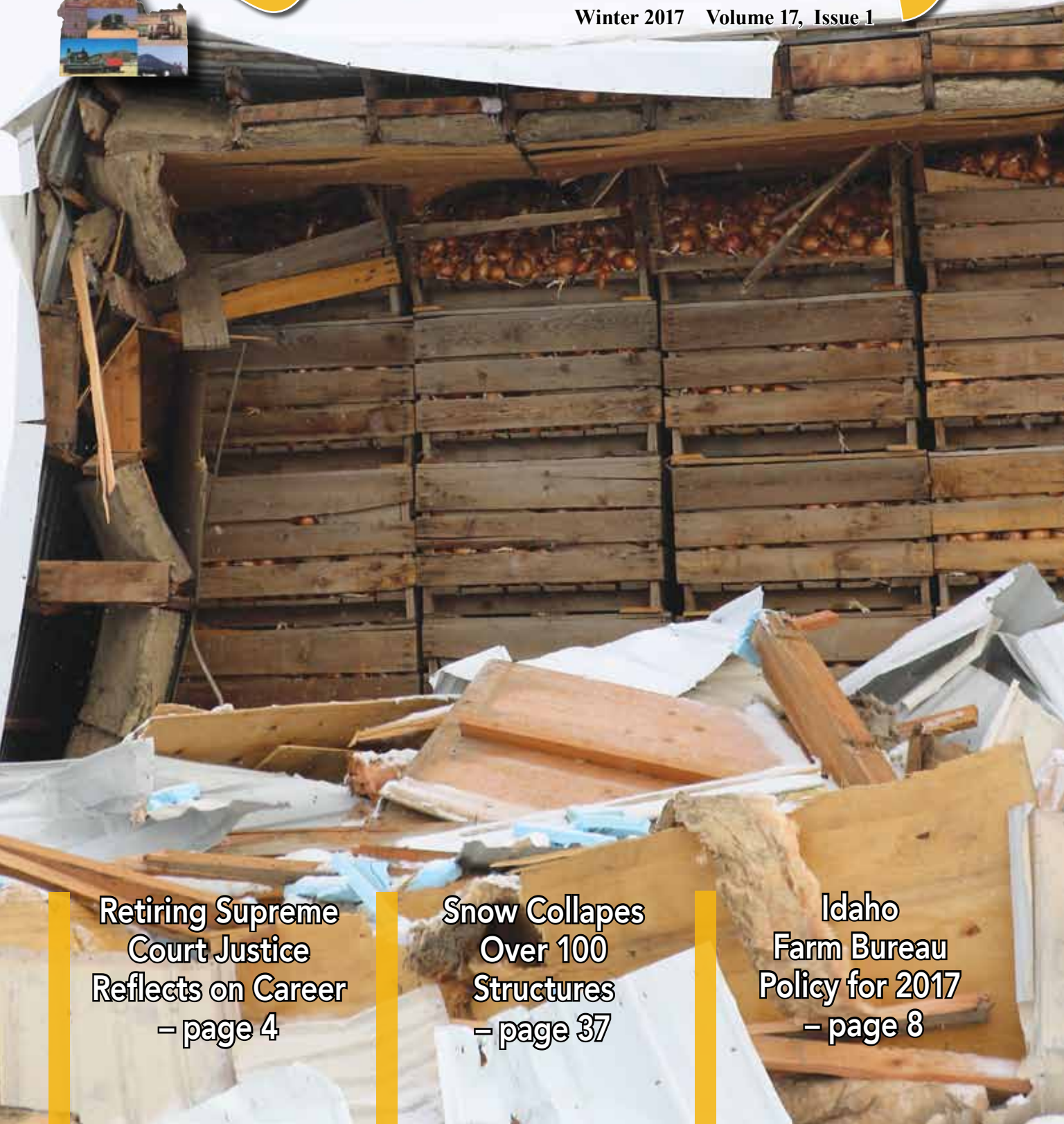


Quarterly

A PUBLICATION OF IDAHO FARM BUREAU

Winter 2017 Volume 17, Issue 1



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Beyond the Fencerows

Farmers and Ranchers Unite on Regulatory Reform

By Zippy Duvall
President American Farm
Bureau Federation



Farmers and ranchers are ready for a common-sense, bipartisan approach when it comes to federal regulations and rulemaking. It's time for agencies to work with farmers and ranchers and to consider how their regulations impact businesses and communities every day. And it's time for Congress to hold those agencies ac-

countable.

We know that regulatory reform can't be achieved with just the stroke of a pen, which is why your Farm Bureau delegates passed several resolutions to place reason and impartiality back into the federal rulemaking process. Federal agencies were created to serve the people. It's shameful when agencies try to manipulate and intimidate through social media and other marketing tactics, like we saw with EPA's Waters of the U.S. campaign.

See DUVALL, page 23

The President's Desk

The Cornerstone of Farm Bureau

By Bryan Searle
President Idaho Farm
Bureau Federation



Policy development is a long, sometimes tedious, process that when done correctly sets the proper direction for this organization.

In the following pages you will see the Idaho Farm Bureau's approved policies for the coming year. They take up 15 pages of this magazine and are among the most important pages we publish every year. Within those pages you will

find statements that have been debated and thoroughly vetted at the county, district and state levels, and then voted on and approved by a majority of the voting delegates of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation. This IFBF Policy Book defines our grassroots heritage and is where we hang our hat, so to speak.

As Idaho Farm Bureau's State President, I've now had the privilege to participate in policy development during two American Farm Bureau conventions. This was a much different experience than what I was used to at the state level.

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Inside Farm Bureau

Grandma and Farmers Know Climate Change

By Rick Keller
CEO Idaho Farm
Bureau Federation



Growing up I would hear my grandmother quote weather parables that were often precise. Quotes like: "Red sky at night, sailor's delight; red sky in morning, sailor's warning." "When dew is on the grass, rain will never come to pass." "A ring around the sun or moon, means that rain will come real soon." And, "When your joints all start to ache, rainy weather is at stake."

Farming, by its very nature, is cognizant of the weather. Even predating biblical times, farmers sought changes in weather patterns by watching cloud formations in the morning skies. In 1792, the Old Farmer's Almanac was first published and Editor Robert Thomas' observed a complex series of natural cycles to devise a secret weather forecasting formula, which brought uncannily accurate results.

Environmental organizations and some scientists contend that greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human activities are the principal

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IDAHO FARM BUREAU

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Cover: Recent snow storms laid waste to an estimated 25 percent of the onion storage facilities in the Treasure Valley region. In response, onion prices have nearly doubled.

Photo by Steve Ritter



Former Chief Justice Writes About Swan Falls Agreement

By Jake Putnam

Former Idaho Supreme Court Justice Jim Jones retired at the end of 2016. Now that he has the freedom to speak his mind that being released from the bench offers, he isn't wasting any time.

He's been vocal about global politics under a new presidency and recently published a new book about one of the biggest water right threats in Idaho history. It's an old joke that in the board room of the Idaho Power Company they say Idaho is the only state named after a power company.

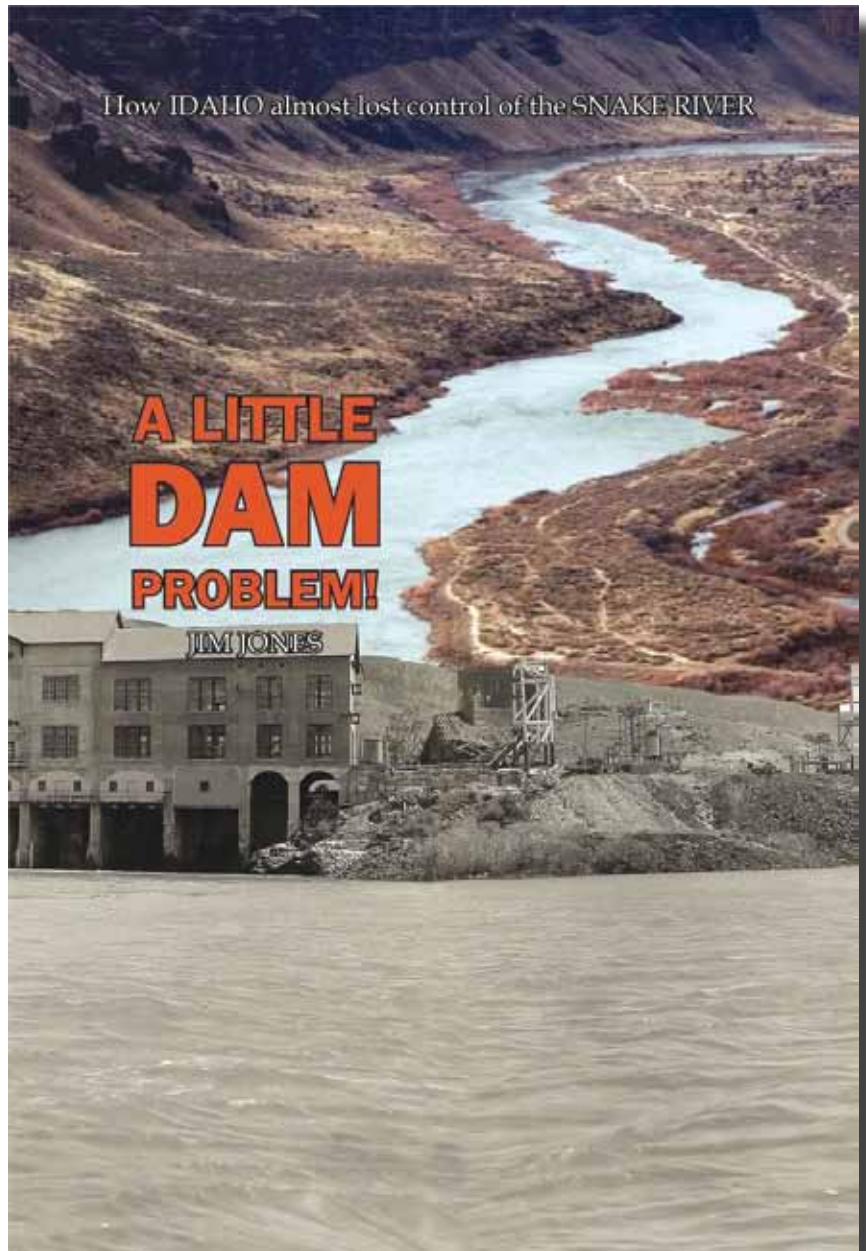
In 1982, had Jones and others not had the courage to step into Idaho Power's wheelhouse, this state would likely be a much different place today – especially from an agricultural perspective.

In November 1982, when a Supreme Court ruling nearly handed control of water in the Snake River over to the utility, Jones, who was serving as Idaho's attorney general at the time, knew something had to be done. His new book, "A Little Dam Problem: How Idaho almost lost control of the Snake River," from Caxton Press in Caldwell, shows how a bitter water fight led to new water laws that continue to protect the Snake River today.

We caught up with Jones in Boise recently and he fielded the following questions:

Question: This book opens up explaining two very important dates in Idaho water right history. What are they?

Answer: In 1952 there was a big fight over whether there should be federal power or public power. The Feds wanted to build a high dam in Hells Canyon and Idaho Power Company wanted to build three small Dams. It was important because if Idaho Power was going to move forward as a company they had to have state approval. So they worked a deal with Governor Len



Retiring Idaho Supreme Court Justice Jim Jones recently penned a new book about the Swan Falls Agreement.

Jordan that they would subordinate to support consumptive uses all the way up the Snake River in exchange for the state approving the three dam complex. That was the deal Idaho Power testified to a

number of times in Congress. They also made public statements telling the public that they were never going to impede agriculture. The deal was done.

Thirty years later you're Idaho's Attorney General and something unusual in the realm of water rights happened. What was it?

In 1982 the Idaho Supreme Court came out with a decision that indicated that water right subordination *only* applied to Hells Canyon and Swan Falls Dam was not subordinated. This didn't make sense to me. You can't manage the Snake River based on one flow at one dam from another. If the water right subordination didn't go all the way up the river then Jordan got nothing in that deal, nothing whatsoever. It became important for the state to get that Supreme Court decision undone by litigation or legislation and that's what we set about to do.

Question: Was there a fear among farmers that they could lose control of the Snake?

Answer: I don't think a lot of people understood that it could affect their water rights. If you look at priorities at Swan Falls, Idaho Power got almost all of the summer flows covered and they essentially were entitled to the full flow of the Snake. Their water rights dated back to the early 1900's. Anyone that drilled a well out in Minidoka or any part of the aquifer were bound by that. They could've made a water call cutting out groundwater pumping because pumpers would have impeded their water right. At that time, farmers would either have made a deal with the power company or shut down pumping. It didn't just affect farmers but anyone with junior upstream water rights. It was a troublesome Supreme Court decision and would've had tremendous impact if we hadn't stopped it.

Question: How did Idaho Power sell it to the public?

Answer: At the time the power company said that it didn't want to pursue that lawsuit that led to that disastrous decision in '82. Idaho Power claimed they were forced to file because Senator John Peavey and Matt Malaney and several others had filed a proceeding at the Public Utilities Commission. They claimed that Idaho Power had not protected their water rights.



Retiring Idaho Supreme Court Justice Jim Jones.

So the company said it was forced to file. Of course they said they felt bad because they'd encouraged ground water pumpers to drill and use their cheap electricity. Idaho Power fostered a friendly relationship with farmers for decades and because they'd been so welcoming, rates were kept low and everything was hunky-dory. Then all the sudden the Supreme Court changed the game. Of course Idaho Power was apologetic and said everything was all right. They said in essence that they'd keep the power rates low, just keep them in charge forever and they'd do a good job. They weren't going to cut anyone off.

Question: And all the while Idaho Power rates were the lowest in the nation? Please explain:

Answer: People started seeing through Idaho Power. They realized that if a private utility was in charge of the river instead of the State, there was no way they could get recourse if things went south. If the State's in control you can go over to the legislature and say they're not being fair. But with Idaho Power in charge of the river, they'd never have recourse. Fur-

thermore, Idaho Power could have used all the excess water to create excess power to create excess profit. That's the point we made. The power company said that if they didn't win, then power rates were going up. We argued that water rights were always subordinated and somehow rates *didn't* go up. We argued we can't hand out water rights to every Tom, Dick and Harry and not look at the impact on power.

Question: You were a young Republican Attorney General, working with a Democratic Governor (John Evans) for a water right issue against an extremely popular utility. Was that a daunting task?

Answer: I don't know if times were different back then but it was a matter of both Governor Evans and I seeing the problem. This clearly was a long term liability for the state and we still had our differences but this water right issue was a concern and so we went to work on the most critical issue facing the state at the time. We consulted on every step and we worked in tandem. There were things he could

See JIM JONES p. 31



The Idaho Department of Lands is restructuring its land holdings, selling off commercial properties in cities around the state and buying up timber and farm land with the proceeds.

Idaho Farm Bureau file photo

Land Board Restructures Portfolio

By John Thompson

The Idaho Land Board is in the process of liquidating commercial holdings and reinvesting millions of dollars in timber and farm land.

Public pressure pointed at elected members of the Idaho Land Board with regard to state government competing in the public sector brought about the creation of a Strategic Reinvestment Plan in 2015. Under that plan over the past two years the Idaho Land Board has approved the sale of several commercial properties including parking lots and office buildings in Boise, Heyburn and Idaho Falls, as well as cabin sites at Payette Lake and Priest Lake. They expect to collect in the neighborhood of \$160 million for the properties.

However, the reinvestment of that money into farm and timber land is cause for concern among Idaho residents in the business of agriculture for the same reasons as were voiced with regard to the commercial property ownership.

