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## BASIC PRINCIPLES

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### **Purpose of Farm Bureau**

Farm Bureau is a free, independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization of 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 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 that the importance of the role that agriculture plays in the development of our society must never be taken for granted. Economic progress, cultural advancement, ethical and religious principles flourish best where men are free, responsible individuals. The exercise of free will, rather than force, is consistent with the maintenance of liberty. Individual freedom and opportunity must not be sacrificed in a quest for guaranteed "security".

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

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

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

We support agricultural programs and organizations that give equal opportunity for personal and professional growth based on skills, knowledge and leadership ability.

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

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

We oppose the use of public funds for financing political campaigns. People have the right and the responsibility to speak for themselves individually or through organizations of their choice without coercion or government intervention. Ownership of property and property rights are among the human rights essential to the preservation of individual freedom. The right to own property must be preserved at all costs.

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

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

We support a society free of drug abuse.

**The Constitution**

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

The Constitution is the basic law of the land and changes should be made only through constitutional amendments, not by federal policy or regulation. One of the

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

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

11

### 12 **Religious Life**

13 Our nation was founded on spiritual faith and belief  
14 in God. Whereas the Constitution of the United States was  
15 founded on moral and religious principles, it is proposed that  
16 moral, ethical, and traditional family values get equal support  
17 and consideration in the public schools as do the atheistic  
18 and humanistic views.

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

21 We vigorously support retention of:

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

26

### 27 **Capitalism-Private Competitive Enterprise**

28 We believe in the American capitalistic, private,  
29 competitive enterprise system in which property is privately  
30 owned, privately managed, operated for profit, individual  
31 satisfaction and responsible stewardship.

32 We believe in a competitive business environment in  
33 which supply and demand are the primary determinants of  
34 market prices, the use of productive resources, and the  
35 distribution of output.

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

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

42 We believe every individual in Idaho should have the  
43 right to a job without being forced to join or pay dues to any  
44 organization. Government operation of commercial business  
45 in competition with private enterprise should be terminated.

46 We also believe that no element of society has more  
47 concern for, understanding of, or a greater stake in, the  
48 proper husbandry of poultry, livestock, furbearers, game

animals, and aquaculture than the producer. 1

**Economy in Government** 2

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

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

We believe that Article B, Section 1, "Limitations of 9  
Public Indebtedness" of the state constitution is the main 10  
reason for the healthy financial condition of Idaho's 11  
government. We will oppose any attempt to amend this 12  
section of the constitution. 13

Tax exemptions granted by the state Legislature that 14  
reduce county income should at the same time require 15  
appropriations of sufficient funds to replace county revenue 16  
losses caused by such exemptions. 17

We support economy at all levels of government. 18

**Education** 19

We believe education starts with the parent or 20  
guardian and is extended to the schools as a cooperative 21  
partnership in which parents and guardians have the right to 22  
review any and all methods and materials used in the 23  
educational processes of school systems. 24

We believe parents have the right to choose how 25  
best to educate their children. 26

We believe local school boards must be elected by 27  
the people to maintain control of public school systems and 28  
must have authority to establish policy for dress standards, 29  
personal conduct standards, testing standards, fiscal 30  
controls and curriculum in order to assure public schools are 31  
effective in their continuing effort to strengthen the 32  
educational programs. 33

We believe all school systems must be accountable 34  
to give opportunity that all students in their educational 35  
systems obtain proficiency in the basics of reading, writing 36  
and mathematics. Parents and guardians must be kept 37  
informed by the school system, of the educational progress 38  
of their children. 39

We believe parents and guardians have an inherent 40  
right and obligation to discipline their own children. 41

**Political Parties** 42

Strong, responsive political parties are essential to 43  
the United States system of elective government. 44

We recommend that Farm Bureau members support 45

1 the political party of their choice.

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

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

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

10 We support the right of members of Idaho's political  
11 parties to demand a closed primary and encourage the  
12 legislature to pass a law to make it possible.

13

14

## COMMODITIES

15

### 16 (1) Agrichemicals

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

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

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

27

### 28 (2) Anthracnose Virus

29 We urge the Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
30 to do all within its power to prohibit the importation of  
31 Anthracnose virus into Idaho.

32

### 33 (3) Commodity Indemnity Fund

34 We support all efforts to maintain accountability,  
35 monitor efficiency, and protect the fund.

36 We encourage addressing the "no-price established"  
37 contracts to reduce the risk to the fund.

38 We favor a minimum of \$15 million in the state  
39 commodity indemnity fund to provide an adequate level of  
40 protection for growers.

41

### 42 (4) Commodity Promotion

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

46 We support compulsory deduction of funds if  
47 producers can establish the commodity commission through  
48 referendum, with assessments being established or

increased by a majority vote of the producers, or if producers can easily obtain refunds of their assessments.	1
	2
We support a periodic referendum if assessment is made mandatory.	3
	4
We recommend that all ag commodity commissions be removed from state legislative control and put into producer control.	5
	6
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	8
<b>(5) Commodity Sales</b>	9
We support expansion of Idaho agricultural markets, domestic and foreign. We also support trade missions abroad to better inform our producers and the hosting of foreign delegations to our state in efforts to increase our market share.	10
	11
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	14
We support changes to crop insurance that truly reflect a safety net.	15
	16
We oppose double discounts by grain dealers.	17
We support licensing and bonding of all commodity brokers by the State of Idaho.	18
	19
	20
<b>(6) Country of Origin on Food</b>	21
We support mandatory country-of-origin labeling of agricultural products for the State of Idaho.	22
	23
	24
<b>(7) Environmental Studies</b>	25
We recommend that any individual or group doing environmental studies be held accountable for claims or assertions of damage by agricultural practices to the environment. Claims or assertions should be treated with skepticism until they have been subjected to critical peer review and tested by practical application.	26
	27
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<b>(8) Fair Trade</b>	33
We support the concept of fair trade as outlined in American Farm Bureau Federation policy.	34
	35
	36
<b>(9) Field Testing Biotechnology Products</b>	37
We support effective field testing of new biotechnology products, to promote commercial use of products that will benefit agriculture and the general public.	38
	39
	40
We oppose any law or regulation requiring registration of agriculture producers who use or sell biotech-based products or commodities.	41
	42
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	44
<b>(10) Food Safety/Government Accountability</b>	45
We strongly believe a government agency making public health decisions that result in product recalls, product seizures or destruction of perishable goods must be held	46
	47
	48

1 accountable when such decisions prove false. Such  
 2 agencies must be required to compensate or indemnify  
 3 individuals and companies for the monetary losses that  
 4 occur because of poor or false regulatory decisions.

5  
 6 **(11) Forage/Soil Sample Testing**

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

11  
 12 **(12) Hay Certification**

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

15  
 16 **(13) Industrial Grade Hemp**

17 We encourage the legalization of cultivation and  
 18 production of industrial grade hemp in Idaho.

19  
 20 **(14) Lien Law**

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

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

28  
 29 **(15) Moisture Meters**

30 Commodity buyers' moisture meters should be  
 31 certified for accuracy by the ISDA Bureau of Weights and  
 32 Measures.

33  
 34 **(16) NAFTA Withdrawal**

35 We support a concurrent resolution from both  
 36 houses of the Idaho State Legislature to Congress to take  
 37 necessary steps to withdraw from NAFTA.

38  
 39 **(17) Pesticides**

40 We support continued use of pesticides and/or  
 41 related products until more complete studies are done, or a  
 42 substitute is approved that is economically feasible and  
 43 equally effective.

