

2017
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
Policy Book

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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

1 ownership of property and the means of production
2 has been, and is, one of the major foundation
3 stones of our republic. This element of our economic
4 system and the personal rights attendant to private
5 property, including grazing and water rights, must be
6 maintained and protected.

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

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

14 We believe in government by law, impartially ad-
15 ministered, and without special privilege.

16 We support agricultural programs and organiza-
17 tions that give equal opportunity for developing skills,
18 knowledge and leadership ability.

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

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

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

41 We believe in the right of every man to choose
42 his own occupation; to be rewarded according to his
43 contribution to society and to save, invest, spend, or
44 convey his earnings to his heirs.

45 These rights are accompanied by the
46 responsibility that each man has to meet the financial
47 obligations he has incurred.

48 We support a society free of drug abuse.

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

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

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

7 8 **The Constitution**

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

21 We support the Constitution as the supreme law
22 of the land. Changes should be made only through
23 constitutional amendments, not by federal policy or
24 regulation. One of the greatest dangers threatening our
25 republic and system of private, competitive enterprise
26 is the socialization of America through the centralization
27 of power and authority in the federal government. The
28 centralization of power and responsibility in the federal
29 government violates constitutional purposes. It has
30 usurped state sovereignty and individual freedom and
31 should be reversed.

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

36 37 **States' Rights and Sovereignty**

38 We support the protection and defense of states'
39 rights and state sovereignty over all powers not
40 otherwise enumerated and granted to the federal
41 government as specified in the 10th amendment
42 to the constitution. The federal government must
43 respect state laws and state agencies. All lands within
44 the boundaries of Idaho, excluding those lands as
45 allowed by Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 of the U.S.
46 Constitution and ceded to the federal government by
47 the Idaho Legislature, shall be subject solely to the
48 laws and jurisdiction of the state.

1 **Religious Life**

2 Our nation was founded on spiritual faith and
3 belief in God. Whereas the Constitution of the
4 United States was founded on moral and religious
5 principles, moral, ethical and traditional family values
6 should get equal support and consideration in the
7 public schools as do the atheistic and humanistic
8 views.

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

12 We vigorously support retention of:

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

19
20 **Capitalism-Private Competitive Enterprise**

21 We believe in the American capitalistic, private,
22 competitive enterprise system in which property
23 is privately owned, privately managed, operated
24 for profit, individual satisfaction and responsible
25 stewardship.

26 We believe in a competitive business
27 environment in which supply and demand are the
28 primary determinants of market prices, the use
29 of productive resources, and the distribution of
30 output.

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

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

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

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

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

1 **Economy in Government**

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

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

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

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

20 We support economy at all levels of government.
21

22 **Education**

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 potato wart virus.

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

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

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

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

19

20 **(4) Commodity Promotion**

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

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

30 We support a periodic referendum if assessment
31 is made mandatory.

32 We support the exclusion of crops and
33 livestock from compulsory deductions to commodity
34 commissions when producers or growers come under
35 regulation from quarantinable pests or diseases.

36

37 **(5) Commodity Sales**

38 We support expansion of Idaho agricultural
39 markets, domestic and foreign. We also support
40 trade missions abroad to better inform our producers
41 and the hosting of foreign delegations to our state in
42 efforts to increase our market share.

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

45 We oppose double discounts by grain dealers.

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

48 We support amending the Idaho Pure Seed

1 Law to fully disclose the contents of all seed lots by
2 requiring the tag or label to list each plant species
3 therein by name and rate of occurrence.
4

5 **(6) Commodity Testing Equipment**

6 Commodity buyers' moisture meters and other
7 commodity testing equipment for the purpose of
8 grading should be certified for accuracy by the ISDA
9 Bureau of Weights and Measures.
10

11 **(7) Environmental Studies**

12 We recommend that any individual or group doing
13 environmental studies be held accountable for claims
14 or assertions of damage by agricultural practices
15 to the environment. Claims or assertions should be
16 treated with skepticism until they have been subjected
17 to critical peer review and tested by practical
18 application.
19

20 **(8) Fair Trade**

21 We support strict adherence to bilateral and
22 multilateral trade agreements to which the United
23 States is a party to prevent unfair practices by
24 competing nations and to assure unrestricted access
25 to domestic and world markets. All trade agreements
26 should be continuously monitored and enforced to
27 ensure they result in fair trade.
28

29 **(9) Field Testing Biotechnology Products**

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

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

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

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

43 We support scientifically accurate consumer
44 education about the safety and benefits of genetically
45 engineered crops.
46

