



Policies
for
2023

Adopted by the Delegates
at the 83rd Annual Meeting of the
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Boise, Idaho
December 2022

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BASIC PRINCIPLES

Purpose of Farm Bureau

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

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

Farm Bureau Beliefs and Philosophy

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

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

The Constitution

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

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

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

1 **Private Property**

2 We believe that America's system of private
3 ownership of property and the means of production
4 has been, and is, one of the prominent keystones of
5 our republic. This element of our economic system
6 and the personal rights attendant to private property,
7 including grazing and water rights, must be
8 maintained and protected.

9 Ownership of property and property rights are
10 among the human rights essential to preserving
11 individual freedom.
12

13 **State's Rights and Sovereignty**

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

19 The federal government must respect state laws
20 and state agencies. All lands within the boundaries
21 of Idaho, excluding those lands as authorized by the
22 U.S. Constitution and ceded to the federal
23 government by the Idaho Legislature, shall be
24 subject solely to the laws and jurisdiction of the
25 state.
26

27 **Religious Life**

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

34 We support the retention of the following:

- 35 1. "So Help Me God" in official oaths;
- 36 2. The phrase "In God We Trust" on our coin;
- 37 3. The fourth verse of the "Star Spangled Banner;"
38 and
- 39 4. The phrase "Under God" in the Pledge of
40 Allegiance.
41

42 **Family Values**

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

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

47 We believe in the sanctity of human life from
48 conception until natural death. We must protect the

1 right to life to preserve the rights to liberty and
2 property.

3

4 **Capitalism - Private Competitive Enterprise**

5 We believe in the American capitalistic, private,
6 competitive enterprise system in which property is
7 privately owned, privately managed, operated for
8 profit, individual satisfaction, and responsible
9 stewardship.

10 We believe individuals have the right to choose
11 their occupation and receive the rewards for their
12 contribution to society. Individuals have the right to
13 save, invest, spend and convey their earnings to
14 their heirs.

15 We believe in a competitive business
16 environment in which supply and demand are the
17 primary determinants of market prices.

18

19 **Education**

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

23 We believe education starts with the parent or
24 guardian and is extended to the schools as a
25 cooperative partnership.

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

29

30 **Political Parties**

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

33 We encourage Farm Bureau members to
34 support the political party of their choice.

35 We believe that government should not be
36 involved directly in the political process but should
37 lay down certain rules to assure fair and proper
38 elections.

IFBF POLICIES

1 COMMODITIES

3 1. Agrichemicals/Pesticides

4 We support:

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

15 We oppose:

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

26 2. Commodity Diseases

27 We support:

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

3. Commodity Commissions

We support having commodity commissions in Idaho.

We support commodity commissions having:

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

4. Commodity Sales

We support:

1. The expansion of Idaho agricultural markets, domestic and foreign. We also support trade missions abroad to better inform our producers and the hosting of foreign delegations to our state in efforts to increase our market share;
2. Changes to crop insurance that truly reflect a safety net;
3. Licensing and bonding of all commodity brokers by the State of Idaho;
4. Amending the Idaho Pure Seed Law to fully disclose the contents of all seed lots by requiring the tag or label to list each plant species therein by name and rate of occurrence; and
5. The state having one statewide licensing program to allow for the sale of meat in bulk to individual people and/or their families.

We oppose:

1. Double discounts by grain dealers.

5. Environmental Studies

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

1 **6. Field Testing Biotechnology Products**

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

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

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

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

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

18
19 **7. Food Safety/Government Accountability**

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

28 We support laws and regulations that exempt
29 farmers and ranchers from liability from food
30 contamination when best practices or food safety
31 programs have been followed and no gross
32 negligence has been shown.

33
34 **8. Lien Law**

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

39 We oppose delivered feed being encumbered by
40 a blanket lien from a financial institution until the
41 grower/supplier is paid in full.

42
43 **9. Seed Indemnity Fund**

44 We support aligning the financial reporting
45 requirements for the Seed Indemnity Fund and the
46 Commodity Indemnity Fund.

