

50
YEARS



IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

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The Idaho Conservationist



FEATURING

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Justin Hayes

The Power of People

As we celebrate ICL's 50th anniversary, many members have reached out to me to share memories, talk about their environmental priorities, and to discuss ideas about what the future holds for conservation in Idaho. A common thread emerges: the power of people.

People care passionately about clean water and open space for fish, wildlife, and recreation. Just last month ICL helped over 800 people reach out to local officials and voice their concerns over a proposal to dredge an area near where Trestle Creek flows into Lake Pend Oreille and to build a boat marina. Many showed up at a critical hearing.

ICL volunteers patrol remote trails as Wilderness Stewards and lend a hand to understaffed land management agencies. Others participate in trash clean-up efforts at trailheads and campgrounds, take water samples, and monitor water quality.

Over the last year we have helped tens of thousands of people from all over the Northwest make their voices heard on salmon. Teens have come together as part of our Youth Salmon Protectors program, rallying across the Northwest and visiting Washington DC. This massive grassroots effort is making a difference. The Biden Administration just issued a historic order directing that restoring abundant populations of salmon and honoring Tribal treaties in the Snake and Columbia River Basins be a priority for all federal agencies. This progress is happening because elected officials are feeling your grassroots pressure.

As advocates and consumers, it's people that are addressing climate change in Idaho. You are making changes in how you drive and what you drive, and in how you heat and light your home and place of work. You are making changes in how you use energy—and you are telling your utility and elected officials that you want them to make changes too.

In a couple of months a new Legislative session will get underway. It will be as important as ever that your voice be heard.

ICL's past, our present, and the future are all built on the power of people.

It's people—volunteers and grassroots advocates through endless pressure, endlessly applied—that make change happen in Idaho.

It's people like you.

Justin Hayes
Executive Director

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

—Margaret Mead



Rebecca Patton

As the Season Changes, ICL Looks Ahead

It has been a spectacular summer across Idaho, and, while I hate to see it end, I also feel Hemingway's point of view: “Most of all he loved the fall...”

As the nights and mornings get crisp and the colors of our Idaho fall emerge, I continue to reflect on this special year of celebrating ICL's 50th anniversary across the state. I feel a great sense of awe and gratitude to all who contributed to the conservation legacy we enjoy today.

At the same time ICL is taking this half-century legacy forward. Every three years, board members and staff work together to chart the course for ICL's priorities over the coming years. This fall we gathered up north—where ICL recently launched a program focused on protecting and restoring the beautiful lakes of North Idaho—to discuss a number of challenging questions as we develop ICL's strategic plan for the next 3 years: What is the work that matters most? What strategies will deliver the greatest impact? How do we work effectively in Idaho's polarized political climate? How do we broaden the base of support for conservation? How do we balance “protecting the best of Idaho” with the need for renewable energy? How do we continue to accelerate the momentum for salmon? And many more.

We'll report back in the new year. We cannot do this work without you—thank you for being part of writing the next chapter.

Wherever you live, work or play in our wonderful wild Idaho, enjoy the fall!

Rebecca Patton
Chair
Idaho Conservation League Board of Directors



Fall colors arrive in the Selkirk Mountains. Emily Cleveland photo.

Fantastic Fish and How to Save Them

Idaho's wild salmon and steelhead are the stuff of fantasy. Their migration is almost beyond belief, as is the abundance in which they once returned to our state. Try to imagine a river painted red with sockeye, or a stream chock full with the dark, torpedo-shaped (and sized) backs of Chinook. Hear the splash of broad tailfins and the dull plunk of a humongous fish propelling itself out of the water, into the air, and back below the surface as it climbs a small waterfall. Smell the stench of thousands of fish carcasses decaying, which concludes one generation and gives rise to the next.

Millions of these fish once swam back to Idaho each year. Now, though just a shadow of that richness remains, seeing a wild salmon is a magical experience. The vast loss of fish over the last 150 years makes those that remain that much more valuable. These fish need protection and an urgent turn toward restoration. Thankfully, we're nearing a tipping point, and are closer to real salmon recovery than ever before.

Litigation Talks Extended

After a thirteen-month-long hiatus, the federal government, states, Tribes, and conservation groups (including ICL) agreed to a short extension of the stay to continue forming a solution that will lead to broad-scale restoration of salmon and steelhead populations across the

Northwest. It's still not clear where the talks will end up, but the Biden Administration is tackling the problem head-on.