47 **(10) Food Safety/Government Accountability**

48 We strongly believe a government agency making

1 public health decisions that result in product recalls,
2 product seizures or destruction of perishable goods
3 must be held accountable when such decisions prove
4 false. Such agencies must be required to compensate
5 or indemnify individuals and companies for the
6 monetary losses that occur because of poor or false
7 regulatory decisions.
8

9 **(11) Forage/Soil Sample Testing**

10 We recommend that action be taken to set
11 uniform guidelines for all testing labs in the analysis of
12 forage and soil samples, with the Idaho Department
13 of Agriculture to administer them.
14

15 **(12) Hay Certification**

16 We support a uniform state noxious weed free
17 hay certification program.
18

19 **(13) Industrial Grade Hemp**

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

26 We support the requirement that growers of
27 industrial grade hemp register their fields with the
28 appropriate regulatory or enforcement agency.
29

30 **(14) Lien Law**

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

35 Delivered feed shall not be encumbered by
36 a blanket lien from a financial institution until the
37 grower/supplier is paid in full.
38

39 **(15) Potato Seed Management**

40 We support a potato seed management program
41 that encourages the use of certified seed potatoes
42 in seed and commercial production for the control of
43 diseases and pests.
44

45 **LIVESTOCK**

46
47 **(16) Animal Care**

48 We support the rights of owners and producers

1 to raise their animals in accordance with commonly
2 accepted animal husbandry practices.

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

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

13 We oppose any livestock and production animal
14 care legislation that would impose a stricter penalty
15 than the 2016 law.

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

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

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

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

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

31 32 **(17) Animal ID**

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

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

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

44 45 **(18) Bovine Tuberculosis**

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

1 **(19) Brucellosis**

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

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

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

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

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

13
14 **(20) CAFO Regulations**

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

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

20
21 **(21) Cattle Liens**

22 Liens should not be attached to livestock until
23 ownership can be proven and verified.

24
25 **(22) Data Confidentiality**

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

31
32 **(23) Domestic Cervidae**

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

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

40
41 **(24) Equine**

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 16 **(25) Federal Inspectors of Small Meat Processing** 17 **Plants**

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

20 21 **(26) Foot and Mouth/BSE Disease**

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

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

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

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

39 40 **(27) Foot Rot in Sheep**

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

43 44 **(28) Law Enforcement Training**

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

1 **(34) Artesian Wells**

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

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

8
9 **(35) Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs**

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

13
14 **(36) Cloud Seeding**

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

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

22
23 **(37) Comprehensive State Water Plan**

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

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

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

33 We support amending the Idaho Constitution,
34 Article XV Water Rights Section 7, State Water
35 Resource Agency to read "That any change
36 shall become effective only by approval of the
37 legislature."

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

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

44
45 **(38) Dams**

46 We support legislation that would focus the
47 attention of the Northwest Power Planning Council's
48 authority on planning, to provide for present and

1 future power needs of northwest power states and
2 away from other secondary issues.

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

11 We support the continued existence and current
12 usage of all dams on the Columbia and Snake
13 Rivers. We oppose any efforts to destroy or decrease
14 production of those dams.

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

17 18 **(39) Effluent Trading**

19 We support the concept of effluent trading.

20 21 **(40) Flood Control**

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

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

28 29 **(41) Moratorium**

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

33 34 **(42) Outstanding Resource Waters**

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

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

41 42 **(43) State Purchase of Water Rights for Mitigation**

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

1 **(44) Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLS)**

2 We support mandating Idaho’s Department
3 of Environmental Quality to conduct an Economic
4 Impact Analysis of an area’s businesses (including
5 the agri-business and agricultural operations of
6 that area) before initiating a TMDL process for that
7 geographic area. The analysis shall be provided to
8 the Watershed Advisory Group before consideration
9 is given to develop and implement a TMDL. A copy
10 of the analysis shall also be provided to the germane
11 committees of the Idaho Legislature.
12

13 **(45) Transfer of Water Rights**

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

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

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

25 We oppose out-of-basin transfers of irrigation
26 water from lands enrolled in the federal cropland
27 set-aside program for use on lands that have not
28 historically been used for agricultural development.

