



IDAHO WILDLIFE FEDERATION

2017 in Review

Summary:

- Public Lands Rally
- IWF in D.C.
- Idaho's only full-time sportsman voice
- Governor Candidate Forum
- Unprecedented 2017 Legislative session
- Federal Bills
- High Divide Campaign
- Public Lands Alefest
- Legislative Reception

Happy Holidays!

Whether admiring your new European mount while the kids play with Christmas gifts underneath, or wandering through morning fog in search of pheasants in the reeds, the holidays are the perfect time to reflect on the year. For IWF, and sportsmen at large, 2017 was an incredible year. The Federation is experiencing rapid growth. And that means sportsmen and women are gaining influence and respect with our elected and appointed decision makers, which has resulted in major victories. So here is a quick recap of 2017. Happy holidays from the IWF team, and good hunting!

2017 By the Numbers

- 17 new affiliates (and more on the way)
- 20,000 affiliate members (and growing)
- 4,000+ letters sent to state/federal legislators from IWF supporters through our website
- 200,000+ Idahoans reached from IWF's online outreach
- 20+ IWF articles in papers across the state and country regarding public lands, sage grouse, state legislation, salmon, etc.
- 3,000 hunters, anglers, and public land users rallied at the statehouse to oppose public land transfer
- 100% bad public lands and wildlife bills defeated in the state legislature
- \$8 million allotted annually for wildlife funding and aquatic invasive species prevention

"I would urge you to consider becoming a member of the Idaho Wildlife Federation. They are a GREAT group who is actively fighting to protect Idaho's wildlife from [people] who don't value the opinions of Idaho sportsmen "

-Corey Jacobsen
Elk 101 Founder and Owner

Massive Public Lands Rally at the State Capitol



3,000 hunters, trappers, anglers, and other public lands users rallied for support of public land

IWF, along with a diverse coalition of public lands supporters organized the event where over [3,000 people rallied](#) in the freezing rain in early March to oppose any and all actions that will undermine our public lands heritage. The event was the largest conservation oriented rally in Idaho's history. Speakers representing motorized users, sportsmen, indigenous peoples, and more spoke to a crowd clad in camo and blaze orange, while others carried kayaks, skis, fishing nets, furs, American flags, and signs stating "Idaho is not for sale!" loud and clear message to our legislators: keep your hands off our public lands!

The message was loud and clear: support for public lands isn't a partisan issue, nor is it confined to one user group. **Support of public lands is Idahoan.**

Idaho Sportsmen Take to D.C.

IWF was in our nation's capital twice this last year to deliver the sportsman voice to our congressional delegation and public lands managers.

The first trip we met with both Senators, Rep. Mike Simpson, and acting BLM Director to discuss public lands issues,

The second trip, our E.D. met with BLM staff and other public lands stakeholders to discuss how we can better manage wildlife, and wildlife opportunity.




E.D. Brian Brooks and board President Kahle Becker in front of the US Capitol



Brian Brooks, Kahle Becker, and board member Maggie Heumann with Senator Crapo

IWF: The only Full-time Idaho Sportsman Voice

There is no other way to put it: No one else is doing the work IWF is. There isn't another nonprofit in Idaho that is building a coalition of diverse sportsmen and wildlife groups to deliver a unified voice to our decision makers. There isn't another full-time, staffed sportsman organization working year around to provide professional quality work, holding our legislators accountable, defending access rights, or improving wildlife and land management. If you want to help fund the only organization dedicated to sportsman issues, [click here to become a member](#).



Trivia: IWF was formed following the General Wildlife Assembly of 1936, convened by President FDR and other prominent sportsmen in D.C. Idaho delegates returned home with the idea that scattered wildlife clubs across the state could never be effective unless they unified, or "federated".

Sportsman Governor Candidate Forum



Gov. candidate Brad Little with moderator Eric Barker from the Lewiston Tribune.

The Federation hosted this "first of its kind" forum to inform sportsmen before heading to the ballot box. Brad Little, Tommy Ahlquist, and AJ Balukoff addressed over 140 sportsmen, state legislators, appointed officials, and two congressional candidates on a range of sportsmen topics. Raul Labrador declined to come.

