



IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

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The Idaho Conservationist



The iconic American bison is regarded as a keystone species for its contributions to the health of our grassland ecosystems. ICL aims to play a role in the return of wild, free-roaming bison to landscapes in Idaho. Ed Cannady photo.

FEATURING

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The Tie that Binds

Summer is when many of us get outdoors to enjoy nature.

Maybe you had a trip into the Wilderness. Or did you spend time on the water, walk a local trail, or visit your neighborhood park? Were you out for a week, or just for a couple hours?

Justin Hayes

Did you hear coyotes yip as the sun set? Did you see a fish leap, a toad hop, or a hawk soar? Or was it an amazing display of wildflowers or shimmering aspen leaves in the wind that caught your eye? Were you overcome seeing the Milky Way, or overwhelmed by silence?

Idaho has so much to offer, and the tie that binds is nature.

Together we are working to protect both vast, wild landscapes and the lands and waters closer to home. Clean water. Clean air. Abundant wildlife.

These things that we love need advocates. Your passion and commitment means that what you love about Idaho—the special places you see when you close your eyes, the experiences you've had, the memories you cherish—has an advocate.


There is no certainty though. Things rarely come easy here and turning away for even a moment can mean a step backwards. There are many challenges that threaten to strip us of these wonders—none more pressing than climate change; its impact touches everything and it urgently demands our attention.

As summer ends, it's a good time to take stock of the Idaho you love. And for each of us to consider if we are doing enough.

Thank you for being part of the Idaho Conservation League family. We are all connected, indeed, we are bound together, by our love for this place and our desire to be part of the solutions that are needed to ensure that the Idaho that we love is not only here today, but here tomorrow.

Your support makes things happen.

Justin Hayes
Executive Director

A close-up photograph of a child's hands, cupped together, holding a small, dark-colored toad. The child is wearing a red and white plaid shirt. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

A child cradles a baby toad along the Boise River. Making memories like these can build a lifelong connection to nature.



Jim DeWitt

It's Our Members Who Make it All Possible

I have been involved in conservation organizations most of my life. Local Audubon chapters, statewide organizations, environmental litigation, and lobbying elected officials on behalf of the environment. My wife, Nancy and I are members of some 15 different environmental and conservation organizations. When Nancy and I moved from Alaska to Idaho—back to Idaho, in her case—we had already been members of the Idaho Conservation League for 25 years. Joining the ICL Board of Directors in 2017 felt like a natural fit. I did so with no expectation that I would ever become Board Chair, but here I am—honored to serve in the role.

The need for conservation and environmental protection is great. This summer brought reminders of the urgency of this work: record high temperatures, devastating wildfires with dangerous air quality, and toxic algae outbreaks plaguing our water bodies, to name a few.

The challenges for the Idaho Conservation League are as great and as immediate as they have ever been. With your help, with your generosity, we can meet these challenges and protect and restore the state we love. It will not be easy. It will not be quick. It's going to take all of us, in it for the long haul. But we will get it done.

As I move into my new role, I want to thank Rebecca Patton for her three years of extraordinary work as Board Chair. Her commitment to ICL and to wild Idaho is unwavering. I am deeply grateful for the dedication and work of board members like Rebecca and others, as well as ICL's passionate and remarkable staff.

Most of all, I want to thank each of you—ICL's members. Your support, your generosity, and your heart make everything ICL does possible. I will never forget it.

I look forward to working with all of you over the next year, working toward the goals we all share: protecting our water, our air, and the wonderful places that make Idaho the special place it is.

Jim DeWitt

Chair

Idaho Conservation League Board of Directors

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 icljobs@idahoconservation.org or call 208.345.6933 for more information. The deadline for applications is Monday, November 4, 2024.

Through the Smoke, Hope Remains

The hottest parts of this summer are now in the rearview mirror, but up ahead we still have to navigate wildfires and ongoing smoke impacts. For all the scars climate change is forcing on us, there are plenty of bright spots to appreciate. This sense of frustrated optimism will be consistent for many years to come—frustration that extreme weather events and wildfire smoke are getting worse, while noticing more clean energy projects and power lines from the highway as you're surrounded by electric vehicles (if you don't have one already).

