” - Former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall

Stewart Udall, who played a key role in enacting many of our most precious environmental laws, got it right. This perspective has been fundamental to ICL's vision as we come into our 50th year of working to protect Idaho's air, water, land, and wildlife. And now, the “wildlife” part of our work is getting a big boost.

While ICL has long engaged in wildlife issues, the pressures of growth, recreation, habitat fragmentation, and climate change are making it harder for Idaho's wildlife to thrive. Recognizing this, last year ICL sponsored a feasibility study to evaluate opportunities to make a bigger difference for wildlife, especially non-game species that get very little attention from our state agencies. The study framed an essential question: “If ICL isn't advocating for Idaho's wildlife, then who is? If ICL isn't going to do it now, will it be too late to act later?”

In the interviews conducted as part of the study we heard that Idaho agencies, Tribes, sporting groups, conservation partners, and ICL members all want ICL to take on a stronger advocacy role for wildlife.

After concluding that ICL can indeed make a big difference, the board approved establishment of a new program dedicated to Idaho's wildlife.

You – our members and supporters – have consistently been a strong voice for wildlife – thank you! It turns out that we're not alone in caring about this issue – a recent survey revealed an overwhelming majority of Idahoans (91 percent) consider the state's “abundant wildlife an important reason to live in Idaho.” ICL's wildlife program will bring greater collective voice to this common interest and concern, working to improve wildlife policies and funding.

Idaho has almost all of the species that were present 200 years ago – let's keep it that way!

Rebecca Patton

Chair

Idaho Conservation League Board of Directors



New Advocacy for Idaho's Wildlife

The Idaho Conservation League has been advocating for the Gem State's lands, waters, and air for nearly 50 years. In this time the scientific community has learned much about principles of ecosystem health and biodiversity. With enhanced data analysis, more precise population estimates, and the advent of remote sensing, we know more about wildlife than ever before. And every sign is flashing big, red warning lights – a recent World Wildlife Fund study found a 69 percent average decline in wildlife populations worldwide over the past 50 years.

Better scientific understanding has led to increased awareness around the connection between declining wildlife diversity, degraded habitat, and climate change. Also hugely important to understanding declining biodiversity is looking critically at how the state and federal governments manage wildlife. It is with keen awareness of the importance of how wildlife is managed that ICL has launched a program dedicated to protecting and restoring the full breadth of Idaho's wildlife.

Our expanded wildlife work builds on ICL's current programs and leverages the reputation that our historic conservation successes have garnered over the years. This effort takes a holistic approach, integrating aspects of our ongoing public lands and climate campaigns and also increasing our focus on the actions and policies that agencies undertake that affect wildlife populations.

When trying to understand politics, the old adage advises you to "follow the money." When assessing how wildlife are managed, you'd be wise to do the same.

Our country's traditional wildlife funding mechanisms, the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts, generate revenue through taxes on sales of hunting, fishing, and other sporting equipment. Since the funding is coming largely from hunting and fishing related expenses, the emphasis of programs that receive this funding has been largely directed to game species. While this has been important to address the needs of game animals, it fails to adequately fund non-game species.

The result has been that management agencies prioritize game species over non-game species. And, since traditional game species comprise only two percent of North American wildlife species, this means that the vast majority of wildlife species do not receive the funding and management priority that they need to thrive.

We want to change this.

Idaho has a rich hunting heritage and we do not see increased advocacy for non-game species as being in conflict with hunting or hunters. Indeed, ICL currently works well with many of the traditional hunting advocacy groups in Idaho. They are powerful advocates for their issues and have played important roles protecting and restoring habitat, which of course is important for both game and non-game species.



American pika are especially vulnerable to effects of climate change, as warmer temperatures result in loss of habitat. Bruce Becker photo.



Mountain goat kid in the Scotchman Peaks. Brad Smith photo.

But, in order to protect the full complement of wildlife in Idaho, to protect all of Idaho's biodiversity, we need to grow stronger advocacy for non-game species. We need to create and help direct funding to non-game species and ensure agencies do work in support of non-game species and the role that they play in the wild.

