



Policies for 2024

Adopted by the Delegates
at the 84th Annual Meeting of the
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Boise, Idaho
December 2023

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BASIC PRINCIPLES

Purpose of Farm Bureau

Farm Bureau is a non-governmental, voluntary organization governed by and representing farm and ranch families. Farm Bureau is united in analyzing problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity, and environmental awareness thereby, promoting the national well-being.

Farm Bureau is local, statewide, national, and international in its scope and influence, and is non-partisan, non-sectarian, and non-secretive.

Farm Bureau Beliefs and Philosophy

America's unparalleled progress is based on the freedom and dignity of the individual, sustained by basic moral and religious concepts. Freedom to the individual versus concentration of power, which would destroy freedom, is central in all societies.

We believe that a strong and viable agricultural industry is one of the essential cornerstones of our national security. Agriculture cannot be diminished as a foundational element of society. Economic progress, cultural advancement, and ethical and religious principles flourish best when people are free, responsible individuals. Free will over force is consistent with maintaining liberty. We should never sacrifice individual freedom and opportunity in attempts for guaranteed "security."

The Constitution

We support the Constitution as the supreme law of the land. Changes should be made only through constitutional amendments, not by federal policy or regulation.

We believe in the representative form of government, which is a republic. The Constitution provides governmental limits, equal opportunity, freedom to worship as choice dictates, and freedom of speech, press, and peaceful assembly.

We oppose the centralization of power worldwide into a one-world government.

Private Property

We believe that America's system of private ownership of property and the means of production has been, and is, one of the prominent keystones of our republic. This element of our economic system and the personal rights attendant to private property, including grazing rights on federal land allotments and water rights, which is a property right, must be maintained and protected. We believe in the power of the elected constitutional sheriff to protect our rights of property and liberty as protected in the Constitution of the United States of America.

Ownership of property and property rights are among the human rights essential to preserving individual freedom.

State's Rights and Sovereignty

We support the protection and defense of states' rights and state sovereignty over all powers not otherwise enumerated and granted to the federal government as specified in the 10th amendment to the Constitution.

The federal government must respect state laws and state agencies. All lands within the boundaries of Idaho, excluding those lands as authorized by the U.S. Constitution and ceded to the federal government by the Idaho Legislature, shall be subject solely to the laws and jurisdiction of the state.

Religious Life

Our nation was founded on spiritual faith and belief in God. Whereas the Constitution of the United States was founded on moral and Judeo-Christian religious principles, moral, ethical, and traditional family values should get support and consideration in the public schools.

We support the retention of the following:

1. "So Help Me God" in official oaths;
2. The phrase "In God We Trust" on our coin;
3. The fourth verse of the "Star Spangled Banner;"
and
4. The phrase "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Family Values

We believe God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society.

1 We believe the definition of marriage is a union
2 between one man and one woman.

3 We believe in the sanctity of human life from
4 conception until natural death. We must protect the
5 right to life to preserve the rights to liberty and
6 property.

8 **Capitalism - Private Competitive Enterprise**

9 We believe in the American capitalistic, private,
10 competitive enterprise system in which property is
11 privately owned, privately managed, operated for
12 profit, individual satisfaction and responsible
13 stewardship.

14 We believe individuals have the right to choose
15 their occupation and receive the rewards for their
16 contribution to society. Individuals have the right to
17 save, invest, spend and convey their earnings to
18 their heirs.

19 We believe in a competitive business
20 environment in which supply and demand are the
21 primary determinants of market prices.

23 **Education**

24 We believe that agricultural education is critical
25 in creating and maintaining a strong and viable
26 agricultural industry.

27 We believe education starts with the parent or
28 guardian and is extended to the schools as a
29 cooperative partnership.

30 We believe parents have the right to choose
31 how best to direct the upbringing and education of
32 their children.

34 **Political Parties**

35 Strong, responsive political parties are essential
36 to the United States system of elective government.

37 We encourage Farm Bureau members to
38 support the political party of their choice.

39 We believe that government should not be
40 involved directly in the political process but should
41 lay down certain rules to assure fair and proper
42 elections.

IFBF POLICIES

1 COMMODITIES

3 **1. Agrichemicals/Pesticides**

4 **We support:**

- 5 1. Increased research and labeling for minor-use
6 pesticide registrations;
- 7 2. The continued use of approved pesticides and/or
8 related products until conclusive scientific
9 evidence proves there is an unacceptable risk;
10 and
- 11 3. Compliance with federally approved label
12 instructions absolving farmers or commercial
13 applicators from liability claims of environmental
14 pollution.

15 **We oppose:**

- 16 1. Establishment of zones of agricultural land in
17 which any kind of legal application or storage of
18 agricultural chemicals is curtailed without sound,
19 scientifically validated evidence to warrant
20 curtailment; and
- 21 2. Fumigant buffer zone limitations proposed by the
22 EPA without research giving substantial evidence
23 that current practices are negatively affecting
24 bystanders.

26 **2. Commodity Diseases**

27 **We support:**

- 28 1. The quarantine of all sources of the potato wart
29 virus;
- 30 2. Active research and the dissemination of
31 information to all interested parties related to
32 rhizomania and urge that any imposed
33 restrictions be based on scientific data;
- 34 3. The rewrite of the Idaho Plant Pest Act to include
35 language to protect growers from being subject to
36 unnecessary search and seizure without probable
37 cause, and advanced warning to enter premises;
- 38 4. A federal and state PCN (Pale Cyst Nematode)
39 program that is based on good science,
40 stakeholder participation, and minimal impact to
41 grower operations; and
- 42 5. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture doing
43 all within its power to prohibit the importation of
44 Anthracnose virus into Idaho.

3. Commodity Commissions

We support having commodity commissions in Idaho.

We support commodity commissions having:

1. Self-governing status with no political influence;
2. Boards solely elected by the growers/producers;
3. Uniform provisions to run referendums;
4. Commissioner districts representing even areas of production;
5. The right for legal entities to cast votes in elections;
6. Nominations held for a month-long period followed by a month-long voting period so that all growers can be represented and participate; and
7. Uniform provision for refunds for all or a portion of the commodity tax.

4. Commodity Sales

We support:

1. The expansion of Idaho agricultural markets, domestic and foreign. We also support trade missions abroad to better inform our producers and the hosting of foreign delegations to our state in efforts to increase our market share; and
2. Amending the Idaho Pure Seed Law to fully disclose the contents of all seed lots by requiring the tag or label to list each plant species therein by name and rate of occurrence.

We oppose:

1. Double discounts by grain dealers.

5. Environmental Studies

We recommend that any individual or group doing environmental studies be held accountable for claims or assertions of damage by agricultural practices to the environment. Claims or assertions should be treated with skepticism until they have been subjected to critical peer review and tested by practical application.

6. Field Testing Biotechnology Products

We support effective field testing of new biotechnology products to promote commercial use of products that will benefit agriculture and the general public.

We oppose any law or regulation requiring registration of agriculture producers who use or sell biotech-based products or commodities.

1 We oppose any law or regulation requiring
2 registration or labeling of agricultural products
3 containing GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms).

4 We oppose attempts to restrict or prohibit
5 planting of biotechnology crops on either a statewide
6 or county by county basis.

7 We support scientifically accurate consumer
8 education about the safety and benefits of
9 genetically engineered crops.

10 **7. Food Safety/Government Accountability**

12 We strongly believe a government agency
13 making public health decisions that result in product
14 recalls, product seizures or destruction of perishable
15 goods must be held accountable when such
16 decisions prove false. Such agencies must be
17 required to compensate or indemnify individuals and
18 companies for the monetary losses that occur
19 because of poor or false regulatory decisions.

20 We support laws and regulations that exempt
21 farmers and ranchers from liability from food
22 contamination when best practices or food safety
23 programs have been followed and no gross
24 negligence has been shown.

25 **8. Lien Law**

27 We oppose any attempt to alter the system of
28 centralized filing or first-in-time, first-in-right system
29 of lien priorities, either in revised UCC Article 9, or
30 any other legislation.

31 We oppose delivered feed being encumbered by
32 a blanket lien from a financial institution until the
33 grower/supplier is paid in full.

34 **9. Seed Indemnity Fund**

36 We support aligning the financial reporting
37 requirements for the Seed Indemnity Fund and the
38 Commodity Indemnity Fund.

39 **LIVESTOCK**

40 **10. Animal Care**

41 **We support:**

- 43 1. The rights of owners and producers to raise their
44 animals in accordance with commonly accepted
45 animal husbandry practices; and

1 2. The role of a licensed veterinarian in the care of
2 animals and support current licensing standards
3 for veterinarians.

4 **We oppose:**

- 5 1. Any legislation, regulatory action or funding,
6 whether private or public, that interferes with
7 commonly accepted animal husbandry practices
8 and livestock harvesting;
9 2. Legislation that would give any non-regulatory
10 organizations the right to establish standards for
11 the raising, marketing, handling, feeding, housing
12 or transportation of livestock and production
13 animals and any legislation pertaining to livestock
14 care that would pay bounties to complainants;
15 3. Any livestock and production animal care
16 legislation that would impose a stricter penalty
17 than the 2016 law;
18 4. The creation of an Idaho livestock care standards
19 board; and
20 5. Requiring a licensed veterinarian for docking,
21 dehorning, castration, pregnancy checking,
22 embryo transfer and any other routine livestock
23 healthcare management practices.
24

25 **11. Animal ID**

26 **We support:**

- 27 1. Procedures and/or equipment for an animal ID
28 program that makes it possible to trace an animal
29 back to its original location;
30 2. The right of the owner to choose among the
31 acceptable methods of identification and to leave
32 their animals unidentified prior to movement from
33 the premises of origin; and
34 3. Having the Idaho State Department of Agriculture
35 determine acceptable methods of identification, in
36 addition to hot or cold brands, for the state.
37

38 **12. Bovine Tuberculosis**

39 We support an ISDA surveillance testing program
40 for Bovine Tuberculosis and its continued funding.
41

42 **13. Brucellosis**

43 **We support:**

- 44 1. Regulations requiring the appropriate state and
45 federal agencies to control and eradicate this
46 disease in wildlife;
47 2. The National Park Service eradicating brucellosis
48 in Yellowstone and Grand Teton Parks; and

1 **3. Using the DSA (Designated Surveillance Area)**
2 zones as currently enforced for the testing of
3 brucellosis to prove brucellosis-free status.

4 **We oppose:**

- 5 1. All efforts to eliminate the mandatory vaccination
6 law and require its complete enforcement; and
7 2. The establishment of any herds of free roaming
8 bison outside of Yellowstone National Park.

9
10 **14. CAFO Regulations**

11 **We support:**

- 12 1. Efforts by all livestock associations to create
13 MOUs with the appropriate state and federal
14 agencies; and
15 2. Matters pertaining to CAFO regulation other than
16 siting should be under the jurisdiction of the state.

17
18 **15. Data Confidentiality**

19 We support the confidentiality of data collected
20 on all agricultural operations. Only final reports or
21 conclusions should be made a matter of public
22 record. No data collected from individual operations
23 should be made public.

24
25 **16. Domestic Cervidae**

26 We support the right of domestic cervidae
27 owners to breed, raise, harvest, and market all
28 members of the cervidae family indigenous to Idaho
29 that can be legally acquired.