Idaho Farm Bureau policy 58 states “We support no net loss of private property. We urge enactment of legislation to require prior legislative approval for any state land acquisition on a parcel by parcel basis.”

However, the Land Board and Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) are between a rock and a hard place because large parcels of land were divested from the federal government to the state at the time of statehood. The Idaho Constitution outlines that those lands must be managed to maximize

long term financial return for many state agencies but mainly public schools.

The Strategic Reinvestment Plan outlines three areas where the Land Board will reinvest its money to include financial investments, timber land and farm land. IDL Deputy Director David Groeschl said as the State’s commercial real estate and cabin sites are sold the money will be deposited in the State Land Bank Fund. Since 2010, about half of the cabin sites have been sold at auction. The money can stay there for up to five years while they shop for replacement land assets or transferred to the Permanent Fund.

IDL currently owns and manages leases for 21,000 acres of endowment land that is used for farming. Groeschl said they are

not negotiating to purchase any additional farm land at this time. However, purchase of a 2,378 acre parcel near Kamiah (Maggie Butte) in Idaho County was approved by the Land Board last November. The property was purchased for \$2.5 million from Potlatch Forest Holdings. The Idaho Department of Lands currently owns and manages one million acres of forest land and 1.4 million acres of range land is leased by the State of Idaho for grazing.

A press release states the Maggie Butte purchase helps block up endowment land to make management work more efficient. "It would likely be harvestable in as early as five years on existing mature stands and within approximately 20-40 years on established plantations and naturally regenerated stands," the press release states. "The return on investment exceeds the minimum return of 3.5 percent required by the Land Board's Strategic Reinvestment Plan."

"This is the first substantial timber acquisition since the Land Bank Fund was established by Constitution in 2001," said IDL Director Tom Schultz. "It not only blocks

up endowment lands making management easier, it also provides a rate return for the beneficiary that easily exceeds our minimum return requirement and strengthens our overall timber portfolio. This purchase is indicative of the type of acquisitions we will be making under strategic investment."

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is another state agency with large land holdings. The agency currently manages about 370,000 acres mainly made up of Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) and over 330 fishing and hunting access sites.

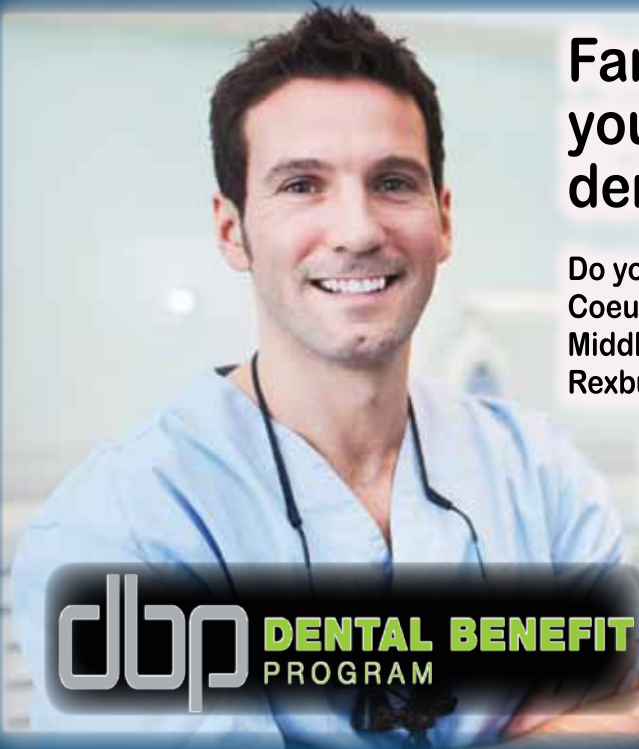
The WMA's range in size from 89,000 acres to 275 acres. Fish and Game Wildlife Program Coordinator Gregg Servheen said the Idaho Fish and Game Commission oversees all land transactions and has a policy in place that regards property acquisition as an appropriate strategy to protect critical wildlife habitat.

"We have an acquisition policy directed by the Commission to identify projects and categorize and rank them," Servheen said. "We bring them to the Commission in executive session and we then proceed with

whatever the project may be. Acquisition is recognized as an effective strategy, where appropriate, to meet our goals."

In the last year Fish and Game has made a few small land transactions. They joined in a conservation easement with IDL in Bonner County on a Stimson Timber Company parcel, traded a 40-acre parcel on Craig Mountain near Lewiston, and purchased about 290 acres of wetland along the Coeur D' Alene River in Kootenai County. F & G also picked up about seven acres in Payette County, 27 acres in Bear Lake County, traded 29 acres for a fishing access point on Silver Creek in Blaine County and sold an 18.5 acre hatchery property in Fremont County.

F & G Spokesman Mike Keckler said the agency pays about \$200,000 per year to county governments around the state as payment in lieu of taxes. The Idaho Department of Lands does not make similar payments as their lands belong to endowment beneficiaries, primarily public education, and the money earned from the lands goes to those beneficiaries.



Farm Bureau members, do you pay out-of-pocket for dental work?

Do you live in or near Arco, Boise, Caldwell, Eagle, Coeur D'Alene, Idaho Falls, Kuna, Malad, Meridian, Middleton, Mountain Home, Nampa, Pocatello, Rexburg, Rigby, or Star?

Go to www.idahofbstore.com to learn more about contracted dental rates.

THIS IS NOT INSURANCE.

There is no cost or monthly premium for Farm Bureau members to participate. These dentists have contractually agreed to specific pricing on many dental procedures. See website for full information.

dbp DENTAL BENEFIT PROGRAM

IFBF Policy for 2017

The following policy statements were developed over the past 77 years by Idaho Farm Bureau volunteer members. Every year Idaho Farm Bureau volunteers meet to discuss, amend, delete and create the policy statements that guide the organization. The process takes place in the county and district levels throughout the calendar year. Then in early December the entire organization meets to update the policy book. This year delegates from 36 county Farm Bureaus met in early December. The policy comes from our grassroots members and is then used to guide the organization's lobbying, public relations and membership efforts throughout the year.

BASIC PRINCIPLES

Purpose of Farm Bureau

Farm Bureau is a free, independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization governed by and representing farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity, environmental awareness and social advancement, and thereby, to promote 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 in character.

Farm Bureau Beliefs and Philosophy

America's unparalleled progress is based on 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 the central issue in all societies.

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

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

We oppose abortion. In the event that the mother's life is in danger, we support all measures aimed directly at saving the life of the mother.

We oppose euthanasia (intentionally ending a life) and physician-assisted suicide.

We believe that since the beginning of time, man's ability to provide food, fiber, and fuel for himself and his dependents has determined his independence, freedom and security.

We believe that a strong and viable agricultural industry is one of the most important cornerstones in the foundation of our national security, and the importance of that role in society must never be taken for granted. Economic progress, cultural advancement, ethical and religious principles flourish best where men are free, responsible individuals. The exercise of free will, rather than force, is consistent with the maintenance of liberty. Individual freedom and opportunity must not be sacrificed in a quest for guaranteed "security".

We believe that America's system of private ownership of property and the means of production has been, and is, one of the major foundation stones of our republic. This element of our economic system and the personal rights attendant to private property, including grazing and water rights, must be maintained and protected.

Ownership of property and property rights are among the human rights essential to the preservation of individual freedom. The right to own property must be preserved at all costs.

We will take every opportunity to publicize, defend and promote our position, and we will stand firm on basic constitutional rights.

We believe in government by law, impartially administered, and without special privilege.

We support agricultural programs and organizations that give equal opportunity for developing skills, knowledge and leadership ability.

We believe in the representative form of government; a republic as provided in our Constitution; in limitations upon government power; in maintenance of equal opportunity; in the right of each individual to worship as he chooses; in separation of church and state as set forth in the First Amendment to the Constitution; and in freedom of speech, press, and peaceful assembly.

The U.S. Supreme Court imposed one man one vote rule should be overturned and return the United States to the republican form of government that was envisioned by the framers of the Constitution. Individuals have a moral responsibility to help preserve freedom for future generations by participating in public affairs and by helping to elect candidates who share their fundamental beliefs and principles.

We oppose the use of public funds for financing political campaigns. People have the right and the responsibility to speak for themselves individually or through organizations of their choice without coercion or government intervention.

We believe in the right of every man to choose his own occupation; to be rewarded according to his contribution to society and to save, invest, spend, or convey his earnings to his heirs. These rights are accompanied by the responsibility that each man has to meet the

financial obligations he has incurred.

We support a society free of drug abuse.

We support English as the official language of Idaho and the United States.

We support English as the language that students should learn and use in public schools.

We support that public schools start the day with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Constitution

Stable and honest government with prescribed and limited powers is essential to freedom and progress. The Constitution of the United States was well designed to secure individual liberty by a division of federal authority among the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches. The Tenth Amendment assures that liberties are further secured for the states and the people through the retention of those powers not specifically delegated to the federal government. The constitutional prerogatives of each branch of government should be preserved from encroachment.

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. One of the greatest dangers threatening our republic and system of private, competitive enterprise is the socialization of America through the centralization of power and authority in the federal government. The centralization of power and responsibility in the federal government violates constitutional purposes. It has usurped state sovereignty and individual freedom and should be reversed.

In defense of our Constitution, and of the sovereignty of the U.S.A., we oppose the centralization of power worldwide into one world government.

States' 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 allowed by Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 of 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 religious principles, moral, ethical and traditional family values should get equal support and consideration in the public schools as do the atheistic and humanistic views.

We support the right to have religious beliefs and symbols of those beliefs presented in our communities.

We vigorously support retention of:

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";
4. The phrase "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Capitalism-Private Competitive Enterprise

We believe in the American capitalistic, private, competitive enterprise system in which property is privately owned, privately managed, operated for profit, individual satisfaction and responsible stewardship. We believe in a competitive business environment in which supply and demand are the primary determinants of market prices, the use of productive resources, and the distribution of output.

We support the continuing freedom of the people of Idaho to manage, develop, harvest and market the useful products of our natural resources.

We believe in man's right to search and research to select the best ways of maintaining quality production of food and fiber.

We believe every individual in Idaho should have the right to a job without being forced to join or pay dues to any organization.

Government operation of commercial business in competition with private enterprise should be terminated.

We also believe that no element of society has more concern for, understanding of, or a greater stake in, the proper husbandry of poultry, livestock, fur-bearers, game animals and aquaculture than the producer.

Economy in Government

We consider the proliferation of government with its ever increasing cost to the taxpayer a major problem.

State expenditures and growth of personnel on the public payroll should not be allowed to expand faster than the population and should be compatible with the percentage of economic growth of the state.

We believe that Article 8, Section 1, "Limitation of Public Indebtedness" of the state Constitution is the main reason for the healthy financial condition of Idaho's government. We will oppose any attempt to amend this section of the Constitution.

Tax exemptions granted by the state Legislature that reduce county income should at the same time require appropriation of sufficient funds to replace county revenue losses caused by such exemptions.

We support economy at all levels of government.

Education

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

We believe education starts with the parent or guardian and is extended to the schools as a cooperative partnership in which parents and guardians have the right to review any and all methods and materials used in the educational processes of school systems.

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

We believe local school boards must be elected by the people to maintain control of public school systems and must have authority to establish policy for dress standards, personal conduct standards, testing standards, fiscal controls and curriculum.

We believe all school systems must be accountable to provide opportunities for all students to obtain proficiency in the basics of reading, writing and mathematics. Parents and guardians must be kept informed by the school system of the educational progress of their children.

We believe parents and guardians have an inherent right and obligation to discipline their own children.

Political Parties

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

We recommend that Farm Bureau members support the political party of their choice.

We believe that government should in no way be involved directly in the political process but should lay down certain rules to assure fair and proper elections.

We strongly favor retaining the county central political committees composed of county precinct committee people and their existing functions within the party structure.

We are opposed to shifting the functions of county committee to a district committee.

COMMODITIES

(1) Agrichemicals/Pesticides

We oppose establishment of zones of agricultural land in which any kind of legal application or storage of agricultural chemicals is curtailed without sound, scientifically validated evidence to warrant curtailment.

We support increased research and labeling for minor-use pesticide registrations.

We recommend that compliance with federally approved label instructions should absolve farmers or commercial applicators from liability claims of environmental pollution.

We support the continued use of approved pesticides and/or related products until conclusive scientific evidence proves there is an unacceptable risk.

We oppose fumigant buffer zone limitations proposed by the EPA without research giving substantial evidence that current practices are negatively affecting bystanders. 38

(2) Commodity Commissioners

We support commodity commissions that collect more than \$5,000,000 annually have a board elected by the growers.

(3) Commodity Diseases

We urge the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to do all within its power to prohibit the importation of Anthrax virus into Idaho.

We support the quarantine of all sources of the potato wart virus.

We support active research and the dissemination of information to all interested parties related to rhizomania and urge that any imposed restrictions be based on scientific data.

We support any phytosanitary action taken by the Idaho Department of Agriculture to protect the Idaho potato industry from the threat of the "Pratylenchus Neglectus" nematode.

We support the re-write of the Idaho Plant Pest Act to include language to protect growers from being subject to unnecessary search and seizure without probable cause and advanced warning to enter a premises.

We support a federal and state PCN (Pale Cyst Nematode) program that is based on good science, stakeholder participation, and minimal impact to grower operations. 19

(4) Commodity Promotion

We support the organization of commodity commissions for promotion and research purposes of any commodity.

We support compulsory deduction of funds if producers can establish the commodity commission through referendum, with assessments being established or increased by a majority vote of the producers, or if producers can easily obtain refunds of their assessments.

We support a periodic referendum if assessment is made mandatory.

We support the exclusion of crops and livestock from compulsory deductions to commodity commissions

when producers or growers come under regulation from quarantinable pests or diseases.

(5) Commodity Sales

We support 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.

We support changes to crop insurance that truly reflect a safety net.

We oppose double discounts by grain dealers.

We support licensing and bonding of all commodity brokers by the State of Idaho.

We support 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.

(6) Commodity Testing Equipment

Commodity buyers' moisture meters and other commodity testing equipment for the purpose of grading should be certified for accuracy by the ISDA Bureau of Weights and Measures.

(7) 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.

(8) Fair Trade

We support strict adherence to bilateral and multilateral trade agreements to which the United States is a party to prevent unfair practices by competing nations and to assure unrestricted access to domestic and world markets. All trade agreements should be continuously monitored and enforced to ensure they result in fair trade.

(9) 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.

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

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

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

(10) Food Safety/Government Accountability

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

(11) Forage/Soil Sample Testing

We recommend that action be taken to set uniform guidelines for all testing labs in the analysis of forage and soil samples, with the Idaho Department of Agriculture to administer them.

(12) Hay Certification

We support a uniform state noxious weed free hay certification program.

(13) Industrial Grade Hemp

We support legalizing the production of industrial grade hemp with 0.3% THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol), or less in Idaho, and to authorize the University of Idaho and the Idaho Department of Agriculture to conduct research and pilot programs to determine suitable varieties to meet market demand.

We support the requirement that growers of industrial grade hemp register their fields with the appropriate regulatory or enforcement agency.

(14) Lien Law

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

Delivered feed shall not be encumbered by a blanket lien from a financial institution until the grower/supplier is paid in full.

(15) Potato Seed Management

We support a potato seed management program that encourages the use of certified seed potatoes in seed and commercial production for the control of diseases and pests.

LIVESTOCK

(16) Animal Care

We support the rights of owners and producers to raise their animals in accordance with commonly accepted animal husbandry practices.

We oppose any legislation, regulatory action or funding, whether private or public, that interferes with commonly accepted animal husbandry practices.

We oppose legislation that would give animal rights organizations the right to establish standards for the raising, marketing, handling, feeding, housing or transportation of livestock and production animals and any legislation that would pay bounties to complainants.

