Real conversations. Shared futures.

Discover the story of Idaho's public lands. Learn why they matter, how they shape our lives, and be part of the conversation about their future.

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

8:00AM	Registration and Refreshments
8:30AM	Welcome - Tiffany Seeley Case
9:00-10:00AM	Emily Wakild - Professor of History and Environmental Studies (BSU)
10:00AM	**BREAK**
10:15-11:00AM	Deb Wilson - Magic Valley Land Trust
11:00-11:45AM	Jared Talley - Nature Conservancy Agriculture and Public Lands
12:00PM	**LUNCH**
1:00-2:45PM	Walt Dabney - National Park Service
2:45-3:15PM	CSI Speech and Debate - Debating Public Land Use
3:15PM	Recap & Adjourn

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

8:00AM	Recap and Refreshments
8:30-9:15AM	Brenda Richards - Idaho Rangeland Conservation Partnership.
9:15-10:00AM	John Robison - Idaho Conservation League
10:00AM	**BREAK**
10:00-11:00AM	Jack Hurty - Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association
11:00-11:45AM	Erin Cox - Rock Creek Watershed Restoration Master Plan
12:00PM	**LUNCH**
12:30-1:30PM	Crazy Love Performance
1:30-2:30PM	Jason Laramore - Heroes & Horses Matthew Ross - Heroes & Horses
2:30PM	**CLOSE**

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Emily Wakild

Professor of History and Environmental Studies

Emily Wakild is professor of history and the Cecil D. Andrus Endowed Chair for the Environment and Public Lands at Boise State University. She directed the Environmental Studies program from 2018-2023. Her most recent book, A Moderating Force: Conserving Nature in National Parks in Patagonia and Amazonia (Oxford 2026) argues that the ubiquity of nature conservation comes from its modest goals and wide utility. Her first monograph, Revolutionary Parks: Conservation, Social Justice, and Mexico's National Parks (University of Arizona Press, 2011) examined the creation of national parks during Mexico's social revolution and has been used by policy makers to improve conservation outcomes. She co-authored a book on teaching with Michelle K. Berry called A Primer for Teaching Environmental History (Duke, 2018). Her academic work has earned awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, and the Fulbright-Hays program.

Deb Wilson

Magic Valley Land Trust

Deb Wilson is the daughter of a 3rd generation Idaho farmer/rancher. She grew up on a ranch in Tuttle, Idaho that was carved out of the sagebrush in the early 1900's by her mother's family. Her parents bought the 600 acre farm in 1960 and grew the operation to over 1,700 acres through partnerships with BLM and other entities. Deb is a graduate of the CSI and the University of Idaho majoring in Rural Economics and Agricultural Sociology. Deb spent her career in the Magic Valley raising funds and awareness for students at the College of Southern Idaho. She worked for the CSI Foundation, Inc. for 30 years, spending the last 12 as Executive Director. Deb never lost her love of agriculture nor did she lose her respect for the land and the importance of thoughtful stewardship. She was asked to help to revitalize the Southern Idaho Land Trust in 2021 which had gone dormant. She recruited a small group of dedicated volunteers and the Magic Valley Land Trust arose and took over the assets of SILT in 2022.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

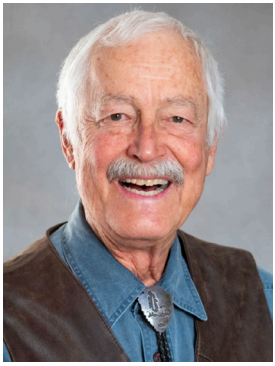
Jared Talley

Nature Conservancy Agriculture and Public Lands

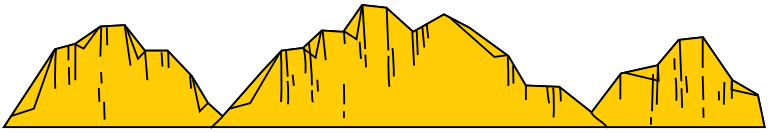
Born and raised in Southwestern Idaho, Jared has dedicated his career to helping communities thrive in a changing world. He earned a Ph.D. in Environmental Philosophy and a Master's in Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management, focusing his research on how people relate to the land and collaborate across differences. Previously, Jared served as an Assistant Professor of Environmental Governance at Boise State University, where he worked with students and communities on practical approaches to conservation and governance. Today, as Idaho State Policy Advisor for The Nature Conservancy, he brings that academic insight and hands-on experience to building collaborative, community-driven solutions for land stewardship and resilience across Idaho's landscapes.