The timing is right to expand non-game work in Idaho and there is an excellent opportunity to expand wildlife funding. This is important because a strategy built on deprioritizing game funding and shifting it to non-game would likely meet a lot of resistance in Idaho.

Congress is currently considering the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA). This bill would provide \$1.4 billion annually for at-risk species. For Idaho, this would mean that our state would receive \$15-18 million annually to carry out Idaho's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), developed by IDFG with stakeholder input.

In preparation, ICL has been engaged with IDFG's efforts to draft a new SWAP, so that Idaho is ready to receive this funding. Our priority here is to ensure that the state plan prioritizes these funds for actions to support non-game species.

The chances are pretty good that this important bill will eventually pass, as RAWA has broad bipartisan congressional support and also broad public support. Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson is a strong cosponsor, but our Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch have yet to declare a position on the legislation.

New approaches, both at ICL and at the federal level, hold the promise to transform conventional thinking about how to tackle the threats to North American wildlife. New and better information about the important, interconnected roles that a huge diversity of species play in landscapes puts new emphasis on protecting and advocating for all species.

We know that you value Idaho's wildlife — in all their shapes and sizes. In the weeks and months ahead, we look forward to your engagement with our new wildlife program.

Together, we will ensure that Idaho wildlife management is governed by science, not politics.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to sign up for periodic updates about our wildlife work, and to become a grassroots advocate for Idaho wildlife.



Jeff Abrams
Wildlife Program Associate
jabrams@idahoconservation.org

Justin Hayes
Executive Director
jhayes@idahoconservation.org

Taking Stock: Steps for Salmon

After a busy spring and summer of young salmon leaving Idaho and adults coming home, fall is a time for taking stock. Biologists for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes will survey Pettit Lake, high in Idaho's Sawtooth mountains, to count sockeye salmon. These fish traveled 900 miles and climbed 7,000 feet through hot, inhospitable waters to return to their ancestral home and build their nests, called "redds." The Tribes survey these redds to calculate how many fish were successful in making the epic journey home to foster a new generation. The number of fish is miniscule compared to historical abundance – just 46 wild sockeye made it back to Idaho this year, compared to an estimated 150,000 that once came back annually.

Still, without nearly 30 years of work by the Tribes and the State of Idaho, these fish would be extinct. These efforts have forestalled extinction and kept the legacy of wild sockeye alive in Idaho, but to truly recover them, a change further downstream is needed.

Thankfully, the last months have brought promising signs that change is coming.

The Murray-Inslee Process Concludes

Over the course of nine months, Washington

Senator Patty Murray and Governor Jay Inslee undertook an evaluation of the services provided by four dams on the lower Snake River. They considered the devastating effects of these dams on fish, the resulting harms to Northwest Tribes and other communities, and how the services provided by these dams could be replaced. In August, they released a final report, with recommendations on how to move forward.

These recommendations are strong. Murray and Inslee dedicated themselves to replacing everything the dams provide so that breaching the dams and river restoration can be pursued in the future. They concluded that extinction of salmon is "categorically unacceptable" and that breaching the dams would be the most beneficial action possible for Snake River salmon. In laying out next steps, Murray and Inslee prescribed a program to replace all the benefits provided by the dams, and rejected the notion that removing the dams means compromising on the region's goals for reducing carbon emissions.

What's needed now are meaningful next steps to invest in infrastructure that replaces the dams' services. We need renewable energy generation that serves the region's needs into the future. We need a transportation system for grain that works for growers and shippers. Most of all, we need these things on a timescale that works for fish.



The Biden-Harris Administration Commitments

Over the course of 20 years, states, Tribes, conservation groups, and fishing organizations have been waging a legal battle over dam operations in the region. ICL, Tribes, and others argue that dam operations are illegally jeopardizing Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead, and that the only way to resolve the issue is to breach four dams on the lower Snake River. Historically, federal agencies have disagreed, but this Administration has shown its willingness to recognize that the current system is simply not working.