In a September 27 Presidential Memorandum, the White House called for "a sustained national effort to restore healthy and abundant native fish populations in the Columbia River Basin." The memo directs federal agencies to identify how they can use their programs to protect and restore abundant salmon and steelhead in the region and to seek new funding to achieve abundance goals. President Biden's memo also seeks to establish an intergovernmental partnership between the US, states, and basin Tribes to establish and prioritize further work.

The salmon crisis has become a national priority for this Administration. Now it's time for words to become actions. Along with our co-plaintiffs, we seek a federal plan to fully replace the lower Snake River dams' services and then to remove the dams and restore a free-flowing river. We're also seeking other investments in fish habitat restoration, predator controls, and reintroduction of fish into blocked areas above Grand Coulee Dam and the Hells Canyon Complex. A federal report from last year concluded that all of these measures, including dam breaching, are needed to restore salmon populations, and we will hold the government accountable for carrying out its own recommendations.

The litigation pause will end on October 31, 2023, so check ICL's blog for updates on this issue.



A sockeye salmon strives to clear a waterfall in its return to the waters of its birth.

Sockeye Boiling in Hot Water

Amid this push for broad salmon recovery action, one species calls out for fast action. Snake River sockeye were the first salmon species in the region to be listed under the Endangered Species Act and they remain the closest to extinction.

Of all Northwest salmon, sockeye are the most sensitive to high water temperatures. Hot water halts them in their migration, leaving them vulnerable to predation. Extended exposure can result in further injury, parasitic infection, and eventually, death. By impounding the river into stagnant reservoirs, dams increase water temperature and prevent it from cooling at nighttime. Climate change has exacerbated the problem. Every summer, thousands of sockeye perish in their migration before they ever have a chance to reach Idaho's cool waters.

A growing body of research has directly linked hot water pollution to the presence of dams. Analysis by the Environmental Protection Agency found that each of the dams on the lower Snake and Columbia Rivers heats the river significantly, but removing the four lower Snake River dams would alleviate much of the problem and bring the river into compliance with Washington state's water quality standards.

Over the last five years, only 1 in 3 sockeye that reach Bonneville Dam near Portland successfully make the journey through eight dams to reach Idaho. This year, just 1 in 5 made it. If Idaho's sockeye are to survive the onslaught of climate change, their migration must be made safe. To that end, we and other conservation groups filed notice of our intent to sue the US Army Corps of Engineers over its failure to protect sockeye. A cooler river simply isn't possible as long as the lower Snake River dams remain in place. Their removal is essential for the survival of sockeye salmon.

An Ancient Covenant

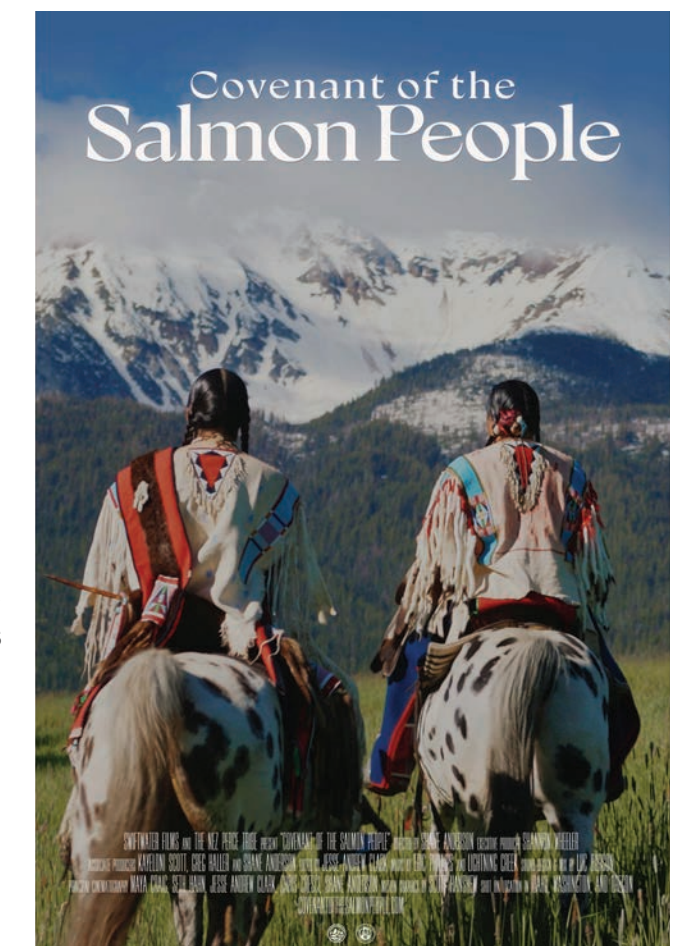
In the history of the Nez Perce Tribe, salmon were the first to speak up for humans. As ancient

people were starving on the land, salmon offered themselves as food and sustenance. In return, the Tribe promised to care for salmon and to speak for them, forming an everlasting covenant between humans and fish. The Nez Perce and other Tribes are now leading the campaign for salmon restoration, in fulfillment of this bargain.

