

IRU AT A GLANCE



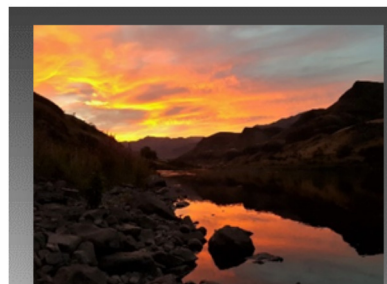
River Health: Earth Month River Clean-Up

Over 100 volunteers cleaned 8-miles of river bank before high water season at our Earth Month river cleanup



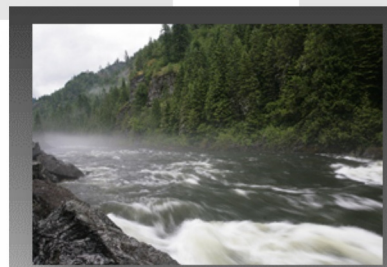
Salmon Advocacy: Collaboration & Community

Congressman Mike Simpson publicly commits to salmon restoration



Clean Water: Protections

Challenging the Oregon DEQ Clean Water Act certification for furthering poor water quality in the Snake River



Protecting Rivers: Wild & Scenic

Defending 1,000 miles of streams and rivers eligible for Wild & Scenic designation in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest



Outreach: Conservation through Education

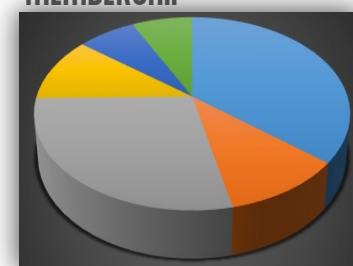
Over 100 river guides and 80 students participated in IRU education programs across Idaho

POWER OF PHILANTHROPY

Member support is vital to our mission. We continue to safeguard our river systems through the power of philanthropy and partnerships, bringing us all together to keep our rivers clean, clear, and full of fish. Your support over the last 29 years has been impactful and inspiring — Thank you!

For a full list of our member support please visit:
idahorivers.org/members-partners

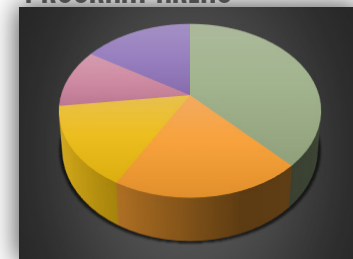
MEMBERSHIP



- Individual members \$35+
- Households \$60+
- River Defenders \$100+
- River Guardians \$250+
- River Protectors \$500+
- Partners in Conservation \$1000+

73% of funds received are directed to IRU's projects and programs

PROGRAM AREAS



- Salmon 38%
- Wild & Scenic 20%
- Hydro/Clean Water 15%
- Fundraising 11%
- Admin/Org 16%