Months ago, the White House Council on Environmental Quality opened the door to an alternative approach, stating, "We cannot continue business as usual." Since then, agencies have completed dozens of listening sessions with Northwest Tribes and other groups to understand their needs and desire for fundamental change. The Administration's efforts led to a temporary pause in litigation, allowing dialogue focused on real, long-term solutions to save our wild salmon and steelhead.

As part of this new approach, the National Marine Fisheries Service, which manages the recovery of Idaho's salmon and steelhead, evaluated what actions are needed to restore these fish to abundance. Using goals agreed

to by the whole region – utilities and agriculture groups included – and over 20 years of scientific analysis, the agency concluded that, "For Snake River stocks, the centerpiece action is restoring the lower Snake River via dam breaching." The Administration has agreed that in order to meet goals for recovery, dam breaching will need to be the foundation of a broad suite of actions.

In the coming months, we expect decisions from the Administration on how to adequately fund fish recovery programs in the near term to forestall extinction, and how to build energy and transportation infrastructure that will replace the lower Snake River dams. We also expect Sen. Murray, Gov. Inslee, and other Northwest elected officials to do their part.

Finally, we look forward to continued leadership from Idaho's Rep. Mike Simpson, who remains outspoken in support of dam breaching and making all communities whole. Simpson, whose Columbia Basin Initiative legislative proposal was released nearly 21 months ago, remains an ardent supporter of Idaho's salmon, recently stating, "I believe we can save salmon and protect farmers and all stakeholders without having to pick winners and losers." When we take stock a year from now, we hope we can all count ourselves winners – including Idaho's fish.

Mitch Cutter

Salmon & Steelhead Associate
mcutter@idahoconservation.org



Juvenile steelhead face many threats from predators, dams, and slow-moving reservoirs as they navigate to the ocean. NOAA Fisheries photo.

North Idaho Waterways are Treasures Worth Saving

As one of the longest, warmest autumn seasons in recent memory eases into winter, it's a great time to reflect on ICL's work to protect the precious lakes of North Idaho. When launching the North Idaho Lakes Conservation Program this spring, it was clear that our work was cut out for us if we want to keep swimming in, playing in, and drinking water from these lakes we love. Coeur d' Alene, Pend Oreille, and Priest Lakes are all facing unprecedented threats.

An explosion of growth in recent years is raising environmental concerns. If not planned and managed appropriately, shoreline development can pollute waterways through increased deposits of sediment, fertilizers, herbicides, and sewage. Pollution also stimulates the growth of toxic algae and noxious weeds – making our waters unsafe for recreation.

