

50  
YEARS



IDAHO  
CONSERVATION  
LEAGUE

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# The Idaho Conservationist



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Justin Hayes

## Falling in Love, Again...

This year it started with May wildflowers. First, in the low country, then later in colorful carpets blanketing high meadows.

Then there were the fawns. Their ridiculously long, shaky legs and white dots.

Wandering the woods in search of morels pulled me in.

Hikes into shady forests, stumbling into a few early huckleberries.

A too short paddle on the lake.

Floats on rivers big and small. Encountering a salmon on its journey home to spawn sealed the deal.

My love for wild Idaho is rekindled by all that I get to see and experience in our great state. Whether it's a walk near town or a trek into the backcountry, nature never disappoints.

We live, work, and play in a special place. Together we work to protect and restore the many wonderful things that make Idaho so special. So irresistible. Thank you for being part of this amazing and important work.

**Justin Hayes**  
Executive Director  
jhayes@idahoconservation.org

A white-tailed deer leads its fawn through a field. Ed Cannady photo.



Rebecca Patton

## 50 Years Later, ICL Looks Ahead

In May, ICL kicked off its year-long 50th anniversary celebration at the annual *Wild Idaho!* Conference at Redfish Lake Lodge in Stanley – a place of many memories given the years of gathering there. Emotional remembrances were shared by ICL leaders and partners who, with the power of grassroots support and advocacy, political will and extraordinary skill, have accomplished so much over ICL's history. Many of us had tears in our eyes as we reflected on the hard-fought wins that have helped make Idaho exceptional.

*Wild Idaho!* also gave us an opportunity to thank departing board members and welcome new ones. We recognize the deep contributions of Carolyn Coiner (Ketchum and Boise), John O'Connor (Bonners Ferry), Julia Richardson (Hailey), and Scott Friedman (Hailey) over the last 9 years, and welcome Allison Fowle (Boise), Scott Lewis (Ketchum), Deb Wilson (Twin Falls), and Ben Pursley (Boise) to the board. I will remain chair for the next year.

ICL's 50th celebration continued in Ketchum in June. Guest speaker John Leshy, author of the phenomenal history *Our Common Ground: A History of America's Public Lands*, inspired us to remember that public lands have been a unifier across political perspectives since our country's founding. He recognized the importance of ICL's role in securing important protections for many of Idaho's iconic landscapes, and working effectively with government agencies to improve management of our public lands.

In July and August, anniversary celebrations took place in McCall, Kuna, Driggs, Pocatello, and Idaho Falls. Up next are celebrations this fall in Boise and Sandpoint. If you live in any of these areas, please come out – we would love to see you.

No matter where you live or recreate in Idaho, ICL's work is needed. Your support makes the work possible. Thank you.

**Rebecca Patton**  
Chair  
Idaho Conservation League Board of Directors



Attendees at this year's *Wild Idaho!* had the chance to celebrate ICL's achievements, learn from environmental experts, and gather with friends old and new – all while enjoying and exploring the stunning natural beauty of Redfish Lake.

## Idaho's Wetlands are More Important – and Vulnerable – than Ever

Let your thoughts wander back to memories of childhood adventures. Are you chasing butterflies or dragonflies? Or catching frogs and tadpoles?

Chances are these memories were made in or near wetlands. Wetlands not only serve the child in all of us, they are critical resources that are becoming more and more important to human survival.

Yet because of a new Supreme Court ruling, America's threatened wetlands are facing even more peril.

### Why are Wetlands Important?

Wetlands are nature's solution to many ecological challenges – including those brought by climate change. Wetlands provide vital habitat, protect water quality by filtering pollution, and prevent floods. Wetlands help maintain water flows during drought and recharge groundwater. They also help with erosion control by stabilizing shorelines.

Whether publicly or privately owned, wetlands serve the common good in a multitude of ways.

Nonetheless, the loss of wetlands has wreaked havoc worldwide. According to one global study, nearly 90% of the world's wetlands have been degraded since the 1700s, and we are losing wetlands three times faster than we are losing forests.

And it is about to get even more challenging.

