Where Art and Nature Meet

This year’s annual report cover highlights a detail from The Boulder Front, a plein air painting by ICL’s outgoing artist in residence, Rachel Teannalach. The full painting is above.

As ICL’s first artist in residence, Rachel helped ICL establish the program, which nurtures the nexus between art and the natural world. Rachel set a high bar, and we appreciate her hard work and all that she offered to the ICL community. Rachel traveled the state capturing the essence of outdoor Idaho in her plein air landscape paintings. Thank you, Rachel! See more of her art at her website, www.teannalach.com.

ICL welcomes the 2015 ICL artist in residence, Peter Lovera. We are excited to see how the year inspires Peter, who brings a distinctive photographic vision and storytelling talent to the program. Look for more about Peter in the coming year!
The Year in Review

“Be Kind”... And Strong

Our work is not just about winning; it’s about bringing people along, as we build, as Wallace Stegner said, “a society to match the scenery.”

While out in the field on an Idaho visit, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell heard plenty from people needing things from her. ICL’s John Robison saw the growing tension and asked what we could do to help her. “Be kind,” she said, referencing the thousands of government employees who bear the brunt of often ill-formed public frustration with government.

High Country News had just run a story about public employees as targets for a violent, government-hating fringe—an all-too-real challenge that Jewell faces.

The nation has just held a divisive election. We are in the final two years of a presidential administration we’re asking a lot from. Major policy challenges face the West, and they require choices. Meanwhile, public confidence in government is at an all-time low. Much work lies ahead, including some opportunity, and ICL is going to lean into it hard.

The Idaho Conservation League interacts with thousands of people. We pride ourselves on creating community among our supporters and friends. We also pride ourselves in our respectful, professional engagement with those whose views differ from ours. Jewell’s words are not found in our mission, but they are embedded in our culture.

With your incredible support, we now wrap up what’s been a big year and step into the next—strong and ready to work. Our work is not just about winning; it’s about bringing people along, as we build, as Wallace Stegner said, “a society to match the scenery.” That’s part of what “Idaho’s leading voice for conservation” means.

Rick Johnson
Executive Director
rjohnson@idahoconservation.org
Idaho four-term governor and former Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus recently received the Frank and Bethine Church lifetime achievement award. Following tributes from former Pres. Jimmy Carter and many colleagues, Andrus reflected on his career and looked to the future. He spoke about ICL’s work and told the audience that they needed to support us. He talked of ICL’s strategy, tenacity and professionalism—a powerful endorsement from one of Idaho’s true statesmen.

No ICL endorsement is complete without recognizing you. Every ICL step depends on the thousands of ICL supporters who love Idaho and, like Andrus, are part of a community working proudly to pass Idaho’s best on to the next generation. Thank you for doing your part.

Wildlands
The Boulder-White Clouds national monument campaign is under discussion at the highest levels of the Obama administration. Partnered with Conservation Voters for Idaho, we had 20 canvassers identifying more than 12,000 new people who support this campaign. Nationwide, this list exceeds 50,000. Seeing momentum, Rep. Mike Simpson intends to move his long-blocked wilderness legislation in Congress. Within a year, Simpson said, the area will be protected as a monument or by his legislation as wilderness. ICL supports Simpson, but after a decade of work, we have scant confidence in Congress—a monument remains our goal.

To the north, wilderness efforts continue with the Clearwater Basin Collaborative working on remaining provisions that are blocking consensus. The Scotchman Peaks campaign is building clear majority
support, with many looking to Idaho’s senators for next steps.

Other Idaho leaders still hope for a state takeover of our federal public land. Millions of acres important for hunting, fishing and recreation could be privatized. ICL delivered grassroots pressure in public meetings across Idaho and demonstrated that the public, by a great majority, opposes this proposal. This issue will come up again in the Legislature this session; we will again show legislators that Idahoans want to keep our public lands in federal hands.

Midas Gold has proposed a massive gold mine that would take a salmon-bearing river and put it into a pipe, surrounding it with massive open pits and mountains of waste on our public land. ICL stopped the company’s exploration work for now, forcing a more complete environmental analysis.