LIVESTOCK

10. Animal Care

We support:

1. The rights of owners and producers to raise their animals in accordance with commonly accepted animal husbandry practices;
2. The role of a licensed veterinarian in the care of animals and support current licensing standards for veterinarians;
3. The Idaho Veterinary Practice Act and oppose any efforts to weaken it or the licensing standards; and
4. Punishments for those with non-service animals who attempt to portray them as service animals.

We oppose:

1. Any legislation, regulatory action or funding, whether private or public, that interferes with commonly accepted animal husbandry practices and livestock harvesting;
2. Legislation that would give animal rights organizations the right to establish standards for the raising, marketing, handling, feeding, housing or transportation of livestock and production animals and any legislation that would pay bounties to complainants;
3. Any livestock and production animal care legislation that would impose a stricter penalty than the 2016 law;
4. The creation of an Idaho livestock care standards board;
5. Requiring a licensed veterinarian for docking, dehorning, castration, pregnancy checking, embryo transfer and any other routine livestock healthcare management practices; and
6. Comfort animals having the same rights and privileges as service animals covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

11. Animal ID

We support:

1. Procedures and or equipment for an animal ID program that makes it possible to trace an animal back to its original location;
2. The right of the owner to choose among the acceptable methods of identification and to leave their animals unidentified prior to movement from the premises of origin;

- 1 **3.** Having the Idaho State Department of Agriculture
2 determine acceptable methods of identification,
3 including hot or cold brands, for the state.
4

5 **12. Bovine Tuberculosis**

6 We support an ISDA surveillance testing program
7 for Bovine Tuberculosis and its continued funding.
8

9 **13. Brucellosis**

10 **We support:**

- 11 **1.** Regulations requiring the appropriate state and
12 federal agencies to control and eradicate this
13 disease in wildlife.
14 **2.** The National Park Service eradicating brucellosis
15 in Yellowstone and Grand Teton Parks.
16 **3.** Using the DSA (Designated Surveillance area)
17 zones as currently enforced for the testing of
18 brucellosis to prove brucellosis-free status.

19 **We oppose:**

- 20 **1.** All efforts to eliminate the mandatory vaccination
21 law and require its complete enforcement.
22 **2.** The establishment of any herds of free roaming
23 bison outside of Yellowstone National Park.
24

25 **14. CAFO Regulations**

26 **We support:**

- 27 **1.** Efforts by all livestock associations to create
28 MOUs with the appropriate state and federal
29 agencies.
30 **2.** Matters pertaining to CAFO regulation other than
31 siting should be under the jurisdiction of the state.
32

33 **15. Data Confidentiality**

34 We support the confidentiality of data collected
35 on farms and feedlots. Only final reports or
36 conclusions should be made a matter of public
37 record. No data collected from individual operations
38 should be made public.
39

40 **16. Domestic Cervidae**

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

1 **17. Equine**

2 **We support:**

- 3 1. Construction of new slaughtering facilities and/or
4 use of existing processing facilities in Idaho to
5 slaughter equines without duress;
6 2. The right of individuals and nongovernmental
7 organizations to save horses from slaughter as
8 long as they take possession of the horses and
9 are responsible for their care and feeding;
10 3. The continued classification of equines as
11 marketable livestock and oppose any efforts to
12 classify them as pets or companion animals;
13 4. When an equine is in the custody of a government
14 agency and an adoption has not been able to
15 take place within six months, that equine should
16 be harvested or euthanized with minimal stress
17 and without delay; and
18 5. Funding for USDA food service inspectors in
19 facilities that harvest horses.

20 **We oppose:**

- 21 1. Any attempt to eliminate the right of the equine
22 owner or BLM to the minimal stress slaughter of
23 their equine for consumption or any other
24 purpose.
25

26 **18. Foot and Mouth/BSE disease**

27 **We Support:**

- 28 1. Stringent controls to protect Idaho's livestock
29 industry from foot and mouth disease and BSE
30 (bovine spongiform encephalopathy).
31 2. Allowing entities to voluntarily test all slaughtered
32 animals for BSE in order to ship products to
33 countries that require individual tests.

