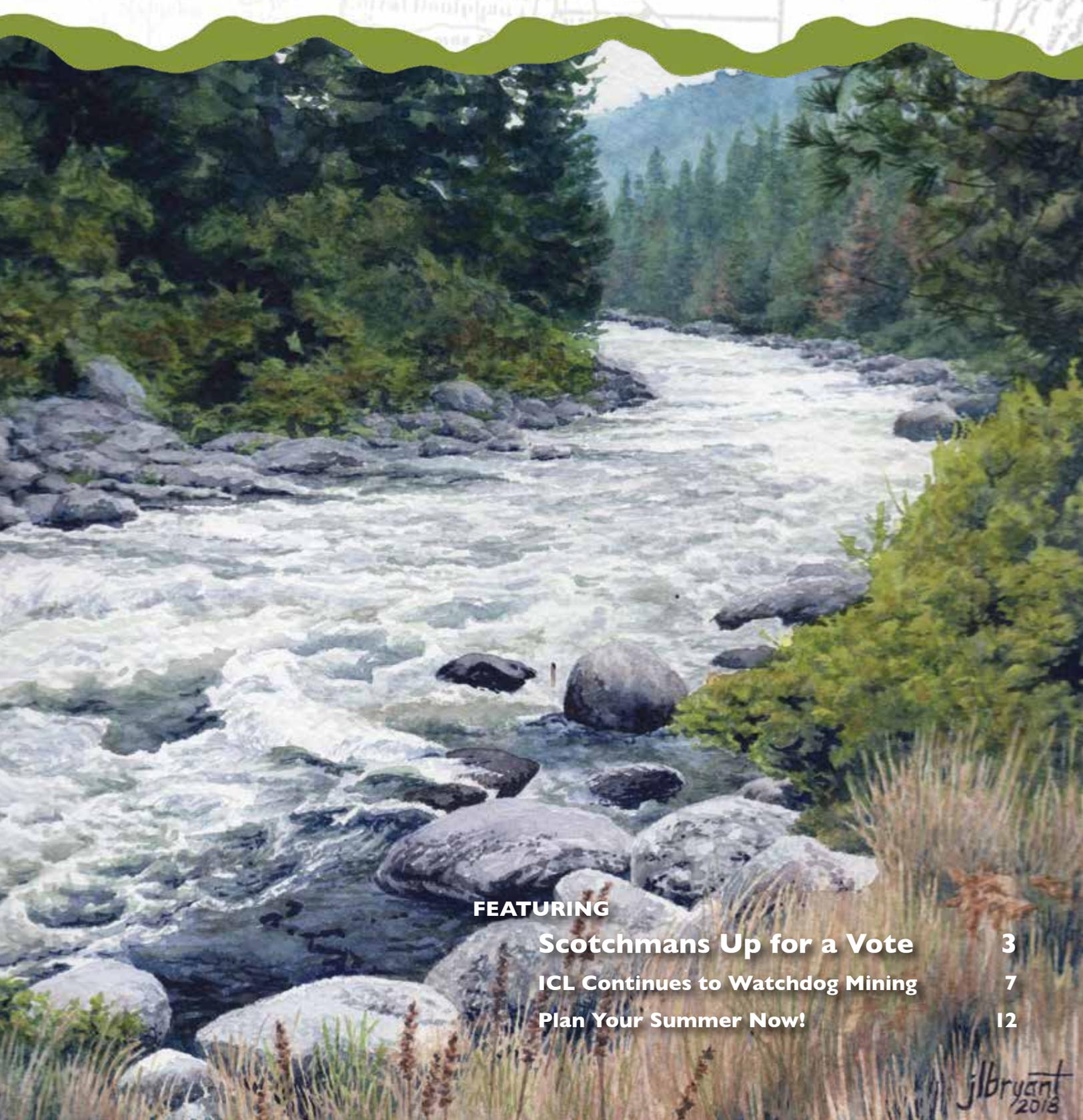




IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

Vol XXI No 1
March 2018

The Idaho Conservationist



FEATURING

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| Scotchmans Up for a Vote | 3 |
| ICL Continues to Watchdog Mining | 7 |
| Plan Your Summer Now! | 12 |