That story is told in the feature-length documentary *Covenant of the Salmon People*. In collaboration with the Nez Perce and other conservation organizations, ICL has been proud to show *Covenant* to audiences in Boise, Ketchum, Sandpoint, Twin Falls, Spokane, Pocatello, Caldwell, and Salmon. Check the film's website, covenantofthesalmonpeople.com, for more screenings in your area!

Mitch Cutter

Salmon & Steelhead Associate



The Leaves are Falling, but Renewable Energy is Growing

With cooler temperatures having Idahoans excited about sweater weather and fall activities, it's important not to let the passing of another long, hot summer and the visual impacts of climate change drift away in our memory. According to NASA, the summer of 2023 was the hottest summer ever recorded worldwide. With the onset of El Niño conditions, Idaho is likely to have slightly less precipitation and experience warmer temperatures for a couple years.

Although these facts can seem daunting, ICL is more hopeful than ever before that we can make a positive impact to avert the worst effects of climate change. Recent federal policies have changed funding mechanisms for climate work, and we are currently well within striking distance of our Paris Agreement climate commitments that avoid the worst effects of climate change. The economic imperative of a livable climate is now well known, as is the fact that renewable energy is more cost effective than through fossil fuels. At levels big and small, we are making progress.

It's been a busy summer at the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The affordability of renewable energy, both caused by lower generation costs and an impressive array of



Workers install solar panels on the roof of a house.



Jenny Downing photo.

financial incentives, is challenging decades-old fundamental assumptions about the transmission grid—and the regulatory process is catching up.

Just this summer, ICL has engaged with proposed changes from Rocky Mountain Power, Avista, and Idaho Power. ICL remains Idaho's most consistent advocate for clean energy and decarbonization at the PUC, and has always kept an eye toward the broader public interest and affordability. We remain dedicated to our 50-year legacy of advocacy for Idaho's climate, and are grateful for your support along the way.

Although the biggest opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are at the energy generation stage, there are plenty of individual actions that you can take to both help our climate and save you money. Stay tuned for more explainers from ICL about EV charging stations, heat pumps, energy-efficient cooktops, funding for defensible-space wildfire prevention treatments, and considerations for solar and battery storage installations at your homes. These are all individual actions that cannot by themselves solve climate issues, but collectively make a difference.

We look forward to walking alongside you through this energy transition, because the faster we electrify everything and decarbonize the energy grid, the quicker we get cleaner air and water, all while keeping more lands healthy and resilient.

For the love of Idaho, I hope you'll join us on this energy transition!

Adrian Gallo
Climate Campaign Coordinator

Management of Idaho's Grizzly Bears in the Crosshairs

Each fall, the high country of the Yellowstone, Northern Continental Divide, and Northern Idaho Panhandle ecosystems usher in a windfall of currents, chokecherries, Mountain ash, and elderberries for grizzly bears—helping to satisfy the astounding 20,000 calories each needs daily to fatten up for winter. This year, autumn has also ushered in the next cycle of elected representatives jousting for political solutions to manage those same endangered bears.

The latest attempt is coming from Idaho Senator Jim Risch, as a double-barreled follow-up to Idaho's threat to sue the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) after the agency rejected Idaho's petition to strip grizzlies from Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections in the lower 48 states. **Senator Risch has crafted the Grizzly Bear Review and Resource Restart (Grrr) Act to bypass the ESA**, setting the clock ticking on a legislatively-triggered delisting, while distributing press releases that "fighting the Feds is in our DNA."

The Idaho Conservation League opposes legislative end runs to manage wildlife—because they aren't tethered to scientific evidence and they're inconsistent with the establishment of the Idaho Fish & Game Commission in 1938, which sought to remove politics from wildlife management.

Essential Idaho populations established in the Selkirk, Cabinet-Yaak and Bitterroot ranges of Idaho



The sun glows off of the face of a grizzly sow. Ed Cannady photo.

aren't recovered and shouldn't be delisted until the goals of the USFWS' Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan—occupancy, habitat and gene flow—are met. Rather than trying to force a delisting decision through Congress, ICL encourages Idaho's federal delegation to instead engage constructively with all stakeholders to ensure a sustainable course for management of grizzly bears in Idaho. This begs asking several hard questions.