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

48

<b>(18) Potato Seed Management</b>	1
We support a potato seed management program that encourages the use of certified seed potatoes in seed and commercial production for the control of diseases and pests.	2 3 4 5
We recommend:	6
(1) That the tolerance for late blight in potato seed planted in the state of Idaho be 1% or less at shipping point inspection.	7 8 9
(2) That the Idaho State Department of Agriculture recognize the entire state as late blight infected.	10 11 12
<b>(19) Potato Wart Virus</b>	13
We support the quarantine of all sources of the potato wart virus.	14 15 16
<b>(20) Rhizomania</b>	17
We support active research and the dissemination of information to all interested parties related to rhizomania and urge that any imposed restrictions be based on scientific data.	18 19 20 21 22
<b>(21) Root-Lesion Nematode</b>	23
We support any phytosanitary action taken by the Idaho Department of Agriculture to protect the Idaho potato industry from the threat of the "Pratylenchus Neglectus" nematode.	24 25 26 27 28
<b>(22) Soil Sampling Certification</b>	29
We support the Idaho State Department of Agriculture allowing certification of third-party soil sampling for nutrient management plan compliance purposes.	30 31 32 33
<b>LIVESTOCK</b>	
<b>(23) Animal Care</b>	34 35 36
We oppose any legislation, regulatory actions, or funding, whether public or private, that tend to interfere with good animal husbandry practices.	37 38 39
We support the Idaho Animal Care and Welfare Policy Statement.	40 41
We support fines and/or reimbursement for animal research lost and all costs and damage incurred, when farms or research facilities are willfully damaged. Responsible persons or organizations should pay all costs.	42 43 44 45
We further support the role of licensed veterinarians in the care of animals and support current licensing standards for veterinarians.	46 47 48

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

3

#### 4 **(24) Animal ID**

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

8 We support the concept that an ID program would  
 9 be species specific, tracking animals as they move from  
 10 premises to premises and that the animals will be identified  
 11 either individually or as a production group.

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

16 We support the concept of private industry groups  
 17 only maintaining the data base.

18

#### 19 **(25) Animal Rights**

20 We oppose the concept that animals have rights and  
 21 oppose legislation that would give funds to animal-rights  
 22 organizations or any public agency or the right to establish  
 23 standards concerning these so-called rights of animals.

24

#### 25 **(26) Bioterrorism**

26 We support legislation that would make it a felony  
 27 for any person to purposefully spread any type of  
 28 contagious, communicable, or infectious disease among  
 29 livestock or other animals.

30 We support legislation that would make it a felony  
 31 for any person who intentionally attempts to transfer,  
 32 damage, vandalize, or poison the product, water, or facilities  
 33 of a posted commercial aquaculture operation.

34

#### 35 **(27) Bovine Tuberculosis**

36 We support amending Idaho cattle importation rules  
 37 to make those rules equal to U.S. border States in their  
 38 restriction of tuberculosis infected/exposed cattle.

39

#### 40 **(28) Brucellosis**

41 We support laws and regulations by the Legislature  
 42 and the Department of Agriculture pertaining to brucellosis  
 43 and will oppose efforts to relax them.

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

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

48 We support regulations requiring the appropriate

state and federal agencies to control and eradicate this disease in wildlife. 1  
 2  
 We oppose separating the state into zones for definition of brucellosis free status. 3  
 4  
 5  
**(29) CAFO Regulations** 6  
 We support efforts by all livestock associations to create MOUs with the appropriate state and federal agencies. All information obtained by government agencies on agricultural producers, including nutrient management plans, shall be kept confidential. 7  
 8  
 9  
 10  
 11  
 We believe that counties should have the sole right, responsibility, and authority under existing laws for the siting of CAFOs (Confined Animal Feeding Operations). 12  
 13  
 14  
 We would encourage the counties to consult the local extension personnel, state agencies, and soil and water agencies in determining the parameters to write siting guidelines. 15  
 16  
 17  
 18  
 Matters pertaining to CAFO regulation other than siting, should be under the jurisdiction of the state. 19  
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 21  
**(30) Cattle Liens** 22  
 We support changes in the existing lien laws that recognize the methods of transferring ownership of cattle. Liens should not be attached to livestock until ownership can be proven and verified. 23  
 24  
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 27  
**(31) Data Confidentiality** 28  
 We support the confidentiality of data collected on farms and feedlots. Only final reports or conclusions should be made a matter of public record. No data collected from individual operations should be made public. 29  
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 31  
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 33  
**(32) Domestic Cervidae** 34  
 We support the right of domestic cervidae owners to use private trophy ranches as a means to ethically harvest their animals. 35  
 36  
 37  
 We support the right of domestic cervidae owners to breed, raise, and market all members of the cervidae family indigenous to Idaho that can be legally acquired. 38  
 39  
 40  
 41  
**(33) Equine** 42  
 We oppose any attempt to eliminate the equine owner's or the BLM's right to the humane slaughter of their equine for consumption or any other purpose. 43  
 44  
 45  
 We support construction of new slaughtering facilities and/or use of existing processing facilities in Idaho to humanely slaughter equine. 46  
 47  
 48

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

5 We support the humane treatment of equine at all  
6 times and in all places including those destined for slaughter.

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

10 We support the inclusion of equine in the National  
11 Animal Identification System.

12 When an equine is in the custody of a government  
13 agency and an adoption has not been able to take place  
14 within 6 months, that equine should be slaughtered or  
15 humanely euthanized.

16

### 17 **(34) Foot and Mouth/BSE Disease**

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

24 We oppose the opening of live cattle imports from  
25 Canada until sound science proves no threat of BSE spread  
26 into the U.S., and all imported live cattle must be under the  
27 age of 30 months.

28 We oppose any announcement to the media of BSE  
29 suspects in the U.S. until the final scientific determination is  
30 made whether they are positive or negative.

31 We support allowing entities to voluntarily test all  
32 slaughtered animals for Bovine Spongiform/Encephalopathy  
33 (BSE) in order to ship products to countries that require  
34 individual tests.

35

### 36 **(35) Foot Rot in Sheep**

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

39

### 40 **(36) Livestock Brands**

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

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

47

48

<b>(37) Manure Management</b>	1
We believe that manure and manure/compost are nutrient-rich residue resources.	2
	3
We oppose manure being classified as industrial waste.	4
	5
We encourage research on manure management including such areas as odor reduction and waste and nutrient management.	6
	7
	8
We encourage programs that educate livestock operators on techniques regarding properly managed organic nutrient systems, especially if implemented with consistent best management practices (BMPs) developed by extension, university and the livestock industry.	9
	10
	11
	12
	13
	14
<b>(38) Right to Market Animals</b>	15
We urge the Legislature to provide adequate statutes to protect the rights of livestock owners to market their animals.	16
	17
	18
	19
<b>(39) Sheep Tail Length</b>	20
We support the creation of a minimum length standard on tail docking of sheep for show purposes.	21
	22
	23
<b>(40) State Veterinarian</b>	24
We believe that a licensed veterinarian must remain in charge of the Animal Health Division of the Idaho Department of Agriculture. Should an administrative office be created, it should be under the direction of the State Veterinarian.	25
	26
	27
	28
	29
	30
	31
	32
	33
<b>(41) Artesian Wells</b>	34
We support the current law regarding artesian wells if adequate funding is appropriated to fund the cost-sharing of well repairs.	35
	36
We oppose the designation of the heat value from a geothermal source as being the only beneficial use.	37
	38
	39
<b>(42) Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs</b>	40
Release of water in power head space in Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs shall be controlled solely by state water law.	41
	42
	43
	44
<b>(43) Bureau of Reclamation Water Contracts</b>	45
We support, when renewing irrigation contracts with Bureau of Reclamation, irrigators should retain full quantity of water and be allowed conversion of water service	46
	47
	48

1 contracts to repayment contracts as required by law.

2

3 **(44) Comprehensive State Water Plan**

4 We urge the Governor to appoint Water Resource  
5 Board members who will be protective of the waters of the  
6 state of Idaho.

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

9 We support legislation requiring legislative approval  
10 before establishing minimum stream flow, river basin plans,  
11 and state water plans. That provision of Idaho Code 42-1503  
12 (e)ii which allows "Minimum Stream Flows" proposed by the  
13 Idaho Department of Water Resources to become law if no  
14 specific action is taken by the Legislature to prevent that,  
15 must be repealed.

