

# IDAHO FISH & WILDLIFE

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June 2009



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## 19th Annual Online Auction a Huge Success

The 19th Annual 2009 Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation annual online auction netted more than \$13,000 for "Be Outside!", The Idaho Children in Nature Network, connecting children with the outdoors. Please visit [www.beoutsideidaho.org](http://www.beoutsideidaho.org)

Eleven days of bidding kicked off at a rapid pace with the first bid coming in one minute after the auction opened. The last winning bid was made two minutes before the auction closed. One hundred registered online bidders from eight different states bid on 40 incredible Idaho wildlife adventures.

Bidders from Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, Arizona and Virginia all jumped into the excitement with the hope of winning a fabulous Idaho adventure.

Trips included a scenic Teton getaway, harlequin duck survey, upland game bird hunt and bird surveys of the Salmon-Challis National forest and many more.

Outdoor Central/Active Network's major sponsorship and those individuals and businesses listed on page 3 made this year's on-line auction the most successful to date.

“The whole trip was enjoyable: good people, good food, good weather, and very informative. The auction site was easy to understand and participate in- just click and bid. There are so many trips of interest in this auction I'll have to bid on something different next year.”



Photo by Justin Williams

**Diane Howard**

Winner of the Main Salmon River Jet Boat Patrol Trip

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*Photo by Craig Watts*

Among the winning bidders in this year's auction were first time participant, Craig Watts and veteran winning bidders, Cheryl and Steve Palmer. The Palmers have participated in the auction since it began in 1991.

Cheryl and Steve recently returned from their Idaho Fish and Game sage grouse lek count trip. Leks are traditional breeding grounds where the male sage grouse "struts his stuff" in preparation for mating. Sage grouse return to the same leks year after year, allowing biologists to obtain a population count.

Cheryl said it was fascinating to watch, and is looking forward to their second auction adventure, Pend Oreille Lake trout management trip.

.....  
"We've won a trip almost every year that we've bid. The auction is a great fundraiser and a perfect opportunity to enjoy travel and view wildlife."  
.....

*Cheryl Palmer — Winner of Sage Grouse Lek Count Trip*  
.....



*Photo by Cheryl Palmer*

First-time bidder, Craig Watts signed up for the auction thinking he would not have a winning bid. Craig was surprised to win three trips and mentioned the trips were worth every penny.

Craig's bidding won him the-Harlequin Duck Survey, Big Cottonwood Tour and the Sand Creek Sage Grouse Lek Route.

Craig exclaimed, "Our first trip to the grouse leks, was fantastic. To be on those grassy plains at first light, watching the mating dances of the sharp-tails, and later the sage grouse, was so impressive."

Craig's son, Zack, joined him on the second trip to the Big Cottonwood WMA which included hiking and birding. Craig's wife, Terry joined him on the Harlequin Duck Survey which included a trip down the St. Joe.





*Thank You*

for making the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation's 2009 On-Line Trip Auction a successful event!



Our major sponsor,  
**OUTDOOR CENTRAL**,  
a part of Active Network

Our auction partner,  
**The Idaho Department of Fish and Game**  
for providing incredible on-the-job educational opportunities throughout Idaho.

### Our Auction Donors

Bertram's Salmon Valley Brewery, Salmon, ID  
Best Western Sawtooth Inn, Jerome, ID  
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Teton Regional Land Trust, Driggs, ID  
Teton Valley Cabins, Driggs, ID  
Tews Ranch and Hunting Club, Shoshone, ID  
Thousand Springs Tours, Hagerman, ID  
Ward Hooper Gallery, Eagle, ID  
White Cloud Coffee, Boise, ID

Stella Bush, Tricia Hoffman, Keith Kiler, Cass Meissner, Gayle Valentine

### Our Winning Bidders

Gene Blackwelder	Stella Bush	Larry Callicutt	Russell Case	Gregory Daggett
Brad Dubach	Paul Fay	Jesse Ferrer	Leo Fitz	Brian Franks
Larry Hice	Dean Hilde	Diane Howard	Keith Kiler	Richard Koritansky
Morrie Lewis	Rick Liston	Marilynne Manguba	Leah McNicholl	Rick Milliron
Scott Nelson	Darin O'Brien	Cheryl & Steve Palmer	Glibert Salazar	
Don & JoAnne Sprague	Joshua Taylor	Janine Townsend	Craig Watts	

*Thanks again! See you in 2010!*



# Interview with Al VanVooren, Board Member

## How long have you been involved with the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation?

I'm a newbie on the Board, just completing my first year. But working in various positions for Idaho Fish and Game from 1985 to 2006, I had been familiar and somewhat involved with the Foundation since its inception.