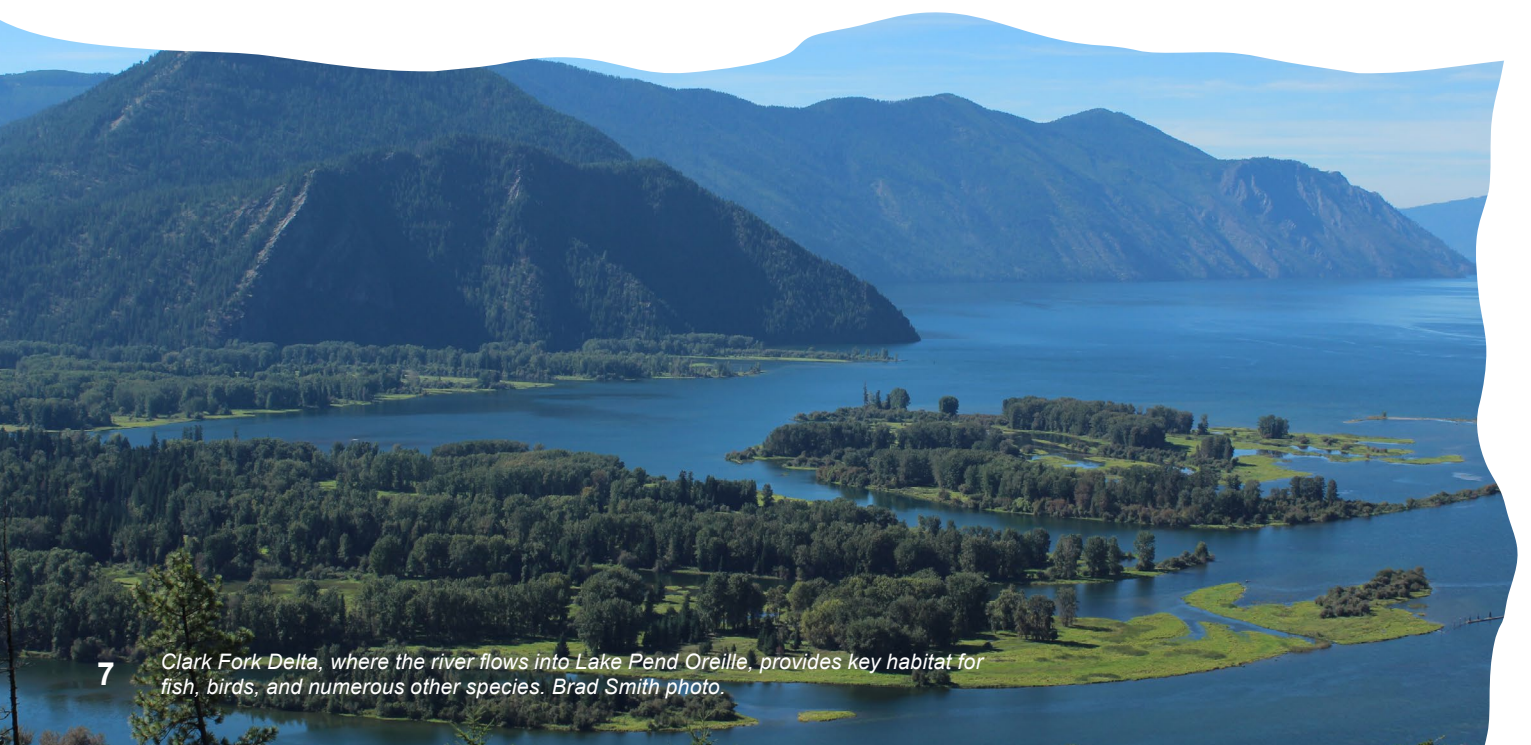
Despite these concerns, Bonner County has approved thousands of new building sites, many of which are along the shorelines of Pend Oreille and Priest Lakes. Proposed waterfront developments at Trestle Creek, Coolin Wetlands,

Camp Bay, and Whiskey Jack are ill-advised and bring increased risk to water quality.

ICL's citizen science-based water quality monitoring program provides critical data about the health of Lake Pend Oreille, and shows us the areas of highest concern. Upon completion of the summer monitoring season, it's abundantly clear that Boyer Slough, which feeds into Kootenai Bay, is one of the most polluted areas. Phosphorus levels in Boyer Slough are thousands of times higher than what is allowed by Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality. This extra phosphorus feeds toxic algae and invasive weeds, both of which are ongoing problems in this waterway – 71 percent of the lake's invasive weeds this summer were found in Kootenai Bay.

If development plans move forward, Boyer Slough would receive sewage from 28 recently approved building lots in the Whiskey Jack community. Those new homes would need to connect to the Kootenai Ponderay Sewer District, which has not met its pollution discharge limits for years.

Kootenai Ponderay Sewer District is not the only sewage plant with problems in North Idaho. Most



plants struggle to keep up with technology and meet growing demands.

ICL is working with the Kootenai Bay Watershed Advisory Group, individual sewer districts, county planning forums, and state and federal agencies to improve development decisions. We're advocating for upgraded sewer systems where they are needed and a state-of-the-art regionalized system for the northern shore of Lake Pend Oreille – protecting North Idaho's waters for current and future generations.

Jennifer Ekstrom

North Idaho Lakes Conservation Associate
 jekstrom@idahoconservation.org



ICL members Don and Sue Helander participate in ICL's water quality monitoring program.

