



Calling All Wildlife Enthusiasts!

As someone who enjoys Idaho's wildlife, you may have heard about the Idaho Wildlife Summit being held in Boise, August 24 – 26. Hosted by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Summit will explore two important questions about Idaho's wildlife:

What kind of wildlife legacy do we want to leave for our children and grandchildren?

How can we work together to create a positive future for wildlife?

The Summit is an opportunity for participants like you to learn about challenges Fish and Game faces as it works to manage wildlife in today's rapidly changing society. Nationally-recognized speakers will help foster discussion about our shared responsibility in protecting and managing our state's wildlife. Perhaps most importantly, the Summit will allow all participants to explore the common ground they share as people who care about wildlife from hunters and anglers to wildlife watchers.

Now is the time to reserve your seat and have your voice heard at the Idaho Wildlife Summit August 24 – 26 at the Riverside Hotel in Boise.

If you can't travel to Boise, the Summit will be live-streamed over the internet so that Idahoans can participate and interact in real time from Pocatello, to Coeur d'Alene, from Boise to Salmon.

We want to involve as many Idahoans as possible in helping plan the future for wildlife management in our state. Whether you are a hunter, angler, wildlife watcher or all of the above, we need you to come be a part of the Idaho Wildlife Summit because Idaho's Wildlife Belongs to You.

For registration and information about the Summit go to:
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/summit/>

The Columbia spotted frog

by Sandra Vistine-Amdor

Wildlife Biologist, The Idaho Power Company

As I have spent more and more time in the outdoors I have learned to identify certain sounds, smells and sights that seem to serve as cues to me that a seasonal change is upon me. In the fall it's always the sound of crunching leaves under my feet or the feel of cool crisp air moving in. In the winter it's a silence that seems to fall over the landscape with the first snow. In the spring and summer it's always the chirping of crickets, the smell of flowers and of course the call of the frogs at night. But there's one native frog here that you aren't likely to hear the call of at all because they have a rather small voice and they usually only communicate to each other through a series of short, rapid croaks. You probably won't easily spot them either unless you know where to look. The species is known as the Columbia spotted frog (*Rana luteiventris*) and it's been receiving a lot of attention in recent years for declines in several monitored populations in Idaho and other surrounding states.

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Columbia spotted frog; photo by Sandra Vistine-Amdor

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

How Idaho Power Company is keeping track of these frogs.

Find a great escape near you!

How man-made noise impacts wildlife.

Columbia spotted frogs are found from Alaska and most of British Columbia to Washington east of the Cascades, Idaho, and portions of Wyoming, Nevada, and Utah. The Great Basin population range includes eastern Oregon, southwestern Idaho, and the northern drainages of Nevada. In Idaho the distribution of the Columbia spotted frog extends to the south of the Snake River as a series of small populations centered on the east slopes of the Owyhee Mountains in Owyhee County with several other small isolated populations in Owyhee and Twin Falls counties. Spotted frogs inhabit colder seeps, wet meadows, marshes, ponds and slow moving streams at higher elevations, where vegetation is abundant. They are not known for spending much time on land, but instead prefer to migrate along riparian corridors between habitats used for spring breeding, summer foraging and winter hibernation.



photo by Sandra Vistine-Amdor

They are pretty fast and can quickly dart under aquatic vegetation before you even see them. If you are lucky enough to catch a glimpse of one, they are light to dark brown, gray or olive green in color with dark spots, but these guys can often be hard to identify for some people because, depending on where you are, their coloration can vary quite a bit. However, if you want to know if you're looking at a Columbia spotted frog or not, just look under its belly. Columbia spotted frogs have bright orange, yellow or salmon colored bellies. Currently this frog is considered a candidate species for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Candidate species involve animals and fish species that have the potential to become endangered or sensitive, which would then list them as protected under the ESA. These species still have significant populations, but they are declining due to several different factors such as, fragmentation, alteration or loss of habitat (especially wetland habitat used for breeding and hibernation), loss of native beavers (beavers create perfect wetland habitat for the frogs), disease and predation by non-native species.