This juxtaposition between feeling more acute environmental impacts and seeing more climate progress is because we're living through the pollution inflection point; this is the point at which the world finally stops increasing pollution and instead levels them out. Before long we will begin decreasing pollution. You may have heard the phrase we need to “bend the pollution curve”; that's happening right now.

While the United States has been decreasing climate-warming emissions since around 2005 (methane gas became a cheaper alternative to coal), China's emissions continued to rise—that is, until this year. Due to structural changes in their economy, and the world purchasing immense amounts of clean energy that boosted domestic production, their emissions are no longer increasing. How could that be? In 2023, China brought on more clean energy capacity than the rest of the world *combined*. Just a short while ago they were not so ambitious, but ongoing droughts imperiled their hydropower systems so much that they needed to find more energy—and across the world, clean energy is the cheapest, most reliable form of electricity.

If this sounds familiar, it should. In August,

the *Idaho Capital Sun* published a story titled “Idaho doesn't produce energy like it used to. How drought, renewables are changing our landscape.” The story describes how Idaho Power Corporation used to rely on hydroelectricity for up to 80 percent of their generating capacity. Due to increasing droughts because of climate change, that has shrunk to less than 50 percent. An Idaho Power representative explained, “It's not just that utilities are trying to be clean or conscious of the environment... It's also that [wind/solar] is the single lowest cost way to produce energy on your system.”

In mid-July, we saw this energy transition aid Idaho Power when it set a new record for energy demand. While Idaho Power used to rely on people to conserve energy to lessen the stress on the grid, they had more help this time around; additional solar and batteries strengthened the grid and made it more reliable.

Every time we have the opportunity, we need to remind our friends and family that clean energy is the cheapest and most reliable way to power our lives. It's economics that relegated coal and promoted methane gas in the mid-2000s, and now the same thing is happening with clean energy outcompeting methane gas. Furthermore, Idaho-specific polling from The Nature Conservancy shows 64 percent of Idahoans agree that clean energy is good economics, and that we can increase the production of clean energy while preserving wildlife habitat. In addition, clean energy also keeps our air, water, and ecosystems healthy.

The Lava Ridge wind project is just one example of our clean energy progress. It's a renewable energy project on BLM-administered land in south-central Idaho. Over 85 percent of the project area is land already impacted by invasive plants, agricultural encroachment, wildfires, and intensive grazing, among other issues. It's



*An overflight over the proposed Lava Ridge Wind project area.
Ecoflight photo.*

surrounded on all sides by highways, cities, and intensive agriculture. These public lands are desert land being used as rangeland, but it's certainly not a pristine area.

When the Lava Ridge project was first proposed, ICL was concerned with impacts to cultural sites, wildlife migration corridors, and sage-grouse breeding grounds, among other issues. We submitted dozens of pages of comments, and while the review process leaves much to be desired, the final project design, identified by the BLM, addressed nearly all of our concerns and is more restrictive than even the most conservative options originally considered. The total project acres, the number of turbines, and the miles of roads were all nearly cut in half. The western half of the project was eliminated, addressing the most acute impacts to cultural resources and wildlife.

After a careful review of BLM's efforts to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the remaining impacts, we are in support of the project. This decision did

not come easily, but climate change is not some distant threat—Idahoans are feeling the impacts today with hotter summers, longer wildfire seasons, and increased droughts. Our way of life will not stay the same if we don't invest in clean energy projects that benefit our local communities and transition us away from dirty fossil fuels.

I continue to be hopeful about our climate progress, but also nervous, because these projects still need advocates. Remember that talking to your friends and family about the environmental and public health benefits of stopping climate pollution can have a huge impact. With your support, we will always be here to protect Idaho for all of us to enjoy.

Adrian Gallo
Climate Program Manager

U.S. Supreme Court Rejects Dredge Miner's Last-Ditch Appeal



Shannon Poe's dredge mining location in the South Fork Clearwater River in 2018. Jonathan Oppenheimer photo.