How would the State manage conflicts with livestock or humans and act to reduce those possibilities? Idaho needs to be prepared if and when bears show up. As of now, regulatory mechanisms and financial resources are inadequate to address conflict management, including use of nonlethal approaches.

How would Idaho work with land managers to assure that humans aren't leaving out bear attractants such as trash and food? Origins of several recent conflicts resulting in lethal removal actions of grizzlies were traced to human activities that attracted bears. Responsible requirements for food storage on public lands in Idaho's grizzly habitat have not yet been implemented.

How would the Idaho Department of Fish and Game monitor and minimize the accidental killing of grizzly bears from trappers and hunters using snaring, baiting, or other trapping methods targeting black bears or wolves? To date, there has been little indication of how this issue would be addressed.

ICL is keenly interested in being a part of reasonable conversations with our federal delegation, the state of Idaho, and IDFG about what state management would look like, if and when grizzly populations have reached recovery goals—like in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The only way forward for Idaho to credibly take over grizzly management from the USFWS would be for the State to implement adequate protections, staffing, and resources for the job at hand. ICL looks forward to working with all partners in pursuit of that goal.

Jeff Abrams
Wildlife Program Associate

North Idaho Waters: Tackling Legacy Mining Pollution and Protecting Trestle Creek

In North Idaho, we are all too familiar with mining that enriches a few and leaves communities suffering. In the Silver Valley above Lake Coeur d'Alene, more than a century of mining has left one of the most contaminated Superfund sites in the world. Despite decades of work to clean up the Silver Valley, people are still warned that due to lead contamination, it's unsafe to eat fish from the water or play on the beaches.

The Silver Valley isn't the only area that warrants our attention. Mountaintop removal coal mines owned by Canadian mining company Teck Resources Ltd. near Fernie, British Columbia are polluting the Kootenai River downstream in Idaho. Unless Teck treats the wastewater from its mines, Idaho fisheries such as white sturgeon and burbot could be decimated. The pollution originating from these mines will have to be treated in perpetuity.

One of Teck's mountaintop removal coal mines in Elk Valley, B.C. Garth Lenz photo.

Despite its water pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, Teck is proposing to expand the Fording River Mine by removing the top of Castle Mountain. If approved, it will be the largest mine of its kind in Canada, supplying coal to China for decades to come.

We refuse to accept the Kootenai River turning into a public health hazard like the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River. We are honored to do all we can to support the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe as they work to defend and restore their rivers, fisheries, and landscapes impacted by irresponsible mining operations.

ICL and the North Idaho community also recently spoke up in force to save Trestle Creek and its bull trout from an ill-advised marina and development proposal. In more than 1,300 public comments submitted, 96% opposed the development. The Idaho Department of Lands is required to make their decision by October 23, so stay tuned for updates and ways to speak up for this gem of North Idaho.

Jennifer Ekstrom
North Idaho Lakes Conservation Associate

CENTRAL IDAHO

Recreating with Purpose

ICL's Wilderness Stewards have been diligently working for nearly four months to preserve the wilderness attributes of Central Idaho's Wilderness Areas. These "characteristics" align with the standards of Wilderness as outlined in the Wilderness Act, including the preservation of natural conditions, minimal human impact, personal responsibility, and individual stewardship.

In practice, this means Wilderness Stewards act as an extension of the U.S. Forest Service in the field—collecting litter, clearing human waste issues, reducing or eliminating fire rings, and recording data. Most importantly, they engage with visitors to promote responsible wilderness recreation, reminding visitors of our shared responsibility to take care of our public lands.

As of mid-September, our 2023 Wilderness Stewards have patrolled 978 miles of Wilderness trails, dedicating over 910 hours (equivalent to 37 days). They've encountered 2,740 trail users, removed 49 pounds of trash, and cleaned or cleared 98 fire rings. These 60 volunteers come from all over the state, from Mountain Home to Ketchum to Idaho Falls; they range in age from 18 to 72 years old. With both returning and new volunteers, the program continues to demonstrate the excitement Idahoans share for our public lands, and our drive to care for these precious environments. Thanks to our Wilderness Stewards, we help ensure that everyone can relish the beauty of Idaho, The Wilderness State.