29 We oppose the continued use of the 427,000 acre
30 feet of water for flow augmentation.
31

32 **(46) Waste Management**

33 We oppose mandatory facility construction
34 without scientific proof of environmental pollution on
35 an individual basis.
36

37 **(47) Water Development on New Non-Ag
38 Development**

39 We support legislation that would require
40 developers to supply water and water-delivery
41 systems using existing water rights or gray water to
42 new developments.
43

44 **(48) Water Quality**

45 We support the continued management of water
46 quality, both underground and surface, by utilizing
47 “Best Management Practices” (BMPs) as contained
48 in USDA’s “Natural Resource Conservation Services

1 Field Office Technical Guide” and Idaho’s “Forest
2 Practices Act”. Changes in these BMPs should be
3 based only on scientifically monitored data rather than
4 “best professional judgment”.

5 We support the development of BMPs for
6 recreational uses.

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

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

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

22 We oppose the deletion of the word “navigable”
23 from the Clean Water Act.

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

28 29 **(49) Water Quality Standards**

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

34 35 **(50) Water Rights**

36 We support state ownership and control of
37 Idaho water held in trust for the residents of the
38 State of Idaho, and will oppose any policy, program,
39 or regulation, including Federal Energy Regulatory
40 Commission (FERC) relicensing, which would infringe
41 on this right.

42 We support defining local public interest, under
43 water right law, to give priority to beneficial uses and
44 agricultural viability, with local vested interest and
45 use, a priority.

46 We support sanctions upon any party making
47 frivolous claims against water right applications.
48 Frivolous claims are not reasonably grounded in fact

1 or law causing unnecessary delay, increased cost, or
2 harassment.

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

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

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

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

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

26 We support the privatization of Idaho irrigation
27 canal systems.

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

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

36 We support efforts by local groundwater districts
37 to provide supplemental or water bank water to senior
38 surface water users to prevent curtailment of junior
39 water rights. Irrigation districts shall have no net loss
40 of irrigated acres due to growth and development.

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

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

47 We oppose any diminishment of storage fill rights
48 due to flood control or other discharge prior to season

1 use including efforts by any entity that would count
2 flood control releases against the storage rights of
3 water right holders.

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

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

12 We oppose Indian tribes requiring/requesting
13 water right encroachment permits on state waters.
14

15 **(51) Water Spreading**

16 We support voluntary conservation of water use
17 by updating irrigation systems. Increases in irrigated
18 acres (water spread acres) due to redesigning or
19 remodeling irrigation systems or development of
20 areas within a recorded water right, should not be
21 excluded from irrigation. Conservation should not
22 adversely affect the full use of an irrigation water
23 right.
24

25 **(52) Water Use - International Water Agreements**

26 We support renewal of the Columbia River
27 Treaty with Canada in such a manner as to maintain
28 its original focus upon flood control and power
29 generation.
30

31 **LAND USE**

32 **(53) Conservation Reserve Program – Grazing**

33 We support managed grazing every three years
34 or other mid-management tools of CRP acres to
35 enhance the health of vegetation at the discretion of
36 local committees.
37

38 We support the separation of haying and grazing
39 on CRP acres and the use of both as separate
40 management tools.
41

42 **(54) Experimental Stewardship Program**

43 We support and encourage the continuation and
44 expansion of the Experimental Stewardship Program
45 and Coordinated Resource Management Program,
46 (CRMP) as long as producer control is maintained in
47 all decisions concerning range management.
48

1 **(55) Government Land Transactions**

2 We support no net loss of private property.

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

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

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

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

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

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

30
31 **(56) Government-Managed Lands**

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

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

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

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

47 We support the Idaho Legislature joining with
48 other states of the West, in an interstate compact,

1 with respect to the transfer of public lands.

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 **(57) Grazing Fees**

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

25 **(58) Grazing Permit Transfer**

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

29 **(59) Idaho Forest Practices Act**

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

32 **(60) Idaho Grazing Land Conservation Initiative 33 (GLCI)**

34 We support the Idaho Grazing Land Conservation
35 Initiative.

36 **(61) Landfills on BLM Lands**

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

40 **(62) Local, State or National Land Designation**

41 We oppose any infringement upon private
42 property rights through any designation of land by
43

1 any government entity, including highway scenic
2 byways/corridors, National Heritage Areas, National
3 Monuments and National Parks. We oppose any
4 change to federal or state land designation when
5 there is the potential to harm agriculture.

6
7 **(63) Mineral Rights**

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

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

19
20 **(64) Mining**

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

25
26 **(65) Notification of Property Damage**

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

29
30 **(66) Open Range**

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

33
34 **(67) Pest Control**

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

40 We support any safe and effective methods of
41 mosquito control and the ISDA grasshopper control
42 program, as long as private property rights are
43 respected, and the landowner whose property is to
44 be treated is notified and allowed the opportunity
45 to exclude any areas that will negatively affect the
46 commodity being produced.