30 **17. Equine**

31 We support the continued classification of
32 equines as marketable livestock and oppose any
33 efforts to classify them as pets or companion
34 animals.

35 We oppose any attempt to eliminate the right of
36 the equine owner or BLM to the minimal stress
37 slaughter of their equine for consumption or any
38 other purpose.

39
40 **18. Foot and Mouth/BSE disease**

41 **We Support:**

- 42 1. Stringent controls to protect Idaho's livestock
43 industry from foot and mouth disease and BSE
44 (bovine spongiform encephalopathy); and
45 2. Allowing entities to voluntarily test all slaughtered
46 animals for BSE in order to ship products to
47 countries that require individual tests.

1 **We Oppose:**

- 2 1. Importation of live cattle over 30 months of age
3 until sound science proves this does not
4 threaten to spread BSE to the United States.

5
6 **19. Law Enforcement Training**

7 **We support:**

- 8 1. Law enforcement officers being trained in open
9 range laws, proper livestock herding techniques
10 and how to properly euthanize livestock as part of
11 the Idaho Peace Officers Standardized Training;
12 2. Immediate notification by law enforcement or
13 emergency personnel to landowners when fences
14 or property sustain damage due to accidents, or
15 by entrance of emergency personnel;
16 3. Law enforcement officers being trained in brand
17 identification; and
18 4. Law enforcement officers being trained to work
19 with the brand inspector and dispatch to identify
20 livestock owners.

21
22 **20. Livestock Brands**

23 **We support:**

- 24 1. The concept that livestock may be left unbranded
25 at the discretion of the owner except for those
26 livestock grazing on federal/state managed lands;
27 and
28 2. The Idaho State Brand Board adjusting fee caps
29 with the livestock industries' input and approval.

30
31 **21. Manure Management**

32 We believe that manure and manure/compost are
33 nutrient-rich residue resources.

34 **We support:**

- 35 1. Research on manure management including such
36 areas as odor reduction and waste and nutrient
37 management; and
38 2. Programs that educate livestock operators on
39 techniques regarding properly managed organic
40 nutrient systems, especially if implemented with
41 consistent Best Management Practices (BMPs)
42 developed by extension, university, and the
43 livestock industry.

44 **We oppose:**

- 45 1. Manure being classified as industrial, solid, or
46 hazardous waste or as raw sewage.

1 **22. Meat Inspectors**

2 **We support:**

- 3 1. State certified meat inspectors for small meat
4 processing plants;
- 5 2. State meat inspection programs in Idaho which
6 would allow for the intrastate commercial sale of
7 meat;
- 8 3. Having large animal veterinarians and other
9 interested individuals in rural areas becoming
10 certified meat inspectors under a state meat
11 inspection program; and
- 12 4. All mobile butchers and processors to require a
13 trip permit, brand inspection slip or bill of sale on
14 all bovine animals they receive and retain those
15 records for a 3-year period to help monitor theft
16 and illegal taking and processing of animals.

17
18 **23. State Veterinarian**

19 We support the Animal Health Division of the
20 Idaho State Department of Agriculture and believe
21 that it should be administered by a licensed
22 veterinarian.

23
24 **WATER**

25
26 **24. Aquifer Recharge**

27 We support the beneficial use of managed
28 basin-wide aquifer recharge with the state being
29 involved with both financial support and
30 implementation.

31 We support rules, including water rental pool
32 rules changes, that encourage recharge using
33 available water to improve aquifer health, protect
34 Idaho water, and keep water in Idaho.

35
36 **25. Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs**

37 Release of water in power head space in Bureau
38 of Reclamation reservoirs shall be controlled solely
39 by state water law.

40
41 **26. Cloud Seeding**

42 We support cloud seeding and encourage
43 continued investment in its application and research.

44 We support the Legislature and the Idaho Water
45 Resource Board continuing to study and fund cloud
46 seeding efforts.

27. Comprehensive State Water Plan

We support:

1. The Governor appointing individuals to the Idaho Water Resource Board who will protect the water resources of the State;
2. Requiring legislative approval before establishing minimum stream flow, instream flow, reconnect permits, river basin plans and state water plans;
3. Amending the Idaho Constitution, Article XV Water Rights Section 7, State Water Resource Agency to read, "That any change shall become effective only by approval of the legislature."; and
4. Legislative approval for water agreements made between the state and federal government; and
5. The state working with water users to find meaningful long-term solutions to water supply challenges that maximizes, preserves, and creates sustainable water supplies for farms, ranches, and supporting industries.

We oppose:

1. Minimum stream flows until sufficient storage facilities are built to supply priority needs first.

28. Dams

We support:

1. The Northwest Power Planning Council focusing its efforts on issues that will provide the region with its current and future power needs;
2. The construction, improvement and increased size of storage facilities that provide beneficial multiple uses of Idaho's water;
3. Municipalities, federal agencies, and tribes advocating for and funding additional storage projects to help meet the increasing demand for water, and avoid taking irrigation water from agricultural purposes;
4. The continued existence and current usage of all dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. We oppose any efforts to destroy or decrease production of those dams;
5. The Bureau of Reclamation working with water users (i.e., water districts, irrigation companies, etc.) to discuss opportunities to contract any available storage space in the state's reservoir systems; and
6. Uncontracted storage space in Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs being made available to in-basin water organizations (i.e., water districts,

1 irrigation companies, etc.) prior to out-of-basin
2 parties.
3

4 **29. Domestic Wells**

5 **We Support:**

- 6 1. Idaho water law first-in-time, first-in-right, being
7 applied to all wells drilled in Idaho, including
8 domestic wells;
- 9 2. Evaluating domestic wells under Idaho water law
10 for new wells in the future which would require
11 developers to supply irrigation water and/or
12 irrigation water delivery systems using existing
13 water rights and/or gray water to new
14 developments; and
- 15 3. The Department of Water Resources enforcing
16 the domestic well exemption restrictions on one
17 half acre homesteads not to exceed 13,000
18 gallons of water used per day.
19

20 **30. Flood Control**

21 We support additional storage facilities,
22 increased recharge, and federal land transfers to
23 state ownership to control future flooding.
24

25 **31. Ground Water Districts**

26 We support changing the boundaries of local
27 groundwater districts that are directly connected to
28 the underground aquifer to include those who are
29 not currently participating but are of a common
30 ground water source.

31 We oppose any diminishment of authority of
32 local water districts or groundwater districts through
33 creation of a Groundwater Management Area.
34

35 **32. International Water Agreements**

36 We support the renewal of the Columbia River
37 Treaty with Canada in such a manner as to maintain
38 its original focus upon flood control and power
39 generation.
40

41 **33. Moratorium**

42 We support the current Idaho Department of
43 Water Resources moratoriums on critical
44 groundwater development.

1 **34. Outstanding Resource Waters**

2 We support the Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs)
3 and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) process as
4 it pertains to Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs).

5 We oppose nominations of ORWs by parties
6 other than BAGs and WAGs.
7

8 **35. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)**

9 We support mandating Idaho's Department of
10 Environmental Quality to conduct an Economic
11 Impact Analysis of an area's businesses (including
12 the agri-business and agricultural operations of that
13 area) before initiating a TMDL process for that
14 geographic area. The analysis shall be provided to
15 the Watershed Advisory Group before consideration
16 is given to develop and implement a TMDL. A copy
17 of the analysis shall also be provided to the germane
18 committees of the Idaho Legislature.
19

20 **36. Transfer of Water Rights**

21 We believe all water in Idaho should be used
22 beneficially. In the event the BOR or IDWR desires
23 use of water they would have to negotiate on a
24 yearly basis for rental-pool water in accordance with
25 state water law.

26 **We support:**

- 27 1. Re-evaluation of the need for flow augmentation
28 on the grounds that the science does not support
29 any biological benefit; and
30 2. IDWR automatically transferring stock water rights
31 from any federal agency to the allotment
32 permittee.

33 **We oppose:**

- 34 1. The transfer of water rights to the Bureau of
35 Reclamation (BOR);
36 2. The taking of water for fish flushing. Water held by
37 the Idaho Water Resource Board will be held and
38 used for purposes intended and in accordance
39 with state law; and
40 3. Out-of-basin transfers of irrigation water from
41 lands enrolled in the federal cropland set-aside
42 program for use on lands that have not
43 historically been used for agricultural
44 development.
45

46 **37. Waste Management**

47 We oppose mandatory agricultural waste
48 management facility construction without scientific

1 proof of environmental pollution on an individual
2 basis.

3 **38. Water Conservation**

4 We support voluntary conservation of water use
5 by updating irrigation systems. Conservation should
6 not adversely affect the full use of an irrigation water
7 right.

8 We support legislation and rulemaking that will
9 protect the full use of an irrigation water right.

10

11 **39. Water Quality**

12 **We support:**

- 13 1. The continued management of water quality, both
14 underground and surface, by utilizing “Best
15 Management Practices” (BMPs) as contained in
16 USDA’s “Natural Resource Conservation
17 Services Field Office Technical Guide” and
18 Idaho’s “Forest Practices Act.” Changes in these
19 BMPs should be based only on scientifically
20 monitored data rather than “best professional
21 judgement”;
- 22 2. The development of BMPs for recreational uses;
23 and
- 24 3. The efforts of canal and irrigation districts to halt
25 unwanted drainage into their water systems.

26 **We oppose:**

- 27 1. The DEQ having the authority to arbitrarily impose
28 penalties on landowners without first identifying
29 the problem and giving the landowner an
30 opportunity to correct the problem. If there is a
31 difference of opinion concerning the extent of the
32 problem, a reasonable and cost-effective appeal
33 process of the DEQ decision should be available
34 to the landowner; and
- 35 2. Levying fees associated with State NPDES
36 programs implementation, operation, and permit
37 issuance on agriculture and aquaculture
38 producers.

39

40 **40. Water Quality Standards**

41 Water quality standards must be site specific
42 and realistically achievable for each water body.

43

44 **41. Water Quality Trading**

45 We support the concept of water quality trading.

42. Water Rights

We support:

1. State ownership and control of Idaho water held in trust for the residents of the State of Idaho, and will oppose any policy, program or regulation, including Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing, which would infringe on this right;
2. Defining local public interest, under water right law, to give priority to beneficial uses and agricultural viability, with local vested interest and use, a priority;
3. Sanctions upon any party making frivolous claims against water right applications;
4. Permittees on federal land being recognized and acknowledged as the owners of stock water rights in their allotments as their livestock provide beneficial use under state law and the water rights are an appurtenance of the private base property;
5. Requiring that minimum stream flows not jeopardize water rights and are being financed by the benefit recipients;
6. The continued wise development of all Idaho's rivers and their tributaries as working rivers;
7. First in time, first in right, and state control of water issues within appropriate Idaho agencies without federal regulatory or legislative intervention;
8. The privatization of Idaho irrigation canal systems;
9. The protection of canal and drain ditch easements from arbitrarily being taken over by cities, counties, state, federal or private developers or private landowners and developed into green belts or bike paths;
10. The concept of conjunctive-use management when scientific evidence is available to support such management;
11. Efforts by local groundwater districts to provide supplemental or water bank water to senior surface water users to prevent curtailment of junior water rights. Irrigation districts shall have no net loss of irrigated acres due to growth and development; and
12. Idaho water law that denies considering flood control releases as a beneficial use.

