**ART & NATURE**

Our cover features work by 2016 Artist in Residence Josh Udesen. ICL's artist in residence program explores the nexus between art and nature and is sponsored by ARTA River Trips.

Among Josh’s adventures this year, an aerial tour by EcoFlight over the Sawtooths inspired Josh to finish a painting in his head “even before I started applying paint to the brush.”

ARTA River Trips guided Josh down the Middle Fork Salmon River, where he took photographs, sketched and explored the area, coming away “with a host of ideas fermenting” in his head.

We thank Josh for his great work and invite you to his exhibition at Gallery Fifth18 in Boise through January.

ICL now welcomes the 2017 Artist in Residence Linda Lantzy! A professional photographer, Linda has traveled Idaho to capture its rugged beauty. See her work at www.idahoscenics.com.

Mary Beth Whitaker
Editor & Designer
mbwhitaker@idahoconservation.org

“Sawtooth Sunset” by ICL 2016 Artist in Residence Josh Udesen
2016 provided an election for the history books. The story to unfold will significantly affect our work to protect Idaho’s clean air, clean water and public lands. Our nation’s role in addressing climate change will also change. And in this and many other issues, pressure at a state level will most certainly increase.

We don’t know what the future brings. But we do know that America is deeply divided. As a wise friend long ago helped me understand, “Everyone owns a piece of the truth.” Moving forward will be complicated—but necessary.

Focusing only on the difficult rhetoric of the election is unfair to Americans who voted for change. In many cases, these people felt ignored or otherwise excluded from a changing country and global economy. At the same time, ignoring the rhetoric is both foolish and unfair to the rest of America deeply troubled by the outcome.

In a very conservative state, ICL has for many years effectively protected the air you breathe, the water you drink and the special places you love. We have proven our ability to build bridges and community, and we have a great team working every day for you and your children. Together, we have created a record of success that is admired nationwide.

Because of your support, we are as prepared as we can be in these times of uncertainty. Because of your support, we will continue to inform, inspire and empower citizens from all walks of life to protect Idaho, this precious and complicated place we call home.

Rick Johnson
Executive Director
rjohnson@idahoconservation.org
ACHIEVEMENTS

ICL’S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016

It’s been quite a year. While rancor and division dominated the news, ICL once again showed that conservation can complement the conservative values that often define Idaho. This coming year may (or may not) see attempts to change environmental laws and their use. ICL works to inform, inspire and empower citizens on behalf of Idaho’s outdoor values: those are worth fighting for. Thank you for a great year—and for your support going forward.

RIVERS

ICL’s work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers led to formal designation of the Salmon River as navigable under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. This action corrected a 1933 error and ensured that 259 miles of the river have commonsense federal protections.

ICL also worked with Boise, state and federal governments to see the Dixie Drain permitted and built. This innovative, cost-saving project helps clean up the Boise River, benefiting the Snake River as well.

As the state drafted a sustainability plan to address growing pressures on Idaho’s water, it neglected to include fish. ICL’s work and outreach made sure that fish are part of what “water sustainability” means in Idaho.

POLLUTION

The federal Superfund law cleans up pollution problems across the nation, often at taxpayer expense. The law also has a bonding provision, like a security deposit paid by potential polluters, that has never been enforced. ICL helped...
create a nationwide schedule to develop bonding for hardrock mining, chemical manufacturing, petroleum and coal products manufacturing and electric power generation projects. This huge nationwide win counts as one of ICL’s greatest accomplishments.

MINING

Our public lands and waters still face great threats from existing and proposed mining activities. ICL helped stop development of the Golden Hand mine on Big Creek within the Frank Church—River of No Return Wilderness. ICL again challenged the proposed open-pit CuMo mine in the headwaters of the Boise River, one of the only places that the rare Sacajawea’s bitterroot grows. This plant was further endangered by the huge Pioneer fire this summer. ICL is also closely tracking early phases of the massive Midas Gold project.

ICL is again challenging Atlanta Gold’s failure to contain and address legacy pollution at its proposed mine site. And after years of concern over suction dredge mining in Idaho’s rivers, ICL sent legal warnings to several suction dredge miners who had previously mined illegally in protest of Clean Water Act regulations. Based on our warnings, no unlawful mining occurred in the South Fork Clearwater, which had been the epicenter of such activity in prior years.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE

Efforts to address causes of climate change varied in scale and location. ICL helped envision and create Idaho Power’s community solar program in which customers can invest in a major solar energy project. Perfect for renters and others unable to install rooftop panels, ratepayers can now have a transferable piece of the solar revolution. To promote our own clean energy use, ICL installed solar panels on our Boise headquarters, complementing our connection to the city’s geothermal system.