47 We support legislation that requires state and
48 federal governments to manage their lands and

1 control their noxious weeds and pests so that
2 no harm is done to adjoining lands, crops and
3 animals.

4 5 **(68) Protecting Farm Land**

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

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

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

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

20 21 **(69) Range Management Plans**

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

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

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

41 42 **(70) Rangeland Resource Commission**

43 We support the Rangeland Resource
44 Commission and the fees assessed.

45 46 **(71) Regulation of Agricultural Practices**

47 We recognize and support long-standing sound
48 agricultural practices such as field burning, including

1 grass seed, straw, residue burning, timber slash
2 burning and animal-waste disposal, cultivation and
3 harvest practices.

4 We support farmer participation in voluntary
5 airshed quality programs.

6 We oppose any legislation or regulations that
7 would segregate any agricultural industry, agricultural
8 crop, cropping practice or geographical area and
9 would impose a higher air quality, water quality or
10 environmental standard than is required of any other
11 person, entity, industry or geographical area within
12 the state.

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

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

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

24 We oppose mandatory registration or licensing of
25 farms and ranches.

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

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

35 36 **(72) Right to Farm**

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

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

44 45 **(73) Riparian Management**

46 Proper multiple-use management of riparian
47 areas is essential.

48 We believe these highly productive areas can be

1 properly harvested with modern forest or livestock
2 Best Management Practices (BMPs) and still improve
3 riparian habitat for all uses.

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

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

11 12 **(74) Sheep Grazing**

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

17 We support the Best Management Practice
18 concept for dealing with this issue.

19 20 **(75) State and County Noxious Weed Control**

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

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

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

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

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

42 43 **(76) Timber Management**

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

47 We oppose actions by the Land Board or
48 Department of Lands that would inhibit or further

1 restrict these processes, including, but not limited
2 to, habitat conservation plans and conservation
3 easements.

4 5 **(77) Timber Trespass**

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

11 12 **(78) Wilderness and Restrictive Zones**

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

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

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

28 We support adding adequate fire breaks in exist-
29 ing wilderness areas.

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

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

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

38 39 **(79) Wildfire Control**

40 We recommend changing fire-control policy to put
41 out any fire upon arrival or as soon as safely possible.
42 Local landowners must be allowed to protect
43 private property. Local entities (such as counties,
44 fire districts, and forest or rangeland protective
45 associations) and private landowners and individuals
46 need to be allowed to act as first responders. When
47 the protection of the health, safety, and property
48 of the citizens are in jeopardy, the local protective

1 associations must be allowed to act beyond the first
2 response and initial attack phase of a fire.

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 **FISH AND WILDLIFE**

29 **(80) Animal Damage Control**

30 We support animal damage control programs
31 to control and manage predators, rodents and
32 destructive wildlife.
33

34 **(81) Animal Threat and Public Safety**

35 It shall be the responsibility of U.S. Fish and
36 Wildlife Services and any state agencies, that
37 manage predatory or proven problem animals, to
38 notify all residences within a 5-mile radius using a
39 911 reverse calling system of potential conflict in their
40 area.
41

42 **(82) Emergency Feeding of Wild Game**

43 We oppose feeding big-game animals except
44 in emergency situations defined by criteria such as
45 snow depth, temperature, wind chill, and available
46 forage.
47
48

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

6 7 **(83) Endangered Species Act**

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

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

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

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

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

32 No critical-habitat designation should be allowed
33 until it has been established beyond scientific doubt
34 that the species in question is actually present and
35 that endangered or threatened status is actually
36 warranted. The data to satisfy the scientific criteria
37 should meet the guidelines of the Data Quality
38 Act under federal statutes sections 3504(d)(1) and
39 3516 of title 44, United States Code. The agency,
40 organization or individual requesting the critical-
41 habitat designation must bear the cost of proving
42 presence of the species and this must be done
43 through the use of the best available peer reviewed
44 science.

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

48 Anadromous hatchery fish and wild fish should be

1 treated equally under the ESA. Hatchery fish should
2 be counted toward recovery of the species.

3 We support eliminating the marking of hatchery
4 fish.

5 We believe that introduction/ reintroduction of any
6 species must be approved by the state legislature
7 and must be consistent with local government natural
8 resource plans. Therefore, we urge the passage of
9 legislation that requires federal agencies to coordinate
10 and determine consistency per federal statutes with
11 the proper state agency and local governments when
12 those federal agencies have received a petition to list
13 a species.