34 **We Oppose:**

- 35 1. Importation of live cattle over 30 months of age
36 until sound science proves this does not
37 threaten to spread BSE to the United States.
38

39 **19. Law Enforcement Training**

40 **We support:**

- 41 1. Law enforcement officers being trained in open
42 range laws, proper livestock herding techniques
43 and how to properly euthanize livestock as part of
44 the Idaho Peace Officers Standardized Training.
45 2. Immediate notification by law enforcement or
46 emergency personnel to landowners when fences
47 or property sustain damage due to accidents, or
48 by entrance of emergency personnel.

- 1 3. Law enforcement officers being trained in brand
2 identification.
- 3 4. Law enforcement officers being trained to work
4 with the brand inspector and dispatch to identify
5 livestock owners.

7 **20. Livestock Brands**

8 **We support:**

- 9 1. The Concept that livestock may be left unbranded
10 at the discretion of the owner except for those
11 livestock grazing on federal/state managed lands;
12 and
- 13 2. The Idaho State Brand Board adjusting fee caps
14 with the livestock industries' input and approval.

16 **21. Manure Management**

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

19 **We support:**

- 20 1. Research on manure management including such
21 areas as odor reduction and waste and nutrient
22 management; and
- 23 2. Programs that educate livestock operators on
24 techniques regarding properly managed organic
25 nutrient systems, especially if implemented with
26 consistent Best Management Practices (BMPs)
27 developed by extension, university, and the
28 livestock industry.

29 **We oppose:**

- 30 1. Manure being classified as industrial, solid, or
31 hazardous waste or as raw sewage.

33 **22. Meat Inspectors**

34 **We support:**

- 35 1. State certified meat inspectors for small meat
36 processing plants.
- 37 2. State meat inspection program in Idaho which
38 would allow for the intrastate commercial sale of
39 meat.
- 40 3. Having large animal veterinarians and other
41 interested individuals in rural areas becoming
42 certified meat inspectors under a state meat
43 inspection program.
- 44 4. All mobile butchers and processors to require a
45 trip permit, brand inspection slip or bill of sale on
46 all bovine animals they receive and retain those
47 records for a 3-year period to help monitor theft
48 and illegal taking and processing of animals.

1 **23. State Veterinarian**

2 We support Animal Health Division of the Idaho
3 Department of Agriculture and believe that it should
4 be administered by a licensed veterinarian.
5

6 **WATER**
7

8 **24. Aquifer Recharge**

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

13 We support rules, including water rental pool
14 rules changes, that encourage recharge using
15 available water to improve aquifer health, protect
16 Idaho water, and keep water in Idaho.
17

18 **25. Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs**

19 Release of water in power head space in Bureau
20 of Reclamation reservoirs shall be controlled solely
21 by state water law.
22

23 **26. Cloud Seeding**

24 We support cloud seeding and encourage
25 continued investment in its application and research.

26 We support the Legislature and the Idaho Water
27 Resource Board continuing to study and fund cloud
28 seeding efforts.
29

30 **27. Comprehensive State Water Plan**

31 **We support:**

- 32 1. The Governor appointing individuals to the Idaho
33 Water Resource Board who will protect the water
34 resources of the State;
35 2. Requiring legislative approval before establishing
36 minimum stream flow, instream flow, reconnect
37 permits, river basin plans and state water plans;
38 3. Amending the Idaho Constitution, Article XV
39 Water Rights Section 7, State Water Resource
40 Agency to read, "That any change shall become
41 effective only by approval of the legislature."; and
42 4. Legislative approval for water agreements made
43 between the state and federal government.

44 **We oppose:**

- 45 3. Minimum stream flows until sufficient storage
46 facilities are built to supply priority needs first.

1 **28. Dams**

2 **We support:**

- 3 1. The Northwest Power Planning Council focusing
4 its efforts on issues that will provide the region
5 with its current and future power needs;
6 2. The construction, improvement and increased
7 size of storage facilities that provide beneficial
8 multiple uses of Idaho's water;
9 3. Municipalities, federal agencies, and tribes
10 advocating for and funding additional storage
11 projects to help meet the increasing demand for
12 water, and avoid taking irrigation water from
13 agricultural purposes; and
14 4. The continued existence and current usage of all
15 dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. We
16 oppose any efforts to destroy or decrease
17 production of those dams.
18

19 **29. Domestic Wells**

20 **We Support:**

- 21 1. Idaho water law first-in-time, first-in-right, should
22 apply to all wells drilled in Idaho, including domestic
23 wells; and
24 2. Evaluating domestic wells under Idaho water law
25 for new wells in the future.
26

27 **30. Flood Control**

28 We support additional storage facilities,
29 increased recharge, and federal land transfers to
30 state ownership to control future flooding.
31

32 **31. Ground Water Districts**

33 We support changing the boundaries of local
34 groundwater districts that are directly connected to
35 the underground aquifer to include those who are
36 not currently participating but are of a common
37 ground water source.