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

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

21

22 **(45) Dams**

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

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

34 We support the continued existence and current  
35 usage of all dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

36 We oppose any efforts to destroy or decrease  
37 production of those dams.

38

39 **(46) Effluent Trading**

40 We support the concept of effluent trading.

41

42 **(47) Flood Control**

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

47

48

<b>(48) Moratorium</b>	1
We support the current Idaho Department of Water Resources moratoriums on critical groundwater development.	2 3 4 5
<b>(49) Outstanding Resource Waters</b>	6
We support the Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs) and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) process, recognizing that outstanding resource waters (ORWs) is part of this process.	7 8 9 10
We oppose nominations of ORWs by parties other than BAGs and WAGs.	11 12 13
<b>(50) State Purchase of Water Rights for Mitigation</b>	14
We support having the state of Idaho purchase water rights for mitigation purposes to be held by the state water board, so water trade may benefit recharge and pump conversions.	15 16 17 18 19
<b>(51) Transfer of Water Rights</b>	20
We oppose the transfer of water rights to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).	21 22
We oppose the taking of water for fish flushing. Water held by the Idaho Water Resources Board will be held and used for purposes intended and in accordance with state law.	23 24 25 26
We believe all water in Idaho should be used beneficially. In the event the BOR or IDWR desires use of water they would have to negotiate on a yearly basis for rental-pool water in accordance with state water law.	27 28 29 30 31
<b>(52) Waste Management</b>	32
We are concerned with wastes and other pollutants entering and adversely impacting the state water quality.	33 34
We oppose mandatory facility construction without scientific proof of environmental pollution on an individual basis.	35 36 37 38
<b>(53) Water Development on New Non-Ag Development</b>	39
We support legislation that would require developers to supply water and water-delivery systems using existing water rights or gray water to new developments.	40 41 42 43
<b>(54) Water Quality</b>	44
We support the continued management of water quality, both underground and surface, by utilizing "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) as contained in USDA's	45 46 47 48

1 "Natural Resource Conservation Services Field Office  
2 Technical Guide" and Idaho's Forest Practices Act, which  
3 provides very adequately for buffer strips or "Stream  
4 Protection Zones." Changes in these BMPs should be  
5 based only on scientifically monitored data rather than "best  
6 professional judgment."

7 We support the development of BMPs for  
8 recreational uses.

9 We support canal and irrigation districts' efforts to  
10 halt unwanted drainage into their water systems.

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

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

20

## 21 **(55) Water Quality Standards**

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

26

## 27 **(56) Water Recharge**

28 We support state planning and implementation of a  
29 basin-wide aquifer recharge.

30 We request the development of new conveyance  
31 systems for the implementation of large-scale recharge of  
32 the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer. Government mandated  
33 water conservation (i.e. lining of canals, etc.) must be  
34 accompanied by equivalent recharge of the aquifer.

35 Aquifer recharge must be considered a beneficial  
36 use of irrigation/stock water.

37 Funds for recharging the aquifer should be available  
38 as an annual budget appropriation of the Legislature.

39

## 40 **(57) Water Rights**

41 We support the state's right concept of state  
42 ownership and control of its water, and will oppose any  
43 policy, program, or regulation, including Federal Energy  
44 Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing, which would  
45 infringe on this right.

46 We support continued state control of water issues  
47 within appropriate Idaho agencies and departments without  
48 federal legislative or regulatory intervention, especially

regulations such as the Endangered Species Act that would jeopardize any of our state's or individual's established water rights.

We support defining public interest under water right law, to give priority to beneficial uses and agricultural viability.

We support the efforts of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) to limit frivolous claims against water-right applications by imposing appropriate sanctions upon any party filing or pleading such frivolous claims. Frivolous claims are those that are not reasonably grounded in fact or law to cause unnecessary delay, increased cost, or harassment.

We are opposed to the Water Resources Board accepting any further applications and giving water rights on surface stream water of the state of Idaho that has been over decreed and adjudicated. Adequate water for domestic and agricultural purposes should have priority over other uses when the waters of any natural stream are insufficient for the services of all those desiring a use, as per Article 15, Section 3 of the Idaho Constitution. Permittees on federal land should be allowed to retain ownership of water rights in their name as their livestock provide beneficial use under state law. Minimum stream flows should not jeopardize water rights and should be financed by the benefit recipients.

We support water adjudication but not on a basin wide basis.

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

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

We support the privatization of Idaho irrigation canal systems. We support the protection of canal and drain ditch easements from arbitrarily being taken over by cities, counties, states, federal or private developers or private landowners and developed into green belts or bike paths, or a threat to private property and water rights.

We support the concept of conjunctive-use management when scientific evidence is available upon which to base the decision.

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

We oppose changing the historical beneficial use of

1 water rights when that change will have a negative impact on  
2 other water right holders.

3

4 **(58) Water Spreading**

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

12

13 **(59) Water Supply Funding**

14 We encourage the Legislature to dedicate 1/16 of a  
15 cent of the state permanent sales tax, to assist in meeting  
16 the development costs of Idaho's water supply, which is a  
17 vital natural resource.

18

19 **(60) Water Theft**

20 We support increased penalties and enforcement for  
21 those individuals who are illegally using water.

22

23 **(61) Water Transfers**

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

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

30

31

**LAND USE**

32

33 **(62) Conservation Reserve Program - Grazing**

34 We support managed grazing or other management  
35 tools of CRP Acres to enhance the health of vegetation at  
36 the discretion of local committees.

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

39

40 **(63) Conservation Security Program**

41 We support efforts by affected agricultural producers to  
42 correct discrepancies in administration of the Conservation  
43 Security Program by the Natural Resources Conservation  
44 Service.

45

46 **(64) Experimental Stewardship Program**

47 We strongly support and encourage the continuation  
48 and expansion of the Experimental Stewardship Program

and Coordinated Resource Management Program, (CRMP) 1  
as long as producer control is maintained in all decisions 2  
concerning range management. 3

4  
**(65) Federal and State Acquisition of Land** 5

We support no net loss of private property. We urge 6  
enactment of legislation to require prior legislative approval 7  
for any federal or state land acquisition on a parcel-by-parcel 8  
basis. 9

We support prohibiting the sale of state land to the 10  
federal government or agencies of the federal government, 11  
except for the purpose of building federal facilities or 12  
structures. 13

When federal land is sold, traded, or exchanged, all 14  
holders of grazing preference must be fairly compensated. 15  
When land is to be sold, the current grazing permit holder 16  
must have the first right of refusal. If there is no permit 17  
holder, the adjacent landowner should be given the first right 18  
of refusal based on appraised value. 19

We oppose any land exchanges involving publicly 20  
owned land unless there is strong local support. 21

We oppose the Upper Lochsa Land Exchange as 22  
originally proposed. 23

When any entity acquires property from the federal 24  
government, that entity should be required to compensate 25  
grazing preference holders on the former federally 26  
administered lands for the loss of their property right. 27

28  
**(66) Government-Managed Lands** 29

We support multiple-use management of federal and 30  
state lands with due regard for the traditional rights of use. 31

We urge county governments to have a land-use 32  
management plan with which both state and federal 33  
agencies would coordinate in order to protect the land within 34  
their tax base. 35

We support state's rights and state sovereignty over 36  
waters of the state and federal lands within the state. 37

We support the equal-footing doctrine and efforts to 38  
reclaim federal land back to state jurisdiction and 39  
management. 40

Holders of grazing permits or leases should not be 41  
penalized or removed from allotments because of 42  
administrative errors or omissions of the land-managing 43  
agency. 44

We support legislation clarifying State Code #58-310 45  
to specify that an individual, corporation or other 46  
organization applying to participate in conflict bids on state 47  
lands, specifically designated as grazing lands, must 48

1 demonstrate the ability and intent to utilize the lease for the  
2 purpose of livestock grazing, to be deemed eligible to  
3 participate.

4 We oppose the Idaho Department of Lands  
5 proposed leasing rules that include conservation leases in  
6 the bidding process with grazing, farming, and recreation  
7 leases.

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

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

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

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

20 We support all efforts by the Department of Lands to  
21 optimize the timber yields and stumpage prices as mandated  
22 by the Idaho Constitution. We oppose actions by the Land  
23 Board or Department of Lands that would inhibit or further  
24 restrict these processes, including, but not limited to, habitat  
25 conservation plans and conservation easements.

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

28

### 29 **(67) Grazing Fees**

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

32 We are opposed to incentive-based grazing fees on  
33 federal lands.

34

### 35 **(68) Grazing Permit Transfer**

36 We oppose the U.S. Forest Service ruling that will  
37 prevent transferring grazing permits for twenty-five head or  
38 less.