1 **We oppose:**

- 2 1. The Idaho Department of Water Resources
3 accepting any further applications for water rights
4 on surface stream water of the state that has
5 been over-decreed and adjudicated. Adequate
6 water for domestic and agricultural purposes
7 should have priority over other uses when the
8 water of any natural stream is insufficient, as per
9 Article 15, Section 3 of the Idaho Constitution;
- 10 2. Changing the historical beneficial use of water
11 rights when that change will have a negative
12 impact on other water right holders;
- 13 3. The federal government changing the historic
14 priorities and uses of water storage reservoirs;
- 15 4. Any diminishment of storage fill rights due to flood
16 control or other discharge prior to season use
17 including efforts by any entity that would count
18 flood control releases against the storage rights
19 of water right holders;
- 20 5. Any federal agencies' use of priority dates, in
21 regard to water rights, that are not in accordance
22 with Idaho Water Law;
- 23 6. The adoption of source water protection
24 plans/ordinances by local government that create
25 land use policies prohibiting generally accepted
26 farming and animal agriculture
27 practices/activities;
- 28 7. Native American tribes and urban interface areas
29 requiring/requesting water right encroachment
30 permits on existing water right licenses and/or
31 permits;
- 32 8. Agreements between water groups that neglect
33 the first in time, first in right and treat senior,
34 junior, trust and expansion rights near-equal; and
- 35 9. The 5-year averages that were used to determine
36 the quantity of water that is allowed to be pumped
37 by a user in the future.

38
39 **43. Water Rights Mitigation**

40 We support the state purchasing and holding
41 water rights for the purpose of mitigation, so water
42 trade may benefit aquifer recharge and groundwater
43 conservation.

1 LAND USE

2 3 **44. Government Land Designations**

4 We oppose any infringement upon private
5 property rights through any designation of land by
6 any government entity, including highway scenic
7 byways/corridors, National Heritage Areas, National
8 Monuments and National Parks. We oppose any
9 change to federal or state land designation when
10 there is the potential to harm agriculture.

11 We oppose Craters of the Moon becoming a
12 national park.

13 14 **45. Government Land Transactions**

15 **We support:**

- 16 1. No net loss of private property;
- 17 2. Enactment of legislation to require prior legislative
18 approval for any state land acquisition on a parcel-
19 by-parcel basis;
- 20 3. Amending the Idaho Constitution to require any
21 land purchased by the Federal Government be
22 approved by the state legislature;
- 23 4. Prohibiting the sale of state land to the federal
24 government or agencies of the federal
25 government, except for the purpose of building
26 federal facilities or structures;
- 27 5. When isolated land-locked or uneconomical
28 federal land is to be sold, the current grazing
29 permit holder must have the first right of refusal. If
30 there is no permit holder, the adjacent landowner
31 should be given the first right of refusal based on
32 appraised value;
- 33 6. When federal land is sold, traded, or exchanged,
34 all holders of grazing preference must be fairly
35 compensated;
- 36 7. Requiring any entity which acquires property from
37 the federal government, to compensate grazing
38 preference holders on the former federally
39 administered lands for the loss of their property
40 rights if that entity does not continue to maintain
41 and protect those rights;
- 42 8. The enactment of legislation to ensure that none
43 of the valid existing private rights are lost in any
44 land exchange between Idaho and the federal
45 government or in the transfer of federal lands to
46 Idaho;
- 47 9. Amending the Idaho Constitution to mandate that
48 any federal land conveyed to the state in any
49 manner from the date of the passage will be

1 managed from multiple use and sustained yield;
2 that all valid existing rights will be honored; and
3 allow for the sale of the isolated, landlocked, and
4 uneconomical parcels with the first right of refusal
5 going to the adjoining landowner(s) at fair
6 appraised value; and

7 **10.** No net loss of tax base with all land exchanges
8 and sales. Tax obligations must stay with the
9 property.

10 **We oppose:**

- 11 1. Any land exchanges involving publicly owned land
12 unless there is strong local support; and
- 13 2. The State purchasing private property for
14 investment purposes.

15 **46. Government-Managed Lands**

16 **We support:**

- 17 1. Multiple-use management of federal and state
18 lands with protection of the traditional rights of
19 use;
- 20 2. A study of the Payment In Lieu of Taxes formula
21 to determine if it is meeting its purpose and is
22 equitable in its distribution of funds;
- 23 3. The equal-footing doctrine and insist on the
24 passage of legislation to establish a deadline for
25 complete transfer of public land back to state
26 jurisdiction and management;
- 27 4. The Idaho Legislature joining with other states in
28 the West, in an interstate compact, with respect
29 to the transfer of public lands;
- 30 5. The timely salvage of burnt, diseased, or dead
31 timber from federal lands;
- 32 6. Legislation that would promote harvest of trees
33 and forage on federal and state land to help
34 prevent and control wildfire;
- 35 7. The use of land-use management plans by county
36 governments to encourage state and federal
37 agencies to coordinate and protect the land within
38 their tax base;
- 39 8. The legislature and the governor asserting their
40 authority and taking all necessary measures to
41 protect the citizens and counties of the State of
42 Idaho from federal agency overreach; and
- 43 9. The release of federal, state, and local
44 government held lands for public development
45 with compensation to permittees for all private
46 property rights that exist on those lands.

47. Grazing

We believe grazing to be an effective tool in maintaining sustainable rangeland, forests, improving watersheds, wildlife habitat, reduction of wildfire potential, and supporting ranchers and rural community economies.

We support:

1. The protection of grazing on public lands as a viable economic solution for managing agencies of rangeland by reducing forage minimizing costs for fighting catastrophic wildfires;
2. "Best Management Practices" by all state and federal agencies, land grant colleges and research facilities on how grazing affects habitat for all wildlife including sage grouse leks;
3. "Rangeland Management Plans" that use current science-based information developed by the Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, Forest Service, and NRCS including the development of a certification process recognized by these agencies which would allow grazing permit holders to submit voluntary forage monitoring data to be used in the creation and development of said plans;
4. Range management plans should be developed in careful and considered consultation, cooperation, and coordination with local government, permittees, lessees and landowners involved;
5. The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, the Experimental Stewardship Program, and the Coordinated Resource Management Program encouraging producer control and supporting fees;
6. Our local NRCS "Grazing Land Conservation Initiative" (GLCI) and the "Conservation Reserve Program" (CRP) and its programs of intermittent grazing which pay producers to set aside marginal ground to enhance soil health;
7. Grazing fee formulas for AUM's currently used by Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, Forest Service, and (PRIA) which are based upon forage monitoring by agencies and permittees under the "Federal Land Policy and Management Act" of 1976 (FLPMA);
8. Funding from both federal and state governments for the operation and research of the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois;

- 1 9. A grazing preference right being transferred from
2 one base property to another base property, if the
3 transferor shall own or control the base property
4 from which the grazing preference right is being
5 transferred and file with the authorized officer a
6 properly completed transfer application for
7 approval to the respective agency;
- 8 10. Selling of a permit by a holder to another
9 interested party that will continue using the permit
10 for its original intended purpose;
- 11 11. The new "Outcome Based Grazing
12 Authorizations" of 2017, which is designed to
13 offer a more coordinated approach to resolve
14 disputes between the BLM and its partners within
15 the livestock grazing community when issuing
16 trading authorizations;
- 17 12. All stakeholders being a part of the vetting
18 process when curtailment, termination, or fee
19 increases of any existing grazing permits or
20 allotments are proposed; and
- 21 13. A minimum grazing usage for all public land
22 grazing allotments/leases. They shall be grazed
23 at a minimum of 75% the stocking rate at least
24 every third year.

25 **We oppose:**

- 26 1. The reduction or curtailment of any grazing
27 activity for the creation or recognition of wildlife
28 corridors;
- 29 2. The U.S. Forest Service ruling that will prevent
30 transferring grazing permits for 25 head or less;
- 31 3. The termination of grazing permits for
32 administrative errors or omissions of the land
33 managing agency;
- 34 4. Mandatory forage monitoring by livestock
35 permittees on federal lands as proposed by the
36 Federal Land Management Policy Act;
- 37 5. The termination or curtailment of permittees
38 because of livestock proximity to bighorn sheep,
39 bison, and sage grouse; and
- 40 6. The purchase or retirement of grazing permits or
41 allotments by any state or federal agency, group,
42 or individual whose sole purpose is to not allow
43 any further grazing.

44
45 **48. Idaho Forest Practices Act**

46 We support the Idaho Forest Practices Act
47 except where it infringes on private property rights.

1 We support the consideration of all facets of the
2 stream ecosystem within the IDL Forest Practices
3 Act rules, rather than just shade, to better maintain
4 and enhance fisheries habitat.

5 We oppose The Forest Practices Act
6 Streamside Retention Rule (Shade Rule) unless
7 accompanied by fair market appraised value
8 compensation to landowners for loss of property
9 rights.

10 **49. Land Surveys**

11 We oppose any changes to the methodology
12 used to survey property, including irrigatable acres,
13 in such a way that would negatively impact
14 agricultural viability.

15 **50. Landfills on BLM Lands**

16 We encourage the development of new, and the
17 continued use of existing, county landfills on BLM
18 lands.

19 **51. Mineral Rights**

20 We support legislation that would transfer
21 government-retained mineral rights to current
22 landowners (at no expense to the landowners),
23 where there has been no meaningful mineral activity
24 for 10 years.

25 We support requiring that property deeds state
26 the name and address of the person or entity who
27 owns the mineral rights for each property. If mineral
28 rights are sold or transferred, the deed should be
29 updated. The surface owner should be notified and
30 offered first right of refusal.

31 **52. Mining**

32 We support the continuation of mineral
33 extraction in Idaho as long as the appropriate mine
34 reclamation and environmental protections are in
35 place and followed.

36 **53. Open Range**

37 We oppose any changes to Idaho open range
38 laws.

39 **54. Pest Control**

40 We support enforcement of current laws to give
41 counties authority to spray and control insect
42 infestations on private land, with the cost of the
43

1 spraying to be assessed to the present owner of the
2 land.

3 We support safe and effective county and state
4 pest control programs when landowner property
5 rights are respected, and commodity production is
6 not adversely affected by the program(s).

7 We support legislation that requires local, state,
8 and federal governments to manage lands to
9 prevent spread of noxious weeds and pests from
10 their lands to adjoining lands, crops and animals.

11 **55. Regulation of Agricultural Practices**

12 **We support:**

- 13 1. Agricultural practices such as burning, animal-
14 waste disposal, cultivation and harvest practices;
- 15 2. Agricultural and forestry representation on boards
16 created in regard to airshed quality programs; and
- 17 3. The farmer's right to farm by being able to carry
18 on sound farming and forestry practices and to be
19 free from environmental regulations that are not
20 proportionately beneficial to the implementation
21 cost.

22 **We oppose:**

- 23 1. Any legislation or regulations that would
24 segregate any agricultural industry, agricultural
25 crop, cropping practice or geographical area and
26 would impose a higher air quality, water quality or
27 environmental standard than is required of any
28 other person, entity, industry or geographical area
29 within the state;
- 30 2. Regulations on agricultural practices that are not
31 validated by sound peer reviewed scientific
32 process and supported by scientific fact;
- 33 3. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture having
34 the authority to impose sanctions on livestock
35 operators without first identifying specific problems
36 and giving the operators an opportunity to correct
37 said problems; and
- 38 4. Efforts to regulate logging slash burning on
39 private timberlands by the Idaho Department of
40 Environmental Quality (DEQ).