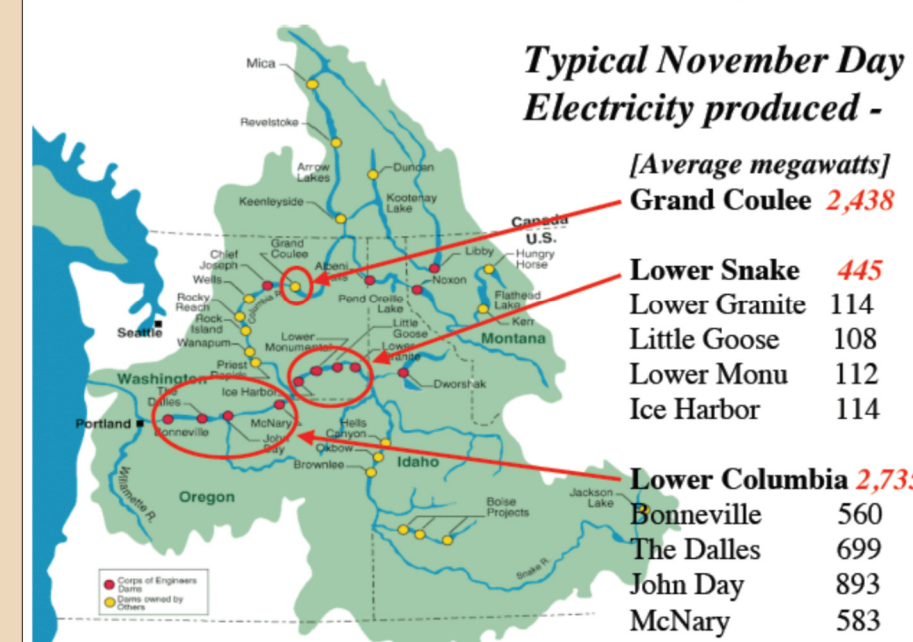
SAFEGUARDING KEY SPECIES

Ever since we launched our first campaign, the Wild Salmon Project, in 1991, IRU has been committed to the recovery of Idaho's endangered Snake River salmon and steelhead. IRU's position has consistently relied on the best available science, which shows that the single-most effective recovery option for Idaho's fish is breaching the four Lower Snake River dams. For decades IRU has challenged inadequate federal salmon plans that have spent billions of taxpayer dollars, ultimately becoming the most expensive failed species recovery efforts in our nation's history.

Beyond the urgent biological situation, the economic and social landscape have transitioned furthering IRU's case for dam breaching and river restoration. Changes in the Northwest energy landscape, along with viable alternatives to the services the dams provide by way of agricultural transportation and irrigation, have created a window of opportunity for change. The livelihoods of regional agricultural communities can be maintained while we recover salmon and revitalize the communities that rely on them.