### Sackett v. EPA Decision

In late May, as a result of an unfortunate situation that originated on the banks of Priest Lake in North Idaho, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that many wetlands will no longer be protected under our nation's bedrock water quality protection law, the Clean Water Act. This means that an estimated half of wetlands across

America can now be filled in without any permits or environmental review.

ICL submitted a legal brief in the Priest Lake legal battle of *Sackett v. EPA*, supporting the Environmental Protection Agency which was standing up for wetlands by saying they should remain protected under the Clean Water Act.

But the Court sided with the plaintiffs who had filled a wetland without a permit and unfortunately turned wetlands protection into a murky mess, rolling back decades of legal protections.

The Court ruled that if wetlands don't have a visual surface connection to a protected waterway, then they're not protected by the Clean Water Act. Polluters and developers are free to destroy these wetlands without consequence. The Court disregarded basic hydrology, and the clear language and purpose of the Clean Water Act.

### The Idaho Connection

In North Idaho, since most of the waterfront areas that are appropriate to build on have already been developed, developers are turning to wetlands as sites for their new waterfront homes and subdivisions.

A case in point is the locally loved peat bog wetland at the southern end of Priest Lake known



A Great blue heron catches a snake. These birds can be found along the edges of Idaho's rivers, lakes, and wetlands. Ken Miracle photo.



From birdwatching to kayaking to finding solitude in nature, Idaho's wetlands offer unparalleled recreation opportunities.

as the Coolin Chase Lake wetland complex. Bonner County gave a developer permission to subdivide 35 parcels wholly within this Class 1 wetland. The Army Corps of Engineers then issued a permit for the developer to fill in part of one of the parcels. With the rest of the wetland parcels still undeveloped, the *Sackett v. EPA* decision begs the question whether additional permits will be needed there, or whether the developer will be allowed to fill in all of the parcels in this irreplaceable Class 1 wetland without any oversight or consequence.

### Other Threats to Our Wetlands

Even small changes to hydrology and chemistry can have a detrimental effect on sensitive wetlands. Pollution from lawns, farms, septic systems, sewer facilities, and other sources can also damage wetlands. It's critical that these pollution sources are carefully managed and kept far away from wetlands and other water bodies.

### Protecting and Restoring our Wetlands

In 2009, the EPA encouraged states and Tribes to develop plans that would guide and prioritize actions for the benefit of wetland conservation and restoration. However, Idaho still lacks a formally recognized wetland plan. The Idaho

Department of Fish and Game moved forward to adopt a plan for the wetlands they manage, but other agencies are falling short.

A state wetland conservation plan, as well as protections at the county level, are needed now more than ever.

ICL will continue to save our wetlands from being forfeited to development. We're advocating for more robust enforcement of agency and local requirements, while also looking to strengthen existing laws to protect Idaho's wetlands. We'll also explore legal avenues to limit the implications of the *Sackett v. EPA* decision.

More than ever, we'll keep up our efforts to stop pollution and inappropriate development, because Idaho – and all its critical wetlands – are worth protecting.

**Jennifer Ekstrom**

North Idaho Lakes Conservation Associate

## Momentum Builds for Salmon

Salmon are winning in rivers across the West Coast.

In southern Oregon and northern California, the Klamath River is being brought back to life. Over the course of the next 18 months, four dams will be breached, reopening more than 400 miles of salmon habitat upstream of the dams and cooling the hot water in the river that endangers thousands of salmon each year. After the dams are breached, streamside areas will be replanted with native vegetation and the river will be allowed to carve its own course after more than a century of inundation, bringing clear, cold water to salmon and steelhead runs on the verge of extinction.

On the Skagit River of northern Washington, salmon will come home to areas from which they've been exiled for nearly 100 years. Seattle City Light, which owns three dams on the Skagit, recently agreed to construct fish passage at these dams and reintroduce fish into blocked areas after years of pressure from Tribes who were promised access to fish there. Across the Salish Sea, coho salmon have recovered in the Elwha River, allowing Tribes to carry out ceremonial harvest of these fish for the first time since the 19th century. Just a decade after two dams were breached on the Elwha, fish have rebounded, moving far up into the Olympic Mountains and repopulating the once-barren stream.



This spring, youth advocates from across the Northwest came together in Washington D.C. to advocate for salmon, orca, and Tribal justice.