We oppose any livestock and production animal care legislation that would impose a stricter penalty than the

2016 law.

We support fines and/or reimbursement for animal research lost and all costs and damage incurred, when farms or research facilities are willfully damaged. Responsible persons or organizations should pay all costs.

We further support the role of a licensed veterinarian in the care of animals and support current licensing standards for veterinarians.

We support the Idaho Veterinary Practice Act and oppose any efforts to weaken it or the licensing standards.

We oppose the creation of an Idaho livestock care standards board.

We oppose requiring a licensed veterinarian for docking, dehorning and castration.

(17) Animal ID

We support procedures and or equipment for an animal ID program that makes it possible to trace an animal back to its original location.

We support the right of the owner to choose among the acceptable methods of identification and to leave their animals unidentified prior to movement from the premises of origin.

We support having the Idaho State Department of Agriculture determine acceptable methods of identification, including hot or cold brands, for the state.

(18) Bovine Tuberculosis

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

(19) Brucellosis

We oppose all efforts to eliminate the mandatory vaccination law and require its complete enforcement.

We insist that the National Park Service eradicate brucellosis in Yellowstone and Grand Teton Parks.

We support regulations requiring the appropriate state and federal agencies to control and eradicate this disease in wildlife.

We oppose separating the state into zones for definition of brucellosis-free status.

We oppose the establishment of any herds of free roaming buffalo outside of Yellowstone National Park.

(20) CAFO Regulations

We support efforts by all livestock associations to create MOUs with the appropriate state and federal agencies.

Matters pertaining to CAFO regulation other than siting should be under the jurisdiction of the state.

(21) Cattle Liens

Liens should not be attached to livestock until owner-

ship can be proven and verified.

(22) Data Confidentiality

We support the confidentiality of data collected on farms and feedlots. Only final reports or conclusions should be made a matter of public record. No data collected from individual operations should be made public.

(23) Domestic Cervidae

We support the right of domestic cervidae owners to use private trophy ranches as a means to ethically harvest their animals.

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

(24) Equine

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

We support construction of new slaughtering facilities and/or use of existing processing facilities in Idaho to slaughter equines without duress.

We support the right of individuals and non-governmental organizations to save horses from slaughter as long as they take possession of the horses and are responsible for their care and feeding.

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

When an equine is in the custody of a government agency and an adoption has not been able to take place within 6 months, that equine should be harvested or euthanized with minimal stress and without delay.

We support funding for USDA food service inspectors in facilities that harvest horses.

(25) Federal Inspectors of Small Meat Processing Plants

We support federal meat inspectors being made available to small meat processors.

(26) Foot and Mouth/BSE Disease

We support stringent controls to protect Idaho's livestock industry from foot and mouth disease and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). In addition, the United States must impose restrictions on importation of animals and animal products that could carry other contagious infectious diseases.

We oppose importation of live cattle over 30 months of age until sound science proves this does not threaten to spread BSE to the United States.

We oppose any announcement to the media of BSE suspects in the United State until the final scientific determination is made whether they are positive or negative.

We support allowing entities to voluntarily test all slaughtered animals for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in order to ship products to countries that require individual tests.

(27) Foot Rot in Sheep

We support a continued stringent foot rot control program for sheep in Idaho.

(28) Law Enforcement Training

We support law enforcement officers being trained in proper livestock herding techniques and how to properly euthanize livestock as part of the Idaho Peace Officers Standardized Training.

(29) Livestock Brands

We support the concept that livestock may be left unbranded at the discretion of the owner except for those livestock grazing on federal/state managed lands.

We support research into alternative methods of permanent livestock identification and ask that the Brand Department be authorized to recognize these methods.

(30) Livestock Theft

We support a mandatory prison term, fine, and restitution as a minimum sentence for a felony livestock theft conviction.

(31) Manure Management

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

We oppose manure being classified as industrial, solid, or hazardous waste or as raw sewage.

We encourage research on manure management including such areas as odor reduction and waste and nutrient management.

We encourage programs that educate livestock operators on techniques regarding properly managed organic nutrient systems, especially if implemented with consistent Best Management Practices (BMPs) developed by extension, university and the livestock industry.

We support the Idaho State Department of Agriculture allowing certification of third-party soil sampling for nutrient management plan compliance purposes.

We support changes to the Dairy Environmental Control Act so it applies only to dairy livestock and not other livestock.

(32) State Veterinarian

We believe the Animal Health Division of the Idaho Department of Agriculture should be administered by a licensed veterinarian.

WATER

(33) Aquifer Recharge

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

(34) Artesian Wells

We support the current law regarding artesian wells, if adequate funding for the cost-sharing of well repairs is provided.

We oppose the designation of the heat value from a geothermal source as being the only beneficial use.

(35) Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs

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

(36) Cloud Seeding

We support the application of cloud seeding and we encourage continued investment in the application and research of cloud seeding.

We encourage the Idaho Legislature and the Idaho Department of Water Resources to study and allocate funding for cloud seeding efforts that are proving beneficial to increasing precipitation.

(37) Comprehensive State Water Plan

We urge the Governor to appoint Water Resource Board members who will be protective of the waters of the State of Idaho.

We oppose all minimum stream flows unless sufficient storage is built to supply priority needs first.

We support requiring legislative approval before establishing minimum stream flow, instream flow, reconnect permits, river basin plans and state water plans.

We support 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."

We support a mandatory requirement for legislative approval of agreements made by state agencies with federal agencies when dealing with commitments on water.

We support the Swan Falls Agreement as originally written in October of 1984.

(38) Dams

We support legislation that would focus the attention of the Northwest Power Planning Council's authority on planning, to provide for present and future power needs of northwest power states and away from other secondary issues.

We support the construction, improvement and increased size of storage facilities that provide beneficial multiple uses of Idaho's water, and encourage municipalities, federal agencies and tribal agencies to advocate and fund additional storage to help meet their increasing demands for water, thus avoiding the need to take irrigation water from agriculture.

We support 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.

We support construction of the Galloway Dam on the Weiser River.

(39) Effluent Trading

We support the concept of effluent trading.

(40) Flood Control

We recommend that steps, including additional storage facilities, increased recharge and land transfers from federal to state ownership, be taken to control future flooding within the state of Idaho.

We support Idaho water law that denies flood control releases as being considered a beneficial use.

(41) Moratorium

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

(42) Outstanding Resource Waters

We support the Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs) and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) process, recognizing that Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs) are part of this process.

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

(43) State Purchase of Water Rights for Mitigation

We support having the State of Idaho purchase water rights for mitigation purposes to be held by the State Water Board, so water trade may benefit recharge and pump conversions.

(44) Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

We support mandating Idaho's Department of Environmental Quality to conduct an Economic Impact Analysis of an area's businesses (including the agribusiness and agricultural operations of that area) before initiating a TMDL process for that geographic area. The analysis shall be provided to the Watershed Advisory Group before consideration is given to develop and implement a TMDL. A copy of the analysis shall also be provided to the germane committees of the Idaho Legislature.

(45) Transfer of Water Rights

We oppose the transfer of water rights to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).

We oppose the taking of water for fish flushing. Water held by the Idaho Water Resources Board will be held and used for purposes intended and in accordance with state law.

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

We oppose out-of-basin transfers of irrigation water

from lands enrolled in the federal cropland set-aside program for use on lands that have not historically been used for agricultural development.

We oppose the continued use of the 427,000 acre feet of water for flow augmentation.

(46) Waste Management

We oppose mandatory facility construction without scientific proof of environmental pollution on an individual basis.

(47) Water Development on New Non-Ag Development

We support legislation that would require developers to supply water and water-delivery systems using existing water rights or gray water to new developments.

(48) Water Quality

We support the continued management of water quality, both underground and surface, by utilizing "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) as contained in USDA's "Natural Resource Conservation Services Field Office Technical Guide" and Idaho's "Forest Practices Act". Changes in these BMPs should be based only on scientifically monitored data rather than "best professional judgment".

We support the development of BMPs for recreational uses.

We oppose the Forest Practices Act Streamside Retention Rule (Shade Rule) unless accompanied by fair market appraised value compensation to landowners for loss of property rights.

We support the efforts of canal and irrigation districts to halt unwanted drainage into their water systems.

The EPA should not have the authority to arbitrarily impose penalties on landowners without first identifying the problem and giving the landowner an opportunity to correct the problem. If there is a difference of opinion concerning the extent of the problem, a reasonable and cost-effective appeal process of the EPA decision should be available to the landowner.

We oppose the deletion of the word "navigable" from the Clean Water Act.

We oppose levying fees associated with State NPDES program implementation, operation and permit issuance on agriculture and aquaculture producers.

(49) Water Quality Standards

Water quality standards must be site specific and realistically achievable for each water body. These standards must at least partially support designated beneficial uses.

(50) Water Rights

We support 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.

We support 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.

We support sanctions upon any party making frivolous claims against water right applications.

Frivolous claims are not reasonably grounded in fact or law causing unnecessary delay, increased cost, or harassment.

We are opposed to the Water Resources Board accepting any further applications for water rights on surface stream water of the state that has been over decreed and adjudicated. Adequate water for domestic and agricultural purposes should have priority over other uses when the waters of any natural stream are insufficient, as per Article 15, Section 3 of the Idaho Constitution.

Permittees on federal land must be recognized and acknowledged as the owners of stock water rights in their allotments as their livestock provide beneficial use under state law. We therefore support codifying the Idaho Supreme Court Joyce / LU decision.

Minimum stream flows should not jeopardize water rights and should be financed by the benefit recipients.

We favor the continued wise development of all Idaho's rivers and their tributaries as working rivers.

We support first in time, first in right, and state control of water issues within appropriate Idaho agencies without federal regulatory or legislative intervention.

We support the privatization of Idaho irrigation canal systems.

We support the protection of canal and drain ditch easements from arbitrarily being taken over by cities, counties, states, federal or private developers or private landowners and developed into green belts or bike paths.

We support the concept of conjunctive-use management when scientific evidence is available to support such management.

We support 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.

We oppose changing the historical beneficial use of water rights when that change will have a negative impact on other water right holders.

We oppose the federal government changing the historic priorities and uses of water storage reservoirs.

We oppose any diminishment of storage fill rights due to flood control or other discharge prior to season use including efforts by any entity that would count flood

control releases against the storage rights of water right holders.

We oppose any federal agencies' use of priority dates, in regard to water rights, that are not in accordance with Idaho Water Law.

We oppose the adoption of source water protection plans/ordinances by local government that create land use policies prohibiting generally accepted farming and animal agriculture practices/ activities.

We oppose Indian tribes requiring/requesting water right encroachment permits on state waters.

(51) Water Spreading

We support voluntary conservation of water use by updating irrigation systems. Increases in irrigated acres (water spread acres) due to redesigning or remodeling irrigation systems or development of areas within a recorded water right, should not be excluded from irrigation. Conservation should not adversely affect the full use of an irrigation water right.

(52) Water Use - International Water Agreements

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

LAND USE

(53) Conservation Reserve Program – Grazing

We support managed grazing every three years or other mid-management tools of CRP acres to enhance the health of vegetation at the discretion of local committees.

We support the separation of haying and grazing on CRP acres and the use of both as separate management tools.

(54) Experimental Stewardship Program

We support and encourage the continuation and expansion of the Experimental Stewardship Program and Coordinated Resource Management Program, (CRMP) as long as producer control is maintained in all decisions concerning range management.

(55) Government Land Transactions

We support no net loss of private property.

We urge enactment of legislation to require prior legislative approval for any state land acquisition on a parcel-by-parcel basis.

We support prohibiting the sale of state land to the federal government or agencies of the federal government, except for the purpose of building federal facilities or structures.

When federal land is sold, traded, or exchanged, all holders of grazing preference must be fairly compensated. When land is to be sold, the current grazing permit holder must have the first right of refusal. If there is no permit holder, the adjacent landowner should be given the first right of refusal based on appraised

value.

We oppose any land exchanges involving publicly owned land unless there is strong local support.

When any entity acquires property from the federal government, that entity should be required to compensate grazing preference holders on the former federally administered lands for the loss of their property rights if that entity does not continue to maintain and protect those rights.

We support the enactment of legislation to ensure that none of the valid existing private rights are lost in any land exchange between Idaho and the federal government or in the transfer of federal lands to Idaho.

(56) Government-Managed Lands

We support multiple-use management of federal and state lands with due regard for the traditional rights of use.

We urge county governments to have a land-use management plan with which both state and federal agencies would coordinate in order to protect the land within their tax base.

We urge the legislature and the governor to assert their authority and take all necessary measures to protect the citizens and counties of the state of Idaho from federal agency overreach.

We support the equal-footing doctrine and insist on the passage of legislation to establish a deadline for complete transfer of public land back to state jurisdiction and management.

We support the Idaho Legislature joining with other states of the West, in an interstate compact, with respect to the transfer of public lands.

Holders of grazing permits or leases should not be penalized or removed from allotments because of administrative errors or omissions of the land-managing agency.

On state and federal government grazing permits and/or lease rules, the word "grazing" needs to be further defined as livestock consumption of forage and brush for livestock production with benefits of weed and fire control.

We support grazing contracts on non-grazed public lands to reduce excess fuel that contributes to range or forest fires.

We support the timely salvage of trees in burn areas within our state.

We support legislation that would promote harvest of trees and forage on federal and state land to help prevent and control wildfire.

We encourage the release of federal, state and local government held lands for development or private use.

(57) Grazing Fees

We support the current state grazing fee formula and the PRIA formula concept.

(58) Grazing Permit Transfer

We oppose the U.S. Forest Service ruling that will prevent transferring grazing permits for 25 head or less.

(59) Idaho Forest Practices Act

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

(60) Idaho Grazing Land Conservation Initiative (GLCI)

We support the Idaho Grazing Land Conservation Initiative.

(61) Landfills on BLM Lands

We encourage the development of new, as well as the continued use of, county landfills on BLM lands.

(62) Local, State or National Land Designation

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

(63) Mineral Rights

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

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

(64) Mining

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

(65) Notification of Property Damage

We support notification to land owners when fences or property sustain damage due to accidents.

(66) Open Range

We oppose any changes to Idaho open range and fence laws.

(67) Pest Control

We support enforcement of current laws to give counties authority to spray and control insect infestations on private land, with the cost of the spraying to be assessed to the current tax base of the present owner of the land.

We support any safe and effective methods of mosquito control and the ISDA grasshopper control program, as long as private property rights are respected,

and the landowner whose property is to be treated is notified and allowed the opportunity to exclude any areas that will negatively affect the commodity being produced.

We support legislation that requires state and federal governments to manage their lands and control their noxious weeds and pests so that no harm is done to adjoining lands, crops and animals.

(68) Protecting Farm Land

We ask all units of government to give high priority to the protection of farm land and/or grazing land when considering other uses of such lands for public purposes. There should be no governmental taking of private property rights by restriction of use without just and due compensation.

We support the federal and state "takings" law in support of the U.S. Constitution, Article V.

We oppose any infringement of private property rights caused by regulation of rivers and dams for endangered species.

We oppose infringement on private property rights caused by highway districts and transportation departments.

(69) Range Management Plans

We believe that range management plans developed by the Idaho Department of Lands, BLM or U.S. Forest Service should be based on current factual information. If any plan is proposed without current information, we will join with others to persuade BLM and U.S. Forest Service or Idaho Department of Lands to revert to the pre-existing plan until current factual data is obtained.

We support voluntary forage monitoring and oppose mandatory forage monitoring by livestock permittees on federal lands as proposed by the Federal Land Management Policy Act.

We support the development of a certification process recognized by the Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, and U.S. Forest Service which would allow grazing permit holders to submit monitoring data that must be recognized and considered in the development and creation of range management plans.