For decades, ICL has called attention to the need for state and federal agencies to take action on dredge mining, an activity that can have serious impacts on fish habitat and water quality.

Our advocacy ultimately led the Environmental Protection Agency to authorize a permit in 2013 that reduced dredging in some rivers, and prohibited it altogether in habitat for endangered fish or where water quality is already impaired.

These new rules did not stop a handful of dredge miners from openly defying the law. ICL took notice, and alongside our legal team at *Advocates for the West*, we filed more than a dozen notices of our intent to sue if dredge miners continued to violate the rules. The majority of dredgers agreed to follow the rules... But one miner did not.

California-based mining advocate Shannon Poe continued dredging without permits, and in 2018 ICL filed a Clean Water Act suit against him for dredging in the South Fork Clearwater River. This river provides critical habitat for steelhead, bull trout, salmon, lamprey, and other species. Mr. Poe also invited others to join his protest of the rules designed to protect clean water

and sensitive habitat, and posted substantial documentation on social media. This, along with years of monitoring data that ICL and our local investigator collected, helped our case.

All of that evidence, along with a plain reading of the law, was enough for U.S. District Court Judge Ron Bush to find Poe guilty of violating the Clean Water Act in 2021. A follow-up ruling levied a \$150,000 fine against him, the largest-ever Clean Water Act fine against an individual in Idaho. Poe subsequently appealed to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which unanimously upheld the District Court ruling. Still unsatisfied, Poe petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to hear his case.

All along the way, Poe argued that because the Clean Water Act only requires permits for the "addition of pollutants," he didn't need one, because he was dredging, processing, and discharging streambed materials that were already present.

If you've been watching the Supreme Court lately, you know that they've been anything but predictable. So while we were hopeful that we would prevail, we knew it was possible they could consider the case.

But in the end, on July 2, 2024, the Supreme Court rejected Poe's petition to hear the case. That means that precedent established by our case applies across Idaho, as well as the other states in the 9th Circuit, including California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, Arizona, Nevada, and Montana. As a result of this long and hard-fought victory, dredge miners must obtain permits before they mine, ensuring protections are upheld for clean water and critical habitat across the majority of the American West.

Jonathan Oppenheimer
Government Relations Director

A Dirty Problem with Idaho's Wastewater Treatment Plants

ICL's seventh annual study of Idaho's wastewater treatment plants found that in 2023, more than 58 percent of all sewage facilities in Idaho failed to comply with Clean Water Act standards for the discharge of harmful bacteria, chemicals, toxic metals, and other substances. During 2023, there were 458 violations of the Clean Water Act at wastewater treatment plants 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.

Similar to prior years, a small number of sewage treatment plants (11 out of 112) were responsible for more than half of all violations reported statewide. All 11 of these worst-performing facilities were located in relatively small rural communities. Three facilities (Preston, Driggs, and Parma) accounted for approximately 32 percent of all violations in 2023. On the other hand, 47 cities or towns across the state

reported no discharge violations in 2023, and many treatment facilities made significant improvements to reduce or eliminate their discharge violations from the last few years.

Unfortunately, facilities do not always make improvements on their own accord, but need to be pressured to do so. That is why ICL releases this annual report—to help inform the public, promote action, and protect clean water.

Every Idahoan deserves clean water. We all must work together to hold the facilities that are meant to protect us accountable to the law. ICL will continue to track treatment plant compliance to ensure our public health and environmental laws are followed fairly and consistently.

Will Tiedemann

Regulatory Conservation Associate



Scan the QR code to review ICL's 2024 Wastewater Treatment Plant Report.

idahocl.org/ICLWastewater

Phosphorus and nitrogen pollution can cause excessive algae and aquatic plant growth, leading to more oxygen depletion within the water and toxic algae outbreaks (pictured here) that threaten public health and aquatic life.

Make Room for Bison!

Tens of millions of bison once ranged from central Oregon to Appalachia and Mexico to west central Canada. By the 1800s, there were a few hundred. Our country came within a whisker of killing off this icon of native North American wildlife.

