



2023 ANNUAL REPORT





MISSION STATEMENT

To promote the conservation of Idaho's wildlife heritage and legacy of sporting opportunities for current and future generations

VISION

Future generations who value, protect, and enhance Idaho's fish and wildlife populations and take an active role in ensuring our natural heritage.

OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Idaho Wildlife Federation Executive Director:

Brian Brooks

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1936, the Idaho Wildlife Federation is Idaho's oldest and largest statewide conservation organization promoting the conservation of Idaho's wildlife heritage and legacy of sporting opportunities. IWF quickly became the state's leading voice and influence to curtail decline and rebound game and wildlife populations. Two years after our founding, IWF successfully campaigned for the passage of the Citizen's Initiative of 1938, establishing an independent commission to guide wildlife management by the North American Model. Through the shared goals of our affiliate clubs, we sought out to return habitat and wildlife through ecologic restoration, education, and policy change.

Working to conserve and enhance our wildlife heritage and legacy of sporting opportunities, IWF acts as the voice of Idaho's fish and wildlife, habitat, public lands, and sporting interests. IWF's full-time staff of subject-matter experts work intensely with our Affiliate network to ensure the values of fish & wildlife, sporting values, public lands, and access to them are respected everywhere policy decisions are made that could enhance, or threaten, the continuance of high-quality hunting and fishing opportunities for hunters and anglers today, and for generations to come.

We also engage communities by involving local constituents to create local solutions. By coordinating boots on the ground grassroots efforts, IWF fosters and promotes a general and continued movement for the conservation, restoration, protection, and scientific supervision of all game, fish, fowl, and other wildlife in the state.

This annual report summarizes the work performed during the 2023 calendar year.



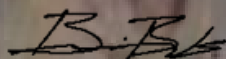
Executive Director's Message

Another year has come and gone, but 2023 was a momentous year for IWF - for our work and for the organization. The past eight years have seen a rapid regrowth. Driven by a strategic board of directors, IWF has carefully managed this growth with fiscal responsibility and eyes on the horizon for long term financial sustainability. In that vein, this year IWF formalized the creation of the Wildlife Legacy Fund. Acting like an endowment, the Fund will grow for years to come and supplement IWF's revenues in perpetuity. Our responsible Investment Policy Statement will guide the growth of this fund, but for now all interest will be reinvested to grow it. The Fund is now attracting larger gifts and legacy giving - different types of donors - putting a keel on the IWF ship and setting the stage for smooth sailing for a much longer timespan. Of course this is nothing new, but it is a big step for any maturing organization.

Programmatically, several years-long campaigns culminated in big wins (and big acreage conserved) for wildlife and habitat on public lands. These were hard fought victories utilizing the tools of our trade - community engagement and mobilization, coordinating federal to local agencies, and elected official outreach. Our dogged persistence paid off despite the many setbacks overcome. Although we had many other work products to celebrate, these long-term projects represent IWF's tireless, diligent, persistent efforts to maintain and enhance Idaho's wild places and wildlife.

2023 was a continuation of growth for IWF's influence on natural resource policy. Matched with internal guidance with an eye on long-term growth, we have a bright future for years to come.

We've been dedicated to fish, wildlife, and public land in Idaho since 1936, and we will continue to do so through the ongoing support of our donors and partners. As we close this fiscal year, we're making future plans and we're proud of the impact we are leaving on the next generation of Idahoans.



Brian Brooks
Executive Director
Idaho Wildlife Federation



Reflections: Our Achievements in 2023

IWF cannot work for what you - all of us - love about Idaho without dedicated people like you who stay engaged and offer your advocacy as well as support. You keep IWF on the front lines fighting to ensure we have an abundance of fish, wildlife, and public lands managed to provide current and future generations the experiences we want to preserve.

We'd like to take a moment to share a few prominent campaigns and victories from 2023. All of this work is done with your support and will leave lasting legacies for Idaho's fish and wildlife, hunting and fishing, habitat, public lands, and public land access. You might find some are new to you - often, our most impactful work never makes a single headline or trends on social media channels. Other topics are likely more familiar campaigns that have reached new milestones worth sharing.

SALMON AND STEELHEAD RECOVERY CAMPAIGNS REACH NEW HEIGHTS.

The fight to stop the extinction (and begin recovery) of Idaho's endangered salmon and steelhead marches onward. IWF has taken on a monumental effort to educate and mobilize grassroots voices in rural, riverside communities on the Salmon and Clearwater Rivers. We remain one of the few organizations who can effectively discuss these tough issues in such places. We've flown rural guides and outfitters to DC, taken North Idaho grain growers on flights over the Snake River dams (LSRDs), and continue to ensure fish recovery efforts will leave no one - or industry - behind, including our friends in agriculture and power consumers.