38 We oppose any diminishment of authority of
39 local water districts or groundwater districts through
40 creation of a Groundwater Management Area.
41

42 **32. International Water Agreements**

43 We support the renewal of the Columbia River
44 Treaty with Canada in such a manner as to maintain
45 its original focus upon flood control and power
46 generation.
47

1 **33. Moratorium**

2 We support the current Idaho Department of
3 Water Resources moratoriums on critical
4 groundwater development.
5

6 **34. Non-Ag Water Development**

7 We support legislation that would require
8 developers to supply water and water-delivery
9 systems using existing water rights or gray water to
10 new developments.
11

12 **35. Outstanding Resource Waters**

13 We support the Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs)
14 and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) process as
15 it pertains to Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs).

16 We oppose nominations of ORWs by parties
17 other than BAGs and WAGs.
18

19 **36. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)**

20 We support mandating Idaho's Department of
21 Environmental Quality to conduct an Economic
22 Impact Analysis of an area's businesses (including
23 the agri-business and agricultural operations of that
24 area) before initiating a TMDL process for that
25 geographic area. The analysis shall be provided to
26 the Watershed Advisory Group before consideration
27 is given to develop and implement a TMDL. A copy
28 of the analysis shall also be provided to the germane
29 committees of the Idaho Legislature.
30

31 **37. Transfer of Water Rights**

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

37 **We support:**

- 38 1. Re-evaluation of the need for flow augmentation
39 on the grounds that the science does not support
40 any biological benefit.
41 2. IDWR automatically transferring stock water rights
42 from any federal agency to the allotment
43 permittee.

44 **We oppose:**

- 45 1. The transfer of water rights to the Bureau of
46 Reclamation (BOR);
47 2. The taking of water for fish flushing. Water held by
48 the Idaho Water Resource Board will be held and

- 1 used for purposes intended and in accordance
2 with state law; and
3 **3.** Out-of-basin transfers of irrigation water from
4 lands enrolled in the federal cropland set-aside
5 program for use on lands that have not
6 historically been used for agricultural
7 development.
8

9 **38. Waste Management**

10 We oppose mandatory agricultural waste
11 management facility construction without scientific
12 proof of environmental pollution on an individual
13 basis.
14

15 **39. Water Conservation**

16 We support voluntary conservation of water use
17 by updating irrigation systems. Conservation should
18 not adversely affect the full use of an irrigation water
19 right.

20 We support legislation and rulemaking that will
21 protect the full use of an irrigation water right.
22

23 **40. Water Quality**

24 **We support:**

- 25 **1.** The continued management of water quality, both
26 underground and surface, by utilizing “Best
27 Management Practices” (BMPs) as contained in
28 USDA’s “Natural Resource Conservation
29 Services Field Office Technical Guide” and
30 Idaho’s “Forest Practices Act.” Changes in these
31 BMPs should be based only on scientifically
32 monitored data rather than “best professional
33 judgement”;
34 **2.** The development of BMPs for recreational uses;
35 and
36 **3.** The efforts of canal and irrigation districts to halt
37 unwanted drainage into their water systems.