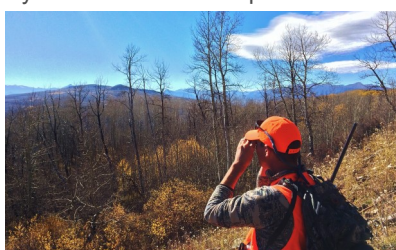
The fact the candidates agreed to the forum speaks volumes to IWF's growth. Watch the [video of the forum here](#).

2017 Legislative Session: The Year of Sportsmen



This cannot be understated: the '17 session was won by sportsmen. IWF packed legislators' town halls with camo and orange to beat back anti-public land agendas. We helped pass bills allocating an additional *\$8 million dollars per year* to be used to benefit fish, wildlife, and sportsman access. Every bill that would've impacted wildlife or public lands negatively was defeated. Every bill that supported wildlife and land access was passed ([with the exception of one repeal](#), which ultimately [resulted in the fruition](#) of the bill's intent regardless). To see a detailed description of these bills, [click here](#).

Why the success? IWF now represents a growing body of over 20,000 affiliated members and 17 sportsman groups. This grassroots network, combined with a strategic approach and a consistent presence at the statehouse, is turning out results. If IWF's statewide, unified, diverse, and organized coalition of sportsmen continues to grow, it's easy to see how sportsmen can return to the forefront of Idaho conservation, and direct the future of our wildlife and public land resources. If you'd like to help grow our influence, [click here](#)!



Federal Bills That will Benefit Sportsman

IWF is working to hand deliver co-sponsorships or votes of support from Idaho's congressional delegates on the below federal bills. Support for such bills often requires approval from state agencies, legislative bodies, or other institutions. We are

Recovering America's Wildlife Act:

Without creating any new taxes, the bill will allocate \$1.3 billion annually to state fish and wildlife agencies in order to combat the decline of wildlife across the country. The bill is supported by over 175 fossil fuel and renewable energy companies, motorized use groups, and sportsman groups. IWF has already had several meetings with congressional delegates on the bill. It has been introduced on the House side by two Republicans and one Democrat so far. Stay tuned! asdf

Chronic Wasting Disease Management Act:

Bipartisan bill was introduced on the House side with a Senate companion introduced by Montana Senator John Tester, to allocate \$60 million to [help state and tribal wildlife management agencies](#) stop the spread of the disease

through research grants, management plans and rapid-response units in newly infected areas.

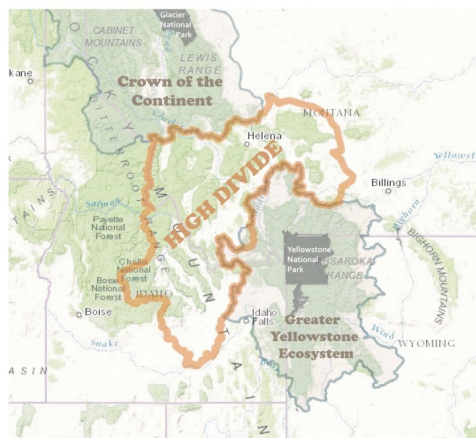
IWF convened and led a conference of both Senators' staff, IDFG, and several sportsman/wildlife groups to work out plans to support the bill and keep CWD, and its detrimental effects to cervids and our hunting economy, out of Idaho.

Wildfire Disaster Funding Act: This bill will restructure the way we pay to fight forest fires. "Borrowing" money from non-fire accounts leaves less resources for the USFS to perform hazardous fuel removal or timber harvests, leading to worse fires.

IWF supports this bill that will improve the health of our forests and habitat, and cost less money for its management

Bringing the Sportsman Voice to the High Divide

What is the High Divide? It's just a shorter way to describe the geographic area between the Frank Church and greater Yellowstone Ecosystem all the way west to the Boulder White Clouds. In Idaho this area contains over 7 million acres of public



land, which includes prime habitat and migration corridors for sheep, goats, elk, deer, grizzly, and pronghorn. The area is also a watershed filled with blue ribbon trout fishing and salmon/steelhead habitat. That means the area is prime hunting and fishing, but that is no secret.