Several populations of these frogs are currently monitored by state agencies, the BLM and US Fish and Wildlife Service etc., in an effort to gain more information about what is happening with these frog populations and their habitats. As a wildlife biologist for Idaho Power Company (IPC), I've been monitoring the yearly presence/absence of these frogs and their egg masses at the Daly Creek Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA); an 11, 406 acre property owned and operated by IPC in Eagle Valley 2 miles south of Richland, Oregon.

Observations of Columbia spotted frogs had been reported by IPC biologists on the property in 1996, but no surveys had been conducted since then until recently. Historically, the Daly Creek property had been grazed by livestock for about 100 years.

In 2005 Idaho Power purchased the property and has since been managing the property for wildlife habitat enhancement and conservation. In favorable years management practices such as flood irrigation, ditch maintenance, noxious weed control, limited grazing, along with the cyclical flooding characteristics of Eagle Creek, have created the type of wet meadow/ marshy conditions that appear favorable to Columbia spotted frogs and many other types of wildlife.

Each year that I survey for spotted frogs I am surprised to find they are expanding to new areas on the property and that they are not only using the property to forage in the summer months but that they are actually breeding there as well, and I am hopeful that this species will continue to expand their use of the Daly Creek WHMA. While there is still more information to be gathered about this species and their habitat, in the mean time much can be and is being done by many different folks to preserve and restore native wetlands and riparian habitats to prevent the loss of such a neat little frog.



Egg mass; photo by Sandra Vistine-Amdor.

Summer Wildlife Events

Boise Watershed-

11818 West Joplin Rd., Boise;

www.cityofboise.org/Bee/EnvironmentalEducation

July 11, 18, 25 and Aug. 1, 8 15-

WaterShed Wednesday Series every Wednesday from 10am-12pm. Free for all ages. Join us for free activities, movies and more! We'll find out what plants and animals depend on clean water to live.

At 10:30, join us for a hands-on presentation and interactive activity in the Theater. At 11:00, see and smell the process of wastewater treatment during the treatment plant tour. Closed-toe shoes required for tour, no strollers. There's something for the whole family to enjoy while staying cool this summer. No pre-registration required; groups welcome!

July 21- Wetland Adventures at Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve

The Boise WaterShed will be closed today because we will be exploring the Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve at the corner of Chinden and Maple Grove!

Activities and crafts take place from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. FREE admission! No pre-registration required.

Held at Hyatt Hidden Lakes Reserve
Corner of Chinden and Maple Grove
Boise, ID 83704

Castle Rocks State Park

Almo, ID; (208) 824-5901

<http://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/parks/castlerocks.aspx>

July 17 and 18 - Castle Rocks State Park, Magic Valley Astronomical Society, and College of Southern Idaho's Centennial Observatory will host Solar viewing (safe views of the Sun with specially filtered telescopes) from 2-6 p.m. at Smoky Mountain Campground. A Star Party (telescope viewing) will be held from 9 p.m. to midnight at the Ranch House site. Several telescopes will be set up for solar and night sky viewing. Bring warm clothing and binoculars if you would like. This event is free. \$5.00 Day Use Fee to the park applies.

Craters of the Moon National Monument

Arco, ID; (208) 527-1300

<http://www.nps.gov/crmo/index.htm>

Daily - Ranger guided Walks and Talks: Climb a volcano, explore a lava tube or join us for an evening presentation in the campground. Walks and talks and Junior Ranger activities are offered daily throughout the summer. Look for a detailed schedule at:

<http://www.nps.gov/crmo/planyourvisit/events.htm>

July 7 - Evening Hike: 7-10pm, 4 miles;

Take advantage of cooler temperatures and softer

light with this evening hike around and to the top of North Crater. This moderate hike is 3-4 miles long and will involve some off-trail hiking and elevation gain. Hiking boots, snacks, and water are required. A hiking stick is also recommended. Reservations are available by calling 208-527-1335. Meet at the North Crater Trailhead.

July 14 - Wilderness Hike: 9am-2pm, 7 miles;

Explore the National Park system's first wilderness area on a ranger-led hike to Echo Crater. This strenuous hike is seven miles long and will involve some off-trail hiking. Hiking boots, hat, pack, lunch and plenty of water are required. Sunglasses, sunscreen, lip balm and a hiking stick are recommended. Reservations are available by calling 208-527-1335. Meet at the Tree Molds Parking Lot.

