



Idaho Wildlife Summit- Idaho's Wildlife Belongs to YOU!

The Idaho Wildlife Summit is your opportunity to have a conversation with Idahoans who care about wildlife. Hunters, trappers, anglers and other wildlife conservationists who enjoy wildlife in many ways are deeply interested in how it is managed. Early last year, Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Director Virgil Moore laid out for his staff the agency's dilemma: legal mandates and public expectations have outgrown funding sources. Now Moore wants to lay it out for the rest of Idaho. He wants to discuss how to meet those mandates and expectations without infringing on the agency's mission of stewardship of wildlife to provide opportunities for hunting, fishing and trapping. He wants to hear ideas and look for common ground on which to develop a plan for the future. The Wildlife Summit is scheduled on August 24-26 at the Riverside Hotel in Boise.

More information about the Summit can be found at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/summit/>

What does Fish & Game hope to achieve by holding the Summit? This conversation is intended to build enthusiasm for Idaho's wildlife and develop a common understanding about conservation and wildlife management. Agency leaders also hope Summit participants will better understand what Idaho Fish and Game does and how the agency's efforts benefit wildlife and Idahoans.

What happens if you don't live in Boise? You don't have to come to Boise to participate. Technology will "stream" the Summit live over the internet. Also, Fish and Game regional facilities across the state will provide opportunities for Idahoans to participate and interact in the Summit.

Wildlife watchers- let your voices be heard!

Wildlife watching is one of the most popular types of outdoor recreation in Idaho generating \$265 million in retail sales, 5903 jobs, and \$35 million in tax revenue!

Leading Bird Conservation Groups Calls on Interior and Agriculture to Curb Bird Deaths From Mining Claim Markers

(American Bird Conservancy news release)

American Bird Conservancy (ABC), the nation's leading bird conservation organization, called on the federal government to take action to eliminate the massive avian mortality threat posed by the continued use of uncapped metal or PVC mining claim marker pipes on public lands in the West.

In a letter to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Bob Abbey and U.S.D.A Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, ABC Vice President for Conservation Advocacy, Darin Schroeder says that "Field activities by state and federal staff suggest that such pipes have caused the deaths of perhaps millions of birds, and their continued use in the face of these revelations must be rectified to avoid continued violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act."

"Mining" continues on page 2



Birds collected from inside some of Nevada's mining claim posts; photo by Nevada Department of Wildlife.

F E A T U R E S

1 Idaho Wildlife Summit needs Wildlife Watchers!

Share your reasons why Idaho's wildlife is important to you!

1 Mining Claims and Bird Deaths

Pipes are death traps for birds.

3 Spring Events

Find a great escape near you!

7 Idaho's National Parks

Just another reason why keeping your travel dollars in state benefits Idaho.

Small birds often see the opening of mining claim pipe markers as a hollow suitable for nesting. The birds enter the holes only to become trapped because the walls of the pipes do not allow them to extend their wings and fly out and are too smooth to allow them to grapple their way up the sides. In Nevada, death from dehydration or starvation in the hot, dry desert climate soon follows.

Recent examination of 854 pipes revealed 879 killed birds (as well as 113 reptiles and 20 mammals) – an average of more than one bird mortality per pipe. Given that there are in excess of one million federal mining claims in the state of Nevada, this could mean a million or more dead birds in that state alone.

Of the 43 species of birds so far recovered from the markers, by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, most are cavity nesters. The Ash-throated Flycatcher and the Mountain Bluebird were the most frequent victims, but others commonly trapped included woodpeckers, sparrows, shrikes, kestrels, and owls.

Nevada's mining industry is one of the biggest in the United States, producing over \$5.8 billion in mineral material in 2009. With over 80 percent of Nevada land being federally owned – the highest of any state – BLM oversees most of the mining operations in the state. The state of Nevada, however, administers issues related to boundary markings.

A 1993 Nevada law prohibits installation of new uncapped or uncrimped pipes for marking the boundaries of mining claims in an effort to prevent injury to wildlife. However, about half of the protective caps that have been installed on markers since then have become displaced, thereby re-establishing the hazard from the pipes. Although a subsequent law ruled that stakes without caps or crimps would no longer be recognized as claim boundary markers, this did nothing to address the countless stakes that remain in place from old or abandoned claims that continue to kill birds.

While Nevada has a large mining industry, the issue goes well beyond that state's borders to a number of other mining states, and is a potentially significant source of bird mortality in this country.