(70) Rangeland Resource Commission

We support the Rangeland Resource Commission and the fees assessed.

(71) Regulation of Agricultural Practices

We recognize and support long-standing sound agricultural practices such as field burning, including grass seed, straw, residue burning, timber slash burning and animal-waste disposal, cultivation and harvest practices.

We support farmer participation in voluntary airshed quality programs.

We oppose any legislation or regulations that would segregate any agricultural industry, agricultural crop,

cropping practice or geographical area and would impose a higher air quality, water quality or environmental standard than is required of any other person, entity, industry or geographical area within the state.

We oppose air quality standards that are more strict than the current standards under the CRB (Crop Residue Burning) program.

We oppose regulations on agricultural practices that are not validated by sound peer reviewed scientific process and supported by scientific fact.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture should not have the authority to impose sanctions on livestock operators without first identifying specific problems and giving the operators an opportunity to correct said problems.

We oppose mandatory registration or licensing of farms and ranches.

We support the farmer's right to farm by being able to carry on sound farming and forestry practices and to be free from environmental regulations that are not proportionately beneficial to the implementation cost.

We support access of agricultural implements of husbandry and vehicles to any and all local, county and state roads/ highways in Idaho and oppose the imposition of any minimum speed requirements.

(72) Right to Farm

We support the right-to-farm law, and the concept behind it, and encourage legislative changes to strengthen the law so it can be enforced at the local governmental levels through conditional use permits or other permitting processes.

We support local, state, and federal agriculture exemptions from dust rules.

(73) Riparian Management

Proper multiple-use management of riparian areas is essential.

We believe these 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 believe these areas should be properly used but not abused. However, management of the entire allotment should not be governed by forage utilization of riparian areas.

We support the concept that all existing roads along Class 2 streams be given grandfather rights approval.

(74) Sheep Grazing

We believe that sheep grazing is a valuable use of Idaho forage and resist attempts to terminate grazing permits and/or move domestic sheep because of their proximity to bighorn sheep.

We support the Best Management Practice concept for

dealing with this issue.

(75) State and County Noxious Weed Control

We support stronger enforcement of Idaho's noxious weed law by the state and counties, together with appropriate use of special management-zone provisions.

We urge that Idaho Transportation Department weed control policies, at both the state and district levels, be changed to require that the ITD be in compliance with the Idaho noxious weed law each year, by controlling all infestations each year in a timely and effective manner and by controlling noxious weeds on the full width of all rights of way.

We urge the Idaho State Department of Agriculture to require timely and effective noxious weed control by all railroads on their rights of way within the state.

We urge that state and county authorities direct more emphasis to rights of way.

We request that the Idaho Department of Agriculture add dog rose (*Rosa canina*) and sweet briar (*Rosa eglanteria*) to the Idaho noxious weed list.

(76) 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.

(77) Timber Trespass

We support legislation that would award delivered log values to landowners with no deduction for logging for incidental timber trespass. Additional penalties would be established for intentional trespass.

(78) Wilderness and Restrictive Zones

We oppose all dedication of land in Idaho for wilderness and roadless areas and support the release of lands currently held in Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) back to multiple-use management. All lands designated as non-suitable for wilderness must be immediately released from WSA status.

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

We oppose designation of lands in Idaho as biosphere reserves, corridors or buffer zones, using the Lands Legacy Initiative, the Antiquities Act and the National Monument Declarations by the executive branch of the government.

We support adding adequate fire breaks in existing wilderness areas.

We oppose any expansion of the boundaries of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA).

We oppose any reinterpretation of the mandates of the SNRA which would impose further use restrictions.

We oppose the reduction or curtailment of any grazing or farming activity for the creation or recognition of wildlife corridors.

(79) Wildfire Control

We recommend changing fire-control policy to put out any fire upon arrival or as soon as safely possible.

Local landowners must be allowed to protect private property. Local entities (such as counties, fire districts, and forest or rangeland protective associations) and private landowners and individuals need to be allowed to act as first responders. When the protection of the health, safety, and property of the citizens are in jeopardy, the local protective associations must be allowed to act beyond the first response and initial attack phase of a fire.

We support changing state and federal wildfire policy to require that state and federal fire managers and incident commanders coordinate with county and local fire departments and landowners.

We support a provision that state and federal agencies will allow forest or rangeland protective associations in neighboring states, that meet the requirements of their home state, to enter into mutual aid agreements with forest and rangeland protective associations across state lines.

We support an increase in management activities, such as thinning and grazing, to achieve federal agency goals of reducing the potential for catastrophic wildfires.

We support a provision that state and federal agencies maintain a fire break strategically located to protect private property and to control large wild fires.

We oppose landowners being held accountable for fire suppression costs except in cases of gross negligence.

In order to protect our water basins and watersheds, we support an aggressive initial attack and suppression on all forest and rangeland wildfires on public land and firefighting suppression activities in addition to fire management.

FISH AND WILDLIFE

(80) Animal Damage Control

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

(81) Animal Threat and Public Safety

It shall be the responsibility of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and any state agencies, that manage predatory or proven problem animals, to notify all residences within a 5-mile radius using a 911 reverse calling system of potential conflict in their area.

(82) Emergency Feeding of Wild Game

We oppose feeding big-game animals except in emergency situations defined by criteria such as snow depth, temperature, wind chill, and available forage.

All money collected by Fish and Game for the emergency feeding of wild game should be used only for feed and feeding, fencing for hay stack protection, and control of predators that are displacing big game animals and preying on them.

(83) Endangered Species Act

We oppose any effort to create a State Endangered Species Act (ESA).

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

We support a revision of the ESA to include a more thorough consideration of agricultural, mining, logging and tree farming in such a manner that these activities will be sustained and made part of any recovery plan. Recovery of threatened or endangered (T/E) species should not receive higher priority than human uses or rights.

We believe basic requirements of human life have priority over protection of other species, including T/E species. A thorough consideration of all potential adverse impacts to human economic and social welfare should be an integral part of any consideration to list any T/E species.

A species cannot be listed before its critical habitat is identified within its scientifically established historical range. Habitat site specific assessments and recovery plans must include comprehensive appreciation and inclusion of the protection of private property rights.

No critical-habitat designation should be allowed until it has been established beyond scientific doubt that the species in question is actually present and that endangered or threatened status is actually warranted. The data to satisfy the scientific criteria should meet the guidelines of the Data Quality Act under federal statutes sections 3504(d)(1) and 3516 of title 44, United States Code. The agency, organization or individual requesting the critical-habitat designation must bear the cost of proving presence of the species and this must be done through the use of the best available peer reviewed science.

We oppose road closures and restrictions imposed on land and water in the name of critical habitat.

Anadromous hatchery fish and wild fish should be treated equally under the ESA. Hatchery fish should be counted toward recovery of the species.

We support eliminating the marking of hatchery fish.

We believe that introduction/ reintroduction of any species must be approved by the state legislature and must be consistent with local government natural resource plans. Therefore, we urge the passage of legislation that requires federal agencies to coordinate

and determine consistency per federal statutes with the proper state agency and local governments when those federal agencies have received a petition to list a species.

We support the right of landowners to protect themselves, their families, livestock and properties from all predators including grizzly bears and wolves without legal retaliation.

If lethal action is taken against any threatened or endangered species for the preservation of public safety, all investigations should be conducted by the local officials of the county involved. All applicable state and government agencies are to be notified so as to provide assistance when called upon.

We urge Congress to seek depredation funding for losses or damage resulting from endangered species and to mandate responsibility to deal with such losses.

We oppose implementation of the endangered species pesticide labeling program, other than in critical habitat.

We oppose the listing of the Giant Palouse Earthworm (*Driloleirus americanus*) and the Greater Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and Slick Spot Peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) as an endangered species.

We support livestock grazing as an effective tool to reduce wildfires and enhance plant and wildlife habitat.

(84) Fish and Game Department

We oppose the acquisition of additional land by the Fish and Game Department.

We encourage the department to use good-neighbor management practices on the land they now own, including fences, pests, noxious weeds, and provide sportsmen with guidance and marked boundaries.

We oppose any increase in funding for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game from either the general fund or license fees without showing a specific need or use for the funds.

The Fish and Game Department must control the concentration of wildlife numbers on all lands and should be prohibited from entering into agreements to limit access to any area, without approval of the local governing authority.

We support retaining the December 2016 composition and selection method of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission.

With respect to non-resident mentored youth hunts, both the non-resident mentor and the mentored youth must purchase matching species tags. Non-resident tags should cost more than resident tags.

We support a Habitat Improvement Program and request Idaho Fish and Game Commission to reflect strong emphasis on multiple use.

We propose that the \$1,000 depredation deductible be reduced. Compensation by IDFG for crop loss due to depredation shall be for actual loss minus the one-time deductible and should be expediently paid with no pro-rating.

We support oversight of the depredation account by the Idaho Department of Agriculture with technical support provided by Idaho Fish and Game.

We support using leftover depredation funds to build a one-year reserve to be used in heavy loss years.

Fish and Game should be responsible to pay for damages caused by management decisions.

We support Idaho Fish and Game issuing emergency depredation permits to ag producers and landowners to harvest animals that are causing verifiable damage to crops, livestock and property.

The issuance of these depredation permits by IDFG and other actions by IDFG to relieve depredation shall be free of conditions that landowner must allow hunting on their land. Landowners should be allowed to determine who hunts and they should be allowed to receive compensation for allowing hunts on their private property. Emergency depredation permit holders should have the option to retain possession of harvested animals.

We support creating depredation areas for landowners who are annually affected by depredated animals and support mechanisms for quicker response in those areas.

We believe the Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP) should be available to anyone owning 320 acres or more and recipients of these tags should be free to do what they wish with the tags.

Transactions between the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game may represent a conflict of interest and should be investigated.

We oppose the erection of either permanent or temporary hunting or viewing blinds within 100 feet of a developed livestock watering site on public lands.

(85) Fish and Game – Prior Notification

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game must have permission from the land owner before entering private property.

(86) Fish and Game – Private Reservoir Companies

Fish and Game Department shall pay private reservoir companies for the use of that reservoir for fish habitat. The Department should also pay up-keep assessments on reservoirs in which they own water.

(87) Fish and Game / U.S. Fish & Wildlife Responsibility

We support reform of the Idaho Department of Fish

and Game to create local management of the wildlife of Idaho. This program should be site specific to control damage caused from over populated species of both game and non-game animals.

We oppose the relocation of wild game and non-game species without proper notice being given to residents and property owners in the area where they are released. Local county officials must receive official notice at least 30 days prior to any relocation or release, into the wild, of any species raised in captivity.

We oppose relocation or release into the wild of wolves or grizzlies that have been raised in captivity.

The Idaho Fish and Game Department should not engage in activities that encourage only non-consumptive uses of fish and wildlife species in Idaho.

The state or federal wildlife personnel shall be required to file an environmental and economic impact statement before they can release non-native insects or plants in Idaho or make regulations that affect the counties and/or the state.

We support the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's ban on the release of deleterious exotic animals into the State of Idaho.

All state and federal agency personnel must go through the elected county sheriff for all law enforcement.

(88) Fish Species Population Management

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

(89) Grizzly Bear

We support the delisting of the grizzly bear from the endangered species status.

We support a hunting season on the grizzly. The costs associated with grizzlies, including triple damages for depredation costs, should be borne by the federal government, and its agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

Compensation should be paid to state and local agencies when any assistance in the management, control, or defense of the public is needed from such agencies. Compensation to state and local agencies should be paid regardless of whether a request has been made by a federal agency for assistance until such time as the current grizzly bear policy can be changed to allow less conflict with humans and livestock namely the delisting of the grizzly bear and transfer of management to individual states' authority.

We support requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to coordinate all grizzly bear related activities with the Idaho Fish and Game and local county officials.

(90) Invasive Species

We support efforts to remove Asian clams from the waters of Idaho.

We support the listing of quagga mussels as an invasive species.

We support adequate state funding for inspections of all water craft and other vessels to prevent the spread and infestation of quagga/zebra mussels in Idaho waters.

(91) Sage Grouse

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

We support grazing on public lands as a primary method of increasing sage grouse populations by controlling the amount of vegetation that fuels wild fires.

We support private sector rearing and releasing of sage grouse.

(92) Introduction of Salmon

We oppose the introduction of salmon above the Brownlee Dam.

(93) Salmon Recovery

We support the following salmon-recovery alternatives:

1. Physically modifying the dams rather than tearing them down or lowering water levels.
2. Improving barging such as net barge transportation.
3. Privatizing salmon fisheries for stronger fish.
4. Controlling predators of salmon.
5. Utilizing new hydroelectric turbine technologies to achieve the goals of increased power production and reduced hazards to fish.
6. Regulating harvest of off-shore and instream fish.

(94) Snake River Basin Snails

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

We oppose the future listing of new snail species.

(95) Wolves

We support hunting and trapping of wolves in all hunting units including:

1. allow an earlier start time for open foothold trapping in all units open to wolf trapping;
2. longer check time on all lethal sets;
3. allow outfitters to sell wolf trapping trips;
4. make it legal to shoot wolves over baits;
5. eliminate regulations requiring diverters on snares;
6. allow year-round trapping on private property with owner's permission and/or,
7. allow an increase in wolf tags per person.

We support enforcement of Idaho Code that requires the Idaho Fish and Game to coordinate with local government. The costs associated with wolves, including triple damages for depredation costs, should be borne by the federal government, and its agencies such as

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

We support adding wolves to the IDF&G depredation list so that depredation on livestock can be paid by the IDF&G Big Game Depredation and Prevention Fund.

We request that all wolf carcasses be presented for testing for communicable diseases, especially the tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus* which causes Hydatid Disease in livestock, elk, deer and humans.

EASEMENTS

(96) Conservation Easements and Scenic Easements

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

ENERGY

(97) Affordable Energy

We support

1. Transparency in how energy monopolies plan to incur expenses and make investments that are passed on to ratepayers.
2. Thorough, fair and publicly involved process for evaluating rate requests and setting rates.
3. Increased focus on removing barriers to widely available and affordable sources of energy.

(98) Alternative Energy

We support the development of alternative energy.

We oppose a broad moratorium on alternative energy projects.

We support county control in the siting of these projects.

We support sales tax incentives to assist in the development of alternative energy projects of less than one megawatt constructed on or by existing agriculture operations.

We support that alternative energy should not receive subsidies beyond the bulk market rate. Any such contracts shall be allowed to expire.

(99) Bonneville Power Administration Credit

We support some type of BPA credit that allows all citizens of Idaho to benefit from the BPA's use of Idaho water for power generation.

(100) Electrical Energy Hydroelectric Dams:

As future demands for electrical energy increase, we support the continued careful use of water as one of our renewable natural resources through existing and the construction of new hydro projects.

We encourage the adoption of hydro projects to generate power for sale.

We support the relicensing of dams, including the Hells

Canyon Complex, using a least cost mitigation plan reflecting the desire of the customers to have a reliable power resource at reasonable rates.

Renewables:

We encourage utilities operating in Idaho to develop economically feasible renewable energy portfolios.

We support the construction of economically feasible power generation facilities in Idaho, including those that use plant and/or animal residue or logging slash.

We support an annual true-up for net metering rather than a monthly true-up.

Regulations:

We encourage state agencies to remove barriers that prevent utilities from increasing Idaho's power generation capacity.

We oppose any deregulation, reorganization, merger or consolidation of power generation or transmission which could result in loss of water rights, less service or increased rates.

We support current laws that require coal fired plants be held to strict standards in the construction, operation and retirement of the facility.

Transmission:

We support upgrades in transmission and distribution. Routing of utility corridors should be placed on public land first and then to the areas of least impact to private property owners.

We support the initiation of on and off ramps in transmission lines within the State of Idaho.