39

### 40 **(69) Idaho Forest Practices Act**

41 We support the Idaho Forest Practices Act.

42 We support legislation requiring all forest land  
43 owners, even tribal forest land owners, to comply with  
44 standards at least as stringent as the rules placed in the act.

45

### 46 **(70) Idaho Grazing Land Conservation Initiative (GLCI)**

47 We support the Idaho Grazing Land Conservation  
48 Initiative.

<b>(71) Landfills on BLM Lands</b>	1
We encourage the development of new, as well as	2
the continued use of, county landfills on BLM lands.	3
	4
<b>(72) Local, State or National Land Designation</b>	5
We oppose any infringement upon private property	6
rights through any designation of land by any government	7
entity, including highway scenic byways/corridors and	8
National Heritage Areas.	9
	10
<b>(73) Mineral Rights</b>	11
We support legislation that would return Mineral	12
rights to current landowners (at no expense to the	13
landowners), where there has been no meaningful mineral	14
activity for ten years.	15
	16
<b>(74) Mining</b>	17
We support the continuation of mineral extraction in	18
Idaho as long as the appropriate mine reclamation and	19
environmental protections are in place and followed.	20
We support the Monsanto Company in its efforts to	21
develop the new Blackfoot Bridge Mine for the production of	22
elemental phosphorus.	23
	24
<b>(75) Open Range</b>	25
We oppose any changes to Idaho open range and	26
fence laws.	27
	28
<b>(76) Pest Control</b>	29
We support enforcement of current laws to give	30
counties, authority to spray and control insect infestations on	31
private land, with the cost of the spraying to be assessed to	32
the current tax base of the present owner of the land.	33
We support legislation that requires state and	34
federal governments to manage their lands and control their	35
noxious weeds and pests so that no harm is done to	36
adjoining lands, crops, and animals.	37
	38
<b>(77) Protecting Farm Land</b>	39
We ask all units of government to give high priority	40
to the protection of farm land and/or grazing land when	41
considering other uses of such lands for public purposes.	42
There should be no governmental taking of private property	43
rights by restriction of use without just and due	44
compensation.	45
We support the federal and state "takings" law in	46
support of the U.S. Constitution, Article V.	47
	48

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

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

6

### 7 **(78) Range Management Plans**

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

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

19

### 20 **(79) Rangeland Resource Commission**

21 We support the Rangeland Resource Commission  
 22 and the fees assessed on BLM and U.S. Forest Service  
 23 grazing AUMs on state lands and on private dryland grazing  
 24 lands.

25

### 26 **(80) Regulation of Agricultural Practices**

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

31 We support farmer participation in voluntary airshed  
 32 quality programs.

33 We oppose any legislation or regulations that would  
 34 segregate any agricultural industry, agricultural crop,  
 35 cropping practice, or geographical area and would impose a  
 36 higher air quality, water quality, or environmental standard  
 37 than what is required of any other person, entity, industry, or  
 38 geographical area within the state.

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

42 We oppose the issuance of undocumented  
 43 assertions regarding damage to the environment from  
 44 agricultural practices that are not supported by scientific fact.

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

We oppose mandatory registration or licensing of farms and ranches.	1 2
We support the farmer's right to farm by being able to carry on sound farming and forestry practices and to be free from environmental regulations that are not proportionately beneficial to the implementation cost.	3 4 5 6
Rule changes to the Idaho Forest Practices Act should be given a public hearing by the Legislature prior to approval, so farmers can be heard on issues affecting the regulation of their practices.	7 8 9 10
We support access of agricultural implements of husbandry and vehicles to any and all local, county and state roads/ highways in Idaho and oppose the imposition of any minimum speed requirements.	11 12 13 14 15
<b>(81) Right to Farm</b>	16
We support the right-to-farm law, and the concept behind it, and encourage legislative changes to strengthen the law so it can be enforced at the local governmental levels through conditional use permits or other permitting processes.	17 18 19 20 21 22
<b>(82) Riparian Management</b>	23
Proper multiple-use management of riparian areas is essential.	24 25
We believe these highly productive areas can be properly harvested with modern forest or livestock best management practices (BMPs) and still improve riparian habitat for all uses.	26 27 28 29
We believe these areas should be properly used but not abused. However, management of the entire allotment should not be governed by forage utilization of riparian areas.	30 31 32 33
We support the concept that all existing roads along class 2 streams be given grandfather rights approval.	34 35 36
<b>(83) Sawtooth National Recreation Area</b>	37
We oppose any expansion of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA).	38 39 40
<b>(84) Sheep Grazing</b>	41
We believe that sheep grazing is a valuable use of Idaho forage and resist attempts to terminate grazing permits and/or move domestic sheep because of their proximity to Bighorn sheep.	42 43 44 45
We support the best management practices concept for dealing with this issue.	46 47 48

1 **(85) State and County Noxious Weed Control**

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

5 We urge that Idaho Transportation Department  
6 weed control policies, at both the state and district levels, be  
7 changed to require that the ITD be in compliance with the  
8 Idaho noxious weed law each year, by controlling all  
9 infestations each year in a timely and effective manner and  
10 by controlling noxious weeds on the full width of all rights of  
11 way. We urge the Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
12 to require timely and effective noxious weed control by all  
13 railroads on their rights of way within the state.

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

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

19  
20 **(86) Timber Trespass**

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

25  
26 **(87) Wilderness and Restrictive Zones**

27 We oppose wholesale dedication of land in Idaho to  
28 wilderness and roadless areas and support the release of  
29 lands currently held in wilderness study areas (WSA) back to  
30 multiple-use management. All lands designated as non-  
31 suitable for wilderness must be immediately released from  
32 WSA status.

33 We support legislation that will direct our Governor  
34 to minimize designation of federal lands as "Roadless Areas"  
35 in Idaho.

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

39 We support negotiated wilderness solutions when  
40 the stakeholders have been participating in the negotiations  
41 and are in agreement with the solution.

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

47 We support adding adequate fire breaks in  
48 wilderness areas.

<b>(88) Wildfire Control</b>	1
We recommend changing fire-control policy to put out any fire upon arrival or as soon as safely possible. Local landowners must be allowed to protect private property. Local entities (such as counties and fire districts) and private landowners and individuals need to be allowed to act as first responders.	2 3 4 5 6 7
We support changing state and federal wildfire policy to require that state and federal fire managers and incident commanders coordinate with county and local fire departments and landowners.	8 9 10 11
We also encourage farm groups to coordinate with the state department of lands in organizing trained, local fire crews.	12 13 14
We support a provision that state and federal agencies maintain a fire break strategically located to protect private property and to control large wild fires.	15 16 17

## **FISH AND WILDLIFE**

<b>(89) Animal Damage Control</b>	18 19 20 21
We support animal damage control programs to control and manage predators, rodents and destructive wildlife.	22 23 24
We recommend bees and beehives be added to the animal damage compensation list.	25 26 27
<b>(90) Emergency Feeding of Wild Game</b>	28
We oppose feeding big-game animals except in emergency situations. We support the role of the Idaho Department of Agriculture in the rules passed in 2005 for emergency feeding of wild game and oppose any effort to remove the Department of Agriculture from its current role.	29 30 31 32 33
All money collected by Fish and Game for the purpose of feeding wild game should be used only for that purpose.	34 35 36 37
<b>(91) Endangered Species Act (ESA)</b>	38
We oppose any effort to create a State Endangered Species Act (ESA). We believe that modern society cannot continue to operate on the premise that all species must be preserved at any cost.	39 40 41 42
We strongly support a revision of the ESA to include a more thorough consideration of agricultural, mining, logging and tree farming in such a manner that these activities will be sustained and made part of any recovery plan. Recovery of Threatened or Endangered (T/E) species should not receive higher priority than human uses or rights.	43 44 45 46 47 48

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

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

11 No critical-habitat designation should be allowed  
12 until it has been established beyond scientific doubt that the  
13 species in question is actually present and that endangered  
14 or threatened status is actually warranted. The agency,  
15 organization, or individual requesting the critical-habitat  
16 designation must bear the cost of proving presence of the  
17 species and this must be done through the use of the best  
18 available peer reviewed science.