41 **56. Right to Farm**

42 We support the right-to-farm law.

43 We support local, state, and federal agriculture
44 exemptions from dust rules.
45
46

57. Riparian Management

Proper multiple-use management of riparian areas is essential. Highly productive areas can be properly harvested with modern forest or livestock Best Management Practices (BMPs) and still improve riparian habitat for all uses.

We support:

1. Forage utilization requirements of riparian areas being managed separate from the entire grazing allotment; and
2. The concept that all existing roads along streams be given grandfather rights approval.

58. State and County Noxious Weed Control

We support:

1. Strong enforcement of Idaho's noxious weed law by the state and counties, together with appropriate use of special management-zone provisions;
2. Idaho Transportation Department weed control policies at both state and district levels be required to be in compliance with the Idaho Noxious Weed Law each year by controlling all infestations of noxious weeds in a timely and effective manner and by controlling noxious weeds on the full width of all rights of way;
3. Enforcement of timely and effective noxious weed control by all railroads on their rights of ways within the state; and
4. The addition of *Ventenata dubia* to the Idaho noxious weed list.

59. Timber Management

We support all efforts by the Department of Lands to optimize the timber yields and stumpage prices as mandated by the Idaho Constitution.

We oppose actions by the Land Board or Department of Lands that would inhibit or further restrict these processes, including, but not limited to, habitat conservation plans and conservation easements.

60. Wilderness and Restrictive Zones

We support:

1. The traditional balanced multiple-use practices on all federal/state lands and that access to existing wilderness be free and accessible for everyone; and

1 2. Adding adequate fire breaks in existing wilderness
2 areas.

3 **We oppose:**

- 4 1. All dedication of land in Idaho for wilderness and
5 roadless areas and support the release of lands
6 currently held in Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)
7 back to multiple-use management. All lands
8 designated as non-suitable for wilderness must be
9 immediately released from WSA status;
- 10 2. Designation of lands in Idaho as biosphere
11 reserves, corridors, or buffer zones; using the
12 Lands Legacy Initiative; the Antiquities Act or
13 National Monument Declarations by the executive
14 branch of the government;
- 15 3. Any expansion of the boundaries of the Sawtooth
16 National Recreation Area (SNRA);
- 17 4. Any reinterpretation of the mandates of the SNRA
18 which would impose further use restrictions; and
- 19 5. The reduction or curtailment of any grazing or
20 farming activity for the creation or recognition of
21 wildlife corridors.

22
23 **61. Wildfire Control**

24 **We support:**

- 25 1. Fire-control policy to put out any fire upon arrival
26 or as soon as safely possible. Local entities (such
27 as counties, fire districts, and forest or rangeland
28 protective associations) and private landowners
29 and individuals being allowed to act as first
30 responders. When the protection of the health,
31 safety, and property of the citizens are in jeopardy,
32 the local protective associations being allowed to
33 act beyond the first response and initial attack
34 phase of a fire. Local landowners must be allowed
35 to protect private property including livestock on
36 federal and state lands;
- 37 2. Changing state and federal wildfire policy to
38 require that state and federal fire managers and
39 incident commanders coordinate with county and
40 local fire departments and landowners;
- 41 3. A provision that state and federal agencies will
42 allow forest or rangeland protective associations in
43 neighboring states, that meet the requirements of
44 their home state, to enter into mutual aid
45 agreements with forest and rangeland protective
46 associations across state lines;
- 47 4. An increase in management activities, such as
48 thinning and grazing, to achieve federal agency

1 goals of reducing the potential for catastrophic
2 wildfires;

3 **5.** A provision that state and federal agencies
4 maintain a fire break strategically located to
5 protect private property and to control large
6 wildfires;

7 **6.** An aggressive initial attack and suppression on all
8 forest and rangeland wildfires on public land and
9 firefighting suppression activities in addition to fire
10 management, in order to protect our water basins
11 and watersheds; and

12 **7.** Incentives to forestland owners to produce
13 commercial forest products from non-saw timber
14 (firewood, post and pole materials or biomass.)

15 **We oppose:**

16 **1.** Landowners being held accountable for fire
17 suppression costs except in cases of gross
18 negligence.

19
20 **FISH AND WILDLIFE**

21
22 **62. Animal Damage Control**

23 We support animal damage control programs to
24 control and manage predators, rodents and
25 destructive wildlife.

26
27 **63. Animal Threat and Public Safety**

28 It shall be the responsibility of U.S. Fish and
29 Wildlife Services and any state agencies, that
30 manage predatory or proven problem animals, to
31 notify all residences within a five-mile radius using a
32 9-1-1 reverse calling system of potential conflict in
33 their area.

34 **64. Endangered Species Act**

35 We believe that modern society cannot continue
36 to operate on the premise that all species must be
37 preserved at any cost.

38 We believe basic requirements of human life
39 have priority over protection of other species,
40 including threatened or endangered (T/E) species. A
41 thorough consideration of all potential adverse
42 impacts to human economic and social welfare
43 should be an integral part of any consideration to list
44 and T/E species.

45 If lethal action is taken against any threatened or
46 endangered species for the preservation of public
47 safety, all investigations should be conducted by the

1 local officials of the county involved. All applicable
2 state and government agencies are to be notified so
3 as to provide assistance when called upon.

4 **We support:**

- 5 1. A revision of the ESA to include a more thorough
6 consideration of agriculture, mining, logging and
7 tree farming in such a manner that these activities
8 will be sustained and made part of any recovery
9 plan. Recovery of T/E species should not receive
10 higher priority than human uses or rights;
- 11 2. Anadromous hatchery fish and wild fish being
12 treated equally under the ESA. Hatchery fish
13 should be counted toward recovery of the species;
- 14 3. Eliminating the marking of hatchery fish;
- 15 4. Congress providing depredation funding for
16 losses or damage resulting from endangered
17 species and to mandate responsibility to deal with
18 such losses; and
- 19 5. Bull Trout being delisted and managed through
20 state management plans.

21 **We oppose:**

- 22 1. Any effort to create a State Endangered Species
23 Act (ESA) that is more stringent than the federal
24 ESA;
- 25 2. Road closures and restrictions imposed on land
26 and water in the name of critical habitat;
- 27 3. Implementation of the endangered species
28 pesticide labeling program, other than in critical
29 habitat;
- 30 4. The listing of the Giant Palouse Earthworm
31 (*Driloleirus americanus*), Greater Sage Grouse
32 (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and Slick Spot
33 Peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) as an
34 endangered species;
- 35 5. Listing any species before its critical habitat is
36 identified within its scientifically established
37 historical range. Habitat site specific assessments
38 and recovery plans must include comprehensive
39 protection of private property rights; and
- 40 6. Any critical-habitat designation until it has been
41 established beyond scientific doubt that the
42 species in question is actually present and that
43 threatened or endangered status is actually
44 warranted. The data to satisfy the scientific criteria
45 should meet the guidelines of the Data Quality Act
46 under federal statutes sections 3504(d)(1) and
47 3516 of title 44, United States Code. The agency,
48 organization or individual requesting the critical-
49 habitat designation must bear the cost of proving

1 presence of the species and this must be done
2 through the use of the best available peer
3 reviewed science.

4 **65. Fish and Game Department**

5 **We support:**

- 6 **1.** The department using good-neighbor
7 management practices on the land they now own,
8 including fences, pests, noxious weeds, and
9 providing sportsmen with guidance and marked
10 boundaries;
- 11 **2.** The Fish and Game Department controlling the
12 concentration of wildlife numbers on all lands and
13 being prohibited from entering into agreements to
14 limit access to any area, without approval of the
15 local governing authority;
- 16 **3.** Implementing a requirement for non-resident
17 mentored youth hunts where both the non-resident
18 mentor and the mentored youth must purchase
19 matching species tags. Non-resident tags should
20 cost more than resident tags;
- 21 **4.** A Habitat Improvement Program and request
22 Idaho Fish and Game Commission to reflect
23 strong emphasis on multiple use;
- 24 **5.** Compensation by IDFG for crop loss due to
25 depredation shall be for actual loss minus the one-
26 time deductible and should be expediently paid
27 with no pro-rating;
- 28 **6.** Fish and Game being responsible and pay for
29 damages caused by management decisions;
- 30 **7.** Idaho Fish and Game issuing emergency
31 depredation permits to ag producers and
32 landowners to harvest animals that are causing
33 verifiable damage to crops, livestock and property.
34 The issuance of these depredation permits shall
35 be free of conditions that landowners must allow
36 hunting on their land. Landowners should be
37 allowed to determine who hunts on their private
38 property;
- 39 **8.** Creating depredation areas for landowners who
40 are annually affected by depredating animals and
41 support mechanisms for quicker response in those
42 areas;
- 43 **9.** The Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP) being
44 made available to anyone owning 320 acres or
45 more and recipients of these tags should be free
46 to do what they wish with the tags;
- 47 **10.** The creation of landowner preference tags for the
48 exclusive use of non-resident kindred relations of

- 1 the first or second degree for landowners whose
2 property exceeds 160 contiguous acres;
3 **11.** Additional landowner preference tags based on a
4 pro rata basis for each additional 640 acres of
5 contiguous ownership;
6 **12.** Idaho Fish and Game creating a full-time, fully
7 funded grizzly bear conflict technician position with
8 emphasis on production agriculture; and
9 **13.** Individuals who draw a LAP tag sitting out the
10 following year on the same LAP hunt.

11 **We oppose:**

- 12 1. The acquisition of additional land by the Fish and
13 Game Department;
14 2. Any increase in funding for the Idaho Department
15 of Fish and Game from either the general fund or
16 license fees without showing a specific need or
17 use for the funds;
18 3. The erection of either permanent or temporary
19 hunting or viewing blinds within 100 feet of a
20 developed livestock watering site on public lands;
21 4. Idaho Fish and Game abdicating responsibility for
22 year after year losses due to depredation impacts
23 regardless of other reimbursements;
24 5. The feeding of wild ungulates because of the
25 consequences to agriculture, municipalities, and
26 natural habitat; and
27 6. The state of Idaho forfeiting their authority to the
28 federal government over wildlife management.