jl Bryant
2018

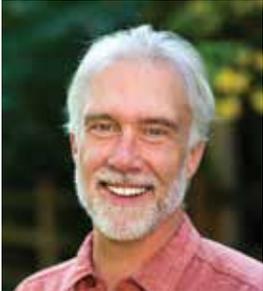
Steve Mitchell, Chair, Hailey
Lori Gibson Banducci,
Vice Chair, Boise
Bill Weppner, Secretary, Boise
Julie Richardson, Treasurer, Hailey
Tanya Anderson, Victor
Judy Baker, Emmett
Kahle Becker, Boise
Jerry Brady, Idaho Falls
Carolyn Coiner, Twin Falls
Paul Cunningham, Boise
David Eichberg, Boise
Steve Lockwood, Sandpoint
Jim Norton, Boise
John O'Connor, Bonners Ferry
Tom Page, Hailey
Rebecca Patton, Hailey
Buddy Paul, Coeur d'Alene
Jerry Scheid, Idaho Falls
Kim Trotter, Driggs
Margrit von Braun, Moscow

STAFF

Natalie Chavez
Communications Associate
Emily Cleveland
Community Engagement Associate
Jenny Estes
Development Program Manager
Justin Hayes
Program Director
Austin Hopkins
Conservation Associate
Josh Johnson
Conservation Associate
Rick Johnson
Executive Director
Marie Callaway Kellner
Water Associate
Dani Mazzotta
Central Idaho Director
Betsy Mizell
Community Engagement Associate
Matt Nykiel
Conservation Associate
Jonathan Oppenheimer
Government Relations Director
Ben Otto
Energy Associate
Haley Robinson
Development & Marketing Associate
John Robison
Public Lands Director
Julia Rundberg
Director of Finance & Administration
Brad Smith
North Idaho Director
Lana Weber
Community Engagement Associate
Mary Beth Whitaker
Editor & Designer
Erin Zaleski
Office Manager
Boise
208.345.6933
icl@idahoconservation.org
www.idahoconservation.org
Ketchum
208.726.7485
Sandpoint
208.265.9565

Wild Inspirations

Glenn Oakley



Rick Johnson

The Idaho Conservation League works on matters of air, water and land where we often weave accomplishment from challenge. Inspiration plays a huge role — and few places inspire like Idaho.

My greatest inspiration comes from wilderness. Extraordinary Idaho places are touchstones for a lifelong journey in conservation. As my path has lengthened, I've met many who are similarly moved, and in a beautiful evolution, special people, like those special places, often inspire my energies in Idaho.

Today I am writing from Patagonia, a wild and inspirational land in Argentina and Chile.

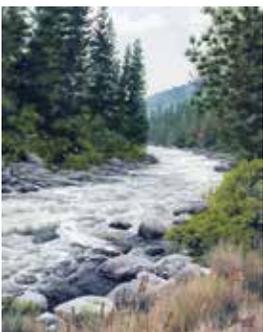
Like Idaho, Argentina and Chile are expanding protected areas, and one of ICL's long-time supporters is quietly helping in Patagonia, as they have long helped us. This supporter's involvement in the new Parque Patagonia complements work by Kris and Doug Tompkins, who have devoted their all to landscape-level conservation in Patagonia. Chile recently designated 10 million acres of parklands. Argentina is making big steps, too. All supported by special people in many inspirational ways.

Soon, I will bring home my own stories, my own images imprinted — as a mountainous profile once was for the climber who put it on the Patagonia label. More than just stories and images, I will carry fresh inspiration for ICL's very important work at home, in Idaho.

Rick Johnson

Executive Director

rijohnson@idahoconservation.org



Cover: Detail of Payette North Fork by ICL Artist in Residence Jessica L. Bryant. Watercolor on paper, 8" x 10", jessicabryant.com.

Scotchmans Put to a Vote

Bonner County voters have a chance to show their support for the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness during the May 15 primary election. To gauge local public support for the wilderness proposal, the Board of County Commissioners decided to put the issue to a nonbinding advisory vote. ICL has long worked on a Scotchman Peaks designation and is using this opportunity to turn people out for the vote.

The proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness includes nearly 14,000 acres of national forest lands above the northeast shore of Lake Pend Oreille. The area encompasses Bonner County's tallest summit, Scotchman Peak. The namesake peak provides stunning views of northern Idaho waterways, forests, mountains and wildlife. The area is perhaps best known for its iconic mountain goat herd. Protecting the Scotchman Peaks and their intrinsic values will ensure that future

generations can enjoy the area as we do today.

Some of our members have asked me why ICL did not oppose the advisory vote. It's true that, given our representative form of government, we elect candidates to represent us in policy-making venues so that we do not have to vote on every issue. I also agree that national forest lands belong to all Americans: whether you're a Bonner County resident or not, you should have a say in what happens to these lands.

Nevertheless, supporters of the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness can take comfort in knowing that we're optimistic about the vote. You may remember that Idaho Sen. Jim Risch introduced a bill in 2016 to protect the Scotchman Peaks as wilderness. Risch would not have introduced this bill without understanding
(continued on next page)

Protecting the Scotchman Peaks and their intrinsic values will ensure that future generations can enjoy the area as we do today.

Scotchman Peaks / Brad Smith



Scotchmans Put to a Vote (cont.)

If you live in Bonner County, go to the polls on May 15 and support the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness!

the broad support that the proposal enjoys. Supportive groups include the Idaho Forest Group, Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce and countless local opinion leaders.

In 2017, two public open houses organized by the senator’s staff in Bonner County further demonstrated broad support for the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Attendees of the open houses favored designating the peaks by a three-to-one margin.

The advisory vote allows us to continue demonstrating support for a wilderness designation for Scotchman Peaks. I am optimistic that the advisory vote will favor protection of this special place. And when it does, we will have an even stronger case for congressional action.

So, if you live in Bonner County, go to the polls on May 15 and support the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness!

Brad Smith
North Idaho Director
bsmith@idahoconservation.org

Become a Wilderness Steward!

If you love hiking in our beautiful Idaho wildernesses, consider becoming an ICL wilderness steward! Since 2016, ICL volunteers have protected, preserved and enhanced designated wilderness areas in the Boulder-White Clouds and Owyhee Canyonlands.

Wilderness stewards act as extra eyes and ears on the ground, and they roll up their sleeves to clean up fire rings, pack out litter, remove fences, document wildlife encounters and share Leave No Traces principles with other trail users.

If you’re interested in paying your love for Idaho wilderness forward, contact the ICL office nearest you for more information.

Betsy Ann Mizell
Community Engagement Associate
bmizell@idahoconservation.org



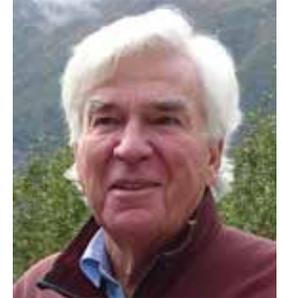
The Facts Are In

Breaking news: Even in our fair state, the world is NOT flat and gravity IS real. ICL staff and board celebrated the recent rejection of a few legislators' attempt to remove all mention of climate change from the Idaho statewide science standards. ICL's successes, particularly over the past fifteen years, have typically stemmed from showing up as the adult in the room and offering opinions and solutions based on facts, evidence and science. ICL staff strive to present factual information, keep emotions in check, and seek a collaborative path forward.

It will help ICL efforts to protect Idaho's air, water and lands if our children and citizens are educated in science as it is understood and taught throughout the world (and most of this country). As High Country News recently wrote, "The facts are in. Humans add greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, thereby

trapping the sun's energy and heating up the planet. That's not a value judgment, it's just science.... denying it is akin to denying the existence of gravity."

As long as science and research are so politicized, this issue will undoubtedly return to the Idaho Legislature. But for now at least, reason has triumphed.



Steve Mitchell

Steve Mitchell

Steve Mitchell, Chair
Idaho Conservation League Board of Directors

Reminder!

The ICL annual membership meeting is Saturday, May 19, 2018, during our *Wild Idaho!* conference at Redfish Lake. ICL members can soon access the board ballot online from our *Wild Idaho!* webpage, with results announced at the meeting. Please vote, attend the meeting, and bring a friend!