Walt Dabney

National Park Service



Walt Dabney is a retired park professional with a 43-year career spanning both the National Park Service (NPS) and Texas Parks and Wildlife. A Texas A&M graduate, he began as a ranger-naturalist in Yellowstone and went on to serve in key leadership roles across iconic parks including Yosemite, Grand Teton, Everglades, and as Chief Ranger of the NPS in Washington, D.C. He later led the Southeast Utah Group of parks and served as Director of Texas State Parks. Known for his expertise in law enforcement, search and rescue, fire management, and public land policy, Dabney now teaches at leadership institutes and universities and frequently speaks on the history of America's public lands.



FEATURED SPEAKERS

Brenda Richards

Idaho Rangeland Conservation Partnership

Brenda Richards is a public lands rancher and the Coordinator for the Idaho Rangeland Conservation Partnership. Brenda has more than 30 years of experience working at the intersection of public land policy, rangeland health and collaborative conservation. She and her husband, Tony, ranch in Owyhee County, Idaho, where he represents the fourth generation in the ranching industry.

Throughout her career, Brenda has worked with federal and state agencies to assure the viability of their business. In addition, she has worked with conservation organizations, academic partners and others to strengthen the health and resilience of Idaho's rangelands. Her work centers on the belief that responsible grazing on public lands is essential not only for ecological stewardship, but also for the economic stability and continuity of rural communities.

As both a practitioner and a policy leader, she is committed to ensuring public lands remain working landscapes – healthy, sustainable and viable –for the business stability of families like hers, while also providing open space, wildlife habitat, and healthy ecosystems that are there for our children and grandchildren. Brenda and Tony have the fifth and sixth generations in the business working beside them learning and using the same land-based values.

John Robison

Idaho Conservation League

John Robison is the Public Lands and Wildlife Director for the Idaho Conservation League. John has been working on public lands issues for ICL for the last 23 years. John has had a leadership role in several collaborative efforts, including the Owyhee Initiative, the Payette Forest Coalition, the Boise Forest Coalition, and the Idaho Forest Restoration Partnership. John earned a BA in biology from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, ME. John started his graduate studies at the Teton Science School's Professional Residency in Environmental Education and completed his master's degree from the University of Vermont's Field Naturalist Program.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Jack Hurty

Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association

Jack is a born and raised Idahoan, and a veteran guide on the Salmon River. He was raised on a steady diet of free-flowing rivers and wilderness peaks and has been in love with both ever since.

He has a deep love and appreciation for what the river community has to offer, and feels strongly that as guides, we have a responsibility to fight for and protect the incredible ecosystems that we rely on. These feelings have driven him over the last several years to learn how to be a guide-advocate, complete a Masters of Public Policy, research the economic potential of dam removal for Idaho guides, and now to learn and contribute more as the Policy and Communications Director for the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association. In his spare time, he enjoys backcountry skiing, reading poetry, and of course fly fishing.

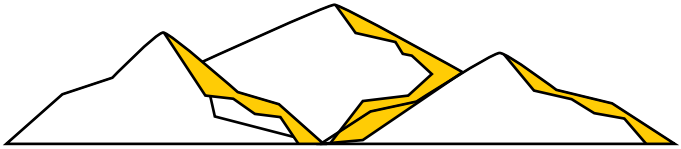
Erin Cox

Rock Creek Watershed Restoration Master Plan

Erin Cox is a Water Resources Expert, an Environmental Engineer, and currently serves as the Northwest Water Resources Strategic Growth Leader and Idaho Client Account Manager at Jacobs. Erin has a B.S. in Biology, a M.S in Water Resources and Environmental Engineering, and she is a PhD candidate in Biological Design.