These wins are driving support for even greater triumph on the Snake River. In April, ICL staff joined young advocates from Youth Salmon Protectors, Washington Youth Ocean and River Conservation Alliance, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation on a trip to Washington DC. The group met with lawmakers, Congressional staff, and federal officials to urge swift action to restore a free-flowing lower Snake River.

Tribal youth spoke to the pieces of their culture that are dying as salmon are driven toward extinction. The youth demanded action from their elected leaders, who've been entrusted with protecting salmon so youth and future generations can enjoy these magnificent fish.

Tribal culture, storytelling, and science continue to drive the Pacific Northwest region toward major action for salmon. In Washington State, ICL played a key role in successfully asking the state legislature to allocate \$7.5 million for planning processes that will identify projects to replace the energy, transportation, and irrigation services provided by the lower Snake River dams.

That momentum is now extending to the rest of the region and the entire country thanks to a powerful new documentary, *Covenant of the Salmon People*. Produced by the Nez Perce Tribe and Swiftwater Films, the film tells the story of the Tribe's ancient agreement to protect salmon and their efforts to uphold this commitment as dams and climate change threaten the existence of salmon and the Tribe's culture. The film, which premiered in April, is being featured around Idaho and the region in the coming months. Look for more information on ICL's social media channels and at the Tribe's website [www.covenantofthesalmonpeople.com](http://www.covenantofthesalmonpeople.com).

**Mitch Cutter**  
Salmon & Steelhead Associate

**Abbie Abramovich**  
Salmon Campaign Grassroots Coordinator

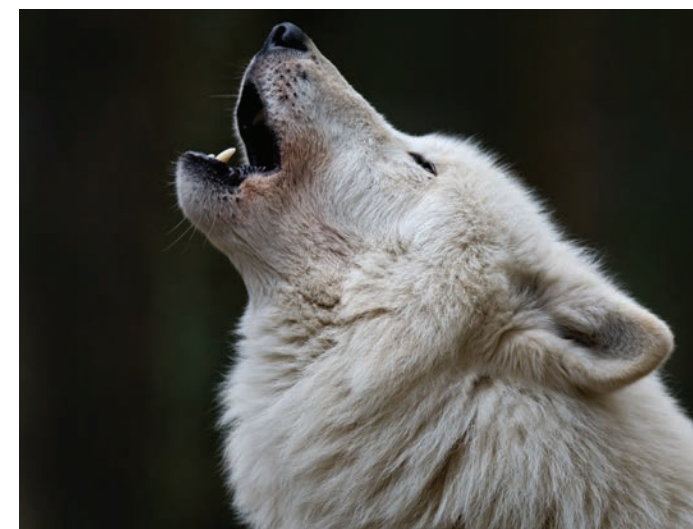
## IDFG Wolf Plan: Signed, Sealed, Delivered

As Stevie Wonder sang: It's signed, sealed, delivered. This spring, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) Commission adopted a controversial plan to manage wolves. The plan guides the agency through 2028.

IDFG now has a roadmap to reduce Idaho's wolf population from today's estimate of 1300-1400 down to 350.

People across the country submitted 2,500 comments on the draft plan. Some 53% of Idahoans expressed opposition. Yet the IDFG Commission left their four main management goals unchanged.

The plan states that the agency is "committed to maintaining a viable, self-sustaining wolf population, well distributed in suitable habitat." Unfortunately, the plan fails to articulate management actions that will ensure this happens. It ignores IDFG's role to ensure that Idaho's "wildlife resources are managed in trust... for the benefit of all their residents and visitors" as the law requires.



From improving the health of habitat for other animals, to creating healthier deer and elk herds by targeting weaker animals, to providing year-round table scraps for scavenger species, wolves provide many ecological benefits to wild places.

ICL engaged in the planning process and encouraged others to do the same. IDFG characterized five major concerns expressed about the plan by Idaho residents: 1) overstated impacts to livestock and elk, 2) lack of conflict-prevention tools, 3) goal of such low wolf numbers 4) concerns about the lack of scientific rigor of the plan, and 5) political nature of the plan.

