



# IDAHO FISH & WILDLIFE OFFICE



## 2022 Accomplishments

### PEOPLE-POWERED CONSERVATION IN IDAHO

IFWO's three core values guide the work we do to move the conservation needle in Idaho.



**Our People:** Growing conservation leaders at every level of the organization that reflect the diversity of the American people.



**Conservation:** We work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.



**Partnerships:** Tribal, state, federal, and other partners play an important role in the Service's ability to meet its conservation goals. Conservation is more durable when it balances conservation certainty with project certainty.

### Highlights: A look at 2022 Accomplishments



Completed Workforce Alignment Plan 2.0, improved our performance plan standards for IFWO employees, and continued to embrace and integrate JEDIA into our work.



Funded approximately \$2.2 million in conservation projects in FY22! In addition, IFWO completed 145 consultation actions, and completed three 5-year status reviews.



Continued to implement a robust suite of Partners for Fish and Wildlife projects throughout the state and prepare for the \$1.6 million of funding that Idaho will receive through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).





## Forest Stewardship

IFWO has identified forest stewardship as a core conservation priority to collaboratively work with our forest partners as they plan and implement actions to improve forest health, minimize the likelihood of high-intensity wildfires, reduce hazardous fuels, restore watershed conditions, and protect forest-dependent wildlife and their habitats.

IFWO will collaborate with Forest Service teams in Idaho to identify actions that will reduce threats to forest and ecosystem health to ensure forests meet the present and future demands for natural resources, public recreation, and conservation of species listed under the Endangered Species Act. Additionally, proactive work with federal, state, private, and Tribal partners will result in: 1) identification of land management priorities and natural resource concerns, 2) reduction of catastrophic wildfire risks, 3) maintenance and enhancement of the economic benefits of forest resources, and 4) conservation of wildlife habitat and protection of water quality.

## BIPARTISIAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

### Collaborative Conservation

This is a historic investment in the health and natural infrastructure of America's sagebrush ecosystem, the largest contiguous ecotype in the lower 48 (sagebrush comprises one-third of the land mass of the continental US). Using innovative science, including a landscape-scale conservation design, the Service and its partners will deliver a once-in-a-generation slate of conservation projects to bolster ecological and community resilience in the face of a changing climate.

### Creating Resiliency and addressing threats

Sagebrush BIL funding has been committed to projects and critical actionable science needs to strengthen the resilience of America's sagebrush ecosystem. Projects will focus on restoring and enhancing rangelands by addressing three primary threats to sagebrush steppe habitats: 1) degraded mesic and riparian areas, 2) invasive annual grasses, and 3) wildfire and conifer encroachment. Additionally, we are working with many partners to address climate change, invasive species, and wildfire while promoting ecological function and community and economic sustainability.

Photos credit: USFWS

## Limpet Propagation

The Banbury Springs limpet (*Idaholanx fresti*), a small freshwater snail endemic to south-central Idaho, is in decline. Little is known about this species beyond habitat needs, but biologists have observed population declines that potentially put the species' persistence at risk. IFWO biologists partnered with the University of Idaho to initiate a captive propagation program to help the species. On a cold, snowy day in early November, biologists searched a freshwater spring for rocks with Banbury Springs limpets attached and carefully transported them to the University of Idaho Hagerman Lab where spring-fed aquariums were awaiting.

Although Banbury Springs limpets have been moved once before to successfully bolster a declining population, we have never tried rearing them in captivity. By rearing a captive population, we hope to learn more about this species' life history without impacting the parent population or habitat.