Because ending dependence on coal is an ICL priority, we facilitated an earlier-than-planned shutdown date for the Valmy coal plant in Nevada, one of two that provide power to Idaho.
ICL was active in the multistate campaign on oil and coal terminals and the shipment of dirty fossil fuels in railcars through Sandpoint and across the Idaho Panhandle. Thankfully, nearly all of these ill-conceived proposals have been shelved.

PUBLIC LANDS AND WILDERNESS

An Idaho-based bill has been introduced for the first designated wilderness in Idaho’s Panhandle, Scotchman Peaks. With excellent prospects in Congress, this forthcoming bill builds off years of collaborative work, including support from the timber industry, local county commissioners and other interests.

Idaho remains a target for forces seeking to transfer federal public lands to state control. Focusing on the Idaho Legislature, ICL has led the charge to mobilize grassroots opposition and explain issues of cost, lost quality of life, and the potential for the state to sell off our public lands.

ICL kicked off a stewardship program in the three new Boulder-White Clouds wilderness areas and the Sawtooth Wilderness. More than 35 trained volunteers in 19 groups made 116 trips, engaged with about 1,500 wilderness visitors, hauled out nearly 85 pounds of garbage, and otherwise helped overcommitted U.S. Forest Service rangers. We plan to expand the program in 2017.

Last year’s Boulder-White Clouds wilderness bill included a unique provision to allow ranchers to permanently retire livestock grazing on certain public lands. ICL finalized the first of these grazing retirements in 2016. More are expected in 2017.

ICL is also a leader in helping create the nation’s first “dark sky reserve” in Central Idaho. This campaign highlights the extraordinary values found in the night sky, an increasingly rare resource threatened by light pollution.

ICL is a key player at collaborative tables across the state, such as those focusing on the Clearwater, Panhandle, and Payette and Salmon-Challis National Forests. Collaboratives provide a rare win–win...
opportunity to address public land management concerns locally and regionally. Nothing blunts public land takeover rhetoric better than multistakeholder teams that are creating commonsense solutions to management challenges.

BACKYARD CONSERVATION

Our North Idaho office worked with a broad coalition to keep Clagstone Meadows from being developed into a large-scale housing project. Owned by a timber company, this historic ranch provides important wildlife habitat. ICL worked with partners on a conservation easement, but the funds for the easement had to pass through the Legislature. Despite strong local support, forces in the Legislature sought to block it. Thankfully, the coalition convinced a majority of legislators to approve the project.

A STRONG AND VIBRANT ICL

The It’s My ID campaign is heading toward a close. This $4 million campaign both doubles the endowment and creates a new fund to support our energy and water work, creating a unique, Idaho-based response to climate change.

Following nearly 20 meetings, ICL’s board of directors finalized a new three-year strategic plan to guide ICL into the future. The key goal of building our base of support is proving prescient as we move into new challenges on a federal level.

ICL’s new logo triggered many changes this year. Along with the logo, we created a new website and updated the entire branded look for ICL. The website is mobile friendly and provides an anchor for ICL’s online presence. It and our social media now better serve the thousands of people we work to inform, inspire and empower to protect Idaho. To fill the huge shoes of departing veterans, ICL hired two staffers for our North Idaho office.

R. J.

ICL’s new logo triggered many changes this year. Along with the logo, we created a new website and updated the entire branded look for ICL.
On Nov 9, I was in Argentina where many people asked me what I thought of the U.S. elections. I said I wasn’t sure other than we should expect changes at the federal level in both our domestic and international policies.

Today it has become clearer that the changes I predicted are underway. What is not changing, however, are the things that ICL members prize about Idaho—our clean water, clean air and special places.

So the challenges for the board and staff are to determine how best to address changes at the federal, state and local levels in constructive ways while protecting what we all value. Board and staff leaders are committed to such a course.

ICL has demonstrated its ability to work effectively in a variety of political environments. With this experience, we know that we can continue serving as Idaho’s leading voice for conservation, even in a changed and somewhat unknown political climate. I expect that we will seek and find new partnerships here in Idaho to help us keep environmental protections alive.

Our work is bolstered by knowing that you, our ICL members, “have our backs.” We hope that your support continues—whether you make gifts to ICL, write letters to decision makers, attend important public meetings or volunteer your time. We greatly appreciate everything that you do, and we may ask you to do more as the challenges we face in these uncertain times become clearer.

Paul Cunningham, Chair
Idaho Conservation League Board of Directors
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 during ICL’s fiscal year between October 1, 2015, and September 30, 2016.

*Members of ICL’s Advocates for Idaho monthly giving club who made gifts totaling $250 or more.