IDFG's modifications to the draft were tepid and largely symbolic: adding a glossary of terms (such as "carrying capacity," "suitable habitat," etc.), recognition of Tribal contributions to wolf management, and various other "counterpoint" responses.

Interestingly, one overlapping area of agreement emerged between both people who opposed the plan and those who supported it: support for livestock producers and their expanded use of nonlethal tools to avoid wolf/livestock conflicts. Sadly IDFG's finalized plan for conflict management leaves the impression that the agency goals are not actually about the elimination of conflicts, but rather, about the elimination of wolves.

This entire process has made it clear that the Idaho Legislature set a politically determined goal of 350 wolves. IDFG then wrote a plan to satisfy lawmakers, all the while attempting to biologically justify their plan.

We applaud our supporters who engage in this issue. IDFG will release annual reports summarizing activities associated with wolf management. ICL will continue to track IDFG's methods to achieve their population targets in the months and years ahead. We know our members greatly appreciate the thrill of hearing a wolf howl across the wilds of Idaho, and we will continue our work to ensure that wolves are allowed to play their vital role in Idaho's ecosystems.

**Jeff Abrams**  
Wildlife Program Associate

## Protecting Idaho's Public Lands AND Climate: A New Balancing Act

One of ICL's goals is to "Protect the best of Idaho." That is, we work to protect the things that make Idaho special.

This vision has galvanized opposition to projects that would degrade Idaho's environment and our quality of life, especially around public lands.

However, climate change complicates everything. All of our beloved neighborhoods, natural beauty, special places, and native species are increasingly impacted by climate change. ICL works to both protect our natural landscape and help prevent the pollution that causes climate change.

With great potential for wind, solar and geothermal energy, Idaho can help America transition to clean energy. This new demand will also likely include transmission lines, and new mining projects for lithium, cobalt, and other minerals used in batteries. While this can help us cope with climate change, these projects also have real impacts on the ground.

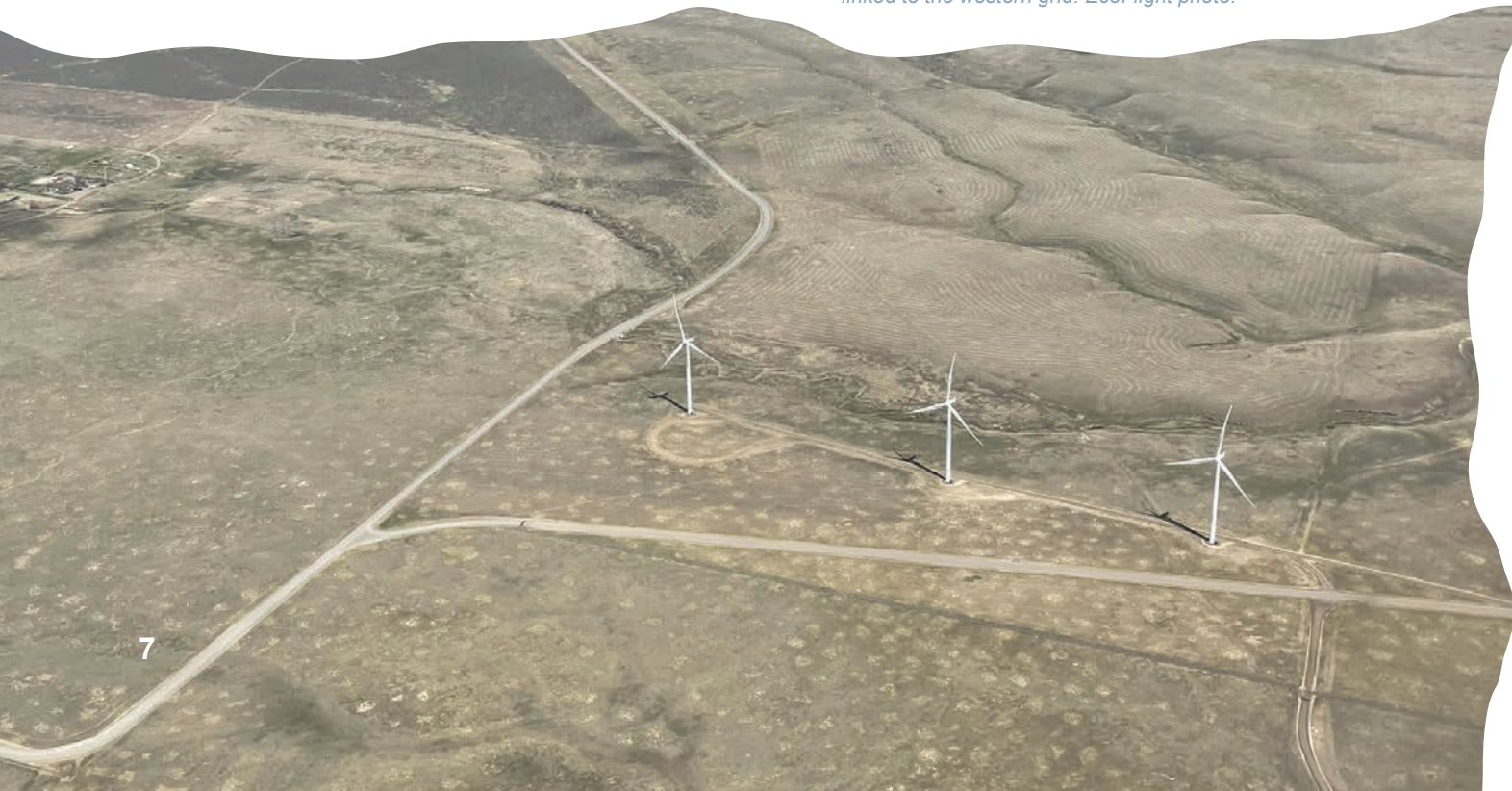
Of course, not every project with a "green" label deserves a pass. Developments need to be properly sited and designed with early input from local communities and Tribal nations. Impacts to wildlife and clean water must be avoided, minimized, and mitigated. We need to strengthen mining regulations and reform the Mining Law of 1872 to close loopholes that have allowed pollution to contaminate our waterways and communities. Some areas are simply too valuable to be sacrificed.