Wildlife
In 2014, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game hired a trapper to eliminate wolf packs in the Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness without public review and contrary to predator management directions there. ICL opposed this action and quickly brought it to the attention of top levels of state and federal government.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service erroneously concluded that climate change poses no risk to wolverines—a winter-dependent iconic species in Idaho—and failed to provide endangered species protection. ICL is challenging this decision in court.

ICL collaborated with ranchers, the state, and other stakeholders on a conservation plan for sage-grouse in Idaho. While not the plan that we’d write ourselves, it’s a foundation for protecting priority habitat for sage-grouse—and by uniting diverse players, it raises the bar for serious protection.

Water
In northern Idaho, we are partnering with the IDFG to restore habitat in the Clark Fork Delta on Lake Pend Oreille. Meanwhile, we’re pursuing a lawsuit against the Bonneville Power Administration regarding operations of Albeni Falls Dam. The BPA failed to address environmental impacts, including winter lake-level fluctuations on precious yet disappearing wildlife habitat in delta.

In eastern Idaho, we partnered with mining companies with whom we sometimes spar...
Achievements

6

to create and implement an unprecedented effort to enhance water quality and Yellowstone cutthroat trout in the Blackfoot River, putting millions of dollars to work in the river.

In the Treasure Valley, we set a new legal precedent to clean up the Boise River. "Public interest" is part of an Idaho water right, and in water law, this usually means using the water for irrigation. ICL argued that cleaning up the Boise River through an innovative Boise city program would be "in the public interest." The Idaho Water Resources Board agreed—a step to more equitable water protections.

Thanks to ICL, the Salmon-Challis National Forest and National Marine Fisheries Service are completing an Endangered Species Act analysis of irrigation diversions on the national forest. This analysis lays the groundwork for protecting endangered salmon and steelhead in the headwaters of the Salmon River by ensuring that needed water stays in streams and irrigation doesn't block salmon from spawning grounds.

Climate and Energy

ICL fought a utility’s plans to prolong the life of one of the largest dirty coal plants in the West. The Public Utilities Commission agreed and told Idaho Power to look for cleaner alternatives, including efficiency. In the past year, energy-saving programs in Idaho avoided 900,000 tons of carbon pollution and delivered $87 million in economic benefits. ICL helped establish paths to expand these savings.

Where it won't harm wildlife, ICL promotes clean, renewable energy development and helps ensure that Idaho utilities offer fair prices to developers for clean energy. These fair prices are now attracting Idaho's first large-scale solar plants.

Montana and Wyoming coal and North Dakota oil are crossing the Idaho Panhandle by railroad, with huge plans to expand. We're working with local, state and federal officials to ensure that Idaho communities have a voice where export proposals create environmental, safety and financial risks.

In helping the city of Boise lead on sustainability, ICL organized the first-ever Boise Sustainability Forum, which brought business and city leaders together. About 100 leaders attended, including long-established businesses, younger entrepreneurs, Boise's mayor, members of the city council and the president of Zions Bank.

A Vibrant ICL

ICL conducted over forty events across Idaho to build membership, create a conservation community, and promote conservation priorities. Overall membership numbers increased by 3 percent, and donor revenue grew by 5 percent. ICL's monthly giving program increased by 20 percent in both revenue and number of people participating. For 2015, ICL plans to create more events, deeper grassroots engagement and communication strategies to tell ICL's story to more people.
Cathedral Thinking

Cathedral thinking—what is that, you ask? It refers to the centuries-long building process of magnificent cathedrals, whereby original architects and generations of builders never saw the products of their efforts. I first heard of this concept from Jim Rogers, CEO of Duke Energy and a member of the board of directors for The Nature Conservancy.

According to cathedralthinking.com, the term, often used in the business world, means a “far-reaching vision, a well thought-out blueprint and a shared commitment to long-term implementation.”

Work in the conservation field is like that. Visionaries with foresight and passion have created cathedrals in our country—wilderness, parks and preserves—that have benefited generations who followed them. The 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act that we celebrated this year is a testament to cathedral thinking in conservation.

The founders and staff of ICL have done this over the years for Idaho. The open spaces, clean air and water, and natural beauty that we enjoy today are the products of their vision, blueprint and commitment.

As we look back on the past year of work by ICL, we know that what we did will have benefits not only today but also in decades to come. Thank you for your help in building Idaho’s cathedral!