ICL Seeks Early Coal Plant Closure



Colstrip / David T. Hanson

ICL is on the case to ensure that Idaho's air, land and water benefit

This summer, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission will decide whether to approve Canadian utility Hydro One's purchase of Avista. ICL is on the case to ensure that Idaho's air, land and water benefit from this corporate merger.

One major issue is the fate of Avista's interest in the Colstrip coal-fired power plant. Today Avista owns a small portion of the Colstrip plant in Montana. The majority owners are leaning toward closing the plant in the mid-2020s. Yet Avista continues planning for a 2030s closure. ICL is concerned that this misalignment in timelines means that Avista customers will be left holding the bill for a dirty, expensive coal plant.

As part of the Idaho PUC approval process, ICL will seek assurances that Hydro One will align with the majority Colstrip owner and begin planning for Idaho's clean energy future.

ICL has bumped up the closure of the Boardman (OR) and North Valmy (NV) coal-fired power plants to the 2020s. We are working for early closure of the Jim Bridger (WY) and Colstrip plants.

Watch for opportunities to weigh in on the Colstrip issue!

Ben Otto
Energy Associate
botto@idahoconservation.org



ICL Continues to Watchdog Mining

ICL has long opposed mining projects that could pollute Idaho's water and worked to improve those that are acceptable. Right now, we're skeptical of several proposals.

On the Payette National Forest, Midas Gold is advancing its open-pit, cyanide vat leach mine under the East Fork of the South Fork Salmon River. Scoping comments reveal that fisheries experts are concerned with the current proposal. Midas Gold plans to release the draft environmental impact statement for public review later this year.

On the Boise National Forest, CuMoCo is pursuing a mining exploration project in the Boise River headwaters. The company hopes that the 2,885-acre exploration project leads to one of the largest open-pit molybdenum mines in the world.

On the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Otis Gold seeks to expand gold exploration operations for the Kilgore project by constructing over 10 miles of temporary road and clearing up to 140 drill pads over five years. These activities could affect animal movements through the Centennial Mountains of eastern Idaho. Otis Gold has said that the deposit is amenable to cyanide heap leach mining.

On the southeastern corner of the Sawtooth National Forest, exploration activities are proposed near the Black Pine mine, including within the Black Pine Inventoried Roadless Area. Pilot Gold, a subsidiary of Liberty Gold, has submitted a four-year plan of operations, including about 30 miles of temporary roads and up to 371 drill pads.

The U.S. Forest Service is expected to release environmental assessments for these projects this spring. ICL will weigh in on behalf of public health, water quality and wildlife.

John Robison

Public Lands Director
jrobison@idahoconservation.org



Black Pine pit / John Robison

Right now, we're skeptical of several proposals.



Kilgore drill pad / John Robison

Recycling Ban Affects Idahoans



Recycling / CC Jo Ann Deasy

China is enacting new quality standards on items for recycling, essentially banning much of our recycling. As the largest buyer of U.S. recyclables, China's ban has left many collectors without a market. Recyclable items are simply being thrown into landfills across the nation.

This ban prompts us to rethink our strategy. It's time to embrace reducing and reusing, as well as recycling:

- ♻️ Reduce. Question your consumption and shift your habits. Ask whether you actually need something.
- ♻️ Reuse. We use half of all plastic products once before we throw them

away. If you have nonrecyclable items, reuse them until they wear out.

- ♻️ Recycle better. Make sure your recycling is clean before you put it in the bin. If you treat your recycling less like trash and more like a commodity, you offer a more commercially valued product.

For more information on what ICL is doing to promote reducing, reusing and recycling, visit the Green Living section of our website.

Lana Weber
Community Engagement Associate
lweber@idahiconservation.org

Gaze Up at Those Dark Skies!



Milky Way / Ed Cannady

The Central Idaho Dark Sky Reserve was designated Dec. 18, 2017! Since then, ICL and partners have been planning activities to make the first dark sky reserve in the nation a great success.

Over the next couple of years, ICL and the Dark Sky collaborative will be coordinating with the cities of Sun Valley, Ketchum and Stanley; local business owners; and residents to improve the reserve's outdoor lighting and reduce light pollution.