Some recent renewable energy projects proposed in Idaho haven't struck the right balance but we hope the next ones will. The bottom line is, we need *you* to help us make sure future projects address local concerns early and are better designed from the start. And when worthy projects emerge, we will need your help advocating for them.

"Protecting the best of Idaho" requires this new balancing act.

**John Robison**  
Public Lands Director

*Large amounts of utility wind and solar energy are needed to combat climate change, and some regions of Idaho have considerable wind and solar potential, as well as a growing network of transmission lines linked to the western grid. EcoFlight photo.*



### CENTRAL IDAHO

## Pollution continues to flow into East Fork Big Wood River from Triumph Mine site

It was an "interesting" spring up at the old Triumph Mine site near Sun Valley – and not in a good way. The Wood River Valley saw above-average snowfall this winter, leading to a robust spring runoff. At Triumph, this caused groundwater to interact with the mine tailings pile, leaching metals and causing bright orange water to percolate out of the ground. When ICL became aware of this problem this spring, we contacted the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) and visited with their staff onsite to discuss ongoing pollution concerns.

To better understand how water contamination is occurring at the site, IDEQ expanded their network of groundwater monitoring wells and will monitor them on a quarterly basis for the next couple of years. The ultimate remediation

solution at Triumph will likely require 1) significant control measures to prevent clean groundwater in the area from interacting with the tailings pile and 2) a Clean Water Act discharge permit with enforceable pollution limits for metals discharged into the East Fork Big Wood River.

Although the contamination issues observed this spring are troubling, the silver lining is that it puts a renewed spotlight on the need for accelerated clean-up efforts at Triumph. ICL remains committed to holding the State accountable to remediating the Triumph site in a timely and comprehensive manner to ensure that water quality is protected in the area.

**Josh Johnson**  
Central Idaho Director



*Contamination issues continue to plague the Triumph Mine Site, highlighting the need to clean up the pollution for good.*

NORTHERN IDAHO

### Tackling Silver Valley Mine Pollution

In the early summer of 2022, ICL noticed excessive arsenic and lead wastewater discharges occurring at U.S. Silver’s Galena Mine Complex, located just east of Wallace in North Idaho’s Silver Valley. Since then, the mine has violated arsenic or lead limits nearly every month, at times nearly twice their allowable pollution limits.