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

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

24 We support eliminating the marking of hatchery fish.

25 We oppose the introduction of the wolf and grizzly  
26 bear into federal/state and private lands in Idaho.

27 We believe that introduction/reintroduction of any  
28 species must be approved by the state Legislature.

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

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

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

39 We oppose the listing of the Giant Palouse  
40 Earthworm (*Driloleirus americanus*) as an endangered  
41 species.

42

### 43 **(92) Fish and Game Department**

44 We oppose the acquisition of additional land by the  
45 Fish and Game Department without local input.

46 We encourage the department to use good-neighbor  
47 management practices on the land they now own, including  
48 fences, pests, noxious weeds, and provide sportsmen with

guidance and marked boundaries.	1
We oppose any increase in funding for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game from either the general fund or license fees without showing a specific need or use for the funds.	2 3 4 5
The Fish and Game Department must control the concentration of wildlife numbers on all lands and should be prohibited from entering into agreements to limit access to any area, without approval of the local governing authority.	6 7 8 9
We support retaining the present composition and selection method of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission. Hunting license fees and tags should cost disproportionately more than at present for nonresidents compared to residents.	10 11 12 13 14
We support a Habitat Improvement Program and request Idaho Fish and Game Commission to reflect strong emphasis on multiple use.	15 16 17
We propose that the \$1,000 depredation deductible now in existence be reduced.	18 19
Fish and Game should be responsible to pay for damages caused by management decisions.	20 21
We support Idaho Fish and Game issuing emergency depredation permits to ag producers and landowners to harvest animals that are causing verifiable damage to crops, livestock and property. Emergency depredation permit holders should have the option to retain possession of harvested animals.	22 23 24 25 26 27
Transactions between the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game may represent a conflict of interest and should be investigated.	28 29 30 31 32
<b>(93) Fish and Game – Private Reservoir Companies</b>	33
Fish and Game Department shall pay private reservoir companies for the use of that reservoir for fish habitat. The Department should also pay up-keep assessments on reservoirs in which they own water.	34 35 36 37 38
<b>(94) Fish and Game/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Responsibility</b>	39
We support the reform of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to create local management of the wildlife of Idaho. This program should be site specific to control damage caused from over populated species of both game and non-game animals.	40 41 42 43 44
We oppose the relocation of wild game and non-game species without proper notice being given to residents and property owners in the area where they are released.	45 46 47
The Idaho Fish and Game Department should not	48

1 engage in activities that encourage only non-consumptive  
2 uses of fish and wildlife species in Idaho.

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

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

10

### 11 **(95) Fish Species Population Management**

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

16

### 17 **(96) ISDA and F&G Prior Notification**

18 The Idaho State Department of Agriculture and  
19 Idaho Fish and Game must give 24-hour prior notification to  
20 land owners or designees before entering premises.

21

### 22 **(97) Introduction of Salmon**

23 We strongly oppose the introduction of salmon  
24 above the Brownlee Dam.

25

### 26 **(98) Invasive Species**

27 We support mandatory boat and boat trailer  
28 wash/inspection stations to stop the spread of invasive  
29 species into Idaho.

30

### 31 **(99) Salmon Recovery**

32 We support the following salmon-recovery  
33 alternatives:

- 34 (1) Physically modifying the dams rather than tearing  
35 them down or lowering water levels.
- 36 (2) Improving barging such as net barge transportation.
- 37 (3) Privatizing salmon fisheries for stronger fish.
- 38 (4) Controlling predators of salmon.
- 39 (5) Utilizing a new fish friendly turbine developed by INL  
40 having 2 goals:
  - 41 a. Increased power production.
  - 42 b. Reduce hazards to fish passage.
- 43 (6) Operating the Brannon bypass system as an option  
44 to facilitate salmon recovery and support continued  
45 study of the Kevlar Tube and other bypass systems.
- 46 (7) Regulating harvest of off-shore and instream fish.

47

### 48 **(100) Snake River Basin Snails**

We support the delisting of snail species in the Snake River Basin and the grouping of snail species based on taxonomic/biological similarities. 1  
2  
3

We oppose the future listing of new snail species. 4

**(101) Wolves** 5  
6

We support the delisting of wolves and access by all citizens to any and all control measures available to provide relief from wolf depredations. 7  
8  
9

Wolves should be classified as predators any time they are on livestock allotments when livestock are present or as soon as they leave federally administered lands. 10  
11  
12

The costs associated with wolves, including triple damages for depredation costs, should be borne by the federal government. Until such time that livestock owners are compensated from the federal government, money should be made available from the sale of wolf tags to compensate livestock owners for depredation. 13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18

We support the Idaho Fish and Game in its attempts to establish a hunting season on wolves. 19  
20

We request that IDFG require hunters to turn in all wolf carcasses for testing for communicable diseases. 21  
22

We further demand that all wolves captured and/or killed by IDFG, Wildlife Services, US Fish and Wildlife, or any other agency or individual be tested for communicable diseases. 23  
24  
25  
26

We support a 10-j type rule for managing wolves being extended to north of Interstate 90. 27  
28

**EASEMENTS** 29  
30

**(102) Conservation Easements and Scenic Easements** 31  
32

We support continuation of conservation easements or agreements and scenic easements or agreements only if the real property involved remains on the tax rolls according to use. 33  
34  
35  
36

**ENERGY** 37  
38

**(103) Bonneville Power Administration Credit** 39

We support some type of BPA credit that allows all of Idaho's citizens to benefit from the BPA's use of Idaho water for power generation 40  
41  
42

**(104) Electrical Energy** 43  
44

As future demands for electrical energy increase, we support the continued careful use of water as one of our renewable natural resources through hydro projects, providing all county, state, and federal requirements are met. 45  
46  
47  
48

**EASEMENTS**

**ENERGY**

1 We encourage canal companies and irrigation  
2 districts to adopt hydro projects to generate power for sale.

3 We support the construction of power generation  
4 facilities in Idaho.

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

9 We support re-licensing of dams and upgrades in  
10 transmission and distribution.

11 We oppose foreign ownership of public utilities and  
12 water rights.

13 We support economically feasible sources of power  
14 generation.

15 We support legislation and/or policy to change the  
16 compensation schedule currently paid by utility companies  
17 from a monthly net metering pay allowance to an annual net  
18 metering pay allowance.

19 We support the establishment of power generators  
20 that use plant and/or animal residue or logging slash.

21 We support the construction of only those coal fired  
22 plants which have established that all parties to the project  
23 be held to strict standards in the construction, operation and  
24 retirement of the facility.

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

27 We support the relicensing of the Hells Canyon  
28 complex using a least cost mitigation plan reflecting the  
29 desire of the customers to have a reliable power resource at  
30 reasonable rates.

31 We encourage state agencies to work with utilities to  
32 increase Idaho's power generation capacity. This should be  
33 done to keep power rates low, while protecting the  
34 environment and not harming current economic ventures in  
35 the state.

36 We support the routing of utility corridors through the  
37 areas of least impact to private property owners.

38

### 39 **(105) Farm Produced Fuel**

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

42

### 43 **(106) Fossil Fuels**

44 We support the mining and drilling of fossil fuels.

45

### 46 **(107) Nuclear Energy**

47 We support the generation of electricity from nuclear  
48 reactors in meeting our future energy needs and urge the

development of permanent disposal sites for radioactive waste material where it will not endanger Idaho's aquifer.	1
We support research and development of further usage of radioactive waste materials and safer ways of storage.	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
<b>(108) Power Buy Back</b>	7
We support demand control programs as long as current water rights and power usage contracts are protected. These programs must remain on a voluntary basis.	8
	9
	10
	11
We support the concept of power companies buying power back from power users who are willing to shut off power for periods of time.	12
	13
	14
	15
<b>(109) Renewable Fuels</b>	16
We support the promotion and use of alternative fuels made from agricultural products.	17
	18
We encourage all state and local governments to assist in developing renewable fuel projects in Idaho.	19
	20
We support the availability of low-cost fuels, including off road bio-fuels, for the operation of farms and ranches.	21
	22
	23
All state vehicles should use bio-fuels when available.	24
	25
We support legislation to enjoin petroleum companies from restricting the marketing/sale of renewable fuels to the public by local retailers.	26
	27
	28
	29
<b>(110) Utility Companies</b>	30
Utility companies that damage public roads should be responsible for restoring roadways to their original state for at least a period of two years.	31
	32
	33
	34
	35
	36
<b>(111) Child Labor Law</b>	37
We support allowing children to do meaningful labor for meaningful pay.	38
	39
	40
<b>(112) Health Insurance</b>	41
We oppose any legislation to require employers to carry health insurance on their employees whether they are seasonal or full-time.	42
	43
	44
	45
<b>(113) Legal Aid</b>	46
We oppose the uninvited presence of Legal Aid personnel soliciting business on private property.	47
	48



1 **(114) Minimum Wage**

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

4

5 **(115) New Hire Reporting**

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

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

10

11 **(116) Supplemental Agricultural Labor**

12 We support programs sponsoring labor for  
13 agriculture on a temporary basis. If existing programs fail to  
14 satisfy labor needs, we would support a system under which  
15 supplemental labor from other countries could be imported  
16 on a timely and flexible basis to work in agriculture. When  
17 these workers are no longer needed they would be required  
18 to return to their countries of origin. If a status adjustment is  
19 contemplated for farm workers currently working but not  
20 authorized to work in the U.S., then such adjustment may  
21 not include citizenship and must include penalties for illegal  
22 entry into the U.S.