Her areas of expertise include water quality, water resources, reuse, stormwater, and engineering with nature. Erin's professional career started in Newport Beach, CA working on complex water challenges at McGuire Environmental Consultants and then she worked as a Project Manager and in Business Development at CH2M HILL/Jacobs throughout the country for over 13 years.

After a 10-year hiatus as an author and professor teaching environmental and water-related courses in Oregon Tech's Civil Engineering program, she rejoined the consulting world in 2021. Her passion is protecting, improving, and sustaining water resources for future generations, and making the world a better place for everyone. She loves spending time reading, traveling, hiking, and exploring with her three kids.



FEATURED SPEAKERS

Jason Laramore

Heroes and Horses

Jason Laramore is a coach and trainer associated with Heroes and Horses, an organization dedicated to helping combat veterans heal from their physical and mental scars through innovative programs. Heroes and Horses is a nonprofit organization focused on providing alternative solutions for combat veterans dealing with the challenges of reintegration into civilian life. The program emphasizes a holistic approach that combines various modalities, including:

- **Wilderness Therapy:** Participants engage in remote wilderness experiences to foster personal growth and healing.
- **Equine-Assisted Therapy:** The program incorporates interactions with wild horses, which are used as a therapeutic tool to help veterans reconnect with their inner strength and purpose.
- **Mindfulness Practices:** Techniques such as meditation, breathing exercises, and whole-food nutrition are integrated into the program to support mental and emotional well-being.

The program lasts for 41 days and aims to redefine success for veterans by focusing on their total well-being—physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. This comprehensive approach seeks to empower veterans to take ownership of their lives and find meaning and purpose after service.

Matthew Ross

Heroes and Horses

Matthew Ross is a medically retired U.S. Navy SEAL with a background rooted in discipline, resilience, and service. Following his military career, he has focused on rebuilding purpose through entrepreneurship, horsemanship, and hands-on work, including developing ventures in sawmilling and colt starting. His transition has been shaped by a commitment to growth, self-reliance, and supporting fellow veterans facing similar challenges.

Recently, Matthew participated in the Heroes and Horses program, an intensive backcountry and horsemanship experience designed to help combat veterans reconnect with purpose through hardship, responsibility, and teamwork in the wilderness. The program deepened his dedication to working with horses and reinforced his mission to pursue a career in colt starting, using horsemanship as both a profession and a path for continued healing and service.

PERFORMANCE DUO

Crazy Love Duo

For singer-songwriters Heather Platts and Bruce Michael Miller (Crazy Love Duo), Idaho is a land of creative possibilities. The open-hearted nature of its people, the richness of its history, and the majestic beauty of its landscape make the state an ideal environment for their songwriting.

Their album, Idaho Originals, recorded with support from the Idaho Commission on the Arts, serves as a musical travelogue. It features songs such as “The White Horse of Black Daisy Canyon,” the true story of a horse that continues to roam free in the

Lost River Valley of Idaho,“ Church,” a tribute to the River of No Return Wilderness Area and the man who protected it, and “A Little Lost”, the story of a river that disappears underground in Butte County, Idaho and re-emerges dramatically at Thousand Springs near Hagerman. Their live presentation enhances these stories with a slideshow of original artwork by Idaho artists, inspired by the music. Chris Devore, Executive Director of the Mountain Home Arts Council, described the program as “a beautifully crafted production” that is “inspirational, educational, and thoroughly entertaining.”

Based in Twin Falls, Heather and Bruce have been touring Idaho Originals across the state as official speakers for the Idaho Humanities Council. Their work is a stunning tribute to the power of original songs and the landscape that inspires them. In addition to their music, they share the powerful story of Heather’s successful kidney donation to Bruce in 2019 and continue to advocate for organ donation programs.

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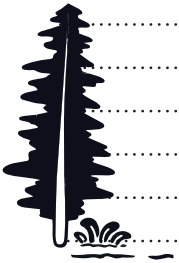

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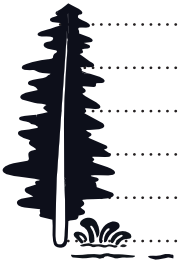

THANK YOU TO OUR CSI COMMITTEE ORGANIZERS

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