After further investigation, we discovered that the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) issued a warning letter to the mine in September 2022. Concerned that a simple warning letter was inadequate to correct the serious and ongoing pollution, ICL took further action and notified the mine and IDEQ of our intent to sue the mine for its ongoing wastewater pollution. Our action prompted IDEQ to escalate its oversight and issue a formal civil suit against the mine. In March of 2022, ICL followed up and filed a civil suit of our own.

While our suit against the mine is on pause to discuss settlement, IDEQ and the mine have reached a draft settlement agreement, which includes a nearly quarter million dollar fine and an eight year schedule to upgrade their wastewater treatment system. ICL is encouraged by this agreement but has concerns that the settlement may effectively grant the mine a free pass to continue polluting the South Fork Coeur d’Alene River with arsenic until 2030, and may not be pursuing penalties for all past mining violations. In an effort to ensure a strong precedent is set for holding polluters accountable, ICL submitted detailed comments on the draft settlement, advocating for larger penalties and a faster compliance schedule. Thanks to your support, ICL is able to fight for clean water for all.

**Will Tiedemann**  
Conservation Associate

SOUTHERN IDAHO

### Unsafe Waters: Tackling Toxic Algae

With the warmer months upon us, it’s time to discuss one of the summer’s nastiest arrivals: toxic algae.

Toxic algae isn’t your average, everyday algae; in fact, they are not algae at all. What is commonly referred to as “toxic algae” are actually populations of cyanobacteria. These bacteria can produce cyanotoxins – compounds that cause any number of unpleasant symptoms from abdominal pain, vomiting, and fever, to headaches, hives, and respiratory paralysis. Dogs and livestock are particularly at risk of death from toxic algae, and exposure can even be fatal to humans.

Toxic algae occurs naturally but human activity influences the frequency and intensity of explosive outbreaks. These outbreaks generally occur in the presence of stagnant, warm water (often due to dams) and high concentrations of phosphorus and nitrogen

(often due to agricultural runoff). As we cope with the effects of climate change, the conditions that fuel toxic algae growth arise all the more frequently.

ICL recognizes that toxic algae is a worsening issue affecting our precious lakes, reservoirs, and rivers, and we are ramping up our educational and advocacy efforts accordingly. ICL is calling on elected officials to dedicate funding to address this public health hazard, develop a better reporting and monitoring system, and tackle the root causes of these dangerous and toxic outbreaks. Help protect Idaho from toxic algae by taking action on our website, and check out our toxic algae blog series to learn more about keeping you, your animals, and your family safe this summer.

**Lexi Black**  
Central Idaho Community Engagement Assistant



A participant of the Scout Mountain Ultras runs across a stunning Eastern Idaho backdrop. Anastasia Wilde photo.

EASTERN IDAHO

### Crossing Paths: Conservation & Recreation

For years, ICL has had the opportunity to join the Pocatello trail running community and other runners from across the Northwest to share information about our work with participants of the Scout Mountain Ultras. Led by Patagonia-sponsored athlete, Luke Nelson, and his wife Tanae, this event serves both as an annual celebration of the trail running community and an opportunity to gather and celebrate not only running, but also our shared appreciation for our beloved public lands.

The Scout Mountain Ultras are unlike other trail running events, because it focuses on elevating the environmental literacy of the trail running community through engagement with grassroots environmental and conservation

groups. Participants have the chance to learn from environmental groups like ICL, hear about our work, and become an advocate themselves by signing up for newsletters, writing postcards to decision makers, or taking a sticker for their water bottle. As Luke says, “Trail runners thrive in the wild, which makes them the ideal advocate for those places.” We couldn’t agree more and can’t wait to participate next year!

If you are a trail runner or are just curious about the Scout Mountain Ultras, visit [scoutmountainultras.com](http://scoutmountainultras.com) and join the fun with us in Pocatello next year!