29
30 **66. Fish and Game—Prior Notification**

31 The Idaho Department of Fish and Game must
32 have permission from the landowner before entering
33 private property.
34

35 **67. Fish Species Population Management**

36 We support alternative scientific applications to
37 modify fish species population without affecting
38 contractual agreements or causing detrimental
39 effects on flood control, irrigators, recreation, and
40 economies.
41

42 **68. Grizzly Bear**

43 **We support:**

- 44 1. The grizzly bear being removed from the
45 endangered species list and the transfer of all
46 grizzly bear management to Idaho Fish and
47 Game;
48 2. Requiring the costs associated with grizzlies,
49 including triple damages for depredation costs, to

- 1 be borne by the federal government, and its
2 agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services;
- 3 **3.** Paying compensation to state and local agencies
4 when any assistance in the management, control,
5 or defense of the public is needed from such
6 agencies. Compensation to state and local
7 agencies should be paid regardless of whether a
8 request has been made by a federal agency for
9 assistance until such time as the current grizzly
10 bear policy can be changed to allow less conflict
11 with humans and livestock; namely the delisting of
12 the grizzly bear and transfer of management to
13 individual states' authority;
 - 14 **4.** Requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to
15 coordinate all grizzly bear related activities with
16 the Idaho Fish and Game and local county
17 officials;
 - 18 **5.** Enhanced management of grizzly bears, including
19 relocation from farmsteads, homesteads, and
20 other public settlements with emphasis on public
21 notification of problem bears;
 - 22 **6.** Idaho Fish and Game managing grizzly bears with
23 human safety as the priority; utilizing all tools and
24 methods available, including removal, aversive
25 conditioning; and
 - 26 **7.** Euthanizing any known problem bear that has
27 threatened human safety.

28 **We oppose:**

- 29 1. The reintroduction of grizzly bears into any area of
30 the State of Idaho.

31
32 **69. IDFG / USF&W Responsibility**

33 **We support:**

- 34 1. Requiring state or federal wildlife personnel to file
35 an environmental and economic impact statement
36 before they can release non-native insects or
37 plants in Idaho or make regulations that affect the
38 counties and/or the state;
- 39 2. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture's ban
40 on the release of deleterious exotic animals into
41 the State of Idaho;
- 42 3. Requiring all state and federal agency personnel
43 going through the elected county sheriff for all law
44 enforcement;
- 45 4. The creation of a wildlife management system
46 where property owners and IDFG cooperatively
47 manage wildlife and income generated from that
48 management unit be shared between both parties;
49 and

1 **5. Idaho state's sovereign right to manage wildlife on**
2 all its state and private lands to protect private
3 property and public safety without the need to
4 receive prior authorization from any federal
5 agency.

6 **We oppose:**

- 7 **1.** The relocation of wild game and non-game
8 species without proper notice being given to
9 residents and property owners in the area where
10 they are released. Local county officials must
11 receive official notice at least 30 days prior to any
12 relocation or release, into the wild, of any species
13 raised in captivity;
14 **2.** Relocation or release into the wild of wolves or
15 grizzlies that have been raised in captivity; and
16 **3.** The Idaho Fish and Game Department engaging
17 in activities that encourage only non-consumptive
18 uses of fish and wildlife species in Idaho.
19

20 **70. Introduction of Salmon**

21 We oppose the introduction of salmon above
22 Brownlee Dam.

23 **71. Invasive Species**

24 We support adequate state funding for
25 inspections of all water craft and other vessels to
26 prevent the spread and infestation of any non-native
27 aquatic species in Idaho waters.
28

29 **72. Large Carnivores**

30 We support:

- 31 **1.** The right of landowners to protect themselves,
32 their families, livestock and properties from all
33 predators including grizzly bears and wolves
34 without legal retaliation;
35 **2.** Establishing a new state depredation fund that
36 compensates large carnivore (wolf and grizzly)
37 depredations;
38 **3.** Adding wolves and grizzly bears to the IDF&G
39 depredation list so that depredation on livestock
40 can be paid by the IDF&G Big Game Depredation
41 and Prevention fund; and
42 **4.** A state of Idaho employee to oversee and
43 coordinate wolf and grizzly bear management
44 efforts in Idaho amongst both state and federal
45 agencies.

1 **73. Prion Disease**

2 We support the continuing research into Chronic
3 Wasting Disease and its relation to other prion
4 diseases and public health.

5 We support the continuing development of a
6 strategy to deal with this dilemma.
7

8 **74. Private Reservoir Companies**

9 Fish and Game Department shall pay private
10 reservoir companies for the use of that reservoir for
11 fish habitat. The Department should also pay
12 upkeep assessments on reservoirs in which they
13 own water.
14

15 **75. Sage Grouse**

16 We support predator control as a method to
17 increase sage grouse populations. We encourage
18 the use of bounties to control all non-protected sage
19 grouse predators.

20 We support grazing on public lands as a primary
21 method of increasing sage grouse populations by
22 controlling the amount of vegetation that fuels
23 wildfires.

24 We support rearing and releasing of sage
25 grouse.
26

27 **76. Salmon Recovery**

28 **We support the following salmon-recovery**
29 **alternatives:**

- 30 1. Utilizing new hydroelectric turbine technologies to
31 achieve the goals of increased power production
32 and reduced hazards to fish;
- 33 2. Privatizing salmon fisheries for increased
34 numbers and stronger fish. Net barge
35 transportation as a safer way of transporting smolt
36 to ocean;
- 37 3. Ocean predator control during the two-year cycle
38 from smolt to maturity;
- 39 4. Regulating harvest of offshore and instream
40 salmon;
- 41 5. Improved dam passage of smolt to ocean and
42 mature salmon's migration back to spawning
43 grounds; and
- 44 6. The Federal Columbia River Power System as
45 one of the largest sources of clean, renewable
46 electricity in the Pacific Northwest.

1 **We Oppose:**

- 2 1. The removal of Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental,
3 Little Goose and Lower Granite dams on the lower
4 Snake River;
5 2. The taxpayer funded payments to compensate
6 entities for lost revenues from dam removal;
7 3. The costs associated with the removal of these
8 four dams;
9 4. The loss of Idaho's only seaport in Lewiston
10 eliminating the most cost-efficient shipping of farm
11 commodities; and
12 5. The power replacement costs paid to business
13 with a mix of solar, wind, nuclear, and batteries.
14 (Short term fixes with negative long-term effects)
15

16 **77. Snake River Basin Snails**

17 We support the delisting of snail species in the
18 Snake River Basin and the grouping of snail species
19 based on taxonomic/biological similarities.

20 We oppose the future listing of new snail
21 species.

22 **78. Wolves**

23 **We support:**

- 24 1. All methods of wolf control and population
25 management statewide;
26 2. Funding for state agencies tasked with wolf
27 management and support appropriate
28 compensation for damages incurred by producers;
29 3. Livestock depredations caused by wolves to be
30 paid out on both confirmed and probable
31 Wildlife Services classified cases;
32 4. Office of Species Conservation applying yearly
33 through the grant process from USFWS to fund all
34 wolf depredation costs paid out through their
35 office;
36 5. Requiring when possible, all wolf carcasses to be
37 presented for testing for communicable diseases,
38 especially the tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus*
39 which causes hydatid disease in livestock, elk,
40 deer, and humans;
41 6. The Wolf Depredation Control Board being able to
42 enter into agreements with private contractors for
43 more efficient means of removing wolves;
44 7. Property owner's rights in protecting their property
45 in a timely manner using any method that has
46 proven effective;
47 8. Looking into other options in the state rather than
48 utilizing Wildlife Services (WS) when it comes to

1 controlling and inspecting cases pertaining to
2 wolves; and
3 **9.** The state of Idaho adding financial support to the
4 Idaho Wolf Depredation Prevention program.

5 **We oppose:**

6 **1.** Any efforts to relist the wolf as endangered.
7

8 **EASEMENTS**
9

10 **79. Conservation / Scenic Easements**

11 We support continuation of conservation
12 easement agreements and scenic easements or
13 agreements only if the real property involved
14 remains on the tax rolls according to use.

15 We oppose the Yellowstone to Yukon
16 Conservation Initiative (Y2Y).
17

18 **ENERGY**
19

20 **80. Affordable Energy**

21 **We support:**

- 22 **1.** Transparency in how energy monopolies plan to
23 incur expenses and make investments that are
24 passed on to ratepayers;
25 **2.** Thorough, fair, and publicly involved process for
26 evaluating rate requests and setting rates;
27 **3.** Increased focus on removing barriers to widely
28 available and affordable sources of energy, such
29 as on-site generation; and
30 **4.** Idaho utility companies having an export rate
31 established for on-site farm generation.

32 **We Oppose:**

- 33 **5.** Any infringement on the ability of agribusiness to
34 access, evaluate, or cost-effectively utilize widely
35 available technologies for managing their energy
36 requirements.
37

38 **81. Alternative Energy**

39 **We support:**

- 40 **1.** The development of cost-effective alternative
41 energy;
42 **2.** County control in the siting of these projects;
43 **3.** Sales tax incentives to assist in the development
44 of alternative energy projects of less than one
45 megawatt constructed on or by existing agriculture
46 operations; and

1 4. Alternative energy should not receive subsidies
2 beyond the bulk market rate. Any such contracts
3 shall be allowed to expire.

4 **We oppose:**

5 1. A broad moratorium on alternative energy
6 projects.

7 **82. Electrical Energy**

8 **1. Hydroelectric Dams:**

9 **We support:**

- 10 1.1. The continued careful use of water as one of
11 our renewable natural resources through
12 existing and the construction of new hydro
13 projects, as future demands for electrical energy
14 increase;
- 15 1.2. The adaptation of hydro projects to generate
16 power for sale; and
- 17 1.3. The relicensing of dams, including Hells Canyon
18 Complex, using a least cost mitigation plan
19 reflecting the desire for the customers to have a
20 reliable power source at reasonable rates.

21 **2. Renewables:**

22 **We Support:**

- 23 2.1. Utilities operating in Idaho developing
24 economically feasible renewable energy
25 portfolios;
- 26 2.2. The construction of economically feasible power
27 generation facilities in Idaho, including those that
28 use plant and/or animal residue or logging slash;
- 29 2.3. An annual true-up for net metering rather than a
30 monthly true-up;
- 31 2.4. The right of property owners to generate
32 electricity to partially or fully offset the energy
33 requirement on their property, limited only by
34 conditions necessary to protect public health,
35 safety, service quality, or grid reliability; and
- 36 2.5. The ability of agribusiness to access, evaluate,
37 and cost-effectively utilize technologies that
38 enable them to control and reduce energy costs.

39 **3. Regulations:**

40 **We support:**

- 41 3.1. State agencies removing barriers that prevent
42 utilities from increasing Idaho's power
43 generation capacity; and
- 44 3.2. Current laws that require coal fired plants be
45 held to strict standards in the construction,
46 operation, and retirement of the facility.

1 **We oppose:**

2 **3.1.** Any deregulation, reorganization, merger or
3 consolidation of power generation or
4 transmission which could result in loss of water
5 rights, less service or increased rates; and

6 **3.2.** The sale of any public utility company operating
7 in the State of Idaho to an entity either partially
8 or wholly owned by a foreign government.

9 **4. Transmission:**

10 **We support:**

11 **4.1.** Upgrades in transmission and distribution.
12 Routing of utility corridors should be placed on
13 public land first and then to the areas of least
14 impact to private property owners;

15 **4.2.** The initiation of on and off ramps in
16 transmission lines within the State of Idaho; and

17 **4.3.** Using utility transmission corridors established
18 by the county to lessen the impact on private
19 property owners.

20 **5. PUC Rates:**

21 **We oppose:**

22 **5.1.** Any action by the PUC to move in the direction
23 of inverted block rates or in any major rate
24 design revision that would be detrimental to
25 agriculture.

26
27 **83. Fossil Fuels**

28 We support the mining and drilling of fossil fuels.

29 We support the legislature ensuring that rules for
30 oil and natural gas production safeguard the water
31 aquifers for all citizens and protect property owners'
32 rights to use their property.