Nowadays, the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is home to roughly 5,000 bison. There is no other place on the planet to watch bison on such a natural and majestic landscape. However, America's collective engagement with our national mammal should be happening on a much broader scale. We deserve more. So do bison.

Biological, cultural, and economic benefits come with wild, free-ranging bison. They could serve as a critical lever to help restore significant landscapes in the west if local communities were equipped with tools to embrace them as part of the wildlife landscape.

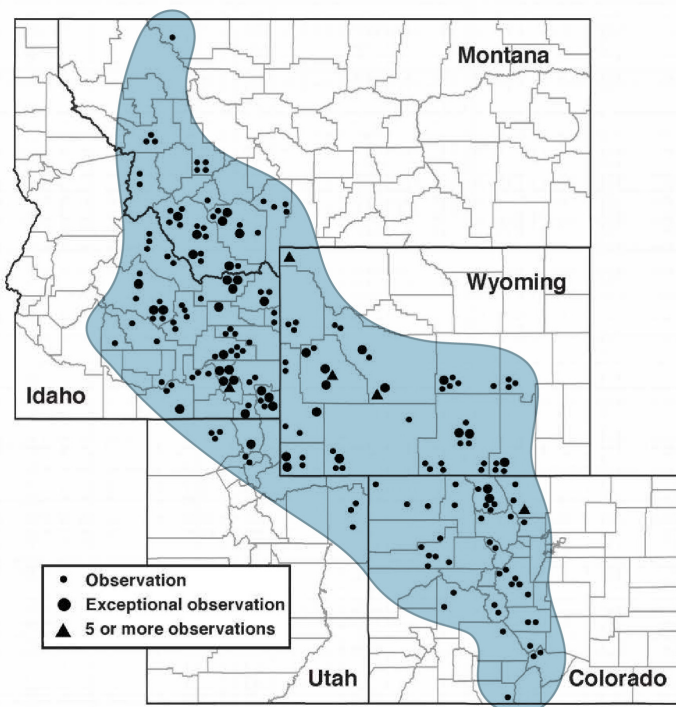
The Idaho Conservation League wants to be part of a discussion about creating a future where

bison roam beyond the confines of Yellowstone.

The eastern Snake River Plain connects lands west of the Divide to the Green and Missouri River basins. Places like Henrys Lake, Dubois, and Fort Hall used to host bison. Records from 1805-1845 indicate that bison herds of 1,000 animals were observed on many occasions.

Now, bison are slowly being allowed to reoccupy historic habitat—primarily through Tribal initiatives mostly east of Idaho. ICL looks forward to understanding how these conservation successes could translate to an even broader swath of western lands. The public has shown support for this—provided thoughtful measures are taken to address potential conflicts with humans and livestock.

Restoration of bison in carefully identified areas of Idaho will require collective efforts from a diverse set of stakeholders. ICL has always believed that big, ambitious things are possible when effective advocacy aligns with well-timed opportunity. We think this may be just the case with bison making a return to Idaho.



Jeff Abrams
Wildlife Program Associate

Early historic observations of bison in the Rocky Mountains, USA. Exceptional observations are observer estimates of 1,000 or more bison, or descriptions such as “vast herds” (Bailer, 2016).

Central Idaho

At the Heart of Stewardship

Every now and then, despite our better judgment, a wildfire takes us by surprise. When the Bench Lake Fire erupted on July 11, I was surprised. Not because a fire in this area was unexpected, but rather because I couldn't manage to pair the images of smoke plumes and blackened trees alongside my most recent memory of the area: a gorgeous, cold, and clear day on which I hiked to Bench Lakes with a group of ICL's Wilderness Stewards. Right around where the fire was alleged to have started, our group had been dismantling illegal fire rings only eight days prior.

We often hear of the Sawtooth Wilderness' "use problem," with growing numbers of visitors and increased numbers of violations of the Wilderness Regulations (for instance, having a ground fire in the Sawtooth Wilderness).