Visit the Central Idaho Dark Sky Reserve this summer and check out the reserve's website, www.idahodarksky.org, for fun and educational tours of the night skies and vivid constellations. If you plan your trip around the phases of the moon, you'll get the best views and experience of the Milky Way. And don't worry about equipment: you won't need fancy telescopes to be amazed by the skies — you can just look up.

Betsy Ann Mizell

Oil Terminal Terminated

Citing concerns such as the risk of fire, explosion and oil spills, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee has rejected a proposed, massive oil export terminal in Vancouver.

Known as the Tesoro-Savage terminal project, this proposal would have increased the number of oil trains through North Idaho by eight a day. Gov. Inslee noted that his decision was informed by four years of public opposition to the project.

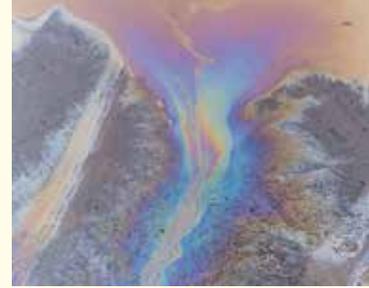
Former staffer Susan Drumheller launched ICL's work on this issue, leading Idahoans to contribute the record-breaking 276,296

comments submitted against the proposed terminal. I have taken up the baton on this issue. Recently, the company withdrew its lease at the Vancouver site, officially ending any hope for the oil terminal.

It's not every day that engaged citizens prevail over an oil company, but Idahoans and people throughout the Pacific Northwest claimed a historic victory for the safety of our communities, protection of our water and stability of our climate.

Matt Nykiel

Conservation Associate
mnykiel@idahoconservation.org



Oil / CC Duncan Rawlinson

It's not every day that engaged citizens prevail over an oil company.

ELIE Engages Idaho's Young People

Up-and-coming conservationists who make up our Emerging Leaders for Idaho's Environment group are working across the state on behalf of conservation in Idaho.

Inspired by Energy Associate Ben Otto, ELIE members are helping move Idaho toward a coal-free future. To do so, they are hosting educational events in communities, contacting utility companies and elected officials through a letter-writing campaign, and using social media to spread the word!

ELIE is also working with Conservation Associate Austin Hopkins to build support

for increased transportation options in the Treasure Valley, including mass transit, cycling and pedestrian options. They plan to empower high school and college students to participate in the conversation around sustainable transportation in a growing community.

These are just a few of the important issues on which ELIE is working. Stay tuned for more throughout the year and join us at *Wild Idaho!* to meet ELIE members in person!

Jenny Estes

Development Program Manager
jestes@idahoconservation.org



ELIE at Wild Idaho! / Peter Lovera

Doggedly Tracking Public Notice

Devils Corral / Karl Ruprecht



Public notice is foundational to due process. It is underscored by a fundamental belief in fairness.

ICL's work is so often discussed in the form of great achievements — successes like landscape designations and nationwide pollution controls. But the daily task list of most ICL staff involves items far less exciting. Atop many task lists is a review of agency websites, the *Federal Register* and newspapers from around the state to scan for project notices that could affect the values ICL members hold most dear.

Devils Corral

So staff were surprised when we recently learned of a water right application that proposes to usurp the entirety of Devils Corral spring along the Snake River just upstream of Twin Falls. We were shocked, not just because someone wanted to develop the spring but also because the application had not been publicly noticed since 1990. After a 28-year hiatus, the proposal is moving forward without renewed public notice.

Thanks to concerned members who gave us a call, ICL intervened in the permitting process. Because the Idaho Department of Water Resources is proceeding despite the 28-year lapse, we are advocating that the application be cancelled or the process be paused so that affected citizens can engage. We'll keep you informed as the situation unfolds.

Public Notice Is Fair

Meanwhile, this application is an important reminder. Public notice is foundational to due process. It is underscored by a fundamental belief in fairness, and our current political climate makes notice as important as ever. It's no wilderness designation, but following public notice is among the most important work that ICL does, just less glamorous.

Marie Callaway Kellner

Water Associate
mkellner@idahoconservation.org

Collaboratives and Conservation

Collaboration is becoming a more popular — and largely positive — approach for planning management of our national forests. Right now, ICL is participating in over nine forest collaboratives across Idaho.