Lexi Black
Central Idaho Community Engagement Assistant



First-year steward Steve Rinehart runs into returning stewards Ted Stout and Joyce Fabre at Alice Lake.

NORTHERN IDAHO

Water Quality Stewards: Timeless Volunteers Award!

As our water quality monitoring season comes to an end, I want to recognize the dedication of our volunteer stewards. ICL began its Water Quality Monitoring Program in 2022, following the closure of Lake Pend Oreille Waterkeeper. In the transition, we were fortunate to inherit a group of devoted volunteers, and the group has grown since.

Our Stewards are 30 individuals from diverse backgrounds who share a common interest: the preservation of Lake Pend Oreille. They devote their time, energy, and resources monthly to monitor water quality across the Lake Pend Oreille watershed.

This citizen science initiative adheres to quality assurance protocols, demanding precise procedures, and our stewards go the extra mile to ensure accuracy. Their commitment extends beyond volunteering; they also actively advocate for the lake's protection.

This year, ICL's Water Quality Stewards have been selected as honorees for the Timeless Adult Volunteer Award by the Idaho Nonprofit Center! The title of "Timeless Volunteer" is more than fitting for our stewards as their efforts have a long-lasting impact on their community. The data they collect helps us to tell a story of Lake Pend Oreille, identifies current and future advocacy priorities, and is used by agencies like the Department of Environmental Quality to make management decisions. The longevity of their work quite literally makes them "Timeless Volunteers," and we are immensely grateful for their service.

Karissa Huntsman
North Idaho Community
Engagement Assistant



The Centennial Mountains on the eastern edge of Idaho are a rich landscape, home to essential waters and wildlife. BLM photo.

SOUTHERN IDAHO

Invasive Quagga Mussels Invade the Mid-Snake

On September 18, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) shared unfortunate news. After decades of efforts to keep invasive mussels at bay, quagga mussels were found in the Snake River near Twin Falls. It's the first time that these mussels have been discovered in Idaho, and a first for the entire Columbia River Basin.

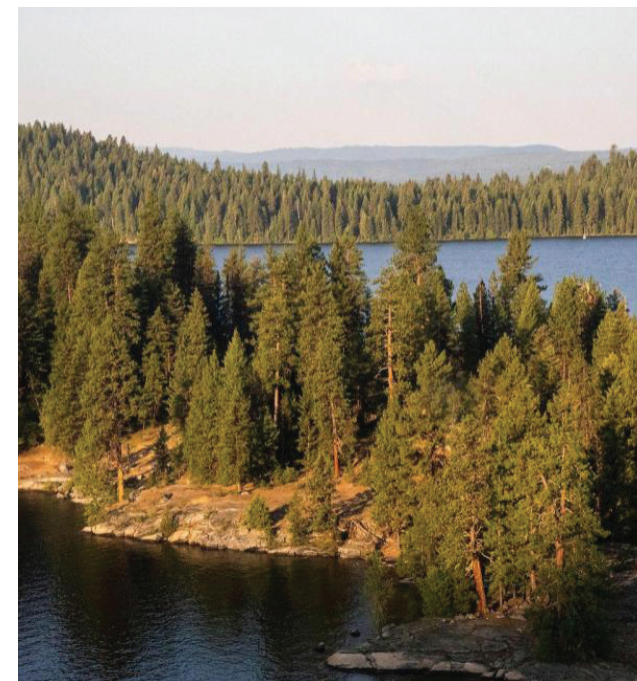
The unchecked spread of these invasive mussels would be catastrophic to fish and wildlife habitat in the river, as well as irrigation and hydropower, and could cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

In response, ISDA and the Governor's Office worked with federal and state partners to implement emergency closures to prevent the spread, along with an aggressive control effort. The control effort targeted a 6-mile section of the Snake River below Shoshone Falls. A copper-based pesticide called Natrix

was used to eradicate the mussels, but it also killed other fish, plankton, amphibians, and aquatic vegetation. The impacts are significant, and it will take years for this section of river to recover.

While ICL and others are cautiously optimistic that the treatment will be successful, we are concerned about future large-scale pesticide treatments, and will work to ensure that Idaho strengthens monitoring and prevention efforts to prevent quaggas or other dangerous invasive species from wreaking havoc on our precious waterways.

Josh Johnson
Central Idaho Director



Shellworth Island's name pays tribute to local resident Harry Shellworth, one of the earliest conservation voices in West Central Idaho. Angie Smith photo.