Yet I think the term "use problem" misses the point; public lands, by design, are for all to enjoy. What we

have is a teamwork problem. We must all ensure we are enjoying our public lands responsibly. Management of the shared resource of our Wilderness areas takes all hands on deck. ICL's Wilderness Stewards are trained to engage with the public with exactly that in mind: remind other visitors that we are a team, and it is our collective job to care for these beautiful places *together*.

In the aftermath of the Bench Lake Fire, I can't help but think about my appreciation for these volunteers who do the difficult work of building a team, of turning mutual appreciation into mutual stewardship. Thanks to them, more and more users might find that placing a lantern in the center of camp is a worthwhile replacement for a campfire. ICL's Wilderness Stewards were active across the Sawtooth and Boulder-White Clouds this summer. If you see them on the trail, say hi!

Lexi Black

Central Idaho Community Engagement Specialist

North Idaho

Kootenai Ponderay Sewer District Bond

The populated northern shore of Lake Pend Oreille is a haven for recreation, offering locals and visitors a beautiful respite from summer heat with ample opportunities for swimming, fishing, and boating. At the heart of this wonderful area is Boyer Slough, where the Kootenai Ponderay Sewer District (KPSD) discharges its wastewater. Here, our water quality monitoring shows total phosphorus levels hundreds of times higher than the target set by the State for the shoreline area of Lake Pend Oreille. The pollution causes nuisance aquatic weeds to flourish and even leads to toxic algae outbreaks.

As KPSD nears the end of their ten-year-long mandated schedule to

comply with the target, they have now raised the funds to upgrade their facility and stop the pollution! KPSD received a \$13.5 million grant from the State of Idaho, as well as voter approval for a low interest loan for the remaining \$18.5 million. ICL volunteers hit the streets to educate their neighbors about the necessity, and the bond ultimately passed with 73 percent voter approval. Now, with restored water quality in sight, we are asking the sewer district to suspend all new hookups until Boyer Slough is restored.

Sign up for North Idaho Lakes email updates and opportunities to take action at idahocl.org/news.

Jennifer Ekstrom
North Idaho Director



Kelli Burt and her helpers sample water quality in Boyer Slough. Note the green color of the water.

Southern Idaho

Fires Cost, but Who Pays?

As a young person working on climate change, you often see old predictions come true. As longer, drier summers change fire behavior across the West, we are starting to know their costs. After power lines sparked fires in California, Colorado, Hawaii, and Oregon, utilities across the West settled or were assessed billions in liabilities.

The question of who will pay for damaging fires has now arrived in Idaho. PacifiCorp, the six-state Berkshire Hathaway-owned electric utility serving east Idaho, is seeking \$12.4 million in excess insurance costs and \$11.1 million for a new catastrophic fire fund as part of its eye-popping \$92 million (27% increase) rate request before the Public Utilities Commission. The details and how costs are passed to ratepayers are sure

to influence how utilities plan and pay for fires.

It's a tough problem. Losses and suffering from fires are tragic, and ratepayers are scarcely able to absorb increasing utility bills. At the same time, utilities must be solvent to replace fossil generation with non-carbon emitting resources. A just solution will take creativity from regulators and accountability from utilities. ICL is actively working at the Public Utilities Commission as Idaho navigates this predictable, expensive reality—we're working to find a new, fair way forward in our changing world.

Brad Heusinkveld
Energy & Regulatory Counsel





Eastern Idaho

Snake River Water Wars Flare

Few topics inspire more fervor in eastern Idaho than water. Declining water levels in the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer have sparked disputes between water rights holders for years, and this summer, the pot boiled over once again.

In June the Idaho Department of Water Resources was prepared to shut off water that irrigates 500,000+ acres of farmland in the Upper Snake and Magic Valley. Marathon negotiations led to yet another tenuous agreement between senior surface water rights holders and junior groundwater users. While this truce may've held during this irrigation season, it's far from resolved.

We always pay attention to water issues as they relate to water quality in the

aquifer, near and downstream fisheries, outbreaks of toxic algae, power production, and so much more.