38 **We oppose:**

- 39 **1.** The DEQ having the authority to arbitrarily impose
40 penalties on landowners without first identifying
41 the problem and giving the landowner an
42 opportunity to correct the problem. If there is a
43 difference of opinion concerning the extent of the
44 problem, a reasonable and cost-effective appeal
45 process of the DEQ decision should be available
46 to the landowner; and
47 **2.** Levying fees associated with State NPDES
48 programs implementation, operation, and permit

1 issuance on agriculture and aquaculture
2 producers.
3

4 **41. Water Quality Standards**

5 Water quality standards must be site specific
6 and realistically achievable for each water body.
7

8 **42. Water Quality Trading**

9 We support the concept of water quality trading.
10

11 **43. Water Rights**

12 **We support:**

- 13 **1.** State ownership and control of Idaho water held in
14 trust for the residents of the State of Idaho, and
15 will oppose any policy, program or regulation,
16 including Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
17 (FERC) relicensing, which would infringe on this
18 right;
- 19 **2.** Defining local public interest, under water right
20 law, to give priority to beneficial uses and
21 agricultural viability, with local vested interest and
22 use, a priority;
- 23 **3.** Sanctions upon any party making frivolous claims
24 against water right applications;
- 25 **4.** Permittees on federal land being recognized and
26 acknowledged as the owners of stock water
27 rights in their allotments as their livestock provide
28 beneficial use under state law and the water
29 rights are an appurtenance of the private base
30 property;
- 31 **5.** Requiring that minimum stream flows not
32 jeopardize water rights and are being financed by
33 the benefit recipients;
- 34 **6.** The continued wise development of all Idaho's
35 rivers and their tributaries as working rivers;
- 36 **7.** First in time, first in right, and state control of
37 water issues within appropriate Idaho agencies
38 without federal regulatory or legislative
39 intervention;
- 40 **8.** The privatization of Idaho irrigation canal systems;
- 41 **9.** The protection of canal and drain ditch easements
42 from arbitrarily being taken over by cities,
43 counties, state, federal or private developers or
44 private landowners and developed into green
45 belts or bike paths;
- 46 **10.** The concept of conjunctive-use management
47 when scientific evidence is available to support
48 such management;

- 1 **11.** Efforts by local groundwater districts to provide
2 supplemental or water bank water to senior
3 surface water users to prevent curtailment of
4 junior water rights. Irrigation districts shall have
5 no net loss of irrigated acres due to growth and
6 development; and
- 7 **12.** Idaho water law that denies considering flood
8 control releases as a beneficial use.

9 **We oppose:**

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

46
47 **44. Water Rights Mitigation**

48 We support the state purchasing and holding
49 water rights for the purpose of mitigation, so water

1 trade may benefit aquifer recharge and groundwater
2 conservation.

3 4 LAND USE

5 6 **45. Government Land Designations**

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

14 We oppose Craters of the Moon becoming a
15 national park.

16 17 **46. Government Land Transactions**

18 **We support:**

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

1 allow for the sale of the isolated, landlocked, and
2 uneconomical parcels with the first right of refusal
3 going to the adjoining landowner(s) at fair
4 appraised value; and

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

8 **We oppose:**

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

13 **47. Government-Managed Lands**

14 **We support:**

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

44 **48. Grazing**

45 We believe grazing to be an effective tool in
46 maintaining sustainable rangeland, forests,
47

1 improving watersheds, wildlife habitat, reduction
2 of wildfire potential, and supporting ranchers and
3 rural community economies.

4 **We support:**

- 5 1. The protection of grazing on public lands as a
6 viable economic solution for managing agencies
7 of rangeland by reducing forage minimizing costs
8 for fighting catastrophic wildfires;
- 9 2. "Best Management Practices" by all State and
10 Federal agencies, land grant colleges and
11 research facilities on how grazing affects habitat
12 for all wildlife including sage grouse leks;
- 13 3. "Rangeland Management Plans" that use current
14 science-based information developed by the
15 Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, Forest Service,
16 and NRCS including the development of a
17 certification process recognized by these
18 agencies which would allow grazing permit
19 holders to submit voluntary forage monitoring
20 data to be used in the creation and development
21 of said plans;
- 22 4. Range management plans should be developed
23 in careful and considered consultation,
24 cooperation, and coordination with local
25 government, permittees, lessees and landowners
26 involved;
- 27 5. The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, the
28 Experimental Stewardship Program, and the
29 Coordinated Resource Management Program
30 encouraging producer control and supporting
31 fees;
- 32 6. Our local NRCS "Grazing Land Conservation
33 Initiative" (GLCI) and the "Conservation Reserve
34 Program" (CRP) and its programs of intermittent
35 grazing which pay producers to set aside
36 marginal ground to enhance soil health;
- 37 7. Grazing fee formulas for AUM's currently used by
38 Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, Forest Service,
39 and (PRIA) which are based upon forage
40 monitoring by agencies and permittees under the
41 "Federal Land Policy and Management Act" of
42 1976 (FLPMA);
- 43 8. The current grazing permit holder to have first
44 right of refusal when land is sold and when there
45 is no permit holder, the adjacent landowner
46 should be given the first right of refusal based on
47 appraised value;
- 48 9. All holders of grazing preference be fairly
49 compensated when federal land is sold, traded,