July 21- Service Saturday: 9am-3pm;

Care for your public lands by taking part in a service project. Projects range from basic trail work to building wildlife-friendly fences and more. Perfect for groups looking to complete volunteer service or anyone with a desire to donate their time and energy outdoors. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 208-527-1332 for specific project information or to make a reservation. Meet at the Visitor Center.

July 28 - Goodales Cutoff Hike: 9am-1pm, 4 miles;

Follow the footsteps of emigrants on the 150th anniversary of the Goodale wagon train's passage through Craters of the Moon. Find out why they opted for this little-known route littered with lava flows on this moderate 4 mile hike. Sturdy shoes, a hat, lunch, and water required. Sunscreen and a hiking stick are recommended. Call the Visitor Center at 208-527-1335 for reservations. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Foothills Learning Center

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

www.cityofboise.org/Bee/Foothills/index.aspx

SUNSET SERIES: No cost or registration is required. All programs are from 7-8.30pm. Please leave pets at home.

July 11- Make a Great Impression

Printmaker Amy Nack from Wingtip Press, will be here with her traveling etching press. Participants will have an opportunity to create a textured plate (collagraph) using natural materials and try their hand at operating the press to produce a beautiful embossed print. This is our first time printmaking – we hope you're as excited as we are.

July 25 - Birds on the Wing!

Come learn about the Idaho Bird Observatory, one of Boise's hidden treasures. Learn about the work they do banding migratory birds. Learn about mist nets, bird banding, resident and migratory birds of prey and more. Find out when you can go up and see their work in action!

STORY TRAIL SERIES: We invite you to wander the trail, read some fun nature related stories and look for the many different foothills plants and animals that live here. Each month a different story will be posted on our ten reading platforms. The trail is open sunrise to sunset, seven days a week. The trail begins in the

northwest corner of the parking lot with the Dandelion Sculpture.

July: [Hey, Little Ant](#)

August: [The Butterfly Hunt](#)

September: [A Tree is Nice](#)

Idaho Bird Observatory-

Boise; (208) 426-4354

<http://www.idahobirdobservatory.org>

Fall Migration Banding & Monitoring at Lucky Peak Daily from July 16- Oct. 31

The IBO's longest-running research and education effort is a fall migration project located at Lucky Peak, just outside of Boise. It is one of only a few known sites in the western U.S. where great numbers of diurnal raptors, songbirds, and forest owls concentrate during fall migration. This site presents a unique opportunity to study the migration biology of many different kinds of birds in one locality. Studies have identified important habitats used by migrants, breeding and wintering areas, and contribute to long-term population monitoring. The site offers a unique opportunity for wildlife viewing.

For driving directions and more information, visit:

www.idahobirdobservatory.org/visit.html

Idaho Conservation League Summer Hike Series

Excursions are planned for this summer and fall, offering something for every ability and interest.

Outings include geocaching, an overnight backpack, a lake hike and family friendly hikes. Idaho Conservation League hikes are free, but space is limited and registration is required.

Find a hike: www.idahoconservation.org/events/hikes

North Idaho- organized by ICL's Sandpoint Office

Central Idaho- organized by ICL's Ketchum Office

South Idaho- organized by ICL's Boise Office.



Available January 1, 2013!

Beginning January 1, 2013, the \$10 Idaho State Parks Passport sticker will be available for purchase at the time you renew your vehicle registration. To obtain your Idaho State Parks Passport, just "opt in" at the time of renewal, by mail, online or at any county DMV office. Your \$10 gets you into all 30 Idaho State Parks and saves on camping too. As a bonus, your money helps preserve: 49 campgrounds, hundreds of miles of hiking, riding and skiing trails, your favorite boat launches, and historic and cultural sites in state parks.

A Louder World for Wildlife

by Dr. Jesse Barber
Assistant Professor,
Boise State University

The US population has increased by about 1/3rd in the last 30 years, while the numbers of miles we fly and drive have both more than tripled. Everything we do, from scouting hunting sites on ATVs to yard work, involves more engines and more noise. Our acoustic footprint extends even to the last wildernesses that remain. In the backcountry of Yosemite, some sites are exposed to high-flying jet aircraft almost 70% of the day. There are times when the Indian Creek landing strip on the Middle Fork of the Salmon, the main artery of the largest wilderness area left in the lower 48 states, is the busiest airport in Idaho. Given the ubiquitous nature of man-made noise, it is critical that we begin to understand the implications of a louder world for wildlife.