One topic that has been notably absent from the discussions is the opportunity to invest in water conservation in the Snake River. After all, the cheapest water we can find is the water we never use. As America's #1 per capita consumer of water, Idahoans can do better and ICL will continue to advance efforts to ensure sustainable and clean water for Idaho's communities, fisheries, and farmers alike.

Jonathan Oppenheimer
Government Relations Director



Stibnite Mine.
EcoFlight photo.

West Central Idaho

ICL Continues Fight to Protect Idaho from Stibnite Gold Project

On September 6, 2024, the U.S. Forest Service released a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Draft Record of Decision for the Stibnite Gold Project near Yellow Pine in Valley County. The ill-conceived project continues to pose threats to our clean water, public health, fish and wildlife habitat, and public lands.

ICL is deeply disappointed in this draft decision, which came after hundreds of our advocates voiced concerns over the project's devastating impacts to community and ecological health. What's more, after an initial review, it is clear that the mine plan has not meaningfully responded to the substantive concerns raised by ICL,

our partners, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the public. The FEIS reveals that streamflows will decline by up to 30% during operations and the removal of riparian vegetation will increase stream temperatures by up to 11.9° F. These initial findings demonstrate that the mining company and the Forest Service must do more.

Idaho can't afford to take chances with precious resources like clean air and water, and we aren't willing to risk special places like the South Fork Salmon River watershed from being turned into toxic mine waste. *The fight is not over. In fact, we are just getting started!* ICL is geared up to object to the mine plan and point out its numerous deficiencies, and will continue the fight to protect the clean water, important fish and wildlife habitat, and outstanding recreation opportunities that make this place special.

Randy Fox
Public Lands Associate

We Are the Boise River


This summer, thousands of people sought refuge from the heat and found rejuvenation in the cool, clear waters of the Boise River. Families, floaters, fisherfolks, surfers, birders, and Greenbelt enthusiasts all prize the Boise River. To top it off, the Boise River also provides about a third of Boise's drinking water and irrigates over 300,000 acres of farmland. Over 833 of these folks spoke up on behalf of the Boise River and against the high-risk CuMo mine exploration project in its headwaters.

Idaho Copper is pushing forward with plans to bulldoze 8 miles of new roads, clear 122 drill pads, and drill up to 250 holes near Grimes Creek. The Canadian mining company is hoping that their exploration will lead to one of the largest open-pit copper and molybdenum mines in the world. Mining does not have a great track record when it comes to protecting resources like community rivers. As just one example, Molycorp's Questa molybdenum mine in New Mexico prioritized profits over protections and

poisoned one of the best trout streams in the state with heavy metals and acid drainage.

While mining companies are supposed to set aside a reclamation bond to cover cleanup costs, we are concerned about Idaho Copper's financial solvency. Multi Metal, owner of a 56% interest in Idaho Copper, owes a debt of \$2.9 million to International Energy. International Energy obtained a summary judgment for the debt and the court directed the Ada County Sheriff to hold a Sheriff's auction. We have asked the Forest Service to delay a decision on this exploration project until we can be sure that Idaho Copper will be able to cover all reclamation costs. We are also hoping that the Forest Service's decision will address all of the other concerns related to water quality, bull trout, and rare plants.

John Robison
Public Lands & Wildlife Director



The CuMo exploration site encompasses the forested mountain beneath the wing and above the windy Grimes Pass Road. The Flat Fire is visible in the Clear Creek drainage on the right. The South Fork Payette River and Ward's Greenhouses are visible on the bottom left. John Robison and EcoFlight photo.

Guest Author

Stronger Together: Northwest Comes Together to Renew, Restore, and Revive the Snake River



As the recently appointed Executive Director for the Columbia Snake River Campaign, I am excited to announce the public launch of our newly revamped Campaign!

Over the last few months, we have worked diligently to refresh this

Campaign, previously known as 'Our Northwest Opportunity,' which includes a new name, logo, and website (<https://columbiasnakeriver.com>).

The Columbia Snake River Campaign is a united coalition of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Tribal Nations dedicated to advancing the cause of salmon and steelhead recovery, dam removal, and restoration of the lower Snake River.