Elaine French
Idaho Conservation League Board Chair

Donors

A special thank you to all ICL members and supporters! Listed below are those who donated $250 or more, either through financial or in-kind support, between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014. This annual report marks a change to segmented giving levels. We are pleased to try this approach at the suggestion of our board of directors.

*Members of ICL’s Advocates for Idaho monthly giving club who made gifts totaling at least $250. Advocates for Idaho members who made gifts totaling less than $250 are listed separately.

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*The following monthly donors with total gifts less than $250 provided ICL with steady funds, allowing us to respond quickly to conservation threats. Thank you! Monthly donors with total gifts of more than $250 are listed above with *.

Anonymous (3)
Sara & Robert Arkle
Eileen Atkisson & Lawrence Blakey

IN MEMORIAM

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

Doug Abromeit
W. G. Atteberry
John Barringer
Kenneth Beers
Barbara Bowman
Edgar Bronfman, Sr.
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Harley Wright
Virginia Zimmer
2014 Financial Statement

Total revenue for the 2014 fiscal year was $1,904,702. Contributions from individuals increased to $597,005, which included $19,764 in gifts to our endowment. Grants from foundations were $1,058,400, and events and sales totaled $93,817.

Support services held steady at 20%. In 2014, ICL conducted a detailed feasibility study of future work to strengthen ICL and build capacity to achieve our mission. This study was funded by the ICL endowment and is included in our administrative costs. Program expenses totaled $1,562,231, with 80 cents of each dollar going to conservation.

At fiscal year end, our endowment totaled $2,276,220, with $155,480 of investment income.

Statement of Activities 2014
(for the year ending September 30)

Revenue and Other Support
Grants ................................................. $1,058,400
Individuals ........................................... $597,005
Events, book sales, other revenue .......... $93,817
Investment income .................................. $155,480
Total Revenue ..................................... $1,904,702

Expenses
Program services .................................. $1,562,231
Administration .................................... $216,656
Fundraising ......................................... $184,417
Total Expenses .................................... $1,963,304

Endowment fund value ......................... $2,276,220

Notes to Financial Statements:

► The Idaho Conservation League is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

► This financial information is drawn from audited financial statements by the accounting firm Harris & Co., P.A.

If you have questions or comments about finances, call Suki Molina, Deputy Director, 208.345.6933 x 18.
Leave a Lasting Gift for Idaho

Make a gift for Idaho’s future. Join ICL’s Legacy Club.

Your commitment to the Idaho Conservation League is important. Consider strengthening that commitment by including ICL in your planned giving. Join our Legacy Club and make your love for Idaho last.

A planned gift is a lasting investment in ICL, enabling us to protect Idaho today and for future generations. Consider something simple like including ICL in your will. We can provide you with language or you can find it on our website (www.idahoconservation.org/legacygifts). You can choose to be listed in our Legacy Club or keep your gift anonymous.

You can include ICL in your planned giving through other tools like trusts, gift annuities, bequests and more. If you have complex questions about how to include ICL in your planned giving, we are happy to refer you to a planning professional.

For more information on planned giving to ICL, contact me at 208.345.6933 x 15 or the email below. Please let me know if you’ve included ICL in your planned giving.

Aimee Moran
Development Director
amoran@idahoconservation.org

Since moving to North Idaho in 1966, our lifetime goal has been to “experience all that Idaho has to offer.” So we have backpacked, mountain biked, hunted big game, and truck camped through the state. In her crystal waters, we have swum, fished, jet boated, kayaked and canoed. Because we feel strongly about “keeping Idaho’s wild places wild,” we have testified at congressional hearings in Lewiston. Our prayer is that folks enjoy this state as we have for over 50 years. We have supported ICL for its efforts to conserve Idaho’s natural treasures and will continue to do so through a bequest from our estate.

— Ken and Ginger Wright, Coeur d’Alene, ICL Legacy Club members
Happy New Year!

From the back, left to right: Susan Drumheller, Justin Hayes, John Robison, Marie Kellner, Mary Beth Whitaker, Betsy Mizell; Courtney Washburn, Lori Sims, Jonathan Oppenheimer, Aimee Moran, Suki Molina; Ben Otto, Nancy Dooley, Rick Johnson, Brad Smith; Sara Arkle, Lana Weber, Erin Zaleski, Dani Mazzotta, Natalie Chavez.