(101) Farm Produced Fuel

We support grants, cost share programs and bio-fuel production tax credits for farm-scale bio-fuel projects.

(102) Fossil Fuels

We support the mining and drilling of fossil fuels.

We support the legislature ensuring that rules for oil and natural gas production safeguard the water aquifers for all citizens and protect property owners' rights to use their property. If a local government entity bans the development of mineral rights in its jurisdiction, it should be considered a property rights "taking" and compensation should be provided to the property owner.

(103) Nuclear Energy

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

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

We support development of the fast burn sector of

nuclear technology which massively reduces or eliminates the need for nuclear waste disposal.

We support the utilization of the Idaho National Laboratory to provide the lead role in advancing the continued development of this technology.

(104) Power Demand Control Program

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

(105) Renewable Fuels

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

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

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

(106) Utility Companies

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

LABOR

(107) Labor

We support legislation to ban slowdowns or strikes by unions at ports.

(108) Legal Aid

We oppose state funding of Idaho Legal Aid Services.

We oppose the uninvited presence of Legal Aid personnel soliciting business on private property.

(109) Minimum Wage

We oppose any state minimum wage that is higher than the federal minimum wage.

(110) New Hire Reporting

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

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

(111) Unemployment Insurance

Eligibility requirements should be made realistic to reflect agriculture's seasonal employment practices.

(112) Workers Compensation

Workers compensation for agricultural employers should provide:

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

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

We support having the settlement reduced by the percentage that was determined that the worker was responsible.

TAX

(113) Agricultural Property Tax Shifts

We are opposed to shifting property tax to agricultural real estate.

(114) Assessed Value of Ag Production Land

We believe all land being used for commercial agricultural production should be appraised for tax purposes according to its current use, eliminating any consideration of its speculative value, using realistic productivity figures, realistic cost deduction, including government mandated control of noxious weeds, taking into account the USDA's annual report on farm real estate values in Idaho and that only the landlord's net share of production be used in computing value for tax purposes, as prescribed by Idaho State Tax Commission rules and regulations.

We support assessed values being capped at a 5% increase in any given year.

We support the retention of the five-acre minimum productivity option and the Bare Land & Yield Option for forest lands.

(115) Budget Caps

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

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

(116) Fuel Tax

We oppose repealing the refund of tax paid on fuel used off-road.

We oppose taxing dyed fuel.

(117) Impact Fees

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

We support simplification of current impact fee rules and procedures.

(118) Investment Tax Credit

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

(119) Local Option Taxation

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

(120) Maximum Levy Rates

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

(121) Personal Tax Privacy Rights

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

(122) Property Tax

We oppose budget increases and foregone balances that current Idaho State Law allows for local governments.

We support limiting yearly property assessment increases to a maximum of the state inflation rate.

We support legislation that would allow county tax assessments and collection on property that has been purchased by non-profit groups and placed in tax exempt status, such as a tax code that covers environmental tax exempt classification.

We support exempting all equipment used in the production of agricultural commodities from personal property tax.

(123) Property Tax - Funding Local Government and Schools

We support gradually reducing the property tax burden to fund public schools and local government.

We are opposed to judges being allowed to levy taxes.

We support legislation mandating that plant facilities levy monies can be used only for capital expenditures related to school operation and maintenance.

We oppose school districts carrying over these funds to finance the construction of new buildings or the acquisition of additional property.

We support removing the school budget stabilization levy that was authorized in the 2006 Special Legislative Session, unless it is supported by a local vote.

We support the creation of standardized mandatory full disclosure of the school district's revenues and expenditures that are related to extracurricular activities; separated into curriculum and athletics, and budgeted in standard categories of salaries, transportation, supplies and capital expenditures.

We oppose indefinite or permanent supplemental school levies on taxpayers, regardless of the number of consecutive levies passed.

(124) Sales Tax

We oppose removing the sales tax exemption on production items.

We support legislation that would exempt non-profit organizational fund-raising from paying sales tax on

those receipts.

We oppose the collection of use tax on out-of-state goods purchased by Idaho residents.

(125) Services Tax

We oppose all tax on services.

(126) Special Taxing Districts

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

We support legislation allowing special taxing districts to be funded by a household fee. All taxing districts that charge fees should be under the same three percent cap that applies to counties and municipalities.

We support giving library districts the option to be funded by a household fee rather than through an ad valorem tax. If the library district chooses the household fee option, any bonds they pass must also be paid through household fees.

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

(127) State Budget

We support zero-based budgeting.

We support a constitutional amendment limiting state spending to a calculation determined by population growth and economic growth of the state.

We oppose balancing budget shortfalls by any tax increase.

We oppose any state funding of Planned Parenthood.

(128) Super Majority

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

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

(129) Tax Compensation for Federal and State Managed Lands

We recommend that a fee in lieu of taxes be assessed on all lands removed from tax rolls by state or federal agency management.

We favor an annual fee equivalent to local private property tax on land.

(130) Tax Liens

We oppose the recording of federal tax liens (IRS) by the county recorder without due process of law.

(131) Tax Refund Extension

We support income tax assessments and income tax refunds having the same statute of limitations. 39

(132) Taxing Districts Sharing Administrators

We encourage similar taxing districts to share admin-

istrators and secretaries on a county-wide or multi-district basis to help ease the tax burden of administration.

(133) Urban Renewal Districts

We support the repeal of urban renewal laws.

(134) Young Farmers and Ranchers Tax Credits

We support legislation to allow agricultural asset owners to earn tax credits for leasing their assets (agricultural land, depreciable machinery or equipment, breeding livestock, buildings, etc.) to young farmers or ranchers.

We support tax credits as an incentive for hiring beginning farmers and ranchers to perform contract labor.

LOCAL AFFAIRS

(135) Annexation

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

(136) County Commissioners

We encourage county commissioners to develop a Natural Resource Plan per NEPA guidelines that clearly states the objectives and policies of the county in regards to management of the natural resources located on public lands in their county.

We encourage county commissioners to invoke the "coordination mandate" of Congress set forth in federal statutes with the public land management agencies plans and actions that may negatively impact the county's economy, culture and heritage.

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

(137) Distribution of Federal Fines

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

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

(138) Elections

Idaho residents who own real property in a taxing district should be allowed to vote on any tax proposal in that district.

We support restricting local school bond and levy elections to primary and general election dates.

We support a mandatory pre-registration requirement to be eligible to vote in all local bond elections.

We support requiring photo identification, proof of residency and proof of U.S. citizenship for new voter registration.

Pay raises for elected officials shall not take effect until the official stands again for election.

(139) Emergency Response Fees

We oppose the imposition of a "crash tax" to cover the cost of cleaning up spills at the site of an accident.

We favor reducing regulatory burdens which prohibit low-cost clean-up solutions.

(140) Indigent Care Funding

We support the use of the interest from the tobacco settlement monies to reduce the indigent care deductible now being paid for by the property owners. The deductible should continue to decrease incrementally as the settlement monies increase, not to drop below \$1,000. The reduced deductible for tobacco-related illnesses should be expanded to include a reduced deductible for all health-related situations.

(141) Notice of Zoning Change

Water-right holders or recipients of water delivered through property that is proposed to be rezoned should receive the same notification of public hearings as surrounding landowners.

(142) Public Hearings

Public hearings that affect a given area of the state must be held in the area that is affected, at a reasonable time and date for those impacted.

(143) Zoning

County commissioners should control all zoning in the county. Zoning should be site specific within the county; we oppose the use of blanket zoning ordinances, including sustainable development and smart-growth initiatives.

We recognize and encourage the use of planning tools allowed under state law to encourage planned and orderly growth in or near agricultural areas.

EDUCATION

(144) Adolescent Nutrition

We support school districts offering dairy products, healthy nutritional snacks and fruit juices in vending machines on school premises.

(145) Ag in the Classroom

We support "Ag in the Classroom" in school curriculum to increase student literacy of agriculture.

We support an increase in funding for Ag in the classroom.

(146) Career Technical Education

We support enhanced funding for Idaho's Career Technical Education (CTE), Agricultural Science and Technology courses and programs.

(147) Contracts for Teachers

We recommend that the tenure system for school teachers be eliminated and replaced with contracts based on evaluation and performance.

We support the concept of incentive pay that will improve teacher excellence.

School teachers should have the option of being able to negotiate their own contract with the school district as a private contractor.

(148) Education Funding

We support that funding be made available from the state endowment fund's reserve account to be used to maintain/replace existing buildings and facilities in school districts throughout the state.

Endowment funds designated for public schools should be used for school funding only.

(149) Education Standards and Assessments

We support using:

1. Professionally established standards and assessments that can be modified to reflect locally recognized educational values, goals and philosophy.
2. Standards to ensure the progression of a student that reflect a comprehension of the subject.

(150) Knowledge of Constitution

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

(151) Local Control of Education

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

We support the repeal of the federal education program, Common Core and SBAC testing, in the State of Idaho.

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

(152) No Increase in School Time

We oppose increasing required school hours beyond 990 hours per year.

(153) Parental Choice in Education

We support the voucher system for education.

We support the continuing freedom, of Idaho parents, to choose private school, parochial school, home school, public charter school or public school as prescribed in the Idaho Constitution and in the Idaho Code.

We support optional kindergarten.

We oppose public funding of pre-kindergarten.

We support legislation amending the Blaine Amendment, Section 5, Article IX of the Constitution of the state of Idaho to provide for an educational system of grants or monetary assistance in which the money fol-

lows the child.

(154) Veterinary Students

We support an increase from eleven (11) to fifteen (15) seats per year for Idaho residents in the Washington-Idaho Cooperative Veterinary medical Education Program.

STATE AFFAIRS

(155) Agricultural Research and Extension

We support the University of Idaho Agricultural Research and Extension Service and urge the Legislature to adequately fund this vital program.

We support adequate funding to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences to allow research to develop new improved varieties of seed that are classed as public varieties.

We request the legislature examine the role of the University of Idaho as the land grant college, and take steps to ensure the university honors its commitment as our agricultural research facility. The university should be on the same budgeting system as the State of Idaho.

We support expanded research and education in all crop areas relative to Idaho. This must also include new and improved plant and animal varieties along with effective insect, pest, disease and weed controls.

We also support an informational exchange and cooperative effort within the tri-state area in agrochemical registration and research as well as plant/animal variety improvement research.

Every effort should be made by state and county officials and the University of Idaho to retain an agricultural extension agent in each county as an extension service of our land grant university.

Strong pressure must be exerted to revitalize and improve the agricultural information and education programs.

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

We also believe that county agents should be first and foremost county agricultural agents.

We support the hiring of new extension educators in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences with primary training and experience in commercial agriculture and forestry.

We support full funding, from both federal and state governments, for operations and research at the current U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, including continuous research on the effects of grazing and sage grouse habitat, and the relationship between wildfire and grazing.

(156) ATV Safety

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

(157) Bicycle Safety

We support bicyclists using public roadways be subject to the same laws that motorists must obey.

(158) Cell Phone Use

We oppose any legislation that would ban cell phone use in vehicles for voice communication.

(159) Commercial Auction Company Bonding

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

(160) Constitutional Defense Fund

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

(161) Cross Deputization of Law Enforcement Officers

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

(162) Definition of Agricultural Buildings

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

1. They are buildings where agricultural products are stored, housed or grown.
2. They are buildings where agricultural equipment, including licensed vehicles that are used in the production of agriculture can be fixed, repaired or stored.
3. They are buildings that are used for the normal servicing of an agricultural business.
4. They can be used by employees as a place of employment as well as a place to have meals and take bathroom breaks as required by GAAP (Generally Accepted Agriculture Practices).

(163) Executive Branch MOU/MOA

We oppose actions by the governor entering into Memorandums of Understanding of Memorandums of Agreement without legislative oversight and approval.

(164) Falsifying Reports

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

(165) Hazardous Waste

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

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

We support a statewide hazardous materials clean-up

day.

(166) Health Insurance

We support private optional health insurance.

We oppose the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and fines for individuals and employers who refuse to carry health insurance.

We support legislation that permits, promotes, and/or assists:

1. In the inclusion of out-of-state health insurance companies participation in the marketplace of health insurance in Idaho.
2. In individual health savings accounts with tax free withdrawals for all health insurance premiums.
3. In free market solutions to health care costs and access.
4. In the establishment of defined contribution programs as opposed to defined benefit programs.
5. In free clinics funded by local community/ faith-based organizations.
6. In development of Direct Primary Care in Idaho supporting the offering of wraparound health insurance policies.

We support health insurance as a risk management tool by reducing and/or eliminating the number of mandated services.

We oppose any legislation to require employers to carry health insurance on their employees whether they are seasonal or full-time.

(167) Inmate Care

We do not support taxpayer funded procedures that prolong the life of inmates with life sentences.

(168) Judicial Confirmation

We support the repeal of the "Judicial Confirmation," Title 7, Chapter 13, Idaho Code, for ordinary and necessary expenses.

(169) Legislative Testimony

We support accepting testimony at legislative hearings via remote audio/visual technology to be managed by the sponsorship of a legislator.

(170) Liability and Tort Claims

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

(171) Medicaid

We support a required co-pay by Medicaid recipients and non-insured persons who use hospital emergency room visits for non-life threatening health care.

We oppose Medicaid expansion and support Medicaid reform.

(172) PERSI

We support changing the formula for retirement benefits to reflect total contribution in a fiscally responsible way that protects the taxpayers of Idaho and is fair to public employees who have contributed to the fund.

(173) Private Property Rights/Eminent Domain

Private property should be defined to include, but not be limited to, all land, crops, timber, water rights, mineral rights, all other appurtenances and any other consideration associated with land ownership.

Landowners having lands adjacent to federal and or state lands should not be forced through coercion/ or fear of imprisonment to allow new easements across their land for public access to federal and state lands. The taking of property or easements should be permitted only when there is eminent domain.

We oppose the use of eminent domain for recreational purposes, for private economic development or to expand the land holding of wildlife agencies.

We support an Idaho Constitutional Amendment defining public use as found in the eminent domain doctrine to prohibit the condemnation of private property for economic development or any use by private parties. If private property is taken, compensation must be prompt, just and adequate.

In the cases of partial taking of real property, the landowner must be compensated when government-imposed regulations cause a loss in value of private property. Landowners or tenants shall not be held liable for any damages incurred as a result of the condemnation. Entities condemning property shall assume liability for any damages incurred by landowners.

(174) Proof of Citizenship

We support the identification of U.S. citizenship on Idaho drivers licenses.

(175) Proprietary Information

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

(176) PUC Rates

We oppose any action by the PUC to move in the direction of inverted block rates or in any major rate design revision that would be detrimental to agriculture.

(177) Public Employees Bargaining

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

(178) Public Trust Doctrine

We oppose the use of the Public Trust Doctrine to force private property owners to allow trespass and/or hunting/fishing on their private property.

(179) Re-Establish Congressional Lawmaking Responsibility

We support the state legislature in its efforts to encourage Congress to reclaim its constitutional responsibility of making law.

Proposed rules or regulations by federal bureaus or agencies should have congressional approval before

becoming law.

Presidential directives or executive orders should be limited in scope and subject to congressional approval in a timely manner.

We support passage of legislation ensuring that no treaty can supersede the Constitution or reduce the protections we enjoy under the Constitution.

(180) Refugees in The United States

We oppose sheltering refugees who do not agree to uphold American constitutional government and values.

We oppose any refugee program that adds increased stress to local services. We support any county that chooses to refuse or remove refugee programs in their county.

(181) Regulation Reform

We support:

1. Complete review of existing regulations to determine their effectiveness and appropriateness prior to assigning more restrictive regulations.
2. Peer review of the existing regulations to determine their potential to mitigate the problems they address.