Our efforts have moved chambers of commerce, city councils, and mayors to decry the failed status quo and even to call for breaching the four lower Snake River dams - the single largest human caused mortality contribution of Idaho's fish - and replacing their power generation and transportation capabilities with alternative mechanisms. Because the "fix" to reverse the extinction of our anadromous fish involves multiple states, federal waters and dams, and international treaties, it will require a "whole-of-government approach" to turn things around: coordination of federal agencies, congress, state agencies, and even direction from the White House. In that vein, this campaign has come further along in the last two years

than in the last 30. Our efforts - and those of our partners - spurred Congressman Simpson to produce his plan to breach the LSRDs and replace their services. Shortly after, Washington state elected officials founds the same solutions and Atmospheric Administration recently stated Idaho's fish could not recover without breach of the LSRDs. And finally, this year the plight of Idaho's salmon and steelhead received recognition from executive agencies to assess their failures and rectify



Reflections: Our Achievements in 2023

them. Though we are far from the finish line, this was a vital step in calling out the federal institutions that have failed to recover our fish.

The work to recover Idaho's salmon and steelhead continues, but we've finally got the attention and direction of decision makers at every level needed to move to the next chapter of this long saga.

UPLAND BIRDS AND BIG GAME GET BIG WIN ON BLM LANDS.

Another big Record of Decision was signed this year, but by the BLM. The Four Rivers Field Office, which includes over 800,000 acres of rangeland from the Bennet Hills to Brownlee Reservoir, completed their Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision process. The RMP, which guides land management for a few decades, was full of wins for



wildlife and conservation. After significant grassroots mobilization and after dozens of meetings over the years with BLM staff, IWF and partners were able to reestablish wildlife management prescriptions after they were eliminated. In addition to keeping these important assets, we advocated successfully for Idaho's first Backcountry Conservation Area (BCA), and the largest so far in the nation. About 120,000 acres, the Bennet Hills BCA will specifically prioritize

landscape management for wildlife and wildlife-based recreation. This is a big win for habitat critical for chukar and hungarian partridge, home to sage-grouse and critical wintering habitat for big game.

KEEPING THE RAPID RIVER DRAINAGE A PRIMITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR HUMANS AND WILDLIFE

IWF and hunters came out on top after the Forest Service (USFS) signed their Record of Decision this year protecting the Rapid River drainage from excessive motorized vehicle over-use. Years ago, motorized vehicle advocates petitioned the USFS to open miles of foot traffic trails to mechanized use. The proposed trails would criss-cross the drainage from the existing motorized rim trails, like spokes on a bike, opening the drainage to significant human pressure. This pressure would very likely impact big game herds, jeopardize the quality of the over-the-counter hunting tags available there, and compromise the largest and best remaining aquatic stronghold in the Little Salmon River drainage for chinook, steelhead, and bull trout. IWF mobilized hundreds of hunters, anglers and local residents opposing the petition. In the end the USFS cited the outstanding fishing and hunting characteristics of the landscape, and denied the proposal.

Reflections: Our Achievements in 2023

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUCCESS.

IWF worked on many bills, but two shine as our most impactful successes. First, IWF worked with sporting partners to kill a very bad bill that would have set a season with certain prescriptions on mule deer across the state. Legislators - who are typically not also biologists - should refrain from making emotional or political decisions regarding wildlife. In fact, the very same day sporting and wildlife groups that make up the Idaho Sporting and Wildlife Partnership came to the statehouse for our



Camo at the Capitol event, Rep. Shepherd dropped his ill-conceived bill after sportsmen outcry. Second, IWF worked with partner organizations to pass the largest investment in recreation in state history- \$95 million to benefit outdoor access. The bill also invested \$5 million in a new account similar to the federal Land Water Conservation Fund- a fund to pay for projects that will enhance access to the outdoors such as boat ramps, trails and trailheads, disability access, etc. We expect reinvestments in this fund over the years to serve Idahoans well into the future.

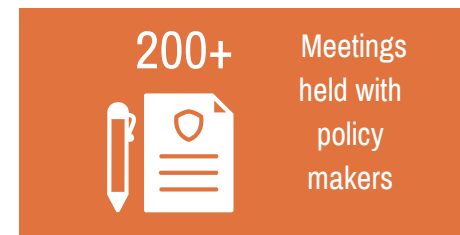
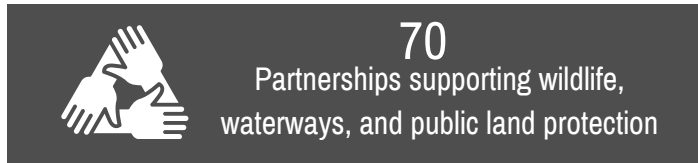
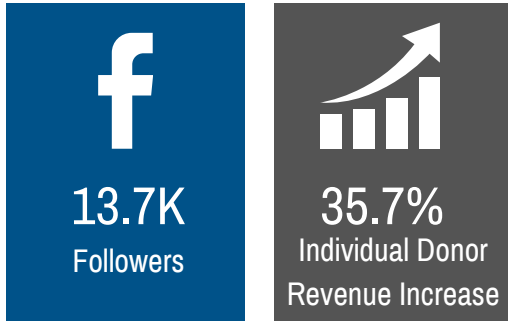
KEEPING PAYETTE LAKES AND LANDS IN PUBLIC HANDS.