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

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

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

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

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

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

40 **(84) Fish and Game Department**

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

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

48 We oppose any increase in funding for the Idaho

1 Department of Fish and Game from either the general
2 fund or license fees without showing a specific need
3 or use for the funds.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 We support Idaho Fish and Game issuing
33 emergency depredation permits to ag producers
34 and landowners to harvest animals that are causing
35 verifiable damage to crops, livestock and property.
36 The issuance of these depredation permits by IDFG
37 and other actions by IDFG to relieve depredation
38 shall be free of conditions that landowner must allow
39 hunting on their land. Landowners should be allowed
40 to determine who hunts and they should be allowed
41 to receive compensation for allowing hunts on their
42 private property. Emergency depredation permit
43 holders should have the option to retain possession of
44 harvested animals.

45 We support creating depredation areas for
46 landowners who are annually affected by depredating
47 animals and support mechanisms for quicker
48 response in those areas.

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

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

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

12 **(85) Fish and Game – Prior Notification**

13 The Idaho Department of Fish and Game must
14 have permission from the land owner before entering
15 private property.
16

17 **(86) Fish and Game – Private Reservoir 18 Companies**

19 Fish and Game Department shall pay private
20 reservoir companies for the use of that reservoir for
21 fish habitat. The Department should also pay up-
22 keep assessments on reservoirs in which they own
23 water.
24

25 **(87) Fish and Game / U.S. Fish & Wildlife 26 Responsibility**

27 We support reform of the Idaho Department of
28 Fish and Game to create local management of the
29 wildlife of Idaho. This program should be site specific
30 to control damage caused from over populated
31 species of both game and non-game animals.
32

33 We oppose the relocation of wild game and non-
34 game species without proper notice being given to
35 residents and property owners in the area where they
36 are released. Local county officials must receive
37 official notice at least 30 days prior to any relocation
38 or release, into the wild, of any species raised in
39 captivity. We oppose relocation or release into the
40 wild of wolves or grizzlies that have been raised in
41 captivity.

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

46 The state or federal wildlife personnel shall be
47 required to file an environmental and economic
48 impact statement before they can release non-native

1 insects or plants in Idaho or make regulations that
2 affect the counties and/or the state.

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

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

9 **(88) Fish Species Population Management**

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

15 **(89) Grizzly Bear**

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

18 We support a hunting season on the grizzly.

19 The costs associated with grizzlies, including triple
20 damages for depredation costs, should be borne by
21 the federal government, and its agencies such as
22 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

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

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

37 **(90) Invasive Species**

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

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

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

1 **(91) Sage Grouse**

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

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

10 We support private sector rearing and releasing
11 of sage grouse.

12
13 **(92) Introduction of Salmon**

14 We oppose the introduction of salmon above the
15 Brownlee Dam.

16
17 **(93) Salmon Recovery**

18 We support the following salmon-recovery
19 alternatives:

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

32
33 **(94) Snake River Basin Snails**

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

37 We oppose the future listing of new snail species.
38

39 **(95) Wolves**

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

- 42 1. allow an earlier start time for open foothold
43 trapping in all units open to wolf trapping;
- 44 2. longer check time on all lethal sets;
- 45 3. allow outfitters to sell wolf trapping trips;
- 46 4. make it legal to shoot wolves over baits;
- 47 5. eliminate regulations requiring diverters on
48 snares;

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

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

8
9 **(99) Bonneville Power Administration Credit**

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

13
14 **(100) Electrical Energy**

15 **Hydroelectric Dams:**

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

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

22 We support the relicensing of dams, including the
23 Hells Canyon Complex, using a least cost mitigation
24 plan reflecting the desire of the customers to have a
25 reliable power resource at reasonable rates.

26 **Renewables:**

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

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

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

36 **Regulations:**

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

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

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

47 **Transmission:**

48 We support upgrades in transmission and

1 distribution. Routing of utility corridors should be
2 placed on public land first and then to the areas of
3 least impact to private property owners.

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

6
7 **(101) Farm Produced Fuel**

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

11
12 **(102) Fossil Fuels**

13 We support the mining and drilling of fossil fuels.

14 We support the legislature ensuring that rules for
15 oil and natural gas production safeguard the water
16 aquifers for all citizens and protect property owners'
17 rights to use their property.

18 If a local government entity bans the
19 development of mineral rights in its jurisdiction, it
20 should be considered a property rights "taking" and
21 compensation should be provided to the property
22 owner.