EASTERN IDAHO

Controversial Kilgore Mine Exploration Project Moves Forward

In early August, the Federal District Court sided with the Forest Service and Canadian mining company, Excellon Resources, upholding the approval of mineral exploration activities in Idaho's Centennial Mountains that put wildlife, water quality, the rural character of the area, and all those downstream at serious risk. The ruling allows the mining company to proceed with their proposed five-year exploratory drilling project. We successfully challenged a similar version of this project in 2020, and filed the most recent suit in 2022 (along with our partners at Greater Yellowstone Coalition) to compel the Forest Service to include additional safeguards

and monitoring to protect surface and groundwater resources from the proposed mine exploration activities.

ICL and our partners are continuing to evaluate all available legal and administrative means to prevent the future possibility of a large-scale mine in this ecologically important area. We will also continue our grassroots advocacy efforts in the region. We are struck by the pervasive local opposition to large-scale mining in the Kilgore area—something that we will work to build on going forward. Together, we will continue to work to protect the iconic wildlife, clean water, recreation opportunities, and rural character of Idaho's Centennial Mountains for all who cherish this special place.

Josh Johnson
Central Idaho Director

WESTERN CENTRAL IDAHO

Valley County Commissioners Protect Shellworth Island in Payette Lake

Over 10,000 years ago, glaciers covering Idaho's west central mountains retreated, leaving behind numerous crystal clear, turquoise-blue and sapphire-green high mountain lakes. McCall's Payette Lake represents one of these Gem State glacial remnant jewels. In early August, Valley County Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution to designate Shellworth Island—a roughly 13-acre sanctuary near the eastern lake shore—an Area of Critical Concern (ACC).

ACCs are areas where special management is needed to protect important resources. In this case, the Commissioners identified the need to protect Payette Lake's water quality

as a top priority. The designation allows the county to require in-depth environmental reviews prior to any future development or management change. The island is owned by the state and managed by the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) under the direction of the Idaho Land Board. In 2021, the Land Board approved the Payette Endowment Lands Strategy, which proposed to sell or lease Shellworth Island within the next 10 years.

The ACC designation was developed at the request of United Payette, a local coalition of concerned organizations (including ICL) and individuals working to conserve the McCall area endowment lands. We will continue to work to protect water quality in Payette Lake and advocate for the public lands that we cherish and hold dear.

Randy Fox
West Central Idaho Conservation Associate

Remembering North Idaho

It's not uncommon for residents of the Idaho Panhandle to feel like the rest of the state has forgotten them. Depending on where they live, some North Idahoans live further from Boise than the capitals of Montana and Washington.

Rest assured that the Idaho Conservation League hasn't forgotten this corner of the state. Coeur d'Alene resident Mary Lou Reed had a hand in founding ICL 50 years ago. She walked into ICL's Boise headquarters after our founding and left a plaque in the executive director's office that reads, "Remember North Idaho!"

ICL's Sandpoint office is hundreds of miles away from any of ICL's other offices and 400+ miles away from the Idaho Statehouse. Nevertheless, ICL has established a firm footing in the Idaho Panhandle with a staff of three that works to protect the region's iconic waterways, public lands, and wildlife.

Our North Idaho team is currently working to reduce mining pollution in the Kootenai River and Lake Coeur d'Alene, stop harmful