In the last several years there has been an explosion in the number of noise pollution studies focused on terrestrial animals. Interestingly, much of this work is not from university laboratories that focus on the effects of noise, but instead from biologists that have noticed their study areas becoming louder. Multiple groups have described songbirds increasing the frequency (pitch) of their song in loud environments to reduce interference from low-frequency traffic and city noise. Recently, this increase in pitch has been shown to decrease the attractiveness of male song to female birds and alter some reproductive behavior. On the whole it seems shifting song upwards in noise is a strategy for birds to withstand loud habitats. For instance, ash-throated flycatchers tolerate increased background sound levels and show vocal flexibility in noise. Gray flycatchers, on the other hand, do not possess the ability to alter their song frequency and therefore avoid noisy areas.. Independent of the ability to alter vocalizations, the dominant frequency in a bird's call appears to impact their use of loud areas. A recent study of songbirds along roadways in two National Parks showed that birds with low frequency songs are 10 times less likely to be found in wooded plots near loud roads versus quiet plots further from the road.

Birds often avoid areas within 1 kilometer of roadways. It seems likely that noise plays an important role in this pattern. Considering that more than 80%



Noise “degrades bat habitat on either side of a busy highway; photo © S Greif/D Nil (http://news.bbc.co.uk/earth/hi/earth_news/newsid_9194000/9194186.stm)



Gray flycatcher; photo © Ganesh Jayaraman



Indian Creek landing strip on the Middle Fork of the Salmon; photo © Galen L. Hanselman

of the land area in the United States is within 1 kilometer of a road, together with other sources of noise (e.g., aircraft, energy extraction, and general community noise), it is no surprise that quiet environments are becoming more difficult to find. The vast areas of federal and state land in the intermountain west would seem to be a stronghold of quiet habitat that remains; current energy development is weakening this assumption.

Extracting natural gas and oil requires a pipeline network that must be kept at high pressure using compressor stations. Research has shown that sage grouse, mule deer and songbirds avoid compressor stations. Some researchers have compared quiet well pads to loud compressor stations with the same amount of cleared area, road infrastructure and

human visitation. One team working in New Mexico showed that entire bird communities are altered, with most birds (14 species) avoiding loud areas and a handful preferring to nest in elevated sound levels. The three bird species that endured the noise in this study had higher reproductive success probably because a major nest predator, the scrub jay, avoided noise.

This research highlights how important it is to examine entire communities when attempting to understand how human activity molds ecosystems. My lab at Boise State University is currently building on limited previous evidence that indicates sound is critical for predator/prey interactions. We are investigating the impacts of noise on foraging bats and owls and migrating songbirds. I am deeply interested in this work and feel it has powerful management implications.

Sites with chronic noise exposure should be mitigated first. Areas with low level noise should not be ignored, however, and it is harder to reduce human activities than to prevent their initial intrusion into intact (quiet) lands. Several solutions are apparent, even if funding and political will are not: restrict road construction, manage motorized use of public land, limit vehicular speed in critical areas, build noise-reducing overpasses at important animal crossings, erect noise walls near limiting habitat, and require sound attenuating structures around compressor stations.

Looking at the world through an animal's senses will offer the conservation community important perspectives on how to maintain healthy and diverse ecosystems.



Caribou roam the Arctic tundra of Alaska's North Slope along the 414-mile Dalton Highway, also known as the Haul Road. Research suggests caribou reduce their activity 50–95% within 3 miles of human infrastructure and activities. Photo © Steven Kazlowski/www.lefteyepro.com

In the Sensory Ecology Lab at Boise State University, Dr. Barber is studying how man-made noise impacts the hunting success of acoustically-specialized predators, like the saw-whet owl picture here. Photo © Jesse Barber/Nick Hristov

*Thank You
to
All Contributors*

Thank you to those who made direct donations, purchased or renewed a wildlife license plate, or informed us about a tax check-off donation between April through June 2012.



White-headed woodpecker; photo by Mike Morrison.

Windows to Wildlife

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Idaho Power Company
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