**Lana Weber**  
Community Engagement Coordinator

WESTERN CENTRAL IDAHO

### Recreation Leases Support Endowment Beneficiaries and Guarantee Public Access

In late May, Valley County and the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) signed a non-commercial recreation lease covering over 1,200 acres of state endowment land along Big Payette Lake near McCall in West Central Idaho. United Payette, a diverse coalition of state-wide and local stakeholders, including ICL, initiated the lease negotiations which had been underway for over a year.

The lease covers the Crestline Trail area along Eastside Drive and the Greengate area along Warren Wagon Road. These areas are two of the most beloved and visited endowment lands along Big Payette Lake, with local residents and visitors regularly hiking, birdwatching, hunting, huckleberry picking, snowshoeing, and more throughout the year.

The primary purposes of the lease are to ensure public access for non-commercial activities and recreation and to conserve open

spaces, while providing IDL with funds for the state’s endowment trust, which primarily supports public education. The lease is also meant to promote water quality in Payette Lake, McCall’s sole source of potable water. Provisions of the lease include annual maintenance by partners, like United Payette’s annual *Clean UP!* event, and restrictions on commercial glamping or other commercial operations.

United Payette is funding the annual lease payments through the donations of the collaborative’s supporters. As a founding member of United Payette and the coalition’s fiscal sponsor, and with staff actively serving on the collaborative’s steering committee, ICL is honored to help protect the places that make Valley County a special place to live, visit, and recreate in.

**Randy Fox**  
West Central Idaho Conservation Associate



In the last two years, 35 health advisories have been issued for Idaho’s lakes and reservoirs due to toxic algae.

## Protecting Clean Water for Decades to Come

Perhaps one of the most important aspects of the Clean Water Act (CWA) is its creation of National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. These permits prohibit anybody from discharging pollutants into waterways in amounts that would harm humans or the environment. Although the CWA is a federal law, most states have been granted the authority to implement NPDES permitting. However, it wasn't until 2021 that the State of Idaho received full control of NPDES permitting. As NPDES permitting is one of the most significant protections for water quality in the U.S., this transfer of authority has given ICL a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to ensure the process protects clean water.

ICL reviews what are now called Idaho Pollution Discharge Elimination System (IPDES) permits issued in Idaho and provides comments to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), advocating for the strongest possible protections for Idaho's rivers, lakes, and streams.

We also watchdog IPDES-permitted facilities – like mines and wastewater treatment plants – to ensure they are complying with their permits and not over polluting our waterways.

Recently, ICL has become more concerned with IDEQ's implementation of IPDES permitting. The agency is behind schedule in their 2023 IPDES Permit Issuance Plan while dozens of permits have missed their required reissuance update deadlines. In addition, we feel that the agency inadequately responds to permit violations, and may not be considering whether certain wastewater reuse facilities may need IPDES permits.

As the IPDES program evolves, you can count on ICL to be there every step of the way to advocate for the strongest water quality protections. This will have implications for decades to come!

**Will Tiedemann**  
Conservation Associate

*Clean water is fundamental to life and part of what makes Idaho a great place to recreate, live, and raise a family. For 50 years, ICL has worked hard to protect and restore clean water in Idaho.*



## Charging Forward on EVs

For 50 years, ICL has worked to protect air quality and the health of Idahoans. But *protecting the air you breathe* poses challenges due to our reliance on fossil fuel-powered vehicles and machinery. Idaho's transportation sector is the state's leading air polluter, contributing nearly 60% of carbon emissions in Idaho. This highlights both a problem and opportunity, which is why this summer ICL is plugging into the planning process for transportation electrification in Idaho.

Idaho's National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program – a federally funded program that aims to strategically deploy electric vehicle (EV) charging stations across the country – is currently in its second phase. Overseeing this process is the Interagency Working Group (IAWG), which consists of the Idaho Transportation Department, Office of Energy and Mineral Resources, and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Right now, IAWG is working to identify optimal charging locations along state highways and major roadways.

This process includes gathering public input through a series of workshops held across the state. ICL is actively participating in these workshops, providing feasible and equitable feedback, raising community awareness, and ensuring inclusive planning throughout the stakeholder process. Additionally, IAWG has requested ICL to sit on an advisory committee to provide sustainability recommendations. In this role, we will conduct assessments on potential EV charging sites, especially in disadvantaged areas to fulfill the Justice 40 initiative – an effort to bring resources to communities most impacted by climate change, air pollution, and environmental hazards.