## What motivated you to join the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation Board?

I just retired in 2006, and working with the Foundation was appealing as a way to stay involved in wildlife conservation. I'm frankly humbled by the talented people on the Board and their passion for wildlife conservation, but felt I might be able to help evaluate the ultimate wildlife benefits of the various projects and proposals that the Board considers.

## What do you see as the Foundation's priorities and future goals?

I think one of the greatest strengths of the Foundation has been its ability to keep its priorities focused on activities that promote its mission (to protect and sustain Idaho's fishing, hunting and wildlife heritage). Another major strength is its ability to take action and make things happen without the "process paralysis" of government. I guess my personal bias is toward efforts that help educate and promote a public interest in wildlife and its needs – efforts that make all Idahoans feel they are stewards of our wildlife.

## What are your hobbies and interests?

Spending time with my two sons and waiting for one of my daughters-in-law to tell me I'm going to be a grandfather. But outdoor activities have always been major interests: horse trips into the backcountry with my family, bow hunting, duck hunting, fishing and rafting. Since retiring, I've really enjoyed the opportunity to do more traveling.

## What is your favorite outdoor experience or activity?

I don't think I can pick a favorite, but taking people fishing who don't normally have the opportunity – especially kids - is right up there.

## If you were talking to someone who had never been to Idaho, what would you tell them about our state's wildlife and lands?



That Idaho has an unparalleled diversity of wildlife and landscapes. It's hard for people from most of the rest of the country to comprehend the spectrum of habitats and fish and wildlife that exist here. To people involved in wildlife conservation in other parts of the country I've stressed that while their efforts focus on trying to restore what once was, in Idaho we still have it and our focus is on keeping it.

## What is your professional background?

I worked in state fish and wildlife conservation for 38 years before retiring in 2006. I had worked in Ohio on Lake Erie and in Iowa on the Mississippi doing fish research and management before coming to Idaho in 1985, where I held positions in fisheries and administration.

## What is your favorite Foundation project?

The MK Nature Center in Boise. Working at Fish and Game headquarters, I was able to watch it literally grow from the ground up. I was able to watch thousands of kids and the entire community develop an ownership in it and, in turn, an ownership in Idaho's wildlife. None of that would have happened without the Foundation's involvement.



## Idaho Fish & Wildlife Foundation

**MISSION:** to protect and sustain Idaho's fishing, hunting and wildlife heritage for present and future generations.

In support of this mission, the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Inc., is committed to bringing together and providing resources to:

- Promote conservation education about fishing, hunting, habitat and wildlife management;
- Support projects dedicated to acquiring, preserving, and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat; and
- Create unique opportunities to experience Idaho's fish and wildlife.

**"Promote, Educate and Protect"**

The Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation newsletter is published four times per year by its Board of Directors.

If you have any suggestions, questions or comments relating to the issues or projects of the foundation, please write to: Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation, P.O. Box 2254, Boise, ID, 83701-2254, call 208-334-2648 or visit our site at [www.ifwf.org](http://www.ifwf.org)

The Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization located in Boise, Idaho, was incorporated in the State of Idaho on September 26, 1990. The foundation newsletter is the official publication of the foundation.

Editor:  
Patti Murphy

Layout/Design:  
Renai C. Brogdon

*To The Idaho Fish and Wildlife Life Foundation:*

*Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!*

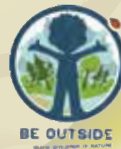
*For the past two years you have generously donated the online auction proceeds to the Idaho Children and Nature Network's "Be Outside!" initiative. This year the Foundation's staff and board members, in conjunction with Idaho Department of Fish and Game biologists, designated some trips as "Be Outside!" adventures. The designated trips helped bidders identify trips suitable for their family and children.*

*The Idaho Children and Nature Network, (ICNN), is very grateful for all the support it has received from the you. Because of the foundation's generosity, the Network will be able to further its mission to "Connect children with nature in Idaho from backyards to mountaintops." Thus far, the auction funds we have received from the foundation have been used to print and distribute a "special" "Be Outside!" edition of Wildlife Express for students around the state. ICNN members were also able to network with Idaho teachers at an informational booth at the recent Title 1 School Conference. Our future plans for auction proceeds include matching funds for grants; updating the "Be Outside!" website; and a variety of informational materials.*

*Children nationwide are spending too much time indoors. This lifestyle is taking its toll on their physical, mental, and emotional health. Idaho is a leader in its efforts to re-connect children with the outdoors. It is exciting to have the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation as a partner in this effort.*



*Thanks again!  
ICNN Staff  
[www.beoutsideidaho.org](http://www.beoutsideidaho.org)*



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# IFWF Annual Membership Enrollment Form

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**THANK YOU!**



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**June 2009**