CENTRAL IDAHO

**Wilderness Stewardship
 Leaves a Legacy**

Since its inception more than 50 years ago, the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) has offered users countless recreational, pastoral, and historic experiences. The SNRA's success is in part due to collaborative efforts between land management agencies, nonprofits, and the public to protect this iconic area – efforts that ICL remains engaged in today.

Over the past six years, volunteers with ICL's Wilderness Stewards Program have worked to protect central Idaho wilderness areas like the SNRA. During patrols, volunteers naturalize backcountry campsites, collect pertinent data for land management agencies, engage with trail users about trail etiquette and Leave No Trace Principles, and are offered the opportunity to recreate with purpose.

This year's 65 stewards and their trail companions completed 121 patrols spanning more than 2,224 miles – leaving each mile of public lands better than they found it. The work of our stewards this summer will be seen for years to come, thanks to their efforts to help



ICL Wilderness Steward Gavin Gee and family on patrol in the Sawtooth Wilderness.

plant 10,000 whitebark pine seeds at Railroad Ridge and install signs in the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness. From the trails to the trees to fellow outdoor lovers, our Wilderness Stewards are making a real difference for Idaho's public lands – and we thank them for their dedication to protecting the places we cherish most.

Josh Johnson

Senior Conservation Associate
 jjohnson@idahoconservation.org

NORTHERN IDAHO

Army Corps Revokes Permit For Trestle Creek Marina

Under legal pressure from ICL, the Army Corps of Engineers recently revoked a 2019 permit for the Idaho Club that would have allowed a proposed marina and residential development at the mouth of Trestle Creek on Lake Pend Oreille. The development plans, which have yet to move forward, include more than 100 boat slips, a boat ramp, three boat storage facilities, and five residential units. To carry out these plans, the Idaho Club planned to remove an entire island and portions of another island and peninsula by dredging over 15,000 cubic yards of material.

Trestle Creek accounts for more than half of the annual bull trout spawning in the Pend Oreille Basin. Bull trout are listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The site also provides habitat for bald eagles,

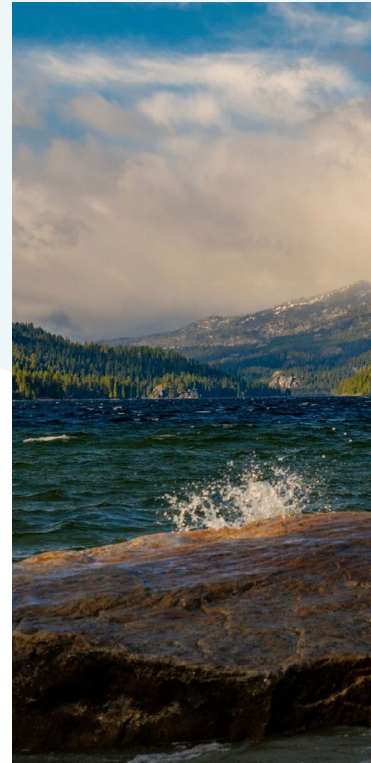
migratory birds, beavers, and kokanee. The project would either eliminate or significantly impact the habitat available to these species on the site.

In a letter addressed to the Idaho Club, the Corps stated that the agency withdrew the permit because of “significant objections...raised in litigation” by ICL and the Center for Biological Diversity. That litigation was filed in August. ICL and the Center will continue to monitor the project and ensure that the Corps and the Idaho Club comply with environmental laws if there is an attempt to renew the permit.

Brad Smith

North Idaho Director

bsmith@idahoconservation.org



SOUTHERN IDAHO

A Toxic History: The Latest on Atlanta Gold

Some may recall that in the early 2000s, the Boise River was threatened by a proposal from Atlanta Gold Corporation to construct an open-pit cyanide heap leach mine near Atlanta, Idaho. After discovering that arsenic was being discharged into the water leaving the site, ICL challenged Atlanta Gold in court. The mine proposal was withdrawn and Atlanta Gold had to build a water treatment facility. In the last two years, arsenic levels in the discharged water (which eventually flows into the Boise River) increased to 12,000 percent of allowable levels.