According to the BLM publication Public Land Statistics, in 2010, there were 3,388,400 mining claims on record on BLM-managed lands in 11 contiguous western states and Alaska. Following Nevada, the states with the highest number of federal mining claims are Utah, with 401,828, Wyoming (which includes minimal numbers from Nebraska) with 306,588, California, with 300,809, and Colorado with 278,326.

"While there have been some efforts by local, federal, and state agencies to address the problem, these have

been wholly inadequate, and have allowed bird deaths to continue to mount up over the last two decades. Given the enormous scale of the issue, a comprehensive, long-term, federal solution is required. Mining claimants need to be held accountable for their stakes through federal regulatory action that requires them to remove their hazardous markers or face fines under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act," Schroeder says in the letter.

The letter calls on the Federal agencies to ".....reduce the needless mortality of millions of birds across the United States, and to establish a way to require states not to use uncapped or otherwise hazardous pipe as markers for mining claims and sites."



A mining claim marker with the cap blown off; photo by Christy Klinger.



Ladder-back woodpeckers found dead in mining claim marker pipes; photo by Christy Klinger.

Spring Wildlife Events

Boise Watershed-

11818 West Joplin Rd., Boise;
www.cityofboise.org/Bee/EnvironmentalEducation

FREE School Break Program

Drop in to this fun all-ages program offered on a school break day! In addition to the exhibit hall, special activities and crafts will take place from 10:00 a.m. to noon. **FREE admission!** Day care groups, home schools and Mom's clubs welcome! No pre-registration required.

April 18 – Earth Day Celebration

Celebrate Earth Day with earth-friendly crafts and science activities from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Create a collage from natural objects, use household recyclables to make works of art, and explore pollution with a tabletop model. At 10:30, join BSU hydrology student Danny Tappa for hands-on activities about Treasure Valley's weather and climate. Note: No school today for Meridian Schools.

Go with the flow to the Boise WaterShed every third Saturday of each month for fun and activities the whole family can enjoy! Activities and crafts take place from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., followed by a wastewater treatment plant tour from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Closed-toe shoes required for tour. Note: For the safety of our guests, wastewater tours will be canceled if snow or ice is on the ground. FREE admission! No pre-registration required unless indicated.

April 21 – Be Outside Day

During Earth Day weekend combat 'Nature Deficit Disorder' with fun outdoor activities! From 10:00-1:00, practice your fly-casting skills with Trout Unlimited and learn to throw a kayak safety rope with the pros at Idaho River Sports. At 10:30 and 12:00 take a one-mile birding walk to encounter wildlife near the ponds at the West Boise Wastewater Treatment Plant. Indoor activities for families will include a flood model demonstration by NOAA National Weather Service and nature crafts for kids.

May 19 – Water Awareness Week

Water is the treasure of the Treasure Valley! Come celebrate water with this event sponsored by Water Awareness Week Region 3. From 10:30-11:15 elementary students from Foothills School of Arts and Sciences will present water videos. At 11:15 hike half a mile to the Boise River to release our rainbow trout! Inside the exhibit hall make an edible aquifer using ice cream, and meet Eddy Trout!

June 16 – Water Olympics

While the world prepares for the summer Olympics, take the water challenge at the Boise WaterShed! Inside the exhibit hall, complete water games in order to win prizes. Discover the amazing properties of water, such as cohesion and surface tension. Outside activities will keep you cool – from super soakers to water balloon games! Plan to get wet and bring a change of clothes.

Deer Flat NWR

13751 Upper Embankment Rd.; Nampa; 208-467-9278; <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/>

April 10- Gardening with Nature: Creating a Refuge at Home, 7pm

Learn to create a refuge for healthy plants that is beneficial to wildlife in your landscape or garden. Ariel Agenbroad, Horticulturist and Educator, University of Idaho.

May 8- Prepare for the Upcoming Eclipse, 7pm

Before the Annular Solar Eclipse on May 20th, learn about the mechanics of a solar eclipse as well as how to safely enjoy a solar eclipse. Amy Truksa, Director of the Whittenberger Planetarium, The College of Idaho

Scout Day: April 7 and May 5, 1pm-3pm

Cub Scouts (Wolf, Bear, and Webelos packs) and Girl Cub Scouts (Wolf, Bear, and Webelos) and Girl Scouts (Brownie and Junior) can earn wildlife-related badges in one fun-filled afternoon. Please register at least a week in advance.

April 21- Earth Day Work Day 9am-noon

Celebrate Earth Day by removing litter or noxious weeds to improve wildlife habitat at the Lake Lowell Unit of Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. Bring gloves and water. Wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty but prepare for the weather. Please pre-register.