23
24 **(103) Nuclear Energy**

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

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

33 We support development of the fast burn sector
34 of nuclear technology which massively reduces or
35 eliminates the need for nuclear waste disposal.

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

39
40 **(104) Power Demand Control Program**

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

45
46 **(105) Renewable Fuels**

47 We support the promotion and use of
48 alternative fuels made from agricultural products,

1 as long as they are driven by open markets and
2 not economically supported by mandates and
3 government subsidies.

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

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

9
10 **(106) Utility Companies**

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

14
15 **LABOR**

16
17 **(107) Labor**

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

20
21 **(108) Legal Aid**

22 We oppose state funding of Idaho Legal Aid
23 Services.

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

26
27 **(109) Minimum Wage**

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

30
31 **(110) New Hire Reporting**

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

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

38
39 **(111) Unemployment Insurance**

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

43
44 **(112) Workers Compensation**

45 Workers compensation for agricultural employers
46 should provide:

- 47 1. Cost control measures and fair base rates.
- 48 2. Mediation for agricultural concerns.

1 fuel used off-road.

2 We oppose taxing dyed fuel.

3
4 **(117) Impact Fees**

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

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

10
11 **(118) Investment Tax Credit**

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

15
16 **(119) Local Option Taxation**

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

20
21 **(120) Maximum Levy Rates**

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

24
25 **(121) Personal Tax Privacy Rights**

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

28
29 **(122) Property Tax**

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

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

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

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

43
44 **(123) Property Tax - Funding Local Government
45 and Schools**

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

48 We are opposed to judges being allowed to levy

1 taxes.

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

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

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

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

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

23 24 **(124) Sales Tax**

25 We oppose removing the sales tax exemption on
26 production items.

27 We support legislation that would exempt non-
28 profit organizational fund-raising from paying sales
29 tax on those receipts.

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

32 33 **(125) Services Tax**

34 We oppose all tax on services.

35 36 **(126) Special Taxing Districts**

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

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

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

1 be paid through household fees.

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

5
6 **(127) State Budget**

7 We support zero-based budgeting.

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

11 We oppose balancing budget shortfalls by any tax
12 increase.

13 We oppose any state funding of Planned
14 Parenthood.

15
16 **(128) Super Majority**

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

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

22
23 **(129) Tax Compensation for Federal and State
24 Managed Lands**

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

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

30
31 **(130) Tax Liens**

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

35
36 **(131) Tax Refund Extension**

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

39
40 **(132) Taxing Districts Sharing Administrators**

41 We encourage similar taxing districts to share
42 administrators and secretaries on a county-wide
43 or multi-district basis to help ease the tax burden
44 of administration.

45
46 **(133) Urban Renewal Districts**

47 We support the repeal of urban renewal laws.

1 **(134) Young Farmers and Ranchers Tax Credits**

2 We support legislation to allow agricultural asset
3 owners to earn tax credits for leasing their assets (ag-
4 ricultural land, depreciable machinery or equipment,
5 breeding livestock, buildings, etc.) to young farmers
6 or ranchers.

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

10
11 **LOCAL AFFAIRS**

12
13 **(135) Annexation**

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

18
19 **(136) County Commissioners**

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

26 We encourage county commissioners to
27 invoke the “coordination mandate” of Congress
28 set forth in federal statutes with the public land
29 management agencies plans and actions that may
30 negatively impact the county’s economy, culture
31 and heritage.

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

36
37 **(137) Distribution of Federal Fines**

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

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

45
46 **(138) Elections**

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

1 in that district.

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

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

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

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

12 **(139) Emergency Response Fees**

14 We oppose the imposition of a “crash tax” to
15 cover the cost of cleaning up spills at the site of an
16 accident.

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

19 **(140) Indigent Care Funding**

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

29 **(141) Notice of Zoning Change**

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

34 **(142) Public Hearings**

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

38 **(143) Zoning**

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

44 We recognize and encourage the use of planning

1 tools allowed under state law to encourage planned
2 and orderly growth in or near agricultural areas.

3 4 **EDUCATION**

5 6 **(144) Adolescent Nutrition**

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

10 11 **(145) Ag in the Classroom**

12 We support “Ag in the Classroom” in school
13 curriculum to increase student literacy of agriculture.

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

16 17 **(146) Career Technical Education**

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

21 22 **(147) Contracts for Teachers**

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

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

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

31 32 **(148) Education Funding**

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

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

39 40 **(149) Education Standards and Assessments**

41 We support using:

- 42 1. Professionally established standards and
43 assessments that can be modified to reflect
44 locally recognized educational values, goals
45 and philosophy.
- 46 2. Standards to ensure the progression of a
47 student that reflect a comprehension of the
48 subject.