This past summer, out of concern, ICL and the U.S. Forest Service took part in a site visit to the mine tunnel and the water treatment plant. The visit confirmed the wastewater treatment plant is not operating as designed

nor is it up to standards, leading ICL to formally register our concerns with the Forest Service and urge them to require Atlanta Gold to repair and maintain the treatment plant. As a result, the Forest Service sent a letter to Atlanta Gold requiring both of these actions, and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has conducted an official inspection. Atlanta Gold has a long history of disregarding similar orders, which is why ICL will remain diligent in our efforts to clean up this site once and for all.

Will Tiedemann

Conservation Associate

wtiedemann@idahoconservation.org



ICL Public Lands Director John Robison shows off the polluted water leaving the Atlanta Gold site. Abby Urbaneck photo.



Cougar Island is the largest island on Payette Lake.

WESTERN CENTRAL IDAHO

Cougar Island Auction Results in Single Bid, Outlook Remains Murky

On Wednesday, September 14, the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) attempted to auction Payette Lake's Cougar Island near McCall. The island was first offered as five individual parcels, then as a whole. It resulted in a single bid for one parcel from the current leaseholder, who offered the minimum bid of \$2 million for the 2.5-acre lot currently leased. The property has since been placed on the market for sale.

In a news release, IDL reported they will evaluate the next step for the other parcels on the island. Whether that means selling the island as a whole at a lower price or exploring a different option,

IDL's primary goal is to maximize the return for the land.

The potential sale of Cougar Island and the loss of public access has provided a dramatic roller coaster ride of emotions, anxieties, hope, and determination in Valley County and throughout the state. ICL, United Payette, and our partners will continue to pursue short and long-term goals to conserve these endowment lands in perpetuity. We will explore strategies alongside the City of McCall and Valley County to maintain open spaces. We may have a moment of reprieve right now, but ICL and United Payette will not rest comfortably until we achieve permanent conservation status for these precious lands.

Randy Fox

West Central Idaho Conservation Associate
rfox@idahoconservation.org



EASTERN IDAHO

The Road to More Electric Vehicles in Idaho

One third of all of Idaho's greenhouse gas emissions are produced by our transportation, which is why ICL is working to reduce these emissions in several ways. We are assisting in the rollout of more Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations across rural Idaho – making owning an EV a more realistic option for all Idahoans. We are also educating Idahoans about the advantages of EVs and the incentives available to buy one, including new tax rebates available through the Inflation Reduction Act.

To educate Idahoans on the benefits of "plugging in," ICL sponsored and promoted EV shows during National Drive Electric Week in late September and early October.

In eastern Idaho, we teamed up with the Portneuf Resource Council, Idaho Power, and Idaho State University to create the first-ever Pocatello EV Expo. EV owners displayed a nice diversity of plug-in-hybrid and fully electric vehicles, and engaged with hundreds of people throughout the day. EV owners, including myself, answered questions concerning price, range anxiety, and time and cost to charge, as well as our joy driving, reducing our carbon footprint, and owning a nearly maintenance-free vehicle. Sharing these personal accounts along with expanding EV infrastructure in Idaho is key to getting more EVs on Idaho roads.

Linda Engle

Climate Associate
lengle@idahoconservation.org

Stibnite Gold Project Threatens Clean Air, Water, and Fish Habitat



Rising dust from the Thompson Creek mine in 2016. The Stibnite Gold Project will also generate large amounts of dust and will involve three open pits instead of just one, photographed here. Photo by Ecoflight.

The Forest Service recently released the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) analyzing the controversial Stibnite Gold Project.

The project, proposed by Perpetua Resources, aims to build a massive cyanide vat leach gold mine in the headwaters of the East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River, adjacent to the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness. The mine plan has evolved after ICL and partners pointed out several significant flaws in the original plan that would have degraded water quality and fisheries. Even after these

changes, the new analysis shows the mine would further degrade habitat for threatened bull trout instead of improving it, as promised by the mining company.