June 8 and 9- BioBlitz 10am-3pm; free

Participate in this 24-hr rapid inventory of biological diversity at Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge! Scientists, naturalists, and volunteers will survey the Refuge for living things on Friday and Saturday. The public is invited to the BioBlitz festival on Saturday June 9th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. To learn about Idaho's wildlife and plants and the importance of biodiversity through demonstrations, guided walks, booths, live animals, and kids' activities. Volunteers are needed on both days.

June 9- Kids' Fishing Day, 10am-3pm

Participate in fishing-related activities and crafts, and then practice your new fishing skills! Fishing poles will be available to borrow, or bring your own. At Gotts Point at Lake Lowell. Volunteers are needed.

June 18-22 - Biodiversity Basics Day Camp 9am- 12:30pm

Students entering fourth or fifth grade are invited to explore the incredible variety of life in the world! Go on hikes, create your own field guide and find out what it's like to be a biologist. Pre-registration is required. Sign up early as space is limited.

Foothills Learning Center

3188 Sunset Peak Rd., Boise; (208) 514-3755
www.cityofboise.org/Bee/Foothills/index.aspx

Programs are FREE and no registration is required.

April 14- It's a Hoot 10am-2pm; Free

Each April the Great Horned Owl babies appear in Hulls Gulch. Spend a Saturday at the Foothills Learning Center as we learn about the owls of Idaho with staff from the Idaho Bird Observatory. Then join

us for a short hike to view the owls with binoculars and spotting scopes. This is a wonderful spring tradition.

April 14- Earth Day Every Day 10am-12pm; Free

Join us from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to celebrate Earth Day with earth-friendly crafts and science activities.

May 9- Spring Saunter for Seniors 7-8.30pm

Join staff from the Foothills Learning Center and the Ridge to Rivers trails program to learn about easy hiking trails around the Boise Foothills. We'll talk about hiking readiness, look at maps, then take a short hike in Hulls Gulch. Wear your walking shoes!

May 12- The Remarkable World of Insects 10am-2pm; Free

Sophisticated, intelligent, gardeners, mathematicians... why yes, we're describing insect colonies of course! Ants, bees, and wasps are amazing insects that form unique societies which are among the most sophisticated in the natural world. With graduate fellow Matt Schmasow we'll explore the remarkable world of insect colonies and get acquainted with a few societal species you can find right outside your back door. Students of all ages are also invited to get first-hand experience with our very own honey bee colony in our new observation hive!

June 9- Meet a Scientist 10am-2pm; Free

Graduate fellows from BSU are working with non-formal education centers in Boise, including the Foothills Learning Center. Today those fellows will be all around Hulls Gulch with fun and informative science stations. Learn about geology, biology, water, wildlife, and more. These students are the best of the best, and have been developing lessons and teaching students all year. This promises to be a banner day whether you are a science fan or just want to have fun learning about our great outdoors.

June 13- Bluegrass Blowout 7-8.30pm

The Sunnyvale String Band makes its Foothills Learning Center debut. Though all the musicians are geologists – this is NOT a rock band. It's bluegrass all the way. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, a snack if you want (no alcohol, please), and get ready for an evening of great fun.

June 27- Gardening with Native Plants 7-8.30pm

Elisa Clark from Flutterby Gardens and North End Organic Nursery is our featured presenter tonight. Elisa is highly skilled and knowledgeable, and has a great knack for landscaping with native plants. Using our native plant garden as the walk-around classroom, Elisa will help you envision your own yard blooming with natives.

Events continue on page 4

MK Nature Center

600 S. Walnut St., Boise; (208) 334-2225; <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/education/mknc/>

April 13- Food Truck Rally! 5-9pm; donations accepted

The MK Nature Center is hosting the next Food Truck Rally on Friday April 13 from 5 - 9pm. Ride your bikes or walk over and join the fun! Food trucks will rally around the Nature Center parking lot for a great evening of dining on local fare. Payette Brewing will serve craft beer for those over 21, and live music will round out the evening. Proceeds to benefit the nature center education programs.

Volunteers are needed to help with the set up, bike check, clean up and entrances. Please fill in a shift you would like to volunteer for and share with a friend!

For volunteer questions; Contact Cass Meissner cass.meissner@idfg.idaho.gov or at 208-287-2901. Thanks so much for your help to make this event possible!