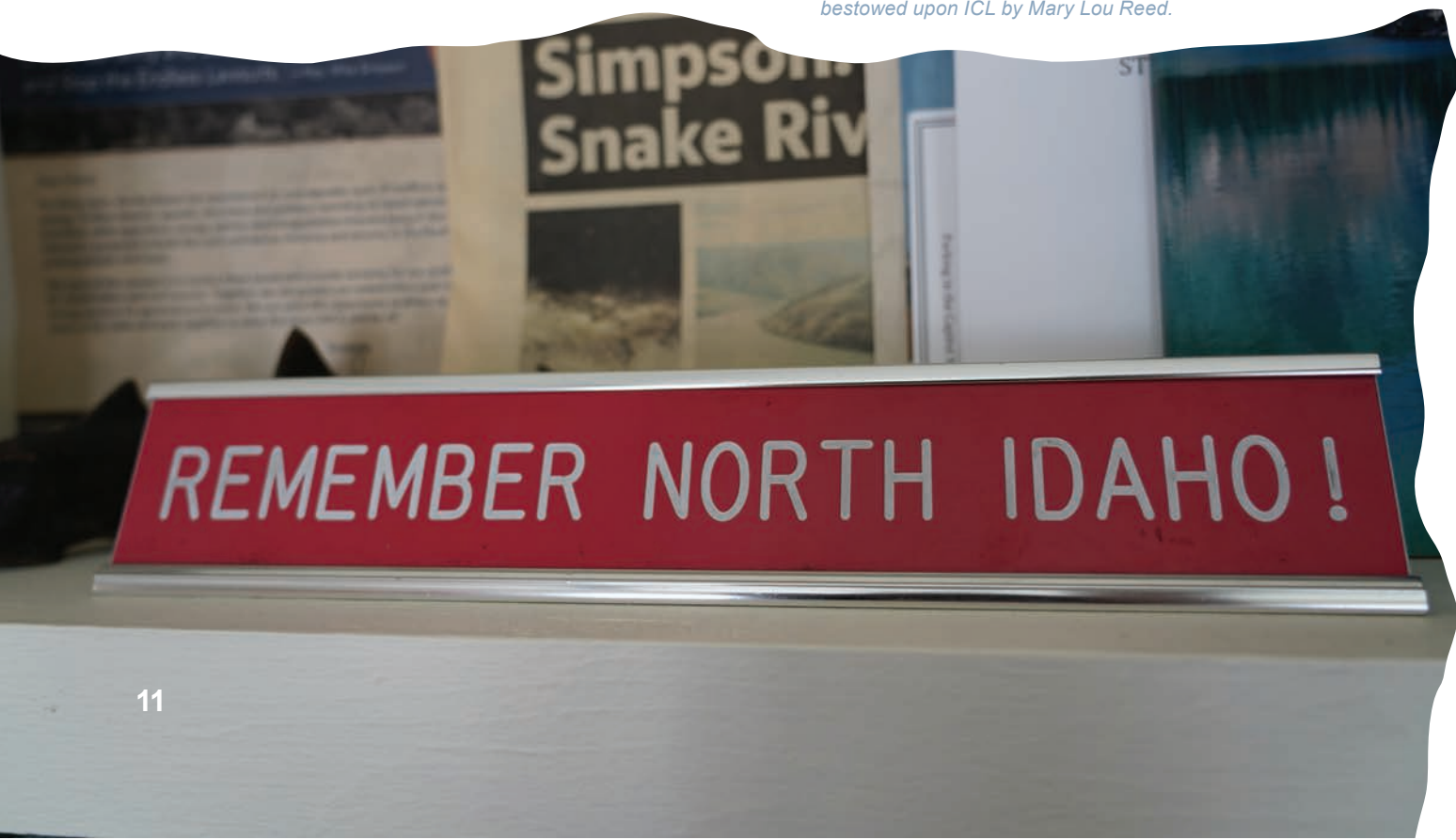
developments at Trestle Creek and the Coolin Wetlands, recover the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak Grizzly bear populations, and collaborate with recreationists to craft a winter recreation plan for national forest lands that also provides secure areas for wildlife.

In early October, ICL staff and board gathered with community members in North Idaho to cap off ICL's 50th anniversary celebrations, holding events in both Sandpoint and Moscow. The same week, ICL's Board of Directors held their annual retreat near the majestic Cabinet Mountains. These events provided an opportunity for more board members from across the state to personally connect with ICL's work and communities in North Idaho.

ICL has had a strong presence in the northern region of the state during our first 50 years of existence, and with your support, will continue to be active in North Idaho for the next 50 years and beyond!

Brad Smith
North Idaho Director

ICL's Executive Director, Justin Hayes, keeps a plaque in his office that's been passed down from his predecessors, bestowed upon ICL by Mary Lou Reed.



Youth Salmon Protectors: Making a Mark, Building a Legacy

"Your global footprint" is a phrase we hear a lot in the environmental world. While it can be easy to picture this as a big stain left on the Earth, it's important to remember that leaving a footprint doesn't have to be a bad thing. Leaving your mark on the Earth can be something positive.

My personal favorite example is the beaver. Nobody looks at a lush beaver pond and finds disgust in the way they alter their environment to fit their needs. Rather, we marvel at the habitat they create, the way their ponds recharge aquifers or help fight wildfires. I believe humans can learn many lessons from beavers, but perhaps the most important is the idea that we can sustainably alter our environment to suit our needs while also maintaining what is there, or even creating something new. This is something that youth advocates do well—we look out for both what is left and what we can regenerate for the future. Young people learn from experienced activists and conservationists while also adding to the conversation. And we are excited to do our part.