33 If a local government entity bans the
34 development of mineral rights in its jurisdiction, it
35 should be considered a property rights "taking" and
36 compensation should be provided to the property
37 owner.

38
39 **84. Nuclear Energy**

40 We support the generation of electricity from
41 nuclear reactors in meeting our future energy needs
42 and urge the development of permanent disposal
43 sites for radioactive waste material where it will not
44 endanger the aquifer in Idaho.

45 We support research and development of further
46 usage of radioactive waste materials and safer ways
47 of storage.

1 We support development of nuclear technology
2 which reduces or eliminates the need for nuclear
3 waste disposal.

4 We support the Idaho National Laboratory
5 providing the lead role in advancing the
6 development of this technology.
7

8 **85. Power Demand Control Program**

9 We support demand control programs as long
10 as current water rights and power usage contracts
11 are protected. These programs must remain on a
12 voluntary basis.

13 **86. Renewable Fuels**

14 We support the promotion and use of alternative
15 fuels made from agricultural products, as long as
16 they are driven by open markets and not
17 economically supported by mandates and
18 government subsidies.

19 We encourage all state and local governments
20 to assist in developing renewable fuel projects in
21 Idaho.

22 We support the availability of low-cost fuels,
23 including off-road bio-fuels, for the operation of
24 farms and ranches.
25

26 **87. Utility Companies**

27 Utility companies that damage public roads
28 should be responsible for restoring roadways to their
29 original state for at least a period of two years.

30 We support utility companies retaining the
31 liability when underground utility lines are not at the
32 required depths.

33 We oppose requiring farmers to call dig line in
34 order to work their fields for planting, cultivation and
35 harvesting activities, where underground utility lines
36 exist.

37 If dig line is required to be used in normal
38 farming cultivation practices, we support the 21-day
39 time constraint being extended as long as flags and
40 or markings for underground utilities are left
41 untouched.

42 **LABOR**

44 **88. Legal Aid**

45 We oppose state funding of Idaho Legal Aid
46 Services.

1 **89. Minimum Wage**

2 We oppose any minimum wage within the state
3 that is higher than the federal minimum wage.
4

5 **90. New Hire Reporting**

6 We support changes in the Idaho New Hire
7 Reporting Law to extend the reporting date to 60
8 days.

9 We support not having to report seasonal
10 temporary workers that work less than 45 days in a
11 year.

12 **91. Unemployment Insurance**

13 Eligibility requirements should be made realistic
14 to reflect agriculture's seasonal employment
15 practices.
16

17 **92. Workers Compensation**

18 Workers compensation for agricultural
19 employers should provide:

- 20 1. Cost control measures and fair base rates;
- 21 2. Mediation for agricultural concerns;
- 22 3. Protection from third party lawsuits; and
- 23 4. Employer protection from worker caused injuries
24 (i.e. drug & alcohol).

25 We support changes in the existing Workers'
26 Compensation Law that would take into
27 consideration the employee's responsibility when an
28 accident occurs.

29 We support having the settlement reduced by
30 the percentage that was determined that the worker
31 was responsible.
32

33 **TAX**

34
35 **93. Assessed Value of Ag Production Land**

36 We support ag land being assessed at its actual
37 use value for taxation purposes.

38 **We support:**

- 39 1. The retention of five-acre minimum productivity
40 option and the Bare Land & Yield Option for forest
41 lands; and
- 42 2. Legislation that allows county commissioners to
43 appeal an assessment change by the Idaho State
44 Tax Commission for a category of property.

45 **We oppose:**

- 46 1. The State Tax Commission having power to
47 equalize county property tax assessments.

1 **94. Budget Caps**

2 We support a statewide re-evaluation of the
3 current three percent property tax budget growth cap
4 for all taxing districts compared to a population and
5 resource-bases system.

6 We oppose the loosening, removal or alteration
7 in any way or the granting of an exemption from
8 limitations and restraints placed by present Idaho
9 law on units of local government, community
10 colleges, school districts, etc., in increasing local
11 property taxes.

12 We oppose the creation of additional tax entities
13 that could be exempt from such limitations and
14 restraints.

15
16 **95. Fuel Tax**

17 We support the refund of tax paid on fuel used
18 off-road.

19 We support having non-taxed dyed-fuel
20 available for off-road use.

21 We support an alternative tax for non-
22 combustion engine vehicles.

23
24 **96. Funding Local Government and Schools**

25 **We support:**

- 26 1. Gradually reducing the property tax burden to
27 fund public schools and local government;
- 28 2. Legislation mandating that plant facilities levy
29 monies can be used only for capital expenditures
30 related to school operation and maintenance;
- 31 3. The creation of standardized mandatory full
32 disclosure of the school district's revenues and
33 expenditures that are related to extracurricular
34 activities; separated into curriculum and athletics,
35 and budgeted in standard categories of salaries,
36 transportation, supplies, and capital expenditures;
- 37 4. Removing the school budget stabilization levy that
38 was authorized in the 2006 Special Legislative
39 Session unless it is supported by a local vote; and
- 40 5. Legislation allowing school districts to exclude
41 agricultural land from any future school bond or
42 levy elections.

43 **We oppose:**

- 44 1. Judges being allowed to levy taxes;
- 45 2. Indefinite or permanent supplemental school
46 levies on taxpayers, regardless of the number of
47 consecutive levies passed; and

1 **3.** School districts carrying over plant facilities levy
2 funds to finance the construction of new buildings
3 or the acquisition of additional property.

4 **97. Impact Fees**

5 We support local impact fees on new or
6 expanding developments to pay for the services
7 required to support growth.

8 We support simplification of current impact fee
9 rules and procedures.

10 We support schools being included in the
11 definition of public facilities in order to be eligible to
12 receive impact fees.

13 **98. Investment Tax Credit**

14 We support retention of the current three
15 percent investment tax credit provisions, or an
16 increase in the credit.

17 **99. Local Option Taxation**

18 We support local option taxation when used
19 specifically for projects that would have been paid
20 for with property tax dollars.

21 **100. Maximum Levy Rates**

22 We support developing a system to enforce the
23 existing one percent levy limit law.

24 We oppose raising the maximum statutory levy
25 rates for any taxing authority.

26 **101. Personal Tax Privacy Rights**

27 We oppose the county assessor's office
28 requiring personal tax information to establish land
29 use.

30 **102. Property Tax**

31 **We support:**

- 32 **1.** Limiting yearly property assessment increases to a
33 maximum of the state inflation rate;
- 34 **2.** Legislation that would allow county tax
35 assessments and collection on property that has
36 been purchased by non-profit groups and placed
37 in tax exempt status, such as a tax code that
38 covers environmental tax-exempt classification.
- 39 **3.** Efforts to amend the Idaho Forest Tax Law to
40 allow forest landowners to designate and maintain
41 multiple timberland parcels under respective Bare
42

- 1 Land and Yield (Category 6) or Productivity
- 2 (Category 7) classifications;
- 3 4. Legislation that would reform the property tax
- 4 budget formula which currently allows county
- 5 budgets to grow more than twice as fast as
- 6 population plus inflation; and
- 7 5. Legislation that prevents the taxes of existing
- 8 residents to unfairly increase and moves us closer
- 9 to growth paying for itself.

10 **We oppose:**

- 11 1. Budget increases and foregone balances that
- 12 current Idaho State Law allows for local
- 13 governments;
- 14 2. Shifting property tax to agricultural real estate; and
- 15 3. Local taxing districts shifting the property tax
- 16 burden to business, rental property owners and
- 17 farmers when homeowner's exemption is
- 18 increased.

19
20 **103. Property Tax Replacement**

21 We recommend that a fee in lieu of taxes be
22 assessed on all lands removed from tax rolls by
23 state or federal agency management. We favor an
24 annual fee equivalent to local private property tax on
25 land.

26 When sales tax revenues received by local
27 taxing districts increase, local property taxes should
28 be required to be reduced by a lesser amount.

29
30 **104. Sales Tax**

31 We oppose removing the sales tax exemption
32 on production items.

33 We support legislation that would exempt
34 nonprofit organizational fund-raising from paying
35 sales tax on those receipts.

36
37 **105. Services Tax**

38 We oppose all tax on services.

39
40 **106. Special Taxing Districts**

41 We support a requirement that all new taxing
42 districts must be approved by a 66-2/3% majority
43 vote of the registered voters within a district.

44 We support giving all taxing districts the option,
45 to be funded by a household fee rather than through
46 an ad valorem (property) tax. If a taxing district
47 chooses the household fee option, those fees must
48 be subject to the 3% budget increase cap and any

1 bonds they pass must also be paid through
2 household fees.

3 We support a 10-year sunset on all special
4 taxing districts, after which they would require re-
5 authorization by the voters to continue.

6 **107. State Budget**

7 **We support:**

- 8 1. Zero-based budgeting;
- 9 2. A constitutional amendment limiting state
10 spending to a calculation determined by
11 population growth and economic growth of the
12 state;
- 13 3. Limiting growth of state personnel on the public
14 payroll to the rate of population growth;
- 15 4. Requiring any reduction in county income
16 resulting from tax exemptions granted by the
17 state to be replaced by appropriations of
18 sufficient funds to offset the revenue lost; and
- 19 5. Limiting the growth of state expenditures at or
20 below the percentage of economic growth in the
21 state.

22 **We oppose:**

- 23 1. Balancing budget shortfalls by any tax increase.

25 **108. Super Majority**

26 We support retaining the 66-2/3% majority vote
27 as required in the Idaho State Constitution for bond
28 levies.

29 We oppose circumventing the required two-
30 thirds majority by creative financing options.

31 We support requiring taxing districts to wait at
32 least 11 months before running a failed bond
33 measure again.

35 **109. Taxing Districts Sharing Administrators**

36 We encourage similar taxing districts to share
37 administrators and secretaries on a county-wide or
38 multi-district basis to help ease the tax burden of
39 administration.

41 **110. Urban Renewal Districts**

42 We support the repeal of urban renewal laws.

1 LOCAL AFFAIRS

2
3 **111. Annexation**

4 We are opposed to areas adjacent to a city
5 being annexed into the city unless a two-thirds
6 majority of those owning property in the area
7 proposed for annexation vote in favor of the
8 annexation.
9

10 **112. County Commissioners**

11 We encourage county commissioners to develop
12 a Natural Resource Plan that clearly states the
13 objectives and policies of the county in regard to
14 management of the natural resources located on
15 public lands in their county.

16 We encourage county commissioners to invoke
17 the “coordination mandate” of Congress set forth in
18 federal statutes with the public land management
19 agencies plans and actions that may negatively
20 impact the county’s economy, culture and heritage.

21 We support the formation of a formal ANRAC
22 (Agriculture & Natural Resources Advisory
23 Committee) or NRAC (Natural Resources Advisory
24 Committee) within each county.

25 We support county commissioners being elected
26 by the voters who live in the district which they
27 represent.
28

29 **113. Distribution of Federal Fines**

30 We support legislation that would require public
31 notification of the distribution of fines collected by
32 the governmental agencies in that county.