Gifts and pledges to the It’s My ICL campaign are listed separately on p. 14.

DONORS

Keen: The Outdoor Foundation
Michael Mars
Jim Norton
Patagonia
Margaret W. Reed Foundation, Mary Lou Reed
Elizabeth B. Simon
Jim Thompson & Priscilla Pound

$1,000+
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ARTA River Trips
Judy Baker
A. J. & Susie Balukoff
Lori & Tom Banducci
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Charles Wemple & Julie Britton-Wemple
Western Organization of Resource Councils
Betsy Weston
Julie Weston & Gerry Morrison
Susan Whiting & Bruce Van Dusen
Eric Younger & Heidi Campbell

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Phyllis Anderson
Mary & Richard Arave
Jan Aronson
Atkinson’s Market
Dr. Leroy & Debra Beasley
Kahle & Kathy Becker
Larry & Dede Binder
Ed & Frances Blair
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Terrell Bostick
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In memory of Susan Berry
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Greg Marvin
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Christine Mead
Nels Mitchell & Mary Kimmel
K. C. & Diane Murphy
Kevin Murray
National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance
Carl & Jane Nellis
Carole Nemnich
Linda Nicholes & Dr. Howard Stein
Jerry Nielsen
JOIN ICL’S LEGACY CLUB

Your commitment to ICL is important. You can strengthen that commitment by including ICL in your planned giving.

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 acknowledged in our Legacy Club or keep your gift anonymous.

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

For more information, contact me at 208.345.6933 x 15 or the email below. Let me know if you've included ICL in your planned giving.

Aimee Moran
Development Director
amoran@idahoconservation.org

LEGACY CLUB

ICL’s Legacy Club members have made provisions to support our conservation efforts after their passing.

Anonymous (6)
Cecil D. Andrus
Eileen Atkinson & Lawrence Blakey
Judy Baker
Lori & Tom Banducci
Larry & Dede Binder
Alida Bockino
Ed Cannady
Bill & Jeanne Cassell
Bill Clark
Paul & Heidi Cunningham
Barbara Dargatz
Joyce Fabre & Craig Randle
Michael Flanagan
John & Elaine French

Susan Gilliland
Craig Groves
Amy Haak
Patrick Haas & Alison Beck Haas
Mike & Irene Healy
Dave Heep
Antone Holmquist
Rick Johnson & Roberta Crockett
James J. Johnston
Trish Klahr & Lee Melly
Tracy L’Herisson
Gregg Lewis
Steve Lockwood & Molly O’Reilly
David Marshall
Wayne Melquist
Walter Minnick & A.K. Lienhart Minnick
Steve Mitchell & Louisa Moats
Suki & Bill Molina

Aimee & Greg Moran
Bill & Colleen Mullins
Carl & Jane Nellis
Jerry Nielsen
Rebecca Patton & Tom Goodrich
Gary Paul
Tom Pomeroy
Julia & Alan Richardson
Kim Skyelander
Bob Swandby
Robert Vestal & Jyl Hoyt
Dr. Kenneth & Virginia Wright
HOW WE DID FINANCIALLY IN 2016

The Idaho Conservation League raised a total of $2,950,903 during our 2016 fiscal year (10/1/15–9/30/16). Of this, grant revenue equaled $946,326; event and sale revenues, $105,995.

Contributions coming from individuals include $647,054 in annual giving and $984,944 in cash and pledges for our It’s My ID campaign. This exciting campaign is raising $2 million for a climate fund and $2 million for our endowment (see p. 13).

To support our program work, we spent $1,562,244, and administration costs came in at $158,289. Our fundraising expense of $216,771 includes our general fundraising work as well as that for It’s My ID.

At fiscal year end, our endowment totaled $2,208,994, with investment growth of $266,584.

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.
HERE’S YOUR IT’S MY ID UPDATE

Exciting news on our It’s My ID campaign! This campaign is raising $4 million to both double our endowment for long-term sustainability and create a climate fund that supports our water and energy work.

Our climate fund will go a long way in helping ICL make a difference. One simple climate solution is to get out of coal plants in neighboring states. Each year, Idaho imports nearly 40% of our electricity from out-of-state coal-fired power plants. By investing in Idaho’s own clean energy, we protect our state and grow our economy.

Your contributions to the climate fund also help us in our ambitious goal of making the Snake River swimmable and fishable again. Clean, abundant water is not something we can take for granted. Scarcity brought on by overuse and worsened by climate change requires us to protect our water and keep more of it in the rivers for fish.