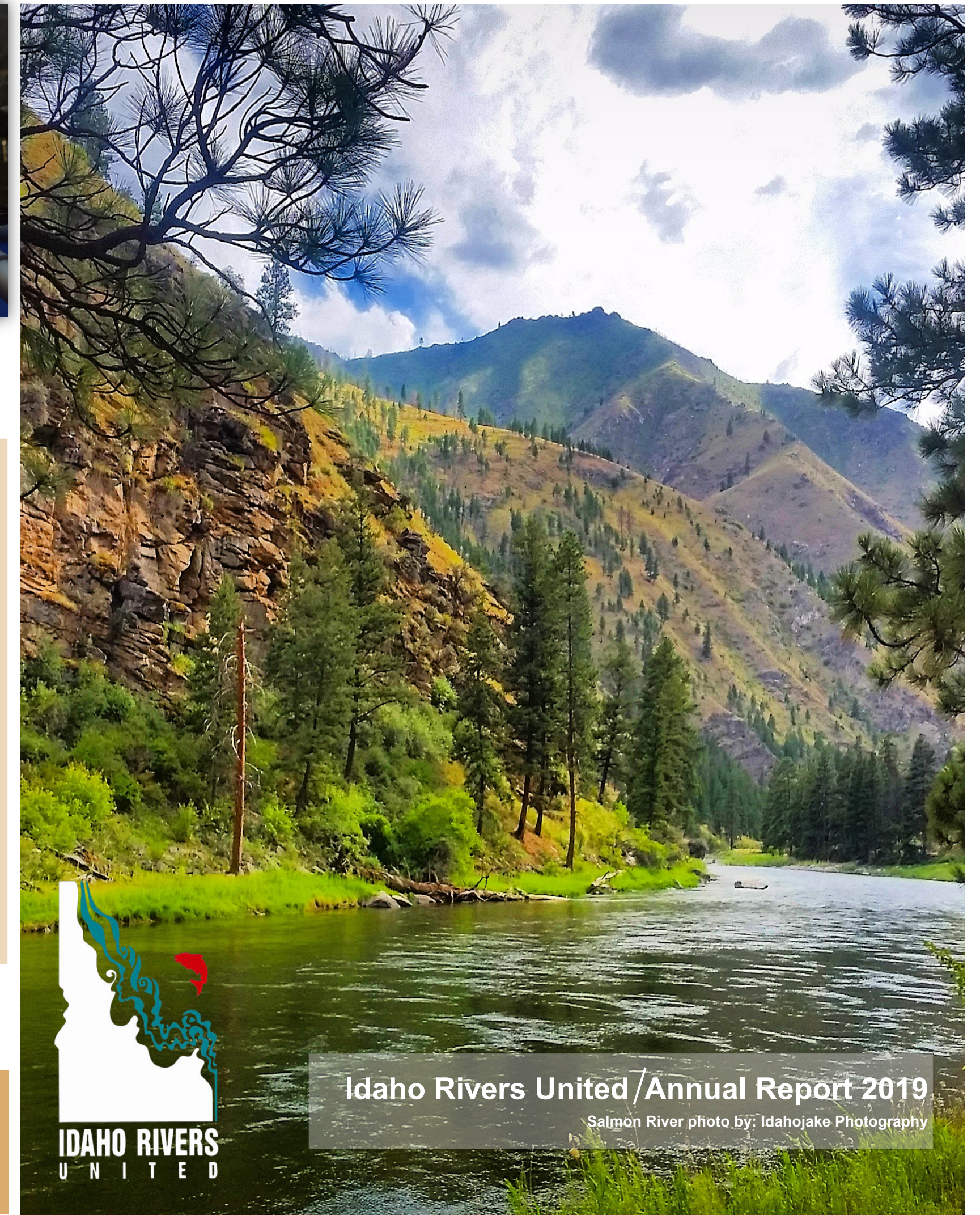
- ◆ The power generated by the four Lower Snake River dams is surplus to Northwest energy requirements, and will continue to be in the future. The grid tally they provide can be replaced through increasing energy conservation and alternative green energy sources.
- ◆ The ability of grain growers to get their product to market at a reasonable price can be maintained by switching from a system of barges to an agricultural owned rail cooperative, utilizing the existing rail network.
- ◆ Citizens throughout the region monetarily value the recovery of salmon and steelhead, meaning the economic benefits of dam removal outweigh the costs.
- ◆ Breaching of the dams would result in a significant increase in abundance and a critical and substantial increase in smolt-to-adult survival rates. This puts more salmon and steelhead in Idaho rivers and on a strong pathway towards recovery.