33 We support legislation that would require federal
34 agencies to return a portion of federal fines collected
35 in the county where the infraction occurred.
36

37 **114. Elections**

38 **We support:**

- 39 1. Allowing Idaho residents who own real property in
40 a taxing district to vote on any tax proposal in that
41 district;
- 42 2. Consolidation of all elections, including school
43 bonds/levies to the May and November elections;
- 44 3. Requiring a minimum of 30% voter turnout if a
45 school bond/levy election occurs in August;
- 46 4. A mandatory pre-registration requirement to be
47 eligible to vote in all local bond elections;

- 1 **5.** Pay raises for elected officials only taking effect
- 2 after the official stands again for election; and
- 3 **6.** Changing the number of members of the Idaho
- 4 Redistricting Commission to 7 with the majority on
- 5 the commission reflecting the current partisan
- 6 makeup of the legislature; and
- 7 **7.** Absentee ballots with verification of identity and
- 8 signatures.

9 **We oppose:**

- 10 **1.** Unsolicited mail-in voting and vote harvesting
- 11 practices.

12

13 **115. Emergency Response Fees**

14 We oppose the imposition of response fees for

15 emergency services that are funded through

16 property taxes.

17 **116. Public Hearings**

18 Public hearings that affect a given area of the

19 state must be held in the area that is affected, at a

20 reasonable time and date for those impacted.

21

22 **117. Zoning**

23 County commissioners should control all zoning

24 in the county. Zoning should be site specific within

25 the county.

26 We oppose the use of blanket zoning

27 ordinances, including sustainable development and

28 smart-growth initiatives.

29 We recognize and encourage the use of

30 planning tools allowed under state law to encourage

31 planned and orderly growth in or near agricultural

32 areas.

33

34 **EDUCATION**

35

36 **118. Ag in the Classroom**

37 We support Ag in the Classroom in school

38 curriculum to increase student literacy of agriculture.

39

40 **119. Career Technical Education**

41 We support enhanced funding for Idaho's career

42 & technical education, agricultural science and

43 technology courses and programs.

44 We support that each high school in the state be

45 awarded one teacher FTE earmarked only for CTE,

46 but to not supplant any current teacher FTE that has

47 been used for CTE.

1 **120. Good Neighbor Authority/ State Lands**

2 We support that the State Land Board in its
3 mission to use state endowment lands for the
4 benefit of education act on a Good Neighbor
5 Authority for special projects in schools that are
6 found in the near vicinity of the state lands
7 generating these funds.
8

9 **121. Knowledge of Constitution**

10 We support requiring students graduating from
11 Idaho schools to have a thorough understanding of
12 the Constitution and the form of government that it
13 gives us in accordance with the original intent of the
14 founders.

15 **122. Local Control of Education**

16 We encourage the State Board of Education
17 and the Idaho Legislature to refuse federal funds
18 aimed at promoting control of educational programs
19 in public schools by the federal government.

20 We support local school boards maintaining
21 control and policy over dress standards, personal
22 conduct standards, curriculum, and traditional
23 gender rules.

24 We oppose the gathering of personal
25 information of students that is not related to their
26 academic education without parental consent.
27

28 **123. Veterinary Students**

29 We support efforts to incentivize vet students
30 studying large food animal medicine to practice in
31 Idaho.
32

33 **STATE AFFAIRS**

34
35 **124. Agricultural Research and Extension**

36 We request the legislature examine the role of
37 the University of Idaho as the land grant college and
38 take steps to ensure the university honors its
39 commitment as our agricultural research facility.

40 We recommend that extension activities assist
41 farm programs on a first-priority basis, including the
42 integrated Farm Management Program.

43 County agents should be first and foremost
44 county agricultural agents.

45 **We support:**

46 **1.** The University of Idaho Agricultural Research and
47 Extension Service;

- 1 **2.** Any products developed by any research facility
2 utilizing state funds for research should be made
3 available to Idaho citizens royalty-free;
- 4 **3.** Expanded research and education in all crop
5 areas relative to Idaho. This must also include new
6 and improved plant and animal varieties along with
7 effective insect, pest, disease and weed controls;
- 8 **4.** An informational exchange and cooperative effort
9 within the tri-state area in ag-chemical registration
10 and research as well as plant/animal variety
11 improvement research. Every effort should be
12 made by state and county officials and the
13 University of Idaho to retain an agricultural
14 extension agent in each county as an extension
15 service of our land grant university. Strong
16 pressure must be exerted to revitalize and improve
17 the agricultural information and education
18 programs;
- 19 **5.** The hiring of new extension educators in the
20 College of Agricultural and Life Sciences with
21 primary training and experience in commercial
22 agriculture and forestry; and
- 23 **6.** Full funding, from both federal and state
24 governments, for operations and research at the
25 current U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, including
26 continuous research on the effects of grazing and
27 sage grouse habitat, and the relationship between
28 wildfire and grazing.

30 **125. ATV Safety**

31 We oppose the creation of a mandatory class or
32 special license for the ability to ride an ATV on
33 private or public land.

35 **126. Auction Company Bonding**

36 We support legislation that would require
37 licensing and bonding of commercial auction
38 companies.

40 **127. Ballot Initiative**

41 We support requiring all ballot initiatives to
42 collect signatures from 6% of registered voters from
43 two-thirds of all legislative districts.

44 We support all ballot initiatives requiring a two-
45 thirds majority vote to pass.

46 We oppose taxes being levied through the
47 initiative process.

1 **128. Citizen Legislature**

2 We support the Idaho Legislature remaining a
3 citizen legislature and the session should only run
4 from approximately the first Monday in January till
5 the last Friday in March. All special sessions should
6 be limited to 20 days.

7 **129. Constitutional Defense Fund**

8 We support adding another leadership position
9 to the existing four-member council when voting on
10 the distribution of Constitutional Defense Funds.
11

12 **130. County Fairs**

13 We support the review and revision of all county
14 fair related state statutes to better reflect current
15 year-round fairground operations under the
16 administration of local appointed fair boards even
17 above the 200,000-county population limit.

18 **131. Cross Deputization**

19 We believe that cross deputization of county
20 sheriffs and any tribal law enforcement officers
21 should be voluntary.
22

23 **132. Definition of Agricultural Buildings**

24 We support changes to Idaho Code to define
25 agricultural buildings as follows:

- 26 1. They are buildings where agricultural products are
27 stored, housed or grown;
- 28 2. They are buildings where agricultural equipment,
29 including licensed vehicles that are used in the
30 production of agriculture can be fixed, repaired or
31 stored;
- 32 3. They are buildings that are used for the normal
33 servicing of an agricultural business; and
- 34 4. They can be used by employees as a place of
35 employment as well as a place to have meals and
36 take bathroom breaks as required by GAP (Good
37 Agricultural Practices).
38

39 **133. Driver's Privilege Card**

40 We support legislation granting driving privileges
41 to all persons residing in Idaho who pass the
42 required traffic and driving testing, pay the required
43 licensing fees, and provide proof of automobile
44 insurance. We support this type of legislation only if
45 driving privilege cards cannot be used as a form of
46 identification.

1 **134. Environmental Social Governance**

2 We oppose the unsolicited and undefined use of
3 ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) scores to
4 evaluate individuals, corporations, or institutions.

5 **135. Executive Branch MOU/MOA**

6 We oppose actions by the governor entering into
7 Memorandums of Understanding or Memorandums
8 of Agreement without legislative oversight and
9 approval.

10 **136. Falsifying Reports**

11 Knowingly filing a false report and/or complaint
12 to any agency shall be considered a misdemeanor
13 and the perpetrator should be required to pay
14 damages and/or expenses to the individual that was
15 falsely accused as well as the investigating agency.

16 **137. Government Overreach**

17 We oppose federal and state government
18 operating commercial businesses in competition
19 with private enterprise.

20 **138. Hazardous Waste**

21 We believe that each state should, to the extent
22 possible, take the responsibility for treatment and
23 disposal of hazardous waste generated in its state
24 and that these waste products be disposed of in the
25 most feasible manner that will not endanger life or
26 resources.

27 We believe that hazardous material and
28 hazardous waste should be kept separate in the law.

29 We support a statewide hazardous materials
30 clean-up day.

31 **139. Health Insurance**

32 **We support:**

- 33 1. Private optional health insurance;
- 34 2. Legislation that permits, promotes, and/or assists:
- 35 **2.1.** In individual health savings accounts with tax
36 free withdrawals for all health insurance
37 premiums;
- 38 **2.2.** In free market solutions to health care costs
39 and access;
- 40 **2.3.** In free clinics funded by local
41 community/faith-based organizations; and
- 42 **2.4.** In development of Direct Primary Care in
43 Idaho supporting the offering of wraparound
44 health insurance policies.

1 **3. Health insurance as a risk management tool by**
2 reducing and/or eliminating the number of
3 mandated services.

4 **We oppose:**

5 1. Any legislation to require employers to carry
6 health insurance on their employees whether
7 they are seasonal or full-time.
8

9 **140. Judicial Confirmation**

10 We support the repeal of the “Judicial
11 Confirmation,” Title 7, Chapter 13, Idaho Code, for
12 ordinary and necessary expenses.

13 **141. Liability and Tort Claims**

14 We support current Idaho Statutes dealing with
15 liability and tort claims and will resist any effort to
16 weaken or erode them.
17

18 **142. Marijuana**

19 We support marijuana staying on the class 1 list
20 of banned controlled substances in the State of
21 Idaho.

22 We support legislation that will prohibit drug
23 legalization by citizen initiatives.
24

25 **143. Medicaid**

26 **We support:**

- 27 1. Repeal of Medicaid Expansion;
28 2. Informing the taxpayers each year of the cost of
29 Medicaid expansion and the effect on state
30 budgets; and
31 3. Medicaid expansion being paid for with state of
32 Idaho general funds.

33 **We oppose:**

- 34 1. County property taxes paying any portion of
35 Medicaid expansion.
36

37 **144. Mental and Behavioral Health**

38 We support programs and initiatives that
39 address mental and behavioral health issues that
40 affect veterans, agricultural and rural communities
41 statewide.

42 **145. One Senator Per County**

43 We support an amendment to change the Idaho
44 Constitution to allow one senator per county.

1 **146. Preserving Agriculture**

2 We support legislation to protect agriculture land
3 through voluntary agreements and programs based
4 on incentives.

5 **147. Property Rights/Eminent Domain**

6 **We support:**

- 7 1. Defining private property to include, but not be
8 limited to, all land, crops, timber, water rights,
9 mineral rights, all other appurtenances and any
10 other consideration associated with land
11 ownership;
- 12 2. An Idaho constitutional amendment defining
13 public use as found in the eminent domain
14 doctrine to prohibit the condemnation of private
15 property for economic development or any use by
16 private parties. If private property is taken,
17 compensation must be prompt, just and adequate;
- 18 3. Compensating landowners in the cases of partial
19 taking of real property, when government-imposed
20 regulations cause a loss in value of private
21 property. Landowners or tenants shall not be held
22 liable for any damages incurred as a result of the
23 condemnation. Entities condemning property shall
24 assume liability for any damages incurred by
25 landowners;
- 26 4. The federal and state "takings" law in support of
27 the U.S. Constitution, Article V; and
- 28 5. Amending the State Building Code to prevent
29 infringement on private property rights through
30 excessive permit requirements.