The mine plan calls for transporting over 8.5 million gallons of petroleum products, 7,300 tons of ammonium nitrate, and 4,000 tons of sodium cyanide annually. Both proposed access routes have segments exposed to landslides/rockfalls and avalanches, raising the probability of accidents and spills. The document initially downplays the risk of a spill but notes that a spill could be lethal to fish.

Spills and accidents aren't the only red flags. This summer, the Nez Perce Tribe, Save the South Fork Salmon (a Valley County grassroots organization), and ICL appealed Perpetua's Air Quality Permit due to public health and environmental concerns. Mining activities can release tremendous amounts of dust into the air, and initial analysis shows that dust levels at Stibnite may contain particularly high levels of arsenic, raising our concern over serious health problems. In a separate process, ICL and others also protested the project's water rights.

Comments on the SDEIS are due January 10. ICL and our partners will be hosting several comment-writing workshops and sharing blogs about how you can speak up for this special place. Check our website for updates.

John Robison

Public Lands Director

jrobison@idahoconservation.org

Restoring the Snake River

Looking at the Snake River from above as it winds through the beautiful basalt canyons of southern Idaho, it can be hard to believe that the river is under threat. Yet, looking closer, the Snake in this part of the state is a far cry from the blue-ribbon trout fishery that rises from its headwaters in eastern Idaho. Just upstream of Twin Falls, this mighty river can run completely dry in the late summer months at Milner Dam due to diversion for agricultural

purposes across the Magic Valley. All the while, phosphorus and nitrogen, primarily from synthetic fertilizers and cow manure, run off into the river and degrade water quality as the river flows downstream. This pollution, combined with pools of slow-moving water (like reservoirs) and warm water temperatures, fuel outbreaks of toxic algae – making the water unsafe to swim in for you and your pets.

To address some of these water quality problems, ICL, along with stakeholders across southern Idaho, participate in a Watershed Advisory Group



Kayakers on the Snake River in Twin Falls. Alex Hon photo.

intended to assist the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as it revises the Middle Snake phosphorus discharge limits. The plan is a Clean Water Act-mandated pollution “budget” that limits the amount of a pollutant (in this case, phosphorus) discharged into the river from both point sources (municipal wastewater treatment plants, fish farms) and nonpoint sources (runoff from agricultural fields).

ICL continues to advocate for a revised plan that significantly reduces the phosphorus pollution for this stretch of the Snake. We also remain focused on creating a basin-wide, federal-state-Tribal-private partnership to restore the Snake River to what it once was.

Josh Johnson

Senior Conservation Associate
jjohnson@idahoconservation.org

Finding Solutions to a Dirty Problem

In September, ICL released its fifth study of Idaho’s wastewater treatment plants. The report found over 75 percent of plants failed to comply with Clean Water Act permits for the discharge of harmful bacteria, chemicals, toxic metals, and other substances. During the three-year review period (2019-2021), there were a total of 1,385 violations in Idaho.

Municipal wastewater treatment plants are on the front line for protecting water quality and human health. Properly built and operated, well-maintained sewage treatment plants are critical for keeping our rivers and lakes fishable, swimmable, and safe. Yet, the majority of these plants are violating their pollution discharge limits, harming or endangering the water people, pets, and Idaho’s wildlife drink, swim, and recreate in.

There was a wide variation in the number of violations that facilities reported. While some facilities reported few violations, others reported well over 80 violations.

Principal findings of the report include:

- 10 of the 112 facilities were responsible for more than half of all violations reported statewide. All 10 of these worst-performing facilities were located in relatively small rural communities.
- Five facilities – Driggs, Nezperce, Wilder, Plummer, and Genesee – have been on ICL’s “Top 10 Polluters” list for almost a decade.
- Seven facilities – Fairfield, Franklin, Fruitland, Greenleaf, Hayden, Twin Falls, and Eastern Idaho (Bonneville and Bingham Counties) – improved their performance to zero violations for our review of the 2019-2021 period.

Limited resources in small towns to fund upgrades and maintenance for wastewater treatment facilities can be a challenge. However, ICL believes many of the violating facilities can and should do better. We will continue to engage with municipalities and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to ensure steps are taken to protect Idaho’s precious rivers and streams.