1 **(150) Knowledge of Constitution**

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

7
8 **(151) Local Control of Education**

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

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

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

19
20 **(152) No Increase in School Time**

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

23
24 **(153) Parental Choice in Education**

25 We support the voucher system for education.

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

31 We support optional kindergarten.

32 We oppose public funding of pre-kindergarten.

33 We support legislation amending the Blaine
34 Amendment, Section 5, Article IX of the Constitution
35 of the state of Idaho to provide for an educational
36 system of grants or monetary assistance in which the
37 money follows the child.

38
39 **(154) Veterinary Students**

40 We support an increase from eleven (11) to fif-
41 teen (15) seats per year for Idaho residents in the
42 Washington-Idaho Cooperative Veterinary medical
43 Education Program.

44
45 **STATE AFFAIRS**

46
47 **(155) Agricultural Research and Extension**

48 We support the University of Idaho Agricultural

1 Research and Extension Service and urge the
2 Legislature to adequately fund this vital program.

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

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

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

18 We also support an informational exchange
19 and cooperative effort within the tri-state area
20 in agchemical registration and research as well
21 as plant/animal variety improvement research.
22 Every effort should be made by state and county
23 officials and the University of Idaho to retain an
24 agricultural extension agent in each county as
25 an extension service of our land grant university.
26 Strong pressure must be exerted to revitalize and
27 improve the agricultural information and education
28 programs.

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

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

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

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

45 **(156) ATV Safety**

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

1 **(157) Bicycle Safety**

2 We support bicyclists using public roadways be
3 subject to the same laws that motorists must obey.
4

5 **(158) Cell Phone Use**

6 We oppose any legislation that would ban cell
7 phone use in vehicles for voice communication.
8

9 **(159) Commercial Auction Company Bonding**

10 We support legislation that would require
11 licensing and bonding of commercial auction
12 companies.
13

14 **(160) Constitutional Defense Fund**

15 We support adding another leadership position to
16 the existing four-member council when voting on the
17 distribution of Constitutional Defense Funds.
18

19 **(161) Cross Deputization of Law Enforcement
20 Officers**

21 We believe that cross deputization of county
22 sheriffs and any tribal law enforcement officers should
23 be voluntary.
24

25 **(162) Definition of Agricultural Buildings**

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

- 28 1. They are buildings where agricultural
29 products are stored, housed or grown.
- 30 2. They are buildings where agricultural
31 equipment, including licensed vehicles
32 that are used in the production of agriculture
33 can be fixed, repaired or stored.
- 34 3. They are buildings that are used for the
35 normal servicing of an agricultural business.
- 36 4. They can be used by employees as a place
37 of employment as well as a place to have
38 meals and take bathroom breaks as required
39 by GAAP (Generally Accepted Agriculture
40 Practices).
41

42 **(163) Executive Branch MOU/MOA**

43 We oppose actions by the governor entering into
44 Memorandums of Understanding or Memorandums of
45 Agreement without legislative oversight and approval.
46

47 **(164) Falsifying Reports**

48 Knowingly filing a false report and/or complaint to

1 any agency shall be considered a misdemeanor and
2 the perpetrator should be required to pay damages
3 and/or expenses to the individual that was falsely
4 accused as well as the investigating agency.

5 6 **(165) Hazardous Waste**

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

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

16 We support a statewide hazardous materials
17 clean-up day.

18 19 **(166) Health Insurance**

20 We support private optional health insurance.

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

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

- 26 1. In the inclusion of out-of-state health
27 insurance companies participation in the
28 marketplace of health insurance in Idaho.
- 29 2. In individual health savings accounts with tax
30 free withdrawals for all health insurance
31 premiums.
- 32 3. In free market solutions to health care costs
33 and access.
- 34 4. In the establishment of defined contribution
35 programs as opposed to defined benefit
36 programs.
- 37 5. In free clinics funded by local community/
38 faith-based organizations.
- 39 6. In development of Direct Primary Care in
40 Idaho supporting the offering of wraparound
41 health insurance policies.

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

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

1 **(167) Inmate Care**

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

4
5 **(168) Judicial Confirmation**

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

9
10 **(169) Legislative Testimony**

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

14
15 **(170) Liability and Tort Claims**

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

19
20 **(171) Medicaid**

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

25 We oppose Medicaid expansion and support
26 Medicaid reform.

27
28 **(172) PERSI**

29 We support changing the formula for retirement
30 benefits to reflect total contribution in a fiscally re-
31 sponsible way that protects the taxpayers of Idaho
32 and is fair to public employees who have contributed
33 to the fund.