1 or exchanged and any entity acquiring property
2 from the federal government to compensate
3 grazing preference holders;

4 **10.** Requiring any entity which acquires property
5 from the federal government to compensate
6 grazing preference holders for loss of their
7 property rights if that entity does not continue to
8 maintain and protect those rights;

9 **11.** Funding from both federal and state
10 governments for the operation and research of
11 the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois;

12 **12.** A grazing preference right being transferred from
13 one base property to another base property, if the
14 transferor shall own or control the base property
15 from which the grazing preference right is being
16 transferred and file with the authorized officer a
17 properly completed transfer application for
18 approval to the respective agency;

19 **13.** Selling of a permit by a holder to another
20 interested party that will continue using the permit
21 for its original intended purpose;

22 **14.** The new "Outcome Based Grazing
23 Authorizations" of 2017, which is designed to
24 offer a more coordinated approach to resolve
25 disputes between the BLM and its partners within
26 the livestock grazing community when issuing
27 trading authorizations; and

28 **15.** All stakeholders being a part of the vetting
29 process when curtailment, termination, or fee
30 increases of any existing grazing permits or
31 allotments are proposed;

32 **16.** A minimum grazing usage for all public land
33 grazing allotments/leases. They shall be grazed
34 at a minimum of 75% the stocking rate at least
35 every third year.

36 **We oppose:**

37 **1.** The reduction or curtailment of any grazing
38 activity for the creation or recognition of wildlife
39 corridors;

40 **2.** The U.S. Forest Service ruling that will prevent
41 transferring grazing permits for 25 head or less;

42 **3.** The termination of grazing permits for
43 administrative errors or omissions of the land
44 managing agency;

45 **4.** Mandatory forage monitoring by livestock
46 permittees on federal lands as proposed by the
47 Federal Land Management Policy Act;

- 1 **5.** The termination or curtailment of permittees
2 because of livestock proximity to bighorn sheep,
3 bison, and sage grouse; and
4 **6.** The purchase or retirement of grazing permits or
5 allotments by any State or Federal agency,
6 group, or individual whose sole purpose is to not
7 allow any further grazing.

9 **49. Idaho Forest Practices Act**

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

12 We support the consideration of all facets of the
13 stream ecosystem within the IDL Forest Practices
14 Act rules, rather than just shade, to better maintain
15 and enhance fisheries habitat.

16 We oppose The Forest Practices Act
17 Streamside Retention Rule (Shade Rule) unless
18 accompanied by fair market appraised value
19 compensation to landowners for loss of property
20 rights.

22 **50. Land Surveys**

23 We oppose any changes to the methodology
24 used to survey property, including irrigatable acres,
25 in such a way that would negatively impact
26 agricultural viability.

28 **51. Landfills on BLM Lands**

29 We encourage the development of new, and the
30 continued use of existing, county landfills on BLM
31 lands.

33 **52. Mineral Rights**

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

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

46 **53. Mining**

47 We support the continuation of mineral
48 extraction in Idaho as long as the appropriate mine

1 reclamation and environmental protections are in
2 place and followed.

3 4 **54. Open Range**

5 We oppose any changes to Idaho open range
6 laws.

7 8 **55. Pest Control**

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

14 We support safe and effective county and state
15 pest control programs when landowner property
16 rights are respected, and commodity production is
17 not adversely affected by the program(s).

18 We support legislation that requires local, state,
19 and federal governments to manage lands to
20 prevent spread of noxious weeds and pests from
21 their lands to adjoining lands, crops and animals.