Idaho's current ranking for EV charging station availability is 42nd in the nation, reflecting a relatively modest number of approximately 5,000 EV drivers in the state. However, there is optimism fueled by a remarkable 269% increase in EV ownership since 2020 and the opportunities provided by the NEVI grant. ICL anticipates that by providing an abundance of EV charging stations in equitable locations, we can all get where we need to be while also enjoying cleaner, fresher air.

**Jacob Bernal**  
Climate Assistant



## ICL Member Profile: The Berrians

Nate, Dani, Arthur (5), and Casper (6 mo.) Berrian of Nampa are members of ICL's *GEM State Protectors* monthly giving program. Nate is a therapist and Dani is a part-time accountant and stay-at-home mom.

"We became members of ICL after a friend mentioned they were looking for additional support a couple of years ago," the Berrian family shared. **"Our family values align well with ICL's mission, so it was an obvious choice for us once it came to our attention."**

The family of four spends most of their free time on close-by adventures or with friends, often in downtown Nampa. "As a young family our days and weeks fill up quickly," they reflect. "We often have ambitions of making time for things that get pushed down the road weeks, months, or even years. **So for us, choosing to make a monetary monthly commitment was the best way we could show our support in this season. It is a small, but earnest first step in supporting protection of Idaho's beauty and public lands, water, and air.**"

As ICL members, the Berrians make a monthly contribution for the things they value. "We are fortunate in Idaho to have so much access to outdoors and wildlife. **Our hope, as Idaho continues to rapidly grow, is that we can grow wisely and do so in a way that can preserve the beauty and natural habitats we have for many generations to come.**



Studio Ostendo photo.

We believe that ICL has that same passion and drive to help carry these efforts to fruition."

Families like the Berrians are standing up every month for the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the lands and wildlife you love. For ICL's 50th anniversary this year, we would like to welcome in 120 new *GEM State Protectors* to Give Every Month for conservation in Idaho!

For the love of Idaho, please visit [idahoconservation.org/GiveEveryMonth](https://idahoconservation.org/GiveEveryMonth) or scan the QR code to set up your monthly contribution, or share your information and the amount you'd like to give monthly on the enclosed envelope.



Thank you!

**Sophie Hackett**  
Development Associate

## Staff

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Community Engagement Associate

**Diana Burrell**  
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**Kristin Campbell**  
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**Naomi Clayton**  
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Central Idaho Director

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**Jeff Abrams**  
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### SANDPOINT

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**Karissa Huntsman**  
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### SEATTLE

**Abbie Abramovich**  
Salmon Campaign Grassroots Coordinator

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**Gregg Servheen**, Boise  
**Daniel Stone**, Fort Hall  
**Bill Weppner**, Boise  
**Deb Wilson**, Twin Falls

## Staff Updates

After nearly ten years with Idaho Conservation League, Betsy Mizell is stepping down as ICL's Central Idaho Director. During her time at ICL, Betsy's steadfast fundraising efforts supported the organization's ever-expanding work. Betsy created the Wilderness Stewards Program, supported successful wilderness designation efforts in the White Clouds, and was instrumental in the creation of the Central Idaho Dark Sky Reserve. ICL is grateful for Betsy's contributions and is pleased to announce the selection of Josh Johnson as the ICL's new Central Idaho Director.

## Would you like to be on ICL's Board of Directors?

Like all nonprofit organizations, ICL is governed by a Board of Directors, who provide guidance and contribute to ICL's culture, strategic focus, effectiveness, and financial sustainability. The ICL Board is currently encouraging self-nominations from interested members to serve on the board. If you are interested, please reach out to ICL at [icl@idahoconservation.org](mailto:icl@idahoconservation.org) or call 208.345.6933 for more information. The deadline for applications is **Monday, October 30, 2023**.





**50**  
YEARS



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For 50 years, ICL has worked to protect and restore the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the lands and wildlife you love. This work is made possible because of your support! Whether you are a longtime member or are just getting to know us, for the love of Idaho, please consider honoring ICL's 50th through our *50 for 50* campaign – increase your giving by 50% or more to help sustain ICL's ongoing work.

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