The regional USFS and BLM field offices that manage these public lands are revising their management plans, which will guide goals and objectives for the coming decades.

IWF is gathering and delivering local desires to be represented in these revision plans. We've met ranchers, sportsmen, guides, motorized users and others from Stanley, Challis, Salmon, Idaho Falls and places in between. We are working to ensure the complex issues facing our multiple-use public lands are solved by "made in Idaho" solutions. And we will continue to do so until the process is complete.

Idaho's First Public Lands and Wildlife Alefest



IWF threw another "first of its kind" event this summer, celebrating everything Idaho sportsmen cherish- public lands and wildlife. The Alefest was attended by over 400 people thirsty for cold brews and the possibility to win over \$13,000 worth of prizes including recreation gear, guided trip packages, and flights into the Frank Church. At the event all of IWF's affiliate clubs are invited to set up a booth where they could raise money for their own causes, and increase membership and outreach. The Alefest was a huge success, kicking off **an annual event every first week of June!**

Sportsman Legislative Reception Coming Soon

IWF will be hosting a legislative reception early in the 2018 legislative session. This is an opportunity for you to meet legislators from around the state and discuss all sportsman/wildlife issues you care about. Earlier in the day, IWF will be bringing our affiliate leaders to meet legislators in their statehouse offices to show support, or non-support, for certain bills. Pay attention to your email for date and time.

Success for IWF, Wildlife, Public Lands, and Sportsmen, Means Working Together

From Our Executive Director

2017 was a remarkable year for IWF. Whether it was the defeat of [Senate Bill 1065](#), passing a license fee increase *free of auction tag and LAP tag language*, or lending sportsman support for a number of bills that will allocate \$4 million to prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic species to Idaho waters, we simply could not have been effective without the professional capacity to work with supposed opposition while galvanizing diverse sportsmen interests who often do not see eye to eye. To explain this success, I will quote an excerpt from the 20 year old publication, "[Idaho Wildlife Federation: Then, Now and Tomorrow](#)":

"The [story of IWF is a] story of an organization as diverse and significant as Idaho wildlife itself. The individuals and organizations composing the Idaho Wildlife Federation represent all the diversity and strength of American society. Just as the concept of "one out of many" binds together the United States, our commitment to knowing that conservation is essential for the future survival, not just of wildlife, but of all of us, binds together the Idaho Wildlife Federation.

... Idaho citizens with this farsighted commitment to conservation have united to insure wildlife's future. These citizens include sportsmen, businessmen, farmers and ranchers, children, parents and grand parents, teachers, laborers, students - in short- all of us who care about wildlife and care about our futures.



Brian's 2017 chinook caught on an 8 wt. flyrod

The Idaho Wildlife Federation puts to rest the idea that conservation is a "we vs. they" proposition. *The Idaho Wildlife Federation proves that conservation is all of us working together.* By continuing our commitment to wildlife by finding unity from diversity, the IWF will continue to lead the offensive for Idaho's wildlife tomorrow, as it has yesterday and today. This is our story."

Today, the Federation proudly represents horsemen to houndsmen, trappers to falconers, bear hunters to deer hunters, spin and fly fishers, rifleman and bowhunters. As sportsmen, we may find ourselves associated with one or many of these labels, and we certainly reserve the right to gripe about the others— sometimes jokingly, sometimes not. But, I can assure you that IWF will continue to work to unite Idahoans for the benefit of our natural heritage—for our shared appreciation of all wildlife—and the rights we have to pursue, and enjoy them.

I hope 2018 brings your game bags full, lunkers landed, or at the very least, much time spent outdoors where Idahoans belong. Happy New Year! — Brian Brooks

Become an IWF Member!

Building our coalition, representing wildlife and sportsmen in the legislature, bringing sportsmen to public lands planning processes, holding public officials accountable, educating and engaging the public on issues, and many others...

All of it is funded by membership! Sign up by clicking [here!](#)