These citizen-led efforts invite folks with different perspectives on forest management to identify a “zone of agreement” where their interests overlap. Participants generally recognize that decades of fire suppression have left some forests unnaturally dense and selective thinning and prescribed burning will help make forests more resilient to future wildfires. Historical logging practices left behind mazes of old roads that continue to bleed sediment into streams. Removing these outdated roads from riparian areas can improve watersheds and fisheries.

Collaboratives are not meant to substitute for public involvement, but they are intended to start U.S. Forest Service processes on the right foot. Forest collaboratives can

recommend that the Forest Service include meaningful restoration activities from the start and advise against problematic management practices. Collaboratives have also helped advance discussions about permanent protections for recommended wilderness areas.

Every winter, participants in these collaboratives attend a conference hosted by the Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership to improve practices. This year’s event convened representatives from over 20 collaboratives in Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington. The conference highlighted ways to build partnerships with rural communities to develop a sustainable “restoration economy.”

By looking for opportunities to work together, we increase the pace and scale of restoration on our public lands, and we change the dialogue about protecting Idaho’s special places.

John Robison



Restoration / John Robison

By looking for opportunities to work together, we increase the pace and scale of restoration on our public lands.



Plan Your Summer Now!

ARTA River Trips



This summer, we have several exciting adventures planned! For an ICL members-only trip, we're partnering with ARTA River Trips, a permitted outfitter on the Middle Fork Salmon River, for a six-day float on one of Idaho's most beloved rivers. Running through the Frank Church–River of No Return Wilderness, the Middle Fork offers stunning views, hot springs, fishing, hiking and rich history.

Our public lands director, John Robison, will discuss the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, threats facing Idaho's rivers, and ICL's work to protect them. Mark your calendar for Aug. 11–16. ARTA is generously offering this trip at \$1,999 and donating \$250 per person to ICL.

Prefer to stay on land? On Sept. 4–8, ICL members can enjoy the White Cloud Mountains with Pioneer Outfitters. Leave the gear to the horses and hike into this

outstanding landscape with just your daypack! Great hiking, swimming and fishing await you!

ICL's Rick Johnson and long-time wilderness supporter Ed Cannady will talk about the history of the White Clouds and the pathway to wilderness. This area is also within the core of the Central Idaho Dark Sky Reserve (see p. 8), so you can experience our night skies at their best.

For information on these trips, contact me at the email below or 208.345.6933 x 17.

On Aug. 12–18, ICL is partnering with the Idaho Trails Association on a volunteer work project in the White Clouds. This adventure is open to everyone. If interested, contact Betsy Mizell (bmizell@idahoconservation.org or 208.726.7485).

Jenny Estes

Development Program Manager
jestes@idahoconservation.org



Run, Bryan, Run!

Peanut butter and jelly, cake and ice cream, clean air and clean water — some combinations just go together perfectly. ICL member Bryan Hurlbutt has a new favorite combo — running and wilderness. Each month in 2018, Bryan plans to run a marathon, or 26.2 miles, through a different Idaho wilderness area.

Bryan had this epiphany late in 2017. After competing in multiple ultramarathon trail races, he wanted to step back and simply enjoy running again. Plus, running through Idaho's wildernesses lets Bryan show his love for the amazing landscapes within our state. Bryan grew up in Twin Falls but now calls Boise home. Perhaps it's a lifetime of recreating in Idaho that gives him the strength to complete these runs?

If you too are a lover of Idaho wildernesses, you'll notice that 12 months

doesn't quite work for 15 wilderness areas. Have no fear — Bryan plans to combine runs in a few key wildernesses to fit them all in. Bryan checked off Big and Little Jacks Creeks in January and Hells Canyon in February.

"We're fortunate to live in Idaho where preserving our public lands is a priority," Bryan remarked. "Idaho's wilderness areas offer so much variety. I can't wait to run under the tall trees along the Selway River, over high mountain passes in the White Clouds, and across lava flows at Craters of the Moon."

If you'll be in one of Idaho's wilderness areas this year, keep a look out for Bryan!

Each month in 2018, Bryan plans to run a marathon, or 26.2 miles, through a different Idaho wilderness area.

Austin Hopkins

Conservation Associate
ahopkins@idahoconservation.org



Welcome to ICL, Julia!