(182) Regulatory Fines

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

(183) Rights-of-Way

Easement rights-of-way obtained by public or private sectors shall not be committed to any new or additional purpose, either during their original usage or after abandonment, without consent of the owner of the land underlying the easement. Upon abandonment of railway or utility rights-of-way or leases, all property and rights associated with such rights-of-way or leases should revert to the current owner of the original tract.

We urge enactment of legislation to require that adjacent landowners be given priority to purchase at fair market value lands that have been vacated by railways, power companies, roadways, etc. And require that public agencies obtaining title to abandoned rights-of-way be responsible for maintaining fences, drainage systems, all field and road crossings and for controlling weeds on any such acquired rights-of-way.

We support access to or through federal lands using RS2477.

We support allowing county commissioners the ability to determine the validity of an RS2477 claim, the right to move an RS2477 when it occurs on private land and the ability to temporarily close an RS2477 for resource reasons. To prevent the misuse of RS2477 claims, we recognize the superiority of a property's title over RS2477 claims.

We will not support the use of RS2477 as a tool for the taking of private property without just compensation as prescribed in the Constitution.

Any party who controls a railroad right-of-way for use as a trail or any other purpose that prevents the corridor from reverting back to the adjacent landowners, must continue to honor all historical maintenance agreements that the railroad formerly performed including fencing, weed control and any other agreement that may have been in existence before the corridor changed management.

(184) Right to Bear Arms

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

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

We oppose the retaining of personal records collected by the FBI as a result of firearms purchase background checks. The dangerous weapons code should be updated to reflect these rights in the home, the place of business or in motor vehicles.

We declare all firearms and ammunition made and retained in-state are beyond the authority of the federal government.

We support expanding the reciprocity with other states for concealed carry permits.

(185) Road Closures

We believe that when a federal or state agency closes a road, commodity production use on these roads should be exempted from the closure.

We oppose the closure of any existing roads.

(186) State Agencies

We oppose regulating any phase of farm and ranch business by any state agency that does not have an agricultural representative as a member of its policy-making board or committee.

We oppose combining, splitting or changing government agencies without the approval of users of the services.

We support the concept of the Soil Conservation Commission or successor entity to advise and aid local Soil Conservation Districts by providing technical support and a mechanism to receive financial support at no less than fiscal year 2010 levels.

We recommend representation by an agricultural producer on the Board of Regents for Idaho's land grant university and on the Idaho Fish and Game Commission.

We urge and will support legislation to require that government rules and regulations, wherever applicable, be based upon supportive disciplinary peer reviewed scientific data and that wherever policies, rules or regulations do not meet this standard the responsible

individual and/or individuals can be held liable.

When a state law enforcement agency makes an arrest there should be a means provided to reimburse the county for all costs associated in maintaining the prisoner.

We support the legislature reviewing agency rules. In order to approve a new rule, both the House and Senate must agree. A rule shall be rejected if either the House or Senate does not approve.

(187) State Building Code

We support amending the State Building Code to prevent infringement on private property rights through excessive permit requirements.

(188) State Hatch Act

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

(189) State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

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

(190) State Legal Reform

We support reform of the state's civil justice system, which would cure or substantially solve many of the problems farmers face with hostile, harassing legal services lawsuits. Any person or organization that sues to prevent livestock operation siting, or the use of agriculture or resource management practices, should be required to post a bond in a reasonable amount, which will be forfeited to the defendant to help defray their costs in the event that the suit is unsuccessful.

We support legislation by the Idaho Legislature that would require any entity bringing such lawsuits to post substantial bonds based on the potential harm of the lawsuit. Individuals who file complaints against an agricultural operation and request an investigation must pay a fee to cover administration costs.

Complete names, addresses and phone numbers are required on each complaint.

We support legislation to restore the election of district judges.

We support the open and full disclosure of the actions of the Idaho Judicial Council.

Entities from outside the jurisdiction of taxing districts that file lawsuits against public entities should be required to pay all legal expenses.

We support legislation to amend Idaho State Statutes and the Equal Access to Justice Act to make it clear that state courts may award attorney fees against the United States.

We support Idaho courts only use United States and Idaho Laws in the court system.

As a matter of equity, we support that when a private

party must act in the place of the Attorney General to enforce and protect the Idaho Constitution and statutes, the Idaho Legislature must reimburse the party for all reasonable attorney fees and costs if the courts fail to do so.

We support requiring judges to inform jurors of the legality of jury nullification.

(191) States' Rights and Sovereignty

We support a law stating that Idaho and all political subdivisions of the state are prohibited from using any personnel or financial resources to enforce, administer or cooperate with an executive order issued by the President of the United States that has not been affirmed by a vote of the Congress of the United States and signed into law as prescribed by the Constitution of the United States

(192) Term Limits

We oppose term limits on statewide offices, legislative offices and county and local levels, with individual counties given the choice to adopt or oppose term limits.

(193) Transportation

We support continuation of independent road districts without oversight by county commissioners.

We oppose a tax or fee increase on fuel.

We oppose a tax or fee increase on vehicles.

We support the Idaho Department of Transportation utilizing revenue sources efficiently to maintain and construct Idaho roads.

We support the Idaho Department of Transportation increasing their cost saving efforts.

We support the sales tax collected from vehicles (vehicles, batteries, tires and other general parts) to go to road maintenance.

We support increases in gross weights with axle weights non-changing.

We support the continued use of long combination vehicles (LCVs).

We support the Idaho Department of Transportation policy of issuing oversize load permits for Idaho public roads.

We support the continued improvement of Idaho's agricultural roadways.

We support accountability of highway transportation department's engineers for the cost over-runs and/or miscalculations for wrongful designs of highway projects.

We support increasing permit fees on loads exceeding 200,000 GVW to be comparable with fees in surrounding states.

We support the review of current Idaho Transportation Department policies regarding economics of maintenance versus new construction of roadways.

We oppose the removal of the Port of Entry system from the Department of Transportation.

Expenses for environmental studies and the expenses required to meet the mandated environmental standards must be calculated and tabulated on an environmental budget and not included in the Highway Construction and Maintenance budget.

We support construction and/or improvement of a North-South Highway to the Canadian border.

We support port districts in Idaho that help move agricultural commodities.

We support that semi-trucks and/or trailer brake systems should conform to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Act safety standards of the year of manufacture of each unit. Any rules, regulations or requirements adopted by the Idaho Transportation Department cannot exceed federal requirements.

(194) Trespass

We support programs to educate the public about private property rights and about trespass laws.

Landowners retain the right to refuse access within the current law.

IDFG shall make a concerted effort to educate hunters about private property rights and the location of private property in their hunting regulations and maps. It is the hunters' responsibility to know where they can hunt and not the landowners' responsibility to mark or post their property.

We support making it unlawful to enter any facility, legally or illegally, to use or attempt to use a camera, video recorder, or any other video or audio recording device without permission from the owner or authorized agent.

We support a law placing the burden of trespass on the trespasser instead of the landowner.

We support the implementation of a trespassing policy that would make it necessary for a person or entity accessing private property for the purpose of gathering data of any type to first get permission to enter the property in written format from the property owner.

(195) Unfunded Mandates

All new laws passed by the legislature that put financial burdens on the counties or cities should be funded by the state.

(196) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)

We support the commercial use of UAVs for natural resource management and for agricultural use.

DUVALL

Continued from page 2

the message Farm Bureau members sent straight to Washington from our 98th Annual Convention this year, as our delegates approved a special resolution urging Congress and the Trump administration to work in a bipartisan fashion to pass meaningful regulatory reform. Our members also sent messages asking lawmakers to pass H.R. 5, a comprehensive regulatory reform package, including the Peterson amendment.

On a bipartisan vote of 260-161, the House of Representatives approved Rep. Peterson's (D-Minn.) amendment to H.R. 5. That amendment would prohibit agencies from lobbying in favor of their own rulemaking proposals. We were pleased to see the House choose that amendment as one of the first acts of 2017.

Our government was built on checks and balances. Our founders knew lawmakers and public servants would be tempted to place politics above the public good. Well, it's time for a check on the federal overreach that has gotten out of hand. Agencies are not above the law nor should they be free to create their own laws as they

see fit. That's why our delegates also approved new Farm Bureau policy to eliminate judicial deference, which currently requires judges to defer to an agency's interpretation of laws and regulations.

From mismanagement of public lands to crippling fines for plowing private farmland—federal agencies have demonstrated what happens when you try to give bureaucrats an easy way out rather than working on the ground with the people who know the land best.

I've visited with many of you face-to-face, in your states and on your farms. You've shared with me your stories of how regulatory overreach is hurting your businesses and families. I urge you to keep sharing your stories, and to share those stories with your representatives in Washington.

We talked a lot during election season about the need for rural Americans to get out the vote and make their voices heard. That's just what happened, but we need to remember that our job didn't end on Election Day. Lawmakers pay attention when

droves of their constituents contact them about issues that matter in their communities. That's just what we did at AFBF's Annual Convention, when nearly 2,000 of our members sent messages to their elected representatives, right from the convention floor.

Just a couple of days later, the House passed H.R.5. I want to thank everyone who took action. You made a real difference! We need to keep on speaking up and holding our elected leaders accountable.

It's the start of a new year in Washington, and a new year at the American Farm Bureau. We're beginning 2017 with the same resolve that's driven our work for nearly a century now: to strengthen rural America and build strong, prosperous agricultural communities across this great nation. But we can't do that work alone. We need to work together across Farm Bureau and across the agricultural community to ensure that the important work of feeding, clothing and fueling our nation and the world continues well beyond the next 100 years.

KELLER

Continued from page 2

cause for an increase in average global temperatures. They argue that unless measures are taken to reduce these emissions, the cumulative effect over coming decades will result in adverse changes in the world's climate and weather.

Farm Bureau recognizes there may be an increase in occurrences of extreme weather. Even if GHGs are a factor, it is not clear if this is due to natural global climate cycles or other factors. We do not believe unilateral action by the United States can make a difference on global temperatures or stop devastating weather events. Additionally, we do not support regulations that will increase costs for all

Americans while not having a significant effect on the climate.

Farm Bureau does support policies and incentives that encourage the production and utilization of biofuels and renewable energy. The production and use of biofuels and renewable energy not only helps to reduce GHGs, but creates American jobs, encourages rural development, enhances our national security and protects Americans from price shocks. Increased biofuel production also diversifies our energy portfolio to make America more secure and resilient to the increasing costs for energy.

Farm Bureau believes that adaption strategies and tools can be utilized to face the challenges of more inclement weather and a changing climate. Appropriate funding and emphasis should be given to agricultural research. Having the technology, traits and production practices will be more beneficial than burdening the economy with additional regulations.

The agricultural community should be included as a full partner in the development of any policy or legislation. Farmers and ranchers are not only are vigorous observers of the weather, but their livelihoods depend upon it.

Tax Experts: Farmers and Ranchers Should be Ready for Changes

From estate taxes to capital gains and cost recovery, House Republicans and President-elect Donald Trump are floating proposals to make significant changes to tax provisions important to farmers and ranchers. Speaking at the 2017 American Farm Bureau Federation Annual Convention & IDEAg Trade Show, tax experts discussed the impact of potential tax changes for those involved in agriculture.

Both House Republicans and the president-elect have proposed eliminating estate taxes. However, while the House Republicans haven't said anything about stepped-up basis—an essential provision for farmers and ranchers—Trump would do away with stepped-up basis for estates over \$10 million. Trump would also subject transfers at death to the capital gains tax, with protections for small businesses.

“We're quick to say, ‘Repeal the estate tax.’ But if they impose the capital gains tax where the estate tax would be, then you've really just replaced one tax with another.

It's still a transfer tax,” explained Brennis Craddock, CPA, chief operating officer of Tennessee Farm Bureau's Farmers Service Inc. Craddock was joined on the panel by Pat Wolff, AFBF senior director of congressional relations.

Changes to provisions related to cost-recovery, like Section 179 expensing and depreciation, and interest deductions could be problematic for farmers and ranchers, Wolff and Craddock cautioned.

Wolff also gave farmers a heads-up about a possible new tax—border adjustability—under which taxes on income would be determined by whether or not the income passes over the U.S. border.

“Another way to think about it is that revenue is taxed where it's consumed, not where it's generated. That means under the Republican proposal there would be a 20 percent tax on all imported products. For any products that are sold overseas, there would be no income tax,” Wolff said.

“It would make U.S. exports cheaper, but some goods you might purchase from foreign companies, like fertilizer or equipment, would have the 20 percent tax,” Wolff said, emphasizing that AFBF does not have policy addressing this aspect of the tax proposal.

Good or bad for farmers and ranchers, congressional action on taxes is likely—and it's not too far off, Wolff said.

“If you hear something today you like or something you don't, you should call your members of Congress. Tax reform is front and center in Congress,” she said.

Expected this spring, the House Republicans' tax package will likely be put through Congress via the budget reconciliation process. On the upside, this approach ensures the package will be protected from a filibuster. On the downside, it will limit lawmakers to a 10-year package, which is problematic for farmers and ranchers who rely on tax code consistency to plan properly.

SEARLE

Continued from page 2

level and has opened my eyes to a much bigger picture. Last year we had a couple of policies that rose to the national level and in defending them I met with presidents and voting delegates from several states before the delegate session began. Myself and other voting delegates from Idaho explained and defended our positions and worked with the other states. We succeeded in passing the policy statements that our members from Idaho wanted and it came with a great sense of accomplishment.

This year during the American Farm Bureau policy development process we passed a resolution stating that we oppose judicial deference. Judicial deference is the condition of a court yielding or submitting its judgement to that of another legitimate party, such as the executive branch. Idaho Farm Bureau members brought the policy forth and supported it but it was voted down by American Farm Bureau state presidents initially. In the interim we worked to edu-

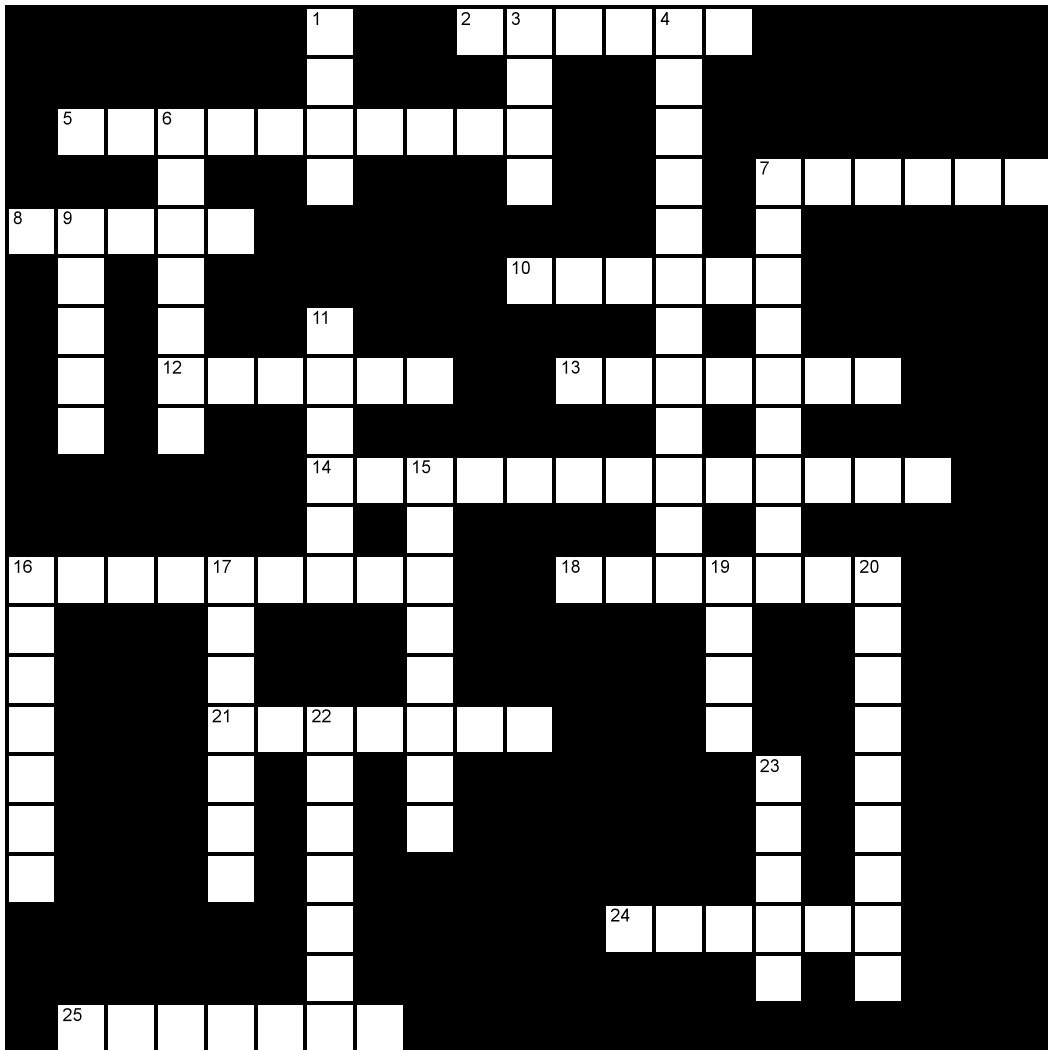
cate AFBF delegates on the issue and then we brought it back up for consideration before the national delegate body. I moved to bring the issue back up and it passed without opposition on this second try.