Will Tiedemann

Conservation Associate
wtiedemann@idahoconservation.org

Introducing ICL's New Development Director!



I was fortunate to spend my childhood summers and most weekends at my grandparents' cabin on Flathead Lake in northwestern Montana. Public lands, clean water, and abundant wildlife were all part of my daily life. Unfortunately, so was the Berkeley Pit in my hometown of Butte. Once one of the largest open-pit copper mines in the world, it is now an EPA Superfund site. That contrast of pristine national forests and mountain lakes with the irreversible damage done to the ecosystem surrounding the Berkeley Pit continues to haunt me.

After living in western states through my college years, I found myself living in several states on the east coast, then in Texas, early in my career. I was saddened by the lack of public lands. It wasn't just the loss of access for my personal recreation, it was the loss of vegetation and habitat for wildlife that deeply upset me.

When I moved to Idaho more than a decade ago, I almost immediately became involved with ICL. It started with a volunteer-led snowshoe near Bogus Basin. Not long after learning more about ICL's mission, I became a member. Clean air – I'm in! Clean water – after my experience living in Butte, absolutely! Protecting public lands – of course! I was hooked.

In my 11 years of membership since, I've met so many wonderful members at Porch Parties, Science Cafes, and community events, and continue to be impressed by the scope of ICL's work. Now, I get to be part of that team as the new Development Director. I am honored to be able to work with our members and donors, connecting you with ICL's mission in ways that are meaningful to you and that help create a sustainable funding stream to ensure ICL's success in the future. I look forward to meeting you!

Diana Burrell

Development Director
dburrell@idahoconservation.org

**ICL is gearing up to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2023!
Do you have any photos, documents, or stories to share
about ICL's history? We want to hear from you!**

**Please contact ICL's Communications Manager,
Abby Urbanek at aurbanek@idahoconservation.org**

Staff

BOISE

Jeff Abrams

Wildlife Program Associate

Aly Bean

Climate Campaign Coordinator

Rachel Brinkley

Community Engagement Associate

Diana Burrell

Development Director

Kristin Campbell

Accounting Associate

Naomi Clayton

Technology Systems Manager

Mitch Cutter

Salmon & Steelhead Associate

Linda Engle

Climate Associate

Kayla Gleason

Development Assistant

Sophie Hackett

Development Associate

Justin Hayes

Executive Director

Brad Heusinkveld

Energy Policy Associate

Alex Hon

Marketing Manager

Karen Hostetter

Grants Manager

Marie Callaway Kellner

Conservation Program Director

Jonathan Oppenheimer

External Relations Director

Shiva Rajbhandari

Youth Engagement Coordinator

John Robison

Public Lands Director

Julia Rundberg

Director of Finance & Administration

Will Tiedemann

Conservation Associate

Abby Urbanek

Communications Manager

Lana Weber

Community Engagement Coordinator

Erin Zaleski

Office Manager

KETCHUM

Josh Johnson

Senior Conservation Associate

Betsy Mizell

Central Idaho Director

MCCALL

Randy Fox

West Central Idaho Conservation Associate

SANDPOINT

Jennifer Ekstrom

North Idaho Lakes Conservation Associate

Brad Smith

North Idaho Director

SEATTLE

Abbie Abramovich

Salmon Campaign Grassroots Coordinator

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Staff Updates

Thank you to departing staff members Brooke Bonner, Sean Botzenhart, Jenny Estes, Stevie Gawryluk, and Emma Sperry for their work and dedication to protecting Idaho's environment.

To read more about these staff member's contributions to ICL and to meet new staff members, scan the QR code.





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208.345.6933
PO Box 844
Boise, ID 83701

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Your gift to ICL protects Idaho's clean water!

Last month, ICL secured two significant victories for clean water! We held a dredge miner accountable for violations in the South Fork Clearwater River, and we halted a damaging development project on the shores of Lake Pend Oreille. Both of these victories were made possible because of your support! Scan the QR code to make a gift or go to idahoconservation.org/donate.

**More On Our
Victories**



Make A Gift