Julia Rundberg



Julia Rundberg

This past December, we were pleased to welcome Julia Rundberg to ICL as director of finance and administration. Julia brings significant nonprofit management experience, including eight years as executive director of the Idaho Botanical Garden. She also has practical experience in natural resource planning and management earned over a number of years working with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

After growing up around the farm fields of Minnesota's Red River Valley, Julia earned a biology degree, with minors in chemistry and business administration, from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, and completed graduate coursework in natural resource management at North Dakota State University in Fargo. She has worked at a residential environmental learning center and a backpack manufacturing company. And as a former interpretive naturalist, Julia has been particularly excited to support citizen science, including volunteering for bat, loon and frog surveys.

Julia and her husband Carl have been Boise residents since 2007 and spend as much time as possible outside — preferably from a campsite where they can wake up in their 1997 Eurovan camper to the sound of western meadowlarks or sandhill cranes. In her spare time, Julia bikes, birds, hikes, gardens and sings soprano with the Boise Philharmonic Master Chorale. On her bucket list for Idaho are finding calypso orchids and seeing beargrass in bloom.

Feel free to reach out to Julia at jrundberg@idahoconservation.org and 208.345.6933 x 18, or stop by the Boise office to say hello.

Mary Beth Whitaker

Editor & Designer

mbwhitaker@idahoconservation.org



Volunteers

Our thanks to the volunteers without whom our achievements would not happen. (9/15/17 – 2/28/18)

Janet Beckley
Joan Beckley
Bianca Beeks
Emil Berg
Dondi Black
Lindsey Bowshier
Lauren Brassell
Erik Carruth
Patrice Davies
Carrie Despot
Kyle Evans
Maureen Fallon
Emily Fisk
Walt Gammill
Marjolein Groot
Nibbelink
Emmy Harbo
Tom Helmer
Tom Jones

Andrew Kemp
Tricia Kennedy
Terri Lawrence
Michele Lee
Madonna Lengerich
Becky Mills
Kathy Peter
Danette Phelan
Lori Pierce-French
Brandt Quirk-Royal
Scott Ransom
Emery Ross
Kerri Silvernell
Lori Sims
Max Stein
Kelsi Walsh
Mollie Weinberg
Emily Williams

In Memoriam

This year, the conservation community was saddened by the loss of long-time partner, Gary O. Grimm. If you look at Idaho conservation success stories over the years, Gary was often in the background with his camera, easily identified by his iconic corona of white hair and subtle smile.

In addition to his own deep-seated passion for the natural world, Gary helped communities tell their stories to achieve their conservation visions. Gary and wife Katy Flanagan formed Mountain Visions, a multimedia company devoted to expanding “awareness and participation in ecosystem sustainability.”

Gary and Katy created 360-degree panoramic views of many of Idaho’s special places, including the Boulder-White Clouds and Owyhee Canyonlands, which ICL featured for many years. Gary’s backcountry skills and expertise in the latest visual technology gave voice to these landscapes and led to innumerable conservation wins.

Our thoughts are with Katy and his family.

John Robison

Remember the Idaho Conservation League in Your Estate Plans

We hope you will consider the Idaho Conservation League in your estate planning. Memorial gifts and bequests are placed in our endowment fund where these gifts will permanently support conservation in Idaho. We welcome inquiries about bequests to Jenny Estes at 208.345.6933 x 17 or jestes@idahoconservation.org.

If you wish to make a provision in your will, the following general language is suggested:

“I give, devise and bequeath to the Idaho Conservation League, an Idaho not-for-profit corporation, located on the date hereof at 710 North 6th Street, Boise, Idaho, 83702, the sum of \$____” (or specifically described property).



Seven Devils / Ander Sundell

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.



IDAHO
CONSERVATION
LEAGUE

208.345.6933
PO Box 844
Boise, ID 83701

Address Service Requested

Non Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Idaho
Conservation
League

Wild Idaho! 2018

May 18-20

Wild Idaho! / Peter Lovera

Join ICL staff and members for our annual business meeting and conference on the shores of Redfish Lake near Stanley.

This year we will talk about Idaho's rivers and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act!

Registration begins Wednesday, April 4. Register online!

For questions, contact Jenny Estes at jestes@idahoconservation.org or 208.345.6933 x 17.