This campaign began in 2020 when Trident, LLC proposed to privatize 28,000 acres of state land surrounding both Payette lakes- treasured for fishing, hunting, and recreation. Trident is by the wayside, but the effort to keep these lands and waters in public hands goes on. Shepherded by a coalition of conservation groups called United Payette, which includes IWF, the USFS is working to trade these lands with the State of Idaho, which will preserve 95% of the landscape. To keep these state parcels open to the public until a permanent solution is found, United Payette successfully negotiated a first-of-its-kind lease of state lands specifically for keeping open their use for public recreation, fulfilling their constitutional mandate to maximize long term revenue while preserving public access and this quality habitat.

FACILITATING WILDLIFE-WISE RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION ON PUBLIC LANDS.

Interest in developing utility scale renewable energy on Idaho's public lands has skyrocketed in recent years. In 2023, IWF pioneered the creation of the Idaho Sporting and Energy Coalition, a coalition of sporting and wildlife organizations that meets regularly with federal agencies and the Governor's office to ensure that renewable energy project siting avoids sage-grouse breeding areas, big game migration corridors and wintering habitat, and important landscapes for hunters and anglers. IWF continues to work with the Governor's office, state and federal agencies to set a framework for the future that ensures high priority wildlife areas are avoided by large scale renewable energy.

2023 by the numbers

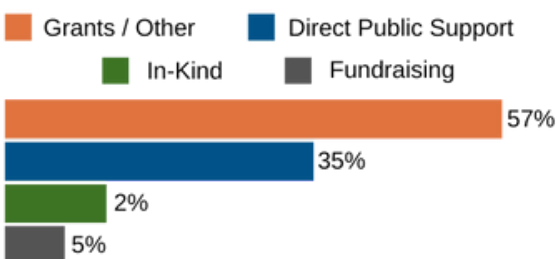


Advancing Conservation

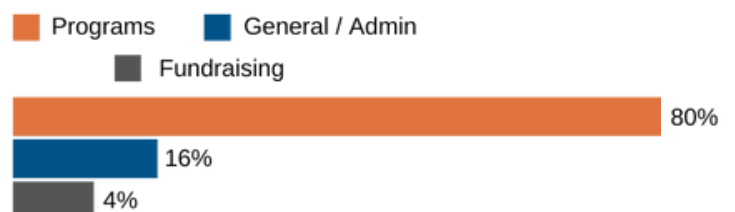
We thank our generous funders, whose financial support enables us to continue our work protecting Idaho's fish and wildlife, waterways, and public lands.

Private donors are essential to our success, and complements the public funding we receive. Together they allow us to continue the conservation, restoration, protection, and scientific supervision of all game, fish, fowl, and other wildlife in Idaho. We work on your behalf to influence public land management, and we advocate for state and federal programs that aid and reward landowners to protect wild habitats.

Operating Revenue: \$447,560



Operating Expenses: \$446,368



Projects and Initiatives

Ongoing Public Land Management

- Sand Creek
- Payette Forest Coalition
- Pioneer's Alliance
- Clearwater Basin Collaborative
- Craig Mountain WMA Fuels and Fiber Workgroup
- Solar Energy Development Programmatic EIS
- United Payette

River/Fish Conservation

- Lower Snake River Restoration
- Priest River
- Boise River Habitat Restoration
- Boise ReWild Project

Wildlife Campaigns

- Sage-Grouse
- Salmon/Steelhead
- Big Game
- Disease (including CWD) & Invasive Species (including Quagga Mussels)
- Habitat Restoration Advocacy

Mines

- Transboundary Mine Campaign
- Kilgore
- Big Lost
- CuCoMo

Forest Plan & Resource Management Plan Revision Processes

- Salmon-Challis National Forest Forest Plan Revision
- Upper Snake River BLM Region RMP Revision
- Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest Plan Revision
- Four Rivers BLM RMP
- Rapid River Trails ROD

Access

- Advocacy for and access to public lands
- Advocacy for and access to primitive experiences and landscapes
- Advocacy and access to mixed-access landscapes
- Maintaining arterial access to public lands through private lands
- Working to ensure vital habitat on private lands is preserved as open space

Federal Campaigns

- CWD Research & Management Act
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act
- Grasslands Act
- FOREST Act
- Lower Snake River Restoration

Idaho Legislature

- 501c3 compliant lobbying activity with accountability
- 501c3 compliant voting record
- Founding partner of a "big tent" grassroots coalition called Idaho Sporting and Wildlife Partnership
- 501c3 compliant candidate forums and voter education and engagement



Your support helps protect and enhance Idaho's fish, wildlife, public land, and outdoor opportunities for future generations.

Idaho Wildlife Federation

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