23 We recommend strict enforcement of our  
24 immigration laws and improved procedures to verify status.

25

26 **(117) Unemployment Insurance**

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

29 Business owners should not have to pay  
30 unemployment tax on themselves.

31 The minimum basic-period wage criteria for  
32 unemployment benefits should be increased proportionately  
33 to increases in the minimum wage.

34

35 **(118) Workers Compensation**

36 Workers compensation for agricultural employers  
37 should provide:

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

43 Ag workers should be covered with either workers  
44 compensation or equivalent coverage.

45 Corporate officers holding less than 10% stock should not be  
46 required to be covered by workers compensation. Business  
47 owners should not be required to pay into workers

48

compensation on themselves since they are prohibited from  
collecting as business owners.

We support changes in the existing worker's  
compensation law that would take into consideration the  
employee's responsibility when an accident occurs.

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

## TAX

### **(119) Agricultural Property Tax Shifts**

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

We support removing the Idaho Housing Price Index  
from the 50% / \$75,000 homeowner's exemption.

### **(120) Alternative Energy Tax Credit**

We support tax incentives to assist in the  
development of alternative energy.

### **(121) Assessed Value of Ag Production Land**

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

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

### **(122) Budget Caps**

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

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

### **(123) County Taxing Districts Sharing Administrators**

We encourage county commissioners, school  
districts, highway districts and possibly other taxing districts

TAX

1 to consider using administrators and secretaries on a  
2 county-wide or multi-district basis to help ease the tax  
3 burden of administration.

4

5 **(124) Fuel Tax Refund**

6 We oppose all efforts to raise revenue by repealing  
7 the off-highway fuel tax refund.

8 We oppose efforts to pretax off-road fuel.

9

10 **(125) Impact Fees**

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

14 We support simplification of current impact fee rules  
15 and procedures.

16

17 **(126) Investment Tax Credit**

18 We support retention of the current 3% investment  
19 tax credit provisions, or an increase in the credit.

20

21 **(127) Local Option Taxation**

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

25

26 **(128) Personal Tax Privacy Rights**

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

29

30 **(129) Property Tax**

31 We support limiting yearly assessment increases of  
32 property of the same category in the state to a maximum of  
33 the state inflation rate.

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

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

41

42 **(130) Property Tax – Funding Local Government &  
43 Schools**

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

46 We are opposed to judges being allowed to levy  
47 taxes.

48

We support legislation mandating that plant facilities	1
levy monies can only be used only for capital expenditures	2
related to school operation and maintenance.	3
We oppose school districts carrying over these funds	4
to finance the construction of new buildings or the acquisition	5
of additional property.	6
We support removing the school budget stabilization	7
levy that was authorized in the 2006 special Legislative	8
session, unless it is supported by a local vote.	9
We support the creation of standardized mandatory	10
full disclosure of the school district's revenues and	11
expenditures that are related to extracurricular activities;	12
separated into curriculum and athletics, and budgeted in	13
standard categories of salaries, transportation, supplies and	14
capital expenditures.	15
	16
<b>(131) Sales Tax</b>	17
We oppose all efforts to delete the sales tax	18
exemption on production items.	19
We support legislation that would exempt non-profit	20
organizational fund-raising from paying sales tax on those	21
receipts.	22
We oppose the collection of sales tax by the state of	23
Idaho on out-of-state goods purchased by Idaho residents.	24
	25
<b>(132) Special Taxing Districts</b>	26
We support county commissioners approving special	27
taxing districts budgets before such budgets are published	28
for public review.	29
We support a requirement that all new taxing	30
districts must be approved by a 66-2/3% majority vote of the	31
registered voters within a district.	32
We support legislation allowing special taxing	33
districts to be funded by a household fee. All taxing districts	34
that charge fees should be under the same 3% cap that	35
applies to counties and municipalities.	36
We support giving library districts the option to be	37
funded by a household fee rather than through an ad	38
valorum tax. If the library district chooses the household fee	39
option, any bonds they pass must also be paid through	40
household fees.	41
	42
<b>(133) State Budget</b>	43
We support zero-based budgeting.	44
We oppose balancing budget shortfalls by any tax	45
increase.	46
We support a constitutional amendment limiting	47
state spending to a calculation determined by population	48

1 growth and inflation.

2

3 **(134) Super Majority**

4 We strongly support retaining the 66-2/3 percent  
5 majority vote as required in the Idaho State Constitution for  
6 bond levies.

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

9

10 **(135) Tax Compensation for Federal and State Managed  
11 Lands**

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

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

17

18 **(136) Tax Increment Financing**

19 We support legislation that limits tax increment  
20 financing districts to the purpose for which they were created  
21 and legislation that places mandatory time limits not to  
22 exceed ten years on the life span for any district so formed.

23

24 **(137) Tax Refund Extension**

25 We support extension of the statute of limitations on  
26 income-tax refunds from 3 years to 10 years. Tax refunds 4  
27 to 10 years old may be used to offset taxes and interest due.

28

29 **LOCAL AFFAIRS**

30

31 **(138) Annexation**

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

36

37 **(139) County Commissioners**

38 County Commissioners should be elected by the  
39 district in which they reside, not the whole county.

40

41 **(140) Distribution of Federal Fines**

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

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

48

<b>(141) Elections</b>	1
We support requiring an official government photo I.D. when voting in Primary and General Elections.	2
We support a mandatory pre-registration requirement to be eligible to vote in all local bond elections.	3
We support more positive proof of residency for voter registration at the polls.	4
Pay raises for elected officials shall not take effect until the official stands again for election.	5
We support requiring full and complete disclosure of all campaign contributions with stiff penalties for failure to disclose. This will include full disclosure of any personal funds contributed by the candidate. The information will be readily accessible to all interested individuals and organizations.	6
	7
	8
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	16
<b>(142) Indigent Care Funding</b>	17
We support the use of the interest from the tobacco settlement monies to reduce the indigent care deductible now being paid for by the property owners. The deductible should continue to decrease incrementally as the settlement monies increase, not to drop below \$1,000. The reduced deductible for tobacco-related illnesses should be expanded to include a reduced deductible for all health-related situations.	18
	19
	20
	21
	22
	23
	24
	25
	26
<b>(143) Lighting in Agriculture</b>	27
We support adequate lighting to operate agricultural businesses in a safe, efficient and unobtrusive manner.	28
	29
	30
<b>(144) Notice of Zoning Change</b>	31
Water-right holders or recipients of water delivered through property that is proposed to be rezoned should receive the same notification of public hearings as surrounding landowners.	32
	33
	34
	35
	36
<b>(145) Public Hearings</b>	37
Public hearings that affect a given area of the state must be held in the area that is affected, at a reasonable time and date for those impacted.	38
	39
	40
	41
<b>(146) Waste Recycling</b>	42
We support and encourage voluntary recycling of solid waste.	43
	44
	45
<b>(147) Zoning</b>	46
County commissioners should control all zoning in	47
	48

1 the county. Zoning should be site specific within the county;  
 2 we oppose the use of blanket zoning ordinances, including  
 3 sustainable development and smart-growth initiatives.