34
35 **(173) Private Property Rights/Eminent Domain**

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

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

47 We oppose the use of eminent domain for
48 recreational purposes, for private economic

1 development or to expand the land holding of wildlife
2 agencies.

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

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

17
18 **(174) Proof of Citizenship**

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

21
22 **(175) Proprietary Information**

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

26
27 **(176) PUC Rates**

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

32
33 **(177) Public Employees Bargaining**

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

39
40 **(178) Public Trust Doctrine**

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

44
45 **(179) Re-Establish Congressional Lawmaking
46 Responsibility**

47 We support the state legislature in its efforts to
48 encourage Congress to reclaim its constitutional

1 responsibility of making law.

2 Proposed rules or regulations by federal bureaus
3 or agencies should have congressional approval
4 before becoming law.

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

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

11
12 **(180) Refugees in The United States**

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

16 We oppose any refugee program that adds in-
17 creased stress to local services. We support any
18 county that chooses to refuse or remove refugee pro-
19 grams in their county.

20
21 **(181) Regulation Reform**

22 We support:

- 23 1. Complete review of existing regulations to
24 determine their effectiveness and
25 appropriateness prior to assigning more
26 restrictive regulations.
- 27 2. Peer review of the existing regulations to
28 determine their potential to mitigate the
29 problems they address.

30
31 **(182) Regulatory Fines**

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

36
37 **(183) Rights-of-Way**

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

47 We urge enactment of legislation to require that
48 adjacent landowners be given priority to purchase

1 at fair market value lands that have been vacated
2 by railways, power companies, roadways, etc.
3 And require that public agencies obtaining title
4 to abandoned rights-of-way be responsible for
5 maintaining fences, drainage systems, all field and
6 road crossings and for controlling weeds on any such
7 acquired rights-of-way.

8 We support access to or through federal lands
9 using RS2477.

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

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

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

31 **(184) Right to Bear Arms**

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

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

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

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

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

1 **(185) Road Closures**

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

5 We oppose the closure of any existing roads.

6
7 **(186) State Agencies**

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

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

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

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

24 We urge and will support legislation to require
25 that government rules and regulations, wherever
26 applicable, be based upon supportive disciplinary
27 peer reviewed scientific data and that wherever
28 policies, rules or regulations do not meet this
29 standard the responsible individual and/or individuals
30 can be held liable.

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

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

39
40 **(187) State Building Code**

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

44
45 **(188) State Hatch Act**

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

1 **(189) State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)**

2 We oppose the expansion of the authority of the
3 SHPO and oppose any state funding.
4

5 **(190) State Legal Reform**

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

16 We support legislation by the Idaho Legislature
17 that would require any entity bringing such lawsuits to
18 post substantial bonds based on the potential harm
19 of the lawsuit. Individuals who file complaints against
20 an agricultural operation and request an investigation
21 must pay a fee to cover administration costs.
22 Complete names, addresses and phone numbers are
23 required on each complaint.

24 We support legislation to restore the election of
25 district judges.

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

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

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

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

37 As a matter of equity, we support that when a
38 private party must act in the place of the Attorney
39 General to enforce and protect the Idaho Constitution
40 and statutes, the Idaho Legislature must reimburse
41 the party for all reasonable attorney fees and costs if
42 the courts fail to do so.

43 We support requiring judges to inform jurors of the
44 legality of jury nullification.
45

46 **(191) States' Rights and Sovereignty**

47 We support a law stating that Idaho and all
48 political subdivisions of the state are prohibited from

1 using any personnel or financial resources to enforce,
2 administer or cooperate with an executive order
3 issued by the President of the United States that has
4 not been affirmed by a vote of the Congress of the
5 United States and signed into law as prescribed by the
6 Constitution of the United States

7 8 **(192) Term Limits**

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

13 14 **(193) Transportation**

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

17 We oppose a tax or fee increase on fuel.

18 We oppose a tax or fee increase on vehicles.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17
18 **(194) Trespass**

19 We support programs to educate the public about
20 private property rights and about trespass laws.
21 Landowners retain the right to refuse access within
22 the current law.

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

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

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

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

43
44 **(195) Unfunded Mandates**

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

1 **(196) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)**

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

5
6 **(197) U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals**

7 We support the division of the Ninth Circuit Court
8 of Appeals to add a new northwest U.S. Circuit Court
9 of Appeals.

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