All dams are not created equal



Idaho's declining salmon are in urgent need of action and their recovery will require a unified, regional effort that is unafraid to create bold management decisions. It will require utilizing the window of opportunity that changing economic, political, and social realities have created. It envisions a future in which four dams are breached and a river's immense natural amenities are restored.

2020 marks IRU's 30th anniversary as an organization. This next year, IRU will further devote itself to restoring Idaho's salmon and steelhead and urging state and federal policymakers to boldly act on behalf of Idaho's wild fish. We are committed to seeing this work through and are grateful for your partnership on this journey - Let's save Idaho's native salmon and steelhead.



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Idaho Rivers United / Annual Report 2019

Salmon River photo by: Idahojake Photography

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- Phil Gordon**
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- Susan Troppmann**
Coeur d'Alene
- Steve Jones**
McCall
- Tom Stuart**
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- Fred Coriell**
McCall

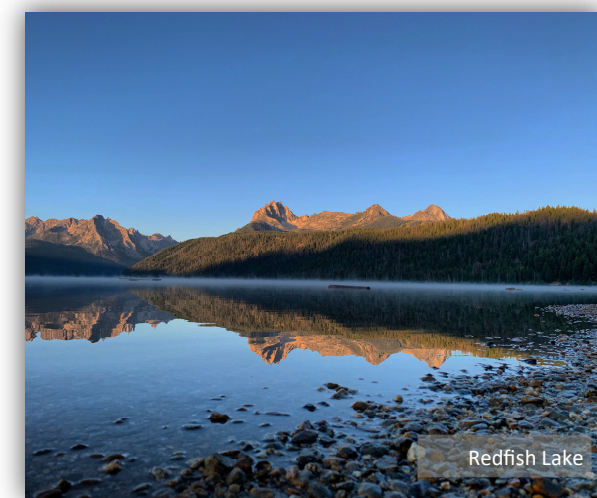
Message from the Executive Director

Imagine the Sawtooth Mountains bereft of bugles from rutting bulls in the fall, or the Henry's Fork without a rising rainbow. These are pillars of Idaho that are woven into the fabric of its existence; iconic species that emanate throughout the country at the mention of Idaho (at least for those fortunate enough to know of it). As we head into our 30th year, Idaho Rivers United is again championing the effort to bring back three of Idaho's most fundamental species: Chinook salmon, sockeye salmon, and steelhead. Never before have we witnessed more momentum toward that goal, from federal and state leaders engaging in actions to see these species restored, to witnessing numerous partner organizations in joining our efforts to win this campaign. These are all highlights of the most important movement – Idahoans joining together to demand our fish back.

While much of our efforts have been spent working on salmon and steelhead, they are far from the only project successes for Idaho Rivers. We've safeguarded waters on the Snake and Columbia from pollutant and temperature levels that compromise river and fisheries health and worked closely with grassroots partners on fighting dangerous mines at the headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Our conservation team has surveyed hundreds of miles of rivers on the Nez Perce-Clearwater to protect their wild and scenic qualities. Advocacy campaigns have resulted in hundreds of visits with our elected officials, and thousands of postcards and comments delivered to their offices. Additionally, we've engaged in educating schoolchildren on water quality testing and ecosystem function, and of the importance of river health,

both ecologically and socially.

As 2019 comes to a close, we are reorganizing to increase our conservation imprint and improve staff capacity, all to facilitate our organizational growth. None of this



Redfish Lake

would be possible without you; your continued support has allowed us to make critical investments in campaigns and projects that will protect Idaho's rivers in the decades to follow. There are always challenges ahead. The coming year will be pivotal for salmon and steelhead; the ever-looming threats of poorly sited mines will need to be fought; and sweeping changes to environmental regulations and acts will be tested. We have ambitious goals in the coming year, all with a focus on lasting conservation and organizational success. Years and conservation campaigns come and go, but IRU remains – as does the value in what we do. We are excited to put your contributions to work for Idaho rivers.

For our Rivers,

Nic Nelson,
Executive Director



Hydro & Clean Water

Idaho Rivers United (IRU) has been a steering committee member of the Hydropower Reform Coalition (HRC) for over 20 years. IRU and the HRC advocate for better water quality, recreational improvements, and improved conditions for fish and wildlife during the federal relicensing of hydro-power projects here in Idaho and across the nation.

2019 has been a challenging year for protecting water quality. In January, a federal court in Washington D.C. ruled on a California case that will have negative implications on water quality. While not a party to the litigation, IRU has been working with our HRC partners to engage states and tribes in an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. A decision on whether or not the court will hear this case is expected in the near future.

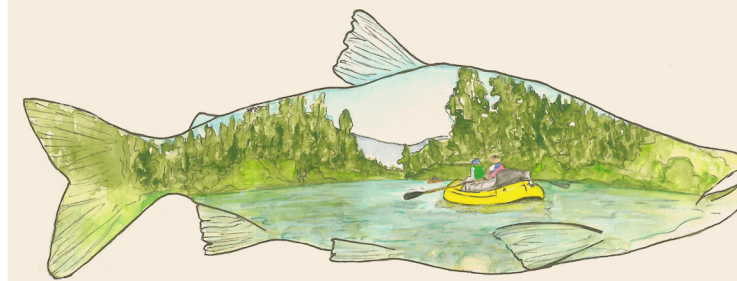
In August, The Environmental Protection Agency released a new proposed rule that would roll back protections for water quality as required by the Clean Water Act and as affirmed in numerous Supreme Court decisions over the last 25 years. Idaho Rivers United through the HRC submitted extensive comments in opposition to the draft rule and, unless the draft rule is withdrawn, litigation will likely result.