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

7

8

## EDUCATION

9

### 10 **(148) Adolescent Nutrition**

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

14

### 15 **(149) Ag in the Classroom**

16 We support “Ag in the Classroom” in school  
 17 curriculums to increase student literacy of agriculture.

18 We support an increase in funding for Ag in the  
 19 Classroom .

20

### 21 **(150) Contracts for Teachers**

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

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

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

30

### 31 **(151) Education Standards and Assessments**

32 We support using:

33 1. Professionally established standards and  
 34 assessments that can be modified to reflect locally  
 35 recognized educational values, goals, and philosophy.

36 2. Standards to ensure the progression of a student  
 37 that reflect a comprehension of the subject.

38 3. Instructionally supportive assessments based on  
 39 growth, limited in frequency, and results returned on a timely  
 40 basis.

41

### 42 **(152) English Language**

43 We strongly recommend that English be the  
 44 language that students are required to learn and use in  
 45 public schools.

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

48

<b>(153) Idaho School for the Deaf and Blind</b>	1
We support continued operation of the Idaho School	2
for the Deaf and Blind at the current campus in Gooding.	3
	4
<b>(154) Knowledge of Constitution</b>	5
We support requiring students graduating from	6
Idaho schools to have a thorough understanding of the	7
Constitution and the form of government that it gives us.	8
	9
<b>(155) Local Control of Education</b>	10
We encourage the State Board of Education and the	11
Idaho legislature to refuse federal funds aimed at promoting	12
control of educational programs in public schools by the	13
federal government.	14
We oppose the gathering of personal information of	15
students that is not related to their academic education	16
without parental consent.	17
	18
<b>(156) No Increase in School Time</b>	19
We oppose increasing required school hours beyond	20
990 hours per year.	21
	22
<b>(157) Parental Choice in Education</b>	23
We support the voucher system for education.	24
We support the continuing freedom of Idaho parents	25
to choose private school, parochial school, home school,	26
public charter school, or public school as prescribed in the	27
Idaho Constitution and in the Idaho Code.	28
We recommend that kindergarten remain on an	29
optional basis.	30
We oppose public funding of pre-kindergarten.	31
	32
<b>(158) Right to Challenge Class</b>	33
We recommend that high school students be given	34
the opportunity to challenge high school classes and if able	35
to pass, be given credit for that class toward graduation.	36
	37
<b>(159) Sexually Transmitted Diseases/Sex Education</b>	38
We oppose the teaching of homosexuality as an	39
acceptable lifestyle.	40
We support the teaching of abstinence as the only	41
100% effective method to prevent pregnancy.	42
We also support the teaching of abstinence before	43
marriage and monogamy after marriage as the most	44
effective method for the prevention of sexually transmitted	45
diseases.	46
	47
	48

1 We further support educating for increased  
2 awareness and prevention of any sexually transmitted  
3 diseases.

4

5 **(160) Veterinary Students**

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

9

10 **(161) Vocational Education**

11 We support adequate funding for Idaho's vocational  
12 education program.

13 We encourage vocational teachers, administrators  
14 and school boards to utilize this funding by actively  
15 developing and administering programs in their school  
16 districts that promote career development.

17

18

**STATE AFFAIRS**

19

20 **(162) Agricultural Research and Extension**

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

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

28

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

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

38

39 We also support an informational exchange and  
40 cooperative effort within the tri-state area in agchemical  
41 registration and research as well as plant/animal variety  
42 improvement research. Every effort should be made by  
43 state and county officials to retain an agricultural extension  
44 agent in each county as an extension service of our land  
45 grant university. Strong pressure must be exerted to  
46 revitalize and improve the agricultural information and  
47 education programs.

48

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

We also believe that county agents should be first and foremost county agricultural agents.	1 2
We support the hiring of new extension educators in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences with primary training and experience in commercial agriculture and forestry.	3 4 5 6 7
<b>(163) Attorney General Review</b>	8
We support legislation that establishes a process whereby farmers and ranchers may request a review by the state attorney general of all local and state ordinances and rules that could violate state law by restricting normal agricultural operations.	9 10 11 12 13 14
<b>(164) Ballot Initiative Process</b>	15
We support using legislative districts as a geographic requirement for gathering signatures to qualify an initiative for the ballot.	16 17 18 19
<b>(165) Cell Phone Use</b>	20
We oppose any legislation that would ban cell phone use in vehicles for voice communication. However, we support outlawing texting while driving any motor vehicle.	21 22 23 24
<b>(166) Commercial Auction Companies Bonding</b>	25
We support legislation that would require licensing and bonding of commercial auction companies.	26 27 28
<b>(167) Commercial Unmanned Air Systems (UAS)</b>	29
We support the commercial use of un-manned air systems (UAS) for natural resource management.	30 31 32
<b>(168) Cross Deputization of Law Enforcement Officers</b>	33
We believe that cross deputization of county sheriffs and any tribal law enforcement officers should be voluntary.	34 35 36
<b>(169) Department of Corrections</b>	37
We support legislation requiring the Department of Corrections to notify victims and witnesses who have requested to be notified when inmates convicted of violent crimes will be paroled or issued passes. Records should be reasonably accessible to concerned individuals.	38 39 40 41 42
We support having names of juveniles convicted of a felony made public knowledge.	43 44
The Department of Corrections should be required to house nonviolent prisoners in county jails when space is available, instead of shipping them out of state. The state	45 46 47 48

1 should reimburse counties at the rate that it is paying out-of-  
2 state prisons.

3

4 **(170) Drug Penalties**

5 We favor stiffer penalties—not necessarily prison  
6 terms—for drug pushers, money launderers and repeated  
7 users, with no plea bargaining.

8

9 **(171) Drug Testing for Welfare Recipients**

10 We support legislation that would require adult  
11 applicants/recipients for state and/or federal welfare  
12 payments, or similar benefits, to submit to periodic testing for  
13 illegal drugs and test negative to receive benefits.

14

15 **(172) Executive Branch MOU/MOA**

16 We oppose actions by the governor entering into  
17 memorandums of understanding or memorandums of  
18 agreement without legislative oversight and approval.

19

20 **(173) Falsifying Reports**

21 Filing a false report to any agency shall be  
22 considered a misdemeanor and the perpetrator should be  
23 required to pay damages and/or expenses to the individual  
24 that was falsely accused as well as the investigating agency.

25

26 **(174) Gambling**

27 We oppose any amendment to the State  
28 Constitution to permit licensed or unlicensed casino gaming  
29 in Idaho.

30

31 **(175) Government Employees Accountability**

32 Employees of government must not be exempt from  
33 any laws and should be accountable under law for their  
34 actions. State officials should refrain from involving  
35 themselves in how county governments operate.

36 We believe the principles of the 10th Amendment of  
37 the U.S. Constitution should apply in the state's relationship  
38 to the counties as well as in federal to state government.  
39 Government employees should be restricted from  
40 moonlighting in their field of expertise, competing unfairly  
41 with private professionals, or using government equipment,  
42 files etc.

43

44 **(176) Hazardous Waste**

45 We believe that each state should, to the extent  
46 possible, take the responsibility for treatment and disposal of  
47 hazardous waste generated in its state and that these waste

48

products be disposed of in the most feasible manner that will not endanger life or resources.	1
We feel that hazardous material and hazardous waste should be kept separate in the law.	2
We support a statewide hazardous materials clean-up day.	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
<b>(177) Healthcare During Pregnancy</b>	8
We support a mother's right to choose her healthcare provider during her pregnancy including prenatal care, labor and delivery, and postnatal care of herself and her baby.	9
	10
	11
	12
	13
<b>(178) Inter-Local Emergency Response</b>	14
We support legislation that would create an agreement between bordering states to allow emergency response units to respond and transport across state lines.	15
	16
	17
	18
<b>(179) Judicial Confirmation</b>	19
We support the repeal of the "Judicial Confirmation", Title 7, Chapter 13, Idaho Code, for ordinary and necessary expenses.	20
	21
	22
	23
<b>(180) Liability &amp; Tort Claims</b>	24
We support current Idaho statutes dealing with liability and tort claims and will strongly resist any effort to weaken or erode them.	25
	26
	27
We believe that an individual, partnership, corporation, business group, or association that sponsors public animal activities should not be held liable for excessive damage or injury claims caused by these activities.	28
	29
	30
	31
	32
	33
<b>(181) Litter Penalties</b>	34
We support an increase in penalties for roadway littering and property littering in the State of Idaho.	35
	36
	37
<b>(182) Medicaid</b>	38
We support a nominal co-pay by Medicaid recipients for hospital visits.	39
	40
	41
<b>(183) Memorials in Public</b>	42
We oppose awarding attorney's fees and penalties funded by tax money when judges order the removal of religious icons and expressions from public property.	43
	44
	45
We support the continued display of The Ten Commandments on public property.	46
	47
	48

1 **(184) Mental Health and Drug Court**

2 We support increased state funding for mental  
3 health and drug court programs.

4

5 **(185) Nationalized Health Insurance**

6 We oppose nationalizing health insurance.

7

8 **(186) North-South Highway**

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

11

12 **(187) Planning and Zoning Commission Compensation**

13 We support a change in Idaho law allowing  
14 members of county planning and zoning commissions to  
15 receive payment for the time they devote to their duties if  
16 approved by local voters.