But youth activism isn't just about planning for the future—it's about taking action *now*. For Youth Salmon Protectors, this means breaching

the four lower Snake River dams *now*, before salmon go extinct. It's about seeing obstacles as opportunities to continue working toward our common goal. What often discourages others, fuels us. When I am sitting around a campfire singing songs after a long day of banner drops and exciting advocacy work, it is impossible to feel discouraged. Our members inspire each other and create an atmosphere of incredible support and passion. When given the chance, we jump on opportunities to show more people how capable of incredible things we are. And when we aren't given that chance, we fight to be heard.

The future of salmon conservation is bright. Youth advocates understand the impact we can have, and the impact we have to have, to sustain our environment. We are strong, smart, accomplished, and passionate. And we *will* save wild salmon if it is the last thing we do.

If you are a young person, or if you know a young person, I encourage you to get involved. Start by following us on Instagram (@youthsalmonprotectors) to stay updated on our work, call your representatives and tell them why you care about salmon, or educate a friend about the salmon issue. Just like the beaver, you can make a positive mark on the world around you—all it takes is a first step.

Lilly Wilson
Youth Engagement Assistant for University Outreach



A beaver outside its lodge. Ed Cannady photo.

For the Love of Idaho: Celebrating 50 Years of Preserving Idaho's Heart and Soul

As we celebrate ICL'S 50th anniversary, we reflect on the remarkable journey that has brought us to this milestone. Our theme for this celebration is "For the Love of Idaho"—a testament to the love of the Gem State's diverse and breathtaking landscapes that has turned into a legacy of protecting them. We believe that just as Idaho's beauty transcends boundaries, our mission to protect it knows no limits. Our commitment to safeguarding Idaho's diverse ecosystems comes from a love that has no bounds.

From the rugged White Clouds Mountains to the vast expanse of the Snake River, from the tranquil shores of Payette Lake to the ancient forests of the Panhandle, each region of Idaho offers unique and irreplaceable experiences. ICL knows this, and has worked tirelessly in all corners of the state, ensuring every Idahoan has access to clean air, clean water, and special places. Our success depends on support from each and every part of Idaho, and we do this work for all Idahoans.

In our five decades of existence, we've learned that the strength of ICL comes from the support of people like you. We've seen entire communities rally to protect their beloved landscapes, demonstrating that people of different backgrounds and beliefs can come together to protect their shared values. Time and time again, that shared value is a love for what ICL works to protect—clean air, clean water, and a wild Idaho.

In commemorating 50 years of the Idaho Conservation League, we celebrate the key to our continued success—you, the people who truly love Idaho. Together, we've achieved remarkable victories, preserving cherished places for generations to come. Help us ensure that ICL's work continues for the next 50 years and beyond—take an action, make a donation, and consider leaving a bequest to ICL in your will or estate plan. Together, we can continue the legacy we have built for another 50 years and beyond.

Diana Burrell
Development Director

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BOISE

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MCCALL

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West Central Idaho Conservation Associate

SANDPOINT

Jennifer Ekstrom
North Idaho Lakes Conservation Associate

Karissa Huntsman
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Salmon Campaign Grassroots Coordinator

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Scott Lewis, Ketchum

Jim Norton, Boise

Ben Pursley, Boise

Gregg Servheen, Boise

Daniel Stone, Fort Hall

Bill Weppner, Boise

Deb Wilson, Twin Falls

Staff Updates

After nearly 12 years with ICL, Marie Callaway Kellner has stepped down as ICL's Conservation Program Director. During her time at ICL, Marie successfully coordinated ICL's program staff to implement strategies to achieve conservation goals, undertake advocacy, and led ICL's efforts around water use. Marie graduated from the University of Idaho College of Law with a focus on water policy, and has been instrumental in promoting sustainable management and protection of Idaho's water in her time at ICL. We are deeply grateful for Marie's contributions and excited for her new teaching role with the University of Idaho College of Law, where she will undoubtedly have a positive impact on future generations of environmental lawyers.



50
YEARS



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League

Do Something Wild!

Fall brings many changes to Idaho's landscapes—bursts of color to the trees, sprinklings of snow on the mountains, animals preparing for the arrival of winter. But through every season, there's something that doesn't change—the Idaho Conservation League's dedication to protect and restore the air you breathe, the water you drink, and the lands and wildlife you love. Thanks to your support, ICL has turned a shared love for wild Idaho into a legacy of protecting it.

Please consider honoring this legacy and your love for wild Idaho by making a special gift to ICL in this special 50th year!

Scan the QR code to make a gift or go to idahoconservation.org/donate

Make A Gift