IRU and our conservation partners at Pacific Rivers sued the state of Oregon over its water quality certification of the Hells Canyon Hydropower Complex in October. Oregon's water quality certification fails to protect salmon and steelhead and does little to address extensive mercury contamination in the reservoirs and downstream through Hells Canyon. Separate legal actions were also filed by the Nez Perce and Burns Paiute Tribes.



Salmon River

IDAHO RIVERS UNITED MISSION: TO PROTECT AND RESTORE THE RIVERS OF IDAHO



Conservation Award Recipients

The work protecting and defending Idaho's rivers is bigger than any one organization. For this reason IRU needs an extensive network of citizens, businesses, members and partners to lend a hand.

Legacy Achievement:
Kevin Lewis

Conservation Partner of the Year:
Advocates of the West

Education Advocate of the Year:
Stephen Ritter

Clean Water Advocate of the Year:
Save the South Fork Coalition

Business Partner of the Year:
Payette Brewing Company

Salmon Advocate of the Year:
Nez Perce Tribe

Member of the Year:
Earl Dodds

Read their stories:
<https://www.idahorivers.org/members-partners>

Fish art pictured above:
2019 Limited Edition art by Jenni Ritch
Jenni was born and raised in the mountains of Central Idaho. She's been designing and creating art inspired by Idaho's landscapes for over 10 years. The art captures a memorable moment, just above Indian Creek, during her first trip down the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. The scene is encompassed by Idaho's native salmon, without which the river would not be complete.

Wild & Scenic

IRU has been working to defend nearly 1,000 miles of rivers and streams in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest that are eligible for Wild and Scenic River designations. Forest Management Plans proposed by the USFS have performed faulty suitability analysis on many streams throughout the watershed to undermine the Wild and Scenic values attributed to these systems, at the will of commissioners and special interests who want to place resource extraction ahead of all other values. We will be continuing with this work, as well as in the Salmon-Challis National Forest, in 2020.

The South Fork of the Salmon River is under threat from the Midas Gold Company who is proposing a large mining project that threatens to damage Wild and Scenic values of this river, interrupts the natural spawning process and fish river routes with a tunnel, and reroutes several aspects of the river. IRU is preparing for detailed analysis and review of The Forest Service's Environmental Impact Statement and will submit comments to uphold environmental standards needed for our Wild and Scenic rivers and riparian areas.



Middle Fork Salmon River



Lochsa

Saving Salmon

Idaho salmon runs of 2019 were marked yet again by low numbers. Snake River salmon and steelhead returned in meager fractions of their ten-year averages. Fishing seasons were cut short and bag limits were reduced across the Salmon and Clearwater rivers, with the poor runs severely affecting communities that rely on Idaho's anadromous fisheries. Wild Chinook were at 30% of the 10-year average and the run of wild steelhead has been similarly low over the fall. Only 17 Idaho sockeye returned to the Stanley Basin this year.

In the midst of this dreary news, Idaho salmon gained a regional leader in Congressman Mike Simpson, who committed to taking a hard look at the status of the Lower Snake River dams. Collaborative efforts such as Idaho Governor Brad Little's Salmon Work Group were also created in order to inform the Governor about salmon policy positions. The poor condition of Idaho's fish have increasingly gained attention in

political circles thanks to pressure from you, citizens that care and refuse to see your wild fish slide into extinction.

In 2019, IRU continued to amplify the voices of our passionate members and brought new conservationists into the fight through a blend of advocacy, outreach, and education. We monitored the year's political events, ensuring that Idaho's leaders knew of our members' desire for the recovery of Idaho's wild fish. IRU also fostered relationships throughout the region, maintaining coalitions that include an array of stakeholders who share the goal of salmon and steelhead recovery.

We will continue this work in 2020, closely watching the release of a new federal salmon plan, as well as the implementation of increased levels of water spilled through the Lower Snake River dams. IRU will strongly advocate for the use of the best available science and for management plans and agreements that will lead to the meaningful recovery of our iconic Idaho salmon and steelhead.