The point I'd like to make here is our policy development process is more than just an idea that begins at the county level and goes on from there. It's a lengthy process that invites skepticism and tough questions and that is how it should be. Sound policy must be capable of standing up to scrutiny. That's how it becomes sound policy and this is the process I have encouraged in discussions with members from all over Idaho over the past year. On a county level we need to get better at communicating educating and then advocating our positions. No matter how good a policy sounds we have to work with all of the people who are affected in order to shape it into a sound, reasonable policy.

In a final example, this year at AFBF we took a policy that would add the word “partnerships” into our policy on trade agreements. Benewah County delegates felt it was a critical addition. During the deliberation an economist from AFBF, Bob Young, was called on to give his opinion. He confirmed that “partnerships” is a relatively new term that is becoming more common in the negotiation of trade agreements. This process of deliberation educated the voting delegates and in turn they passed the policy.

At this point in time we find ourselves at the beginning of another year and another opportunity to develop sound policy for our organization. By expanding our understanding of how sound, defensible policy comes to life and stands up to scrutiny, we can expand our scope of influence, which helps Idaho agriculture and strengthens the Idaho Farm Bureau top to bottom.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE: LEGISLATIVE



Across

- 2. Standard of moral conduct
- 5. Elected member of either the House of Representative or Senate
- 7. A meeting of members who belong to the same party
- 8. To set aside a matter for consideration at a future time
- 10. Majority of members of the group concerned
- 12. To revoke by

- legislative action
- 13. A meeting at which witnesses present testimony on matters under consideration
- 14. The division of the state into districts
- 16. Any change in a bill, resolution, or memorial
- 18. Assemble for an official meeting
- 21. Official meeting of the Legislature
- 24. A proposal that the Senate or House take a certain action

- 25. Official hall for meeting of a legislative body
- Down**
- 1. A proposed law
 - 3. Duration of office of an elected official
 - 4. Approval by the Senate
 - 6. Area where public visitors may observe session
 - 7. Charged with examining matters specifically referred to it
 - 9. To approve formally

- 11. Upper chamber of the two-body legislature
- 15. A formal request
- 16. To conclude a meeting
- 17. Difference of opinion
- 19. Rejection of a bill by the Governor
- 20. Passage of a bill by both houses and Governor's signature
- 22. A Law enacted by the Legislature
- 23. Presiding officer

ANSWERS ON PAGE 32



Focus on Agriculture

Grocery Shopping Trends Will Have Big Impacts on Agriculture

By Robert Giblin

Grocery shopping is changing dramatically, to meet the needs of consumers whose demographics, lifestyles, desires and consumption trends are radically different than those of the 20th century “golden age” of supermarkets.

Busy working parents are too pressed for time to shop or cook from scratch. Households are smaller. Many urban consumers lack access to both stores and transportation to carry groceries. Some just hate grocery shopping, especially waiting

in checkout lines. Increasingly, consumers want to know more about their food and how it is produced.

The focus of grocery shopping is shifting from products to services, solutions and entertainment.

An increasing number of supermarkets, dubbed “grocerants” — grocery restaurants — are stocking shelves with prepared foods and offering up-scale in-store dining, including entertainment.

Meal kits are growing tremen-

dously. The meal kit business is now worth about \$5 billion, and could grow to more than \$35 billion in the next five or six years.

Online meal kit services, such as Blue Apron, Plated and Hello Fresh, send food, additional ingredients and recipes tailored to customers’ lifestyles, the number of servings needed, the number of days or nights customers want to cook, and the amount of time they want to spend cooking. While only 3 percent to 7 percent of all consumers have tried meal

delivery kits, more than 60 percent of millennials have. Blue Apron, the largest, now sends out about eight million meals per month.

New kit companies are specializing in regional cuisine or special diets, and linking to cooking and other social media sites. Now, major branded food companies and retail grocers are entering into the meal kit foray, both in stores and online.

Major online retailer Amazon is not only increasing its food

See FOCUS ON AG, page 33

INSURANCE MATTERS

MIKE MYERS — *Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. of Idaho*

Clear Heavy Snow Before Disaster Hits



Heavy snowfall this year has caused a series of roof collapses in Idaho.

Few winter scenes are more tranquil than a home decked in freshly fallen snow. In areas of heavy snowfall however, what lies beneath the surface of a snow-covered roof can be anything but tranquil. Record-setting snowfall this year has caused a series of roof collapses across Idaho.

“This winter has brought the heaviest snowfall we’ve seen in 20 years,” said Rich Burgoyne, vice president of claims at Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Idaho. “This has created problems for homeowners that they normally don’t have to think about, including removing snow from roofs.”

Temperatures often warm when a winter storm front passes through, causing any existing roof snow to melt and become denser. As this cycle of snowfall and melting continues, the weight of snow and ice on your roof can quickly add up. The moisture content of snow can range from ap-

proximately 1 percent to 33 percent, meaning snow can potentially weigh anywhere from one to 21 pounds per cubic foot.

The amount of snow and ice your roof can support depends on a number of factors, including the roof type and the age and condition of the structure. But a good rule of thumb is if more than a foot of snow and ice has accumulated on your roof, you should consider roof snow removal.

When removing roof snow, please keep these tips in mind:

When snow buildup occurs, use a roof rake with an extended handle to pull snow off the roof from the safety of the ground.

Start from the edge and work your way up the roof using downward strokes.

There’s no need to scrape the roof entirely clean, as this can damage your roof shingles or other roof coverings.

Metal roof rakes conduct electricity, so use caution near power lines.

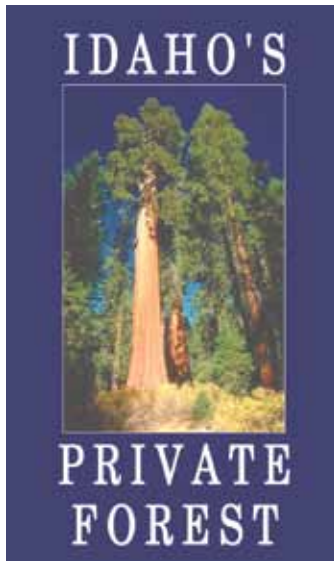
Avoid using a ladder. Its rungs can freeze and cause you to slip.

Instead of a ladder, buy extension poles or a longer roof rake.

Roof snow removal can be dangerous. Hire a professional snow removal service if you need help.

Removing roof snow can also prevent ice dams. Ice dams can form when roof snow melts and refreezes in gutters, clogging them. As more snow melts, water is forced to travel under shingles and can leak into the house. Keep gutters and downspouts clean and clear all the way to ground level during winter months.

Roof snow removal may be a nuisance, but it’s much easier that fixing the damage from a collapsed roof.



Meet the Beetles



Bark beetles are very small.

By Chris Schnepf

If you ask anyone in Idaho to name something that kills forest trees, more often than not they will say “bark beetles.” Bark beetles have so filled our imaginations that when dead trees are noticed, people often presume they were killed by bark beetles, even though many other organisms often kill trees, to say nothing of trees killed by fire or drought. Let’s review some fundamentals about bark beetles . . .

Bark beetles are a natural part of Idaho forests. Many times people speak of bark beetles as if they were foreign invaders. All of the bark beetles that kill Idaho forest trees are native insects which have lived in Idaho for thousands of years. They are always present at some endemic level almost everywhere their host tree species are found.

The two most common groups of organisms that kill Idaho forest trees are root diseases and bark beetles. If a tree slowly fades over a period of years, it was more likely killed by a root disease. If a tree’s crown fades to pale green, to yellow, to brown within a few months, it was more likely killed by bark beetles. Sometimes bark beetles, root disease, and other factors, such as drought, work together simultaneously to kill a tree.

Bark beetles are very small. Extension of fices are often presented with insects that people think are bark beetles. More commonly they are conifer seed bugs (especially in the fall when these insects invade homes looking for a place to over-winter) or wood boring insects (which are also often found in larval form chewing away in firewood). Both insects are much larger than bark beetles, the largest of which is the size of a wooden match head - most are much smaller.

Despite the name, most bark beetles do not make their living in the bark. Bark beetles bore through the bark to get to the phloem, the tissue under the bark that conducts photosynthate from the needles to the branches and roots. There they feed, then lay eggs which hatch to produce offspring that continue feeding there until they are mature enough to leave the tree.

As this feeding encircles the tree, it girdles the tree’s phloem, thereby severing the tree’s vascular system. A bark beetle-attacked tree is further weakened by blue-stain and other fungi brought in by bark beetles which clog the tree’s sapwood

(which moves water through the tree from the roots), making it easier for other bark beetles to successfully attack the tree and hastening the tree’s death.

A University of Idaho publication titled “Field Guide to the Bark Beetles of Idaho and Adjacent Regions” catalogs over 100 species in Idaho. Different bark beetles attack different species and even different parts of conifers. Many of these beetles rarely kill trees, focusing instead on tree branches or tops.

Bark beetles are identified primarily through tree species and gallery pattern. In the field we do not identify a bark beetle by examining the insect directly. Bark beetles are identified primarily by the species of trees they attack and the pattern (called a “gallery”) they make when feeding and reproducing under the bark. The bark beetles that most commonly kill Idaho conifers are:

Western pine beetle (*Dendroctonus brevicomis*) attacks ponderosa pine and creates loopy, maze-like, serpentine galleries. Woodpeckers often flake off ponderosa pine bark to get at beetle larvae, exposing



Pine engraver beetle (LPS) galleries are either Y or H shaped.

the tree's highly visible orange inner bark.

Pine engraver (*Ips pini*) (also referred to by its genus name "Ips") attacks ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine. Ips has "Y" or "H"-shaped galleries.

Mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*) attacks all Idaho pines. Mountain pine beetle main galleries are long (up to 30") and vertical (with the grain) with a small crook at the bottom. Small groups of eggs are laid alternately along each side of this main gallery. Mountain pine beetles commonly cause trees to produce thumbnail-sized globs of pitch and boring dust called "pitch tubes" on the trunk – the result of tree's effort to push the beetles out. Pines sometimes produce pitch tubes in response to other bark beetles as well.

Fir engraver beetle (*Scolytus ventralis*) is commonly referred to by its genus name "Scolytus". It attacks grand fir primarily. Fir engraver has distinctive horizontal main galleries that run perpendicular to the wood grain.

Douglas-fir beetle (*Dendroctonus pseudotsugae*) feeds predominantly on Douglas-fir.

Douglas-fir beetle main galleries run parallel to the wood grain 8 to 10 inches, with eggs usually laid alternately on each side. Trees attacked by this beetle often have lots of brown boring dust in the bark crevices at the base of the tree.

Spruce beetle (*Dendroctonus rufipennis*) feeds on Engelmann spruce. Spruce beetle galleries are 3-12 inches in length, with a small crook on the bottom end. Eggs are deposited on alternate sides of the gallery.

Slash is tree parts on the ground from storms or logging. Some forest owners get concerned that any slash they see will harbor bark beetles. That is a good question to ask, but not all bark beetles that kill trees breed in slash.

By far the most common issue with bark beetles breeding in slash occurs with pine engraver beetles in ponderosa or lodgepole pine, when green stem wood over three inches thick is left on the ground from November through June. Pine engravers may attack it and reproduce there, with offspring attacking and killing trees within a one-half mile of that slash.

Other bark beetles that can re-



Galleries made by Western pine beetles are serpentine-shaped.

produce in slash or downed green trees include Douglas-fir beetle and spruce beetle. Douglas-fir beetles and spruce beetle attack large diameter debris (larger than 12 inches), so they are usually less of a problem in timber harvests, since trees this size are usually taken to a mill shortly after they are cut. Winter- or storm-dropped Douglas-fir and spruce are more of an issue. Some key points about bark beetles that breed in slash:

Trees dead longer than one year are not a bark beetle hazard. Beetles only reproduce in slash fresh enough to support their offspring. Even if old slash was at one time infested with bark beetles, their brood has already left. You will often find insects in that slash which are superficially similar to bark beetles, but they are not usually insects that kill trees.

Stems and branches less than three inches in diameter are not usually a bark beetle hazard. Occasionally Ips attacks smaller diameter materials, but the material usually dries out, starving the larvae before they develop fully.

Slash from some species is never a bark beetle hazard. For example, there are bark beetles that breed in woody debris from cedar, hemlock, and larch, but they do not emerge to attack standing trees.

Beyond these types of slash, hazard from bark beetles also depends the size and species of the trees in the immediate area that might be attacked. For example, Douglas-fir organic debris may be of appropriate size and freshness in the understory, but if the standing green

See UI FORESTRY, page 31

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JIM JONES

Continued from page 5

do like vetoing a bill and he did in '84. In fact he vetoed two Idaho Power bills. There were things I could do that he couldn't. I got things done in State courts, and with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and we both talked about the issue. I took the lead on Swan Falls and my press releases were more inflammatory than Evans and I took the heat, but we had to break through the difficult nature of the issue. At first it was hard to explain to people. We had to break it down and tell them that power rates were not going up. We also told them that they could lose their livelihood and the chance to expand their operations.

Question: How strong was the Idaho Power lobby at the time?

Answer: In 1984 the legislative session was stormy. That's when both the Governor and I had a subordination bill, in fact we had several and Idaho Power had a couple of bills that they thought would save the day for them. But the Governor vetoed their bills. I think Logan Lanham, the chief lobbyist at Idaho Power (at the time) decided they were going to go out and win the elections with their candidates! They also targeted lawmakers that supported our bills. I got wind of that and recruited our own candidates. I got my second cousin and a former client, and both won. I told lawmakers on our side of the issue that we'd help them anyway we could and we actually picked up three seats. At that point Idaho Power saw that they had

lost in the Statehouse and then the courts and that's when we started talking.

Question: How did it play out after the '84 election?