We are getting close and need just under $415,000 to reach our $4 million goal, and thanks to a $110,000 matching gift from ICL leadership, gifts of $3,000 or more are being matched and can be pledged over three years. If you haven’t contributed to It’s My ID yet, do it now! You can email Suki Molina at smolina@idahoconservation.org or call her at 208.345.6933 x 18 to give to the campaign.

Elaine French
Chair, It’s My ID Campaign
Idaho Conservation League Board of Directors
IT’S MY ID GIFTS & PLEDGES

The following people have made or pledged gifts to our It’s My ID campaign as of December 1, 2016. Their gifts are helping to both double our endowment to provide unrestricted income into the future and create a climate fund to support our crucial energy and water work. Thank you all! To give to the campaign, contact Suki Molina at smolina@idahoconservation.org or 208.345.6933 x 18.

$500,000+
John & Elaine French

$250,000+
Anonymous
Judy Baker
David Bonderman
Tom Goodrich & Rebecca Patton
Walter Minnick & A. K. Lienhart Minnick
John Osberg

$100,000
Mary Donovan & Steve Seward
Patrick Haas & Alison Beck Haas
Rick Johnson & Roberta Crockett
Trish Klahr & Lee Melly
Steve Lockwood & Molly O’Reilly
Robert Swandby

$50,000+
Anonymous
Mary Bachman & William Downing
Lori & Tom Banducci
Russ & Janet Buschert
The Butler
Conservation Fund
Paul & Heidi Cunningham
Lauren & Alan Dachs
Christopher Davidson
Don & Kay McCarter
Suki & Bill Molina
Jim Norton
Molly & Tom Page
Julia & Alan Richardson
Lewis & Connie Ulrey

$25,000+
Dave & Lyn Anderson
Greg Carr

Wendy & Jim Jaquet
Diane & Jack Leaverton
Ronald Mamajek & Denise Zembryki
John & Ginny Moody
Aimee & Greg Moran
Ben Otto
Michael & Charlotte Page
Buddy Paul & Beverly Lingle

$10,000+
Anonymous
Tony & Amie Bell
Jerry Brady
Claire Casey
Carolyn & Chuck Coiner
Paul Collins, M.D.
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Equinox Foundation
Wayne & Gerry Faude
Margaret & Willy Gorrisen
Mike & Irene Healy
Hull Family Foundation
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Jim Thompson & Priscilla Pounds
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Chuck & Jo Hower

Tanya Anderson
Kahle & Kathy Becker
Stoney Burke
Natalie & Todd Chavez
Confluence Fund
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Susan Drumheller & Mike Murray
James & Barbara Fillmore
Cyndi & Justin Hayes
Anne Herndon & Russ McKinley
Paul Martin
Dani Mazzotta & Steve Southard
John O’Connor & Jennifer Durbin
Skip & Esther Oppenheimer
Greg & Lori Sims
Stanley Family Fund
Marjorie & Barry Traub
Kim & Frank Trotter
Genie Sue & Robert Weppner
Mark & Erin Zaleski
Annual reports are often about the past; we choose to look forward. A steady eye on the horizon sees long-term goals and priorities. Looking around us and remaining nimble to breaking opportunities and challenges are key to our success.

ICL’s work is guided by a three-year strategic plan. The new plan, developed in 2016, was based on many inputs and resulted from nearly 20 meetings. It incorporates a clear assessment of what works now and what’s needed for tomorrow.

You’re familiar with many ICL priorities—protecting public lands and waters, securing greater protective designations and shifting from fossil fuels to clean energy sources. Defending key Idaho values, like wildlife habitat and clean air and water, is always core to our work.

Broadening our base for both grassroots power and financial stability is a rekindled area of focus. We are growing our work on climate change. We are also focusing on best practices for nonprofits to make sure that our supporters get the most bang for their buck and that we can respond to the challenges of advocacy in a changing world.

It’s My ID, ICL’s campaign to raise $4 million to double the ICL endowment and create a new climate fund, draws to a close this coming spring. Endowment earnings provide unrestricted income, while the climate fund—so important as federal policies shift—enhances ICL’s work with businesses, Idaho leaders and you, our members, as we create Idaho-specific responses to effects of climate change.

Eyes on the future. Feet on the ground. It’s what you expect. It’s what we do.

R. J.
Membership renewal made easier! Your annual membership renewal date is printed on the mailing label below. Please help save costs by renewing your membership before it expires. Renew online at www.idahoconservation.org or use the enclosed envelope.

Wishing you a joyous New Year!

The ICL staff wish you the very best in the coming year! Wherever your journeys may take you, you are assured that these folks are continuously working on your behalf to protect the air you breathe, the water you drink and the special Idaho places you love.