22 23 **56. Regulation of Agricultural Practices**

24 **We support:**

- 25 1. Agricultural practices such as field burning,
26 including grass seed, straw, residue burning,
27 timber slash burning and animal-waste disposal,
28 cultivation and harvest practices;
- 29 2. Agricultural and forestry representation on boards
30 created in regard to airshed quality programs; and
- 31 3. The farmer's right to farm by being able to carry
32 on sound farming and forestry practices and to be
33 free from environmental regulations that are not
34 proportionately beneficial to the implementation
35 cost.

36 **We oppose:**

- 37 1. Any legislation or regulations that would
38 segregate any agricultural industry, agricultural
39 crop, cropping practice or geographical area and
40 would impose a higher air quality, water quality or
41 environmental standard than is required of any
42 other person, entity, industry or geographical area
43 within the state;
- 44 2. Regulations on agricultural practices that are not
45 validated by sound peer reviewed scientific
46 process and supported by scientific fact;
- 47 3. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture having
48 the authority to impose sanctions on livestock

1 operators without first identifying specific problems
2 and giving the operators an opportunity to correct
3 said problems; and

- 4 **4.** Efforts to regulate logging slash burning on
5 private timberlands by the Idaho Department of
6 Environmental Quality (DEQ).
7

8 **57. Right to Farm**

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

14 We support local, state, and federal agriculture
15 exemptions from dust rules.
16

17 **58. Riparian Management**

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

23 **We support:**

- 24 **1.** Forage utilization requirements of riparian areas
25 being managed separate from the entire grazing
26 allotment; and
27 **2.** The concept that all existing roads along streams
28 be given grandfather rights approval.
29

30 **59. State and County Noxious Weed Control**

31 **We support:**

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

60. Timber Management

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

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

61. Wilderness and Restrictive Zones

We support:

1. The traditional balanced multiple-use practices on all federal/state lands and that access to existing wilderness be free and accessible for everyone; and
2. Adding adequate fire breaks in existing wilderness areas.

We oppose:

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

62. Wildfire Control

We support:

1. Fire-control policy to put out any fire upon arrival or as soon as safely possible. Local entities (such as counties, fire districts, and forest or rangeland protective associations) and private landowners and individuals being allowed to act as first responders. When the protection of the health, safety, and property of the citizens are in jeopardy, the local protective associations being allowed to

1 act beyond the first response and initial attack
2 phase of a fire. Local landowners must be allowed
3 to protect private property including livestock on
4 federal and state lands;

- 5 **2.** Changing state and federal wildfire policy to
6 require that state and federal fire managers and
7 incident commanders coordinate with county and
8 local fire departments and landowners;
- 9 **3.** A provision that state and federal agencies will
10 allow forest or rangeland protective associations in
11 neighboring states, that meet the requirements of
12 their home state, to enter into mutual aid
13 agreements with forest and rangeland protective
14 associations across state lines;
- 15 **4.** An increase in management activities, such as
16 thinning and grazing, to achieve federal agency
17 goals of reducing the potential for catastrophic
18 wildfires;
- 19 **5.** A provision that state and federal agencies
20 maintain a fire break strategically located to
21 protect private property and to control large
22 wildfires; and
- 23 **6.** An aggressive initial attack and suppression on all
24 forest and rangeland wildfires on public land and
25 firefighting suppression activities in addition to fire
26 management, in order to protect our water basins
27 and watersheds.

28 **We oppose:**

- 29 **1.** Landowners being held accountable for fire
30 suppression costs except in cases of gross
31 negligence.

32
33 **FISH AND WILDLIFE**

34
35 **63. Animal Damage Control**

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

39
40 **64. Animal Threat and Public Safety**

41 It shall be the responsibility of U.S. Fish and
42 Wildlife Services and any state agencies, that
43 manage predatory or proven problem animals, to
44 notify all residences within a five-mile radius using a
45 9-1-1 reverse calling system of potential conflict in
46 their area.