Answer: That's when we started talking about getting Swan Falls settled. We had negotiations between my staff, the Governor's staff and Idaho Power. We worked out the settlement in October of 1984. There were rough spots that we worked through but we had to get approval from the legislature and they had to pass a whole raft of bills including a bill to authorize the Snake River Basin Adjudication. We also had to get the PUC approval which we got, the State Water Board and federal approval through FERC. We finally filed the papers and nothing happened. We did all that work and FERC was too lazy or too bureaucratic to get anything done. So we fast-tracked it through Congress and that came quickly. Unfortunately it was attached to a bill that President Reagan didn't like and he vetoed it. The bill was reworked and attached to another bill and passed the Senate, but back in the House the downstream interests used it to open up the Snake River. The Senate passed a new stand-alone bill but we ran into trouble in the House. The downstream interests were able to get language in the Committee report that threatened to increase Snake River flows out of Idaho. The water community raised such a fuss that we were able to override that language and keep the settlement agreement intact.

Question: What is the significance of the Swan Falls Agreement 30 years later?

Answer: It has impacted every aspect of agriculture in Idaho through the Snake River Basin Adjudication. The adjudication was specifically agreed to in the settlement. At the time we thought it would take 10 years, it took 30. We thought it would cost \$27 million it took \$97 million. But a large part was paid for by the federal government. It quantified and prioritized everyone's water right and it demonstrated that Idaho does not have a lot of surplus water that other states could grab. I think it was one of the most successful adjudications of a large river basin that's ever been conducted. It gives people protection and

peace of mind with regard to their water right. The river-flows established in the agreement left a significant amount of water for new uses and that's critical to the growth of cities upstream by making sure that they have enough water. It's critical to industries that need water like the cheese processing plants that have gone into production along the river. We also did a rewrite of Idaho water law. You have to go through a process now of meeting public interest criteria in order to have a water right. I think that takes into account the impact on power production on power rates. It takes into account impact on fish and wildlife. I think it set the cornerstone for Idaho water law and it's worked well.

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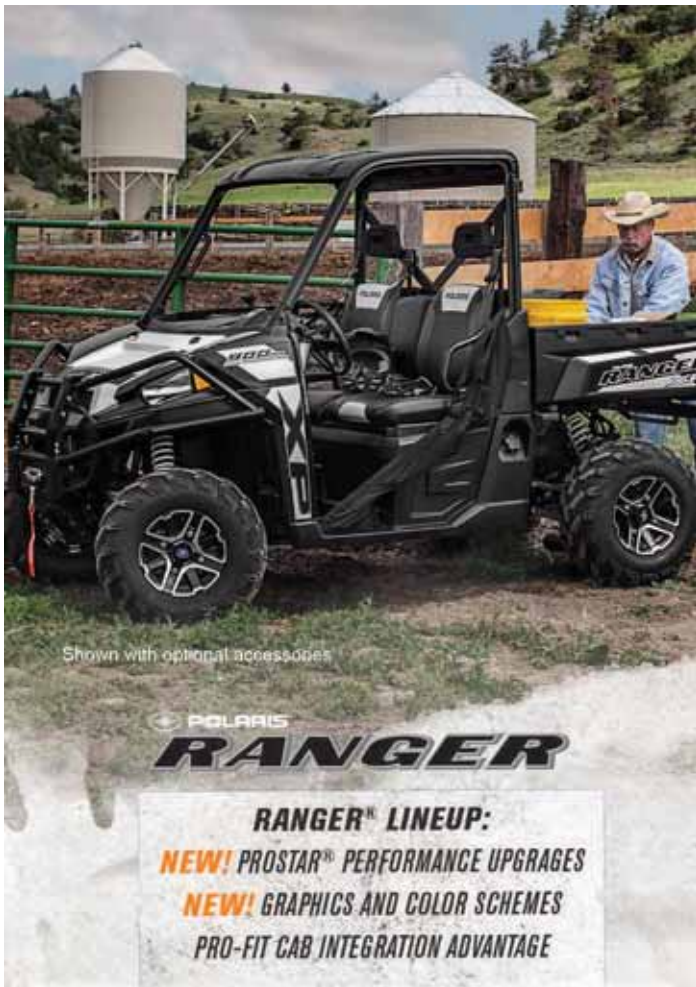
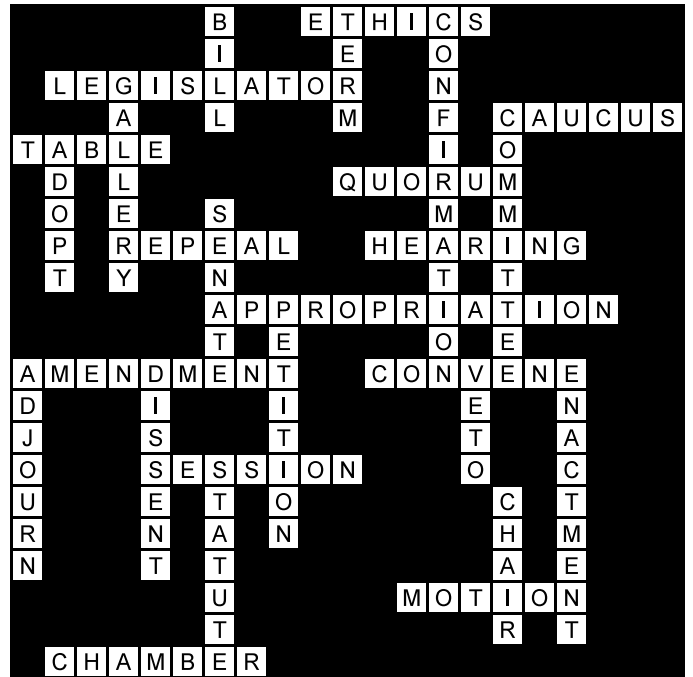


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CROSSWORD

ANSWERS from page 25

Crossword puzzle answers: Legislative



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WARNING: Riders off-road vehicles can be hazardous to operate and are not intended for street use. Rider must be at least 16 years old with a valid driver's license to operate. Passengers, if permitted, need to be at least 12 years old. All riders should always wear helmets, eye protection, and protective clothing. Always use seat belts and seat belts on seats (as equipped). Never engage in stunt driving and avoid excessive speeds and sharp turns. Riding and stunts should only be done on a safety training course. Call 800-945-5154 for additional information. Check local laws before riding on trails. ©2014 Polaris Industries Inc.

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FOCUS ON AG

Continued from page 26

sales, but also experimenting with a brick-and-mortar grocery store concept that uses technology to remove one of the hassles of grocery shopping – checkout lines. Consumers use a mobile application to check in and out of the store. Sensors track what consumers take. When they leave, the app adds up the bill and charges their account. Amazon plans to open its first store in 2017.

In Italy, the “supermarket of the future” recently opened its doors. Co-op Italia organizes products on interactive tables and shelves. When a consumer moves to touch a product, “augmented labels” on suspended screens show nutritional information, the presence of allergens and waste disposal instructions. A separate wall of 50 monitors forms a huge screen that allows consumers to get more information and cooking instructions.

Most grocery chains are implementing “augmented transparency” technologies to provide information about how food is produced – how much water and land are used, carbon footprints, health, food safety, environmental impacts, ingredients produced using biotechnology, animal welfare, labor practices, and food waste.

By the end of 2017, more than 30,000 products will carry the SmartLabel, giving consumers easy access to information through mobile or hand-held devices. More than 30 major food companies have committed to taking part in the transparency initiative. In five years, SmartLabels will be on about 80 percent of food, beverages, pet food and other products typically sold in grocery stores. Retailers and food companies believe that the information provided can help build trust with consumers.

For several years, those involved in marketing products based on promoting their production practices – organic, grass-fed, produced without hormones or antibiotics, non-GMO and others – have been highly successful in highlighting their products, which appeal to specialty markets. Smart-Labels and other augmented transparency labels and technologies increasingly will open windows into all of agriculture, allowing more opportunity for consumer education and engagement. More than ever, farmers and ranchers will need to build relationships with food companies and retailers, and equip them with the information consumers need to make informed purchase decisions.

Robert Giblin writes, speaks and consults about agricultural and food industry issues, policies and trends.

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ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED



Farm Bureau Delegates Urge Congress to Support Regulatory Reform

American Farm Bureau Federation delegates from all 50 states and Puerto Rico today approved a special resolution urging Congress to enact swift, meaningful and strongly bipartisan regulatory reform. The resolution, adopted at AFBF's 2017 Annual Convention in Phoenix, comes in the wake of the introduction of bills in Congress that would pare back the rapid growth of oppressive regulation and government overreach.

Delegates called on the federal government adhere to series of principles, including:

- the use of sound science;
- consideration of costs and benefits to stakeholders;
- transparency in federal agencies and departments;
- reduction of abuses of the court settlement process;
- limiting deference granted by courts to agencies' interpretation of law;
- prohibiting agency misuse of social media to lobby the public in support of agency proposals;
- greater congressional oversight of agencies;
- congressional approval of major rules;
- a minimum comment period for rules; and
- reform of the Equal Access to Justice Act.

The full text of the resolution is available at: http://www.fb.org/files/AFBF_Delegate_Resolution.pdf.

American Farm Bureau Convention

Photos by Steve Ritter

About 120 Idaho Farm Bureau members attended the American Farm Bureau convention in Phoenix, Arizona in early January. The Idaho Farm Bureau received several awards, the most prestigious of which is the New Horizons Award for innovative new programs. In the photo below the New Horizons Award is presented to President Bryan Searle by AFBF President Zippy Duvall. IFBF also received Awards for Excellence in the following categories: Education and Outreach, Leadership Development, Member Benefits, Membership Initiatives, Policy Development and Implementation, and Public Relations and Communications. In addition, IFBF received two President's Awards.



Idaho Farm Bureau members also teamed up with members of the Utah Farm Bureau on a tour of Arizona agriculture. The group visited a carrot farm and processing facility, a cotton processing plant, a farm where roses are the main cash crop and an energy education facility.



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Farm Buildings Collapse



Treasure Valley onion storage buildings, horse arenas and dozens of other buildings collapsed under the weight of heavy snow in early January. Experts predict 25 percent of Idaho stored onions were lost, causing market prices to nearly double. Idaho Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter declared a state of emergency in Washington County on January 22. It’s believed that at least 100 buildings have collapsed, including Weiser’s only grocery store. *Photo by Steve Ritter*

Coggins Exemption Lifted

Notice to Horse Owners: An agreement between Idaho, Oregon and Washington exempting Coggins testing for transport of horses across state lines has been lifted. According to Idaho State Department of Agriculture officials, horses being transported between the three states will

be required to have a Coggins test from an accredited veterinarian in the last 12 months. The rule is currently being processed through state government channels and will be rescinded in the coming weeks.

The agreement is being removed because

of positive tests found in Idaho and the neighboring states. State veterinary officials believe it’s no longer appropriate to keep the testing exemption in place. For more information contact the Idaho State Department of Agriculture or the Idaho Horse Council.

PRODUCTION

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Many products we use in our everyday lives are plant and animal byproducts of foods produced by America's farmers and ranchers.

MANUFACTURING: Adhesives, lubricants, solvents, detergents, polymers

CONSTRUCTION: Lumber, paints, brushes, tar paper, drywall, tool handles, particle board

HEALTH CARE: Pharmaceuticals, surgical sutures, ointments, latex gloves, x-ray film

PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS: Shampoo, soap, cosmetics, lotions, fingernail polish, toothpaste

TRANSPORTATION: Biofuels including ethanol and biodiesel, lubricants, antifreeze, tires, upholstery, packing materials

SPORTS: Uniforms, baseball bats, leather equipment and balls, shoes

PRINTING: Paper, ink

EDUCATION: Crayons, textbooks, chalk, desks, pencils, paper

ENTERTAINMENT: Strings for musical instruments

©2013 American Farm Bureau Federation® Graphic
Source: USDA's Amber Waves Magazine

Attention Truckers, Contractors and Farmers:

New Federal Department of Transportation regulations apply to any business running commercial vehicles including trucks in excess of 10,000 pounds (GVW) and involved in interstate commerce.

If your vehicles require a USDOT Registration Number, they also now require a Federal Unified Carrier Registration (UCR).

Due to the recent changes, your insurance carrier may have to make financial responsibility filings on your behalf. Contact your agent if you need these filings.

For more information contact your Idaho Farm Bureau agent and go to the following web address: www.fmcsa.dot.gov

USDOT 1234567

&

UCR



UI FORESTRY

Continued from page 20

trees left in the immediate area are all too small or of a different species (say, ponderosa pine), you do not have a potential bark beetle problem.

For the species that breed in slash, cutting it into firewood-sized pieces (or logs) and stacking it in the woods does not eliminate the beetle hazard. For more information on treating slash while minimizing bark beetle risks, see “Managing Organic Debris for Forest Health” (PNW 609, available at <http://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edComm/pdf/PNW/PNW0609.pdf>).

Bark beetles are managed by prevention. Insecticides or other direct controls are rarely used to manage bark beetles. The primary strategy with bark beetles is to manage forests to be naturally resilient to bark beetles, particularly during drought periods, when trees are more vulnerable to attack by them. The moisture stress trees experience as a result of drought is compounded when trees are overstocked (too many stems per acre) - the case in many Idaho forests.

It is almost never practical to irrigate forests. The main strategy in managing bark beetles is to reduce the number of trees competing for the same moisture by thinning. Thinning can also be used to favor the most drought tolerant species for the site (usually pines and larch), which further aids forest resilience. For sapling trees, that means creating at least 12-15 foot spacing between tree stems (6 feet initially for lodgepole pine to avoid making them

too bushy). For larger trees, spacing should be increased proportionally, up to 40 feet for trees with trunks 24 inches in diameter.

Bark beetles communicate chemically. One or two bark beetles will not kill a tree by themselves. As bark beetles attack a tree, they release chemicals called aggregation pheromones that signal “soup is on” to other bark beetles of their same species, bringing in many more beetles to that tree and helping beetles overwhelm a tree’s defenses. Bark beetles also use anti-aggregation pheromones to tell each other a tree already has more than enough bark beetles and that other bark beetles should fly to another tree.

There has been a lot of research and development in the last 20 years on synthetic versions of these pheromones to manage bark beetles. Anti-aggregation pheromones have been used very effectively to manage Douglas-fir beetles. Mountain pine beetle anti-aggregation pheromones have also been registered for use by family forest owners.

Bark beetles are not usually killed by cold winters. Bark beetles have lived in Idaho for thousands of years and are adapted to our winter weather. Extended warmer weather may increase some beetle populations (e.g., Ips), but it almost never gets cold enough in the winter to eliminate bark beetles here.

If you want to recover trees’ economic value, beetle-killed

trees should be harvested as soon as possible (especially pines) to avoid loss of value from blue stain and other insects and fungi. Don’t just take the dead trees when salvaging. Look for evidence of attacks on green trees at the edge of a beetle pocket, as they are likely to be infested. This may also be a good time to thin the rest of the stand enhance trees’ resistance to bark beetles.

Bark beetles and other forest Insects are a natural part of Idaho forests. The key to keeping them from killing more trees than you want them to is managing for the best species for the site, and keeping stand density low enough to mini-

mize tree moisture stress.

To learn more about bark beetles, consider attending the “Bark Beetle Field Day” to be held in Coeur d’Alene on Friday, June 30. Registration forms for this program will be downloadable this spring at: www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry. You can also get more details on *these fascinating insects from the publications listed below.*

Chris Schnepf is an area extension educator – forestry – for the University of Idaho in Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai and Benewah counties. He can be reached at cschnepf@uidaho.edu.

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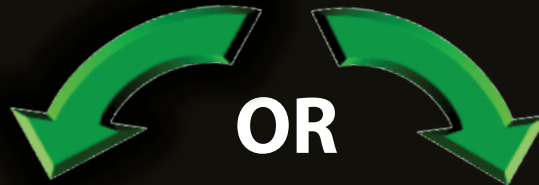
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