17

18 **(188) Private Property Rights/Eminent Domain**

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

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

25 Landowners should retain the right to refuse access within  
26 the current law.

27

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

33

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

36

37 We support an Idaho constitutional amendment  
38 defining public use as found in the eminent domain doctrine  
39 to prohibit the condemnation of private property for economic  
40 development or any use by private parties. If private  
41 property is taken, compensation must be prompt, just and  
42 adequate.

42

43 In the cases of partial taking of real property, the  
44 landowner must be compensated when government-  
45 imposed regulations cause a loss in value of private  
46 property. Landowners or tenants shall not be held liable for  
47 any damages incurred as a result of the condemnation.

47

48

Entities condemning property shall assume liability for any damages incurred by landowners.	1 2 3
<b>(189) PUC Rates</b>	4
We will continue to cooperate with organizations that are trying to obtain equitable public utility and freight rates.	5 6
We oppose any action by the PUC to move in the direction of inverted block rates or in any major rate design revision that would be detrimental to agriculture.	7 8 9
<b>(190) Public Employees Bargaining</b>	10 11
We believe that public employees, when negotiating contracts, should be separate entities in themselves, and by statute not allowed to delegate or reassign their negotiating rights to professional negotiating forces.	12 13 14 15
<b>(191) Public Funded Institutions and Entities</b>	16 17
All public institutions and entities funded in whole or in part with public money will discourage and prevent the sanctioning, promotion, encouragement or advocacy of any behavior or any lifestyle containing behaviors that are in violation of Idaho statute or the Idaho Constitution.	18 19 20 21 22
<b>(192) Re-Appportionment</b>	23 24
We support the state's right to a republican form of government, and the right to pattern our representation in the state Senate and House after the Congress of the United States; with the Senate by county and the House by population.	25 26 27 28 29
<b>(193) Re-Establish Congressional Lawmaking Responsibility</b>	30 31 32
We support the state Legislature in its efforts to encourage Congress to reclaim its constitutional responsibility of making law.	33 34 35
Proposed rules or regulations by bureaus or agencies should have congressional approval before becoming law.	36 37 38
Presidential directives or executive orders should be limited in scope and subject to congressional approval in a timely manner.	39 40 41
We support passage of legislation ensuring that no treaty can supersede the Constitution or reduce the protections we enjoy under the Constitution.	42 43 44
<b>(194) Regulation Reform</b>	45 46
We support:	47
(1) Complete review of existing regulations to determine	48

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

5  
6 **(195) Rights-of-Way**

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

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

23 We support access to or through federal lands using  
24 RS2477.

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

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

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

41  
42 **(196) Right to Bear Arms**

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

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

their property.	1
We oppose the retaining of personal records	2
collected by the FBI as a result of firearms purchase	3
background checks. The dangerous weapons code should	4
be updated to reflect these rights in the home, the place of	5
business, or in motor vehicles.	6
We support legislation that declares that all firearms	7
and ammunition made and retained in-state are beyond the	8
authority of the federal government.	9
	10
<b>(197) State Agencies</b>	11
We oppose regulating any phase of farm and ranch	12
business by any state agency that does not have an	13
agricultural representative as a member of its policy-making	14
board or committee.	15
We encourage the Idaho Legislature to revoke	16
DEQ's department status.	17
We oppose combining, splitting, or changing	18
government agencies without the approval of users of the	19
services.	20
We support the concept of the Soil Conservation	21
Commission or successor entity to advise and aid local Soil	22
Conservation Districts by providing technical support and a	23
mechanism to receive financial support at no less than fiscal	24
year 2010 levels.	25
We recommend representation by an agricultural	26
producer on the Board of Regents for Idaho's land grant	27
university and on the Idaho Fish and Game Commission.	28
We urge and will support legislation to require that	29
government rules and regulations, wherever applicable, be	30
based upon supportive disciplinary peer reviewed scientific	31
data and that wherever policies, rules, or regulations do not	32
meet this standard the responsible individual and/or	33
individuals can be held liable.	34
When a state agency makes an arrest there should	35
be a means provided to reimburse the county for all costs	36
associated in maintaining the prisoner.	37
	38
<b>(198) Sexual Crimes</b>	39
We support increased penalties for violent, repeat	40
sexual abuse crimes.	41
	42
<b>(199) State Building Code</b>	43
We ask the State Legislature to review the State	44
Building Code with amendments, to limit infringement on	45
private property rights through excessive permit	46
requirements.	47
	48

1 **(200) State Commissions and PERSI**

2 We support the development of a policy at the state  
3 level that allows for opting out of PERSI for State  
4 Commission board members to preserve their IRAs.

5  
6 **(201) State Hatch Act**

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

9  
10 **(202) State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)**

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

13  
14 **(203) State Legal Reform**

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

24 We support legislation by the Idaho Legislature that  
25 would require any entity bringing such lawsuits to post  
26 substantial bonds based on the potential harm of the lawsuit.  
27 Individuals who file complaints against an agricultural  
28 operation and request an investigation must pay a fee to  
29 cover administration costs. Complete names, addresses,  
30 and phone numbers are required on each complaint.

31 We support legislation to restore the election of  
32 district judges.

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

35  
36 **(204) Stem Cell Research**

37 We support human stem cell research so long as the life of  
38 the donor is not compromised.

39  
40 **(205) Term Limits**

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

44  
45 **(206) Termination of Life**

46 We oppose human euthanasia. We oppose abortion except  
47 in cases of rape, incest, or when there is endangerment to  
48 the life of the mother.

We oppose any state funding of Planned Parenthood.	1 2 3
<b>(207) Transportation</b>	4
We support continuation of independent road districts without oversight by county commissioners.	5 6
We would consider an increase in the state fuel tax for infrastructure construction.	7 8
We would consider a tax or fee increase on vehicles of 12500 GVW and under if this revenue is used for infrastructure construction.	9 10 11
We oppose the removal of the Port of Entry system from the Department of Transportation.	12
We support increases in gross weights with axle weights non-changing.	13 14
We support the continued use of long combination vehicles (LCVs).	15 16
We support the continued improvement of Idaho's agricultural roadways.	17 18
We support accountability of highway transportation department's engineers for the cost over-runs and/or miscalculations for wrongful designs of highway projects.	19 20 21 22
<b>(208) Unfunded Mandates</b>	23
All new laws passed by the legislature that put financial burdens on the counties or cities should be funded by the state.	24 25 26
<b>(209) U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals</b>	27
We support the division of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to add a new northwest U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.	28 29
<b>(210) Use of the Public Trust Doctrine for Hunting</b>	30
We oppose the use of the Public Trust Doctrine to force private property owners to allow hunting on their private property.	31 32 33 34
<b>(211) Well Drillers License</b>	35
A well shall only be drilled by or under the responsible charge of a licensed driller except that a property owner who is not licensed can construct a well on his own property for his own use with the aid of power driven mechanical equipment with the option of substituting a video tape of the well head and bore for the "well log" showing geologic strata, casing and satisfactory compliance with "Well Construction Standards Rules."	36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44
<b>(212) West Nile Virus</b>	45
We support spraying and other methods to kill mosquitoes to stop West Nile Virus.	46 47 48

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