31 **We oppose:**

- 32 1. Landowners having lands adjacent to federal and
33 or state lands should not be forced through
34 coercion or fear of imprisonment to allow new
35 easements across their land for public access to
36 federal and state lands. The taking of property or
37 easements should be permitted only when there is
38 eminent domain;
- 39 2. The use of eminent domain for recreational
40 purposes, for private economic development or to
41 expand the land holding of wildlife agencies;
- 42 3. Any infringement of private property rights caused
43 by regulations of rivers and dams for endangered
44 species;
- 45 4. Infringement on private property rights caused by
46 highway districts and transportation departments;
47 and

1 **5. Governmental taking of private property rights by**
2 **restriction of use without just and due**
3 **compensation.**

4 **148. Proprietary Information**

5 We oppose laws requiring insurance companies
6 or other private business entities to provide
7 proprietary information to state or federal agencies.

8 **149. Public Employees Bargaining**

9 We believe that public employees, when
10 negotiating contracts, should be separate entities in
11 themselves, and by statute not allowed to delegate
12 or reassign their negotiating rights to professional
13 negotiating forces.
14

15 **150. Regulation Reform**

16 **We support:**

- 17 1. Complete review of existing regulations to
18 determine their effectiveness and appropriateness
19 prior to assigning more restrictive regulations; and
- 20 2. Peer review of the existing regulations to
21 determine their potential to mitigate the problems
22 they address.
23

24 **151. Regulatory Fines**

25 The remedy for any violation of federal and state
26 agency rules should be to fix the problem rather than
27 to pay fines unless the violation rises to the level of a
28 felony.
29

30 **152. Rights-of-Way**

31 Any party who controls or obtains title to a right-
32 of-way must be responsible for maintaining fences,
33 drainage systems, all field and road crossings,
34 controlling noxious weeds and any other agreement
35 that might have been in existence on any such
36 acquired rights-of-way before the corridor changed
37 management.

38 **We Support:**

- 39 1. Access to or through federal lands using RS2477
40 (federally granted rights-of-way);
- 41 2. Allowing county commissioners the ability to
42 determine the validity of an RS2477 claim, the right
43 to move an RS2477 when it occurs on private land
44 and the ability to temporarily close an RS2477 for
45 resource reasons. To prevent the misuse of

- 1 RS2477 claims, we recognize the superiority of a
2 property's title over RS2477 claims; and
3 **3.** Enactment of legislation to require that adjacent
4 landowners be given priority to purchase at fair
5 market value lands that have been vacated by
6 railways, power companies, roadways, etc.

7 **We oppose:**

- 8 **1.** Committing easement rights-of-way obtained by
9 public or private sectors to any new or additional
10 purpose, either during their original usage or after
11 abandonment, without consent of the owner of the
12 land underlying the easement. Upon abandonment
13 of railway or utility rights-of-way or leases, all
14 property and rights associated with such rights-of-
15 way or leases should revert to the current owner of
16 the original tract; and
17 **2.** The use of RS2477 as a tool for the taking of
18 private property without just compensation as
19 prescribed in the Constitution.
20

21 **153. Right to Bear Arms**

22 We oppose any abridgment of the Second
23 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which protects
24 the right to keep and bear arms.

25 We support current law that allows law-abiding
26 citizens the right to bear arms and be free from legal
27 jeopardy when protecting themselves, their families,
28 and their property.

29 We oppose the retaining of personal records
30 collected by the FBI as a result of firearms purchase
31 background checks.

32 We support expanding reciprocity with other
33 states for concealed carry permits.
34

35 **154. Road Closures**

36 We oppose the permanent closure of any
37 existing roads.

38 When any government entity closes a road,
39 agricultural production and transportation should be
40 exempted from the closure.

41 **155. Roads on State Endowment Lands**

42 We support the Idaho Department of Lands
43 hiring or contracting a transportation planner to
44 organize road infrastructure on endowment lands.

1 **156. Small Farms**

2 We support small farm businesses and
3 consumer access to food grown on small farms.

4 We support the reduction of ISDA regulations
5 that hinder small/cottage farms from ease of
6 production and sales direct to consumers.
7

8 **157. State Agencies**

9 **We support:**

- 10 1. The Soil Conservation Commission or successor
11 entity advising and aiding local Soil Conservation
12 Districts by providing technical support and
13 funding at the statutory level;
- 14 2. Legislation to require that government rules and
15 regulations, wherever applicable, be based upon
16 supportive disciplinary peer reviewed scientific
17 data, balanced with economic feasibility, and that
18 wherever policies, rules or regulations do not meet
19 this standard the responsible individual and/or
20 individuals can be held liable; and
- 21 3. When a state law enforcement agency makes an
22 arrest, there should be a means provided to
23 reimburse the county for all costs associated in
24 maintaining the prisoner.

25 **We oppose:**

- 26 1. Combining, splitting, or changing government
27 agencies without the approval of users of the
28 services; and
- 29 2. Regulating any phase of farm and ranch business
30 by any state agency that does not have an
31 agricultural representative as a member of its
32 policy making board or committee.
33

34 **158. State Hatch Act**

35 We favor restoring the State Hatch Act, 67-5311
36 Limitation of Political Activity, to its original form and
37 content.
38

39 **159. State Historic Preservation Office**

40 We oppose the expansion of the authority of the
41 SHPO and oppose any state funding.

42 **160. State Legal Reform**

43 **We Support:**

- 44 1. Reform of the state's civil justice system, which
45 would cure or substantially solve many of the
46 problems farmers face with hostile, harassing legal
47 services lawsuits. Any person or organization that

1 sues to prevent livestock operation siting, or the
2 use of agriculture or resource management
3 practices, should be required to post a bond in a
4 reasonable amount, which will be forfeited to the
5 defendant to help defray their costs in the event
6 that the suit is unsuccessful;

- 7 **2.** Legislation by the Idaho Legislature that would
8 require any entity bringing such lawsuits to post
9 substantial bonds based on the potential harm of
10 the lawsuit. Individuals who file complaints against
11 an agricultural operation and request an
12 investigation must pay a fee to cover administration
13 costs. Complete names, addresses and phone
14 numbers are required on each complaint;
- 15 **3.** Legislation to elect district judges when
16 appointments are made within one year of the next
17 election;
- 18 **4.** Entities from outside the jurisdiction of taxing
19 districts that file lawsuits against public entities
20 should be required to pay all legal expenses;
- 21 **5.** Legislation to amend Idaho state statutes to ensure
22 that justice and equity prevail in the awarding of
23 attorney fees;
- 24 **6.** Idaho courts using only the United States and
25 Idaho laws in the court system;
- 26 **7.** As a matter of equity, when a private party must act
27 in the place of the Attorney General to enforce and
28 protect the Idaho Constitution and statutes, the
29 Idaho Legislature must reimburse the party for all
30 reasonable attorney fees and costs if the courts fail
31 to do so; and
- 32 **8.** Requiring judges to inform jurors of the legality of
33 jury nullification.

34 **161. States' Rights and Sovereignty**

35 We support a law stating that Idaho and all
36 political subdivisions of the state are prohibited from
37 using any personnel or financial resources to
38 enforce, administer or cooperate with an executive
39 order issued by the president of the United States
40 that violates the constitutional provisions for making,
41 altering, or abolishing laws or in any other way
42 violates individual or state rights.
43

44 **162. Transportation**

45 **We support:**

- 46 **1.** Continuation of independent road districts without
47 oversight by county commissioners;
48

- 1 **2.** The Idaho Transportation Department utilizing
2 revenue sources efficiently to maintain and
3 construct Idaho roads;
- 4 **3.** The Idaho Transportation Department increasing
5 their cost saving efforts;
- 6 **4.** Increases in gross weights with axle weights non-
7 changing;
- 8 **5.** The continued use of long combination vehicles
9 (LCVs);
- 10 **6.** The Idaho Transportation Department policy of
11 issuing oversize load permits for Idaho public
12 roads;
- 13 **7.** The continued improvement of Idaho's agricultural
14 roadways;
- 15 **8.** Accountability of highway transportation
16 department's engineers for the cost over-runs
17 and/or miscalculations for wrongful designs of
18 highway projects;
- 19 **9.** Increasing permit fees on loads exceeding 200,000
20 GVW to be comparable with fees in surrounding
21 states;
- 22 **10.** The review of current Idaho Transportation
23 Department policies regarding economics of
24 maintenance versus new construction of
25 roadways;
- 26 **11.** Expenses for environmental studies and the
27 expenses required to meet the mandated
28 environmental standards being calculated and
29 tabulated on an environmental budget and not
30 included in the Highway Construction and
31 Maintenance budget;
- 32 **12.** Construction and/or improvement of a North-
33 South Highway to the Canadian border;
- 34 **13.** Port districts in Idaho that help move agricultural
35 commodities;
- 36 **14.** Access of agricultural implements of husbandry
37 and vehicles to any and all local, county and state
38 roads/highways in Idaho, and oppose the
39 imposition of any minimum speed requirements;
- 40 **15.** Alternative solutions to wildlife overpasses.
- 41 **16.** The Idaho Transportation Department allowing
42 axle weight limit violations for livestock and
43 commodity haulers to be waived as long as the
44 truck's gross weight is less than or equal to the
45 maximum weight-limit;
- 46 **17.** 129,000 GVW limits on all highways within the
47 state that can accommodate the weight;
- 48 **18.** 115 feet vehicle lengths when the highways can
49 accommodate the length;

- 1 **19.** Universal off-track standards for highways within
- 2 Idaho;
- 3 **20.** Increases in automobile liability minimums to a
- 4 level to cover reasonable medical and
- 5 replacement costs; and
- 6 **21.** Stricter penalties for drivers of vehicles without
- 7 insurance.

8 **We oppose:**

- 9 1. A tax or fee increase on fuel;
- 10 2. A tax or fee increase on vehicles; and
- 11 3. The removal of the Port of Entry system from the
- 12 Department of Transportation.

13 **163. Trespass**

14 **We support:**

- 15 1. Landowners retaining the right to refuse access
- 16 within the current law;
- 17 2. Mandatory public education regarding current
- 18 trespass laws and private property rights through
- 19 the hunter education program, the IDFG hunting
- 20 regulations and maps, and online map products. It
- 21 is the individuals' responsibility to know where they
- 22 can legally recreate; and
- 23 3. Idaho revising state law or the Idaho Constitution to
- 24 reject the open-field doctrine by making it unlawful
- 25 for any person, including any state or federal
- 26 agency representatives, to enter private property
- 27 without the permission of the owner or authorized
- 28 agent, or a warrant.

29 **164. Tribal Jurisdiction on Reservations**

30 We support the requirement that tribes and the

31 affected municipalities and counties collaborate and

32 coordinate to ensure that the best interests of the

33 tribe and the surrounding communities are served if

34 a tribe submits a retrocession resolution to the

35 governor.

36 We oppose any act by the State of Idaho to

37 return to the federal government any jurisdiction

38 acquired over Indian tribes under Federal Public

39 Law 280.

40 **165. Unfunded Mandates**

41 All new laws passed by the legislature that put

42 financial burdens on the counties or cities should be

43 funded by the state.

1 **166. Welfare Reform**

2 Believing that all people should productively
3 engage in providing for their own sustainability, we
4 support elimination of welfare in Idaho replacing it
5 with work programs.

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All members are entitled to share their opinions and are encouraged to join with their local County Farm Bureau organizations as part of this grassroots process.

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