Among our wonderful group of partners, the Idaho Conservation League has been instrumental in getting us to this point of reformation and continues to be a strong partner in all efforts. This diverse and powerful alliance is committed to safeguarding the ecological integrity of the Columbia and Snake Rivers and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come. By joining forces, we aim to amplify our collective voice and mobilize support for transformative action that benefits people, wildlife, and the planet.

Through advocacy, outreach, education, and collaboration, we will strive to protect and restore this vital ecosystem for the benefit of all its inhabitants. Follow along and learn how you can support our efforts by scanning the QR code on this page to sign up for our email list.

Together we can seize this opportunity to change the way we do business and build a stronger and more resilient Northwest while prioritizing the needs of the salmon, orca, and all who depend on them.

Kayeloni Scott
Executive Director
Columbia Snake River Campaign

Sign up for
Campaign Updates



columbiasnakeriver.com/contact



Kayeloni Scott

Join Us in Growing the Idaho Conservation League

During our annual September Membership Drive, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated members. Your support is key in furthering our mission to protect and restore Idaho's air, water, public lands, and wildlife. We need your help to ensure that the Idaho Conservation League can continue to thrive and make a meaningful impact.

This year, we're asking our members to introduce ICL to their friends, family, and colleagues. By sharing your passion for conservation and the work that we do, you can help us grow our community of members who are committed to safeguarding Idaho's environment for generations to come. Whether it's through a personal conversation, an email, or a social media post, your endorsement can inspire others to join us in this important work. Together, we can make a bigger difference.

In addition to sharing your reasons for giving to ICL, we encourage you to consider becoming a GEM State Protector. Giving Every Month (GEM) is one of the most effective ways to

support ICL's day-to-day work, allowing you to budget your contribution in a way that works best for you while providing ICL with a steady and predictable stream of income. This consistent support helps us plan and execute long-term conservation projects with greater confidence, knowing that we can count on your ongoing commitment.

Even a modest monthly donation can have a significant impact over time, helping to sustain our efforts to protect Idaho's wild places. By setting up a recurring gift, you're not just giving once—you're making a lasting investment in Idaho's future. Already a GEM State Protector? Please consider increasing your monthly gift by a few dollars.

Thank you for being a part of ICL's conservation community. Your continued support, in all its forms, ensures that Idaho's air, water, public lands, and wildlife are protected for years to come.

Diana Burrell
Development Director



Scan this QR code or enter in the URL below to become a GEM State Protector today!

idahoicl.org/GEM

Art by ICL Artist in Residence, Taelyn Baiza.



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BOISE

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Mitch Cutter
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Adrian Gallo
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Mobilization Team

John Robison
Public Lands & Wildlife Director

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Abby Urbanek
Communications & Marketing
Manager

Lana Weber
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Manager

Kayla Wilcox
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Lilly Wilson
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University Outreach

KETCHUM

Lexi Black
Central Idaho Community
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MCCALL

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Meet ICL's 2024-2025 Artist in Residence: Taelyn Baiza!

Taelyn Baiza is a 2024 graduate of Boise High School with a special interest in nature and wildlife illustration. She enjoys creating art focused on biodiversity and the importance of healthy ecosystems. She sells her art as cards, puzzles, and prints at regional stores and artisan fairs. Taelyn enjoys working with a variety of mediums, including colored pencil, pen and ink, woodburning, markers, and oil paint.

During the residency year, Taelyn will complete a body of work to be exhibited at ICL's 2025 *Wild Idaho!* conference. Her work will also appear in ICL's digital and print communications. To explore Taelyn's previous work, visit her Instagram page: [@taelynbaizaart](https://www.instagram.com/taelynbaizaart), and stay tuned for more from Taelyn with ICL!



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Enjoy a dip into Idaho's cold, clear waters
this summer? Give today to support our
clean water work!

Make A Special Gift



To Contact ICL: 208.345.6933 | icl@idahoconservation.org
www.idahoconservation.org

*The American dipper, which can walk underneath
the water, is an aquatic songbird native to Idaho.
Ed Cannady photo.*