Click the link to sign up: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dHpCdldzOEZWNnVLdDNtQWxoU0JzdGc6MQ>

Silver Creek Preserve-

Hwy 20, mp 184.5; Picabo, ID; (208) 788-7910

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/idaho/index.htm>

The Nature Conservancy is celebrating 35 years at Silver Creek this year! In addition to our regular nature walks on Saturdays (every Saturday at the visitor center at 9:30 starting at the end of May), we will be hosting a variety of fun events through the summer. Attached is a list. Silver Creek Preserve is a great place to bring kids, so bring the whole family!! There are nice picnic spots on the visitor center deck so feel free to bring your lunch and hang out awhile.

April 11th; 5.30pm: Maria Loinaz, PhD student will be presenting her amazing work developing an ecological model of the Silver Creek area Canoe float with the Ketchum heritage museum, call to register.

April 22; Celebrate Earth Day; 12-2pm

Picnic for a Planet- enjoy local food and drinks at the Visitor Center, 12-2 pm.

May 19th; Birding on the Preserve; 8.30am

Meet at the Visitor Center at 8.30am

May 26th; Free BBQ and Open House

It's the opening day of the fishing season. Come celebrate at the Visitor Center.

May 29th; Evening birding; 6.30pm

Bird the Preserve in the evening with local expert, Brian Sturges. Meet at Visitor Center.

June 2,9,16,23,30- Birding and natural history talk; 9.30am

Meet at the Visitor Center.



Unplug And Be Outside Week

April 21-28, 2012

Events Statewide!

Children spend more than 30 hours a week in front of a "screen" (TV, video games, computers). By the time the average person reaches the age of 70, he or she will have spent the equivalent of 7 to 10 years watching TV. Spending too much time in front of the "screen" is associated with numerous negative consequences. For example, children who watch more TV are more likely to be overweight and perform poorly in school.

Unplug and Be Outside Community Activities:

Unplug and Be Outside is a Be Outside, Idaho week long community event that encourages families to "unplug" from the TV, video game consoles, computer games and go explore outdoor activities.

For a full list of community activities that promote being active outdoors and nature visit www.unplugandbeoutside.com

Unplug and Be Outside Passport Card:

Look for the *Unplug and Be Outside* passport card [provide info on how your organization will distribute passport cards]. Children who attend three or more events during the *Unplug and Be Outside* week will be entered to win drawing prizes.

www.UnplugAndBeOutside.com

Spring Wildlife Festivals

International Migratory Bird Day

An annual celebration of birds world-wide. This year's theme is "Connecting People to Bird Conservation" Celebrations will be held on **Saturday, May 12 (Treasure Valley and Lewiston) and Saturday, May 19 (McCall and Coeur d'Alene)**

May 12:

Treasure Valley: MK Nature Center, 600 S. Walnut St., Boise, 9am-4pm: Celebration with live birds, bird banding, and children's games and crafts. Call (208) 334-2225 for more info or see MK Nature Center's activities.

Lewiston area: 8am-12pm at the Moscow Farmers Market: IMBD booth with live birds Contact Joel at the Idaho Fish & Game office (208) 799-5010 for more info.

May 19:

McCall area: All activities take place at Ponderosa State Park. Activities planned include an early morning bird walk and programs from 1-4pm where you can construct bird houses and nesting platforms to be deployed at Cascade and Ponderosa State Parks, along with games and other activities for kids. Contact Diane Evans Mack at IDFG (208) 634-8137 or Terri Bryant at Ponderosa State Park (208) 634-2164 for event details.

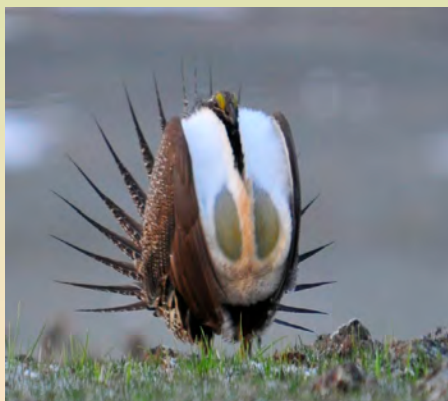
Coeur d' Alene area: 9.30am-12.30pm at Blue Creek Bay. 3 bird observations stations, Bird BINGO, hummingbird feeder craft project, and prizes for kids! Contact Carrie Hugo at BLM office (208) 769-5048 or visit: http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/fo/coeur_d_alene.html

Dubois Grouse Days

April 27 and 28; Dubois, ID

<http://www.grousedays.org>

Witness the unusual mating ritual of sage-grouse as males gather on traditional mating territories (leks) and strut their stuff while females wander around looking for their perfect mate! This annual event in eastern Idaho celebrates the shrub-steppe ecosystem and the unique animals which call it home. For more info, call 208-313-2730.



Greater sage-grouse; photo by Mike Morrison.



Thank You
to
All Contributors

Bill Foxcroft

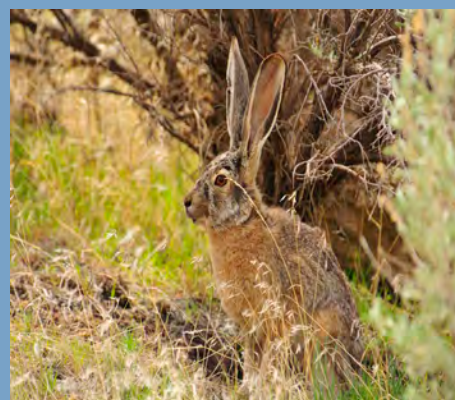
Franklin James

Ben Ramsey

Also, a special thanks to those who donated money to IDFG using the nongame wildlife tax check off on their tax forms.
Thank you!

The following people made direct donations, let us know that they purchased or renewed a wildlife license plate, or informed us about a tax check-off donation between January 2012 through March 2012.

This list represents those who marked the contributor box when they donated to the Wildlife Diversity Program. However, many subscribers not listed here have contributed generously and Idaho's nongame wildlife thanks you ALL!



Black-tailed jackrabbit; photo by Mike Morrison.

Incredible hummingbird facts

Hummingbirds are the smallest birds in the world and the size of raisins when the hatch. The tiniest species is Cuba's two-inch-long bee hummingbird.

They often double their body weight before migrating.

They can fly backwards and forwards, straight up and down, side-to-side, and are the only birds that truly hover.

They convert nearly 100 percent of the sugars they consume in nectar into energy--one of the highest use-ratios of any food by any animal.

They have the largest heart and brain of any animal on earth in proportion to their body weight.

During flight, their hearts can beat 1,200 times per minute. The average human heart only beats 72 times per minute.

They fly at speeds up to 30 miles per hour.



Hummingbird band; photo Alex Lamoreaux

Interested in seeing hummingbirds?

Join Idaho Bird Observatory this spring and summer for hummingbird banding in Idaho City!

There will be opportunities to see and photograph the tiny hummingbirds up close. Its a great time for families and people of all ages.

Banding begins at sunrise, and continues for 5 hours after sunrise:

May 19
June 2, 16, and 30
July 14 and 28
August 11 and 25

All banding days are weather depending so please check Idaho Bird Observatory's status updates on [Facebook](#).



Black-chinned hummingbird

(photo: Alex Lamoreaux)

Local Economic Benefits of Idaho's National Parks

(Craters of the Moon News Release)

Visitors to Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve contributed more than \$6 million to local economies and supported 96 jobs in 2010 according to a recent report issued by the National Park Service. Statewide visitors to Idaho's 6 national parks contributed more than \$20 million to local economies and supported 312 jobs. Nationally visitors to the National Park System contributed more than \$31 billion to local economies and supported 258,000 jobs.

"National parks are best known for their incredible beauty and the preservation of America's historical legacy, but they are also critical assets for local economies," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "The investment American taxpayers make in their national parks continues to offer a huge return, not only in priceless family experiences but in real jobs and economic growth in our gateway communities that ripples to suppliers across the nation."

Most of the spending/jobs figures are related to lodging, food, and beverage service (52 percent) followed by other retail (29 percent), entertainment/amusements (10 percent), gas and local transportation (7 percent) and groceries (2 percent).

The entire National Park Service report which includes information on visitor spending by park and by state, is online at <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/products.cfm#MGM>, click Economic Benefits to Local Communities from National Park Visitation and Payroll, 2010.

For more state-by-state information on national parks and how the National Park Service is working with communities go to www.nps.gov/STATE, for example: <http://www.nps.gov/idaho>



Winter at Craters of the Moon; photo used under Creative Commons from stupiddingo



Summer at Craters of the Moon; photo used under Creative Commons from roy.luck



Looking out into the lava; photo used under Creative Commons from chip_p

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**Boise's Peregrine Falcon
webcam
is up and running for its
4th nesting season!**

**Watch the live broadcast at:
www.peregrinefund.org/falconcam/**



Windows to Wildlife

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- Golden Eagle Audubon
- Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor
- Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Idaho Department of Parks & Recreation
- Idaho Power Company
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