65. Endangered Species Act

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

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

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

We support:

1. A revision of the ESA to include a more thorough consideration of agriculture, mining, logging and tree farming in such a manner that these activities will be sustained and made part of any recovery plan. Recovery of T/E species should not receive higher priority than human uses or rights;
2. Anadromous hatchery fish and wild fish being treated equally under the ESA. Hatchery fish should be counted toward recovery of the species;
3. Eliminating the marking of hatchery fish;
4. The right of landowners to protect themselves, their families, livestock and properties from all predators including grizzly bears and wolves without legal retaliation;
5. Congress providing depredation funding for losses or damage resulting from endangered species and to mandate responsibility to deal with such losses; and
6. Bull Trout being delisted and managed through state management plans.

We oppose:

1. Any effort to create a State Endangered Species Act (ESA);
2. Road closures and restrictions imposed on land and water in the name of critical habitat;
3. Implementation of the endangered species pesticide labeling program, other than in critical habitat;
4. The listing of the Giant Palouse Earthworm (*Driloleirus americanus*) and the Greater Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and Slick

- 1 Spot Peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) as an
2 endangered species;
- 3 5. Listing any species before its critical habitat is
4 identified within its scientifically established
5 historical range. Habitat site specific assessments
6 and recovery plans must include comprehensive
7 protection of private property rights; and
- 8 6. Any critical-habitat designation until it has been
9 established beyond scientific doubt that the
10 species in question is actually present and that
11 endangered or threatened status is actually
12 warranted. The data to satisfy the scientific criteria
13 should meet the guidelines of the Data Quality Act
14 under federal statutes sections 3504(d)(1) and
15 3516 of title 44, United States Code. The agency,
16 organization or individual requesting the critical-
17 habitat designation must bear the cost of proving
18 presence of the species and this must be done
19 through the use of the best available peer
20 reviewed science.

22 **66. Fish and Game Department**

23 **We support:**

- 24 1. The department using good-neighbor
25 management practices on the land they now own,
26 including fences, pests, noxious weeds, and
27 providing sportsmen with guidance and marked
28 boundaries;
- 29 2. The Fish and Game Department controlling the
30 concentration of wildlife numbers on all lands and
31 being prohibited from entering into agreements to
32 limit access to any area, without approval of the
33 local governing authority;
- 34 3. Implementing a requirement for non-resident
35 mentored youth hunts where both the non-resident
36 mentor and the mentored youth must purchase
37 matching species tags. Non-resident tags should
38 cost more than resident tags;
- 39 4. A Habitat Improvement Program and request
40 Idaho Fish and Game Commission to reflect
41 strong emphasis on multiple use;
- 42 5. Reducing the depredation deductible.
43 Compensation by IDFG for crop loss due to
44 depredation shall be for actual loss minus the one-
45 time deductible and should be expediently paid
46 with no pro-rating;
- 47 6. A state of Idaho Employee to oversee and
48 coordinate wolf and grizzly bear management

- 1 efforts in Idaho amongst both state and federal
2 agencies;
- 3 7. Fish and Game being responsible and pay for
4 damages caused by management decisions;
- 5 8. Idaho Fish and Game issuing emergency
6 depredation permits to ag producers and
7 landowners to harvest animals that are causing
8 verifiable damage to crops, livestock and property.
9 The issuance of these depredation permits by
10 IDFG and other actions by IDFG to relieve
11 depredation shall be free of conditions that
12 landowners must allow hunting on their land.
13 Landowners should be allowed to determine who
14 hunts and they should be allowed to receive
15 compensation for allowing hunts on their private
16 property;
- 17 9. Creating depredation areas for landowners who
18 are annually affected by depredating animals and
19 support mechanisms for quicker response in those
20 areas;
- 21 10. The Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP)
22 being made available to anyone owning 320 acres
23 or more and recipients of these tags should be
24 free to do what they wish with the tags;
- 25 11. The creation of landowner preference tags for the
26 exclusive use of non-resident kindred relations of
27 the first or second degree for landowners whose
28 property exceeds 160 contiguous acres;
- 29 12. Additional landowner preference tags based on a
30 pro rata basis for each additional 640 acres of
31 contiguous ownership;
- 32 13. Idaho Fish and Game creating a full-time, fully
33 funded grizzly bear conflict technician position with
34 emphasis on production agriculture; and
- 35 14. Individuals who draw a LAP tag sitting out the
36 following year on the same LAP hunt.

37 **We oppose:**

- 38 1. The acquisition of additional land by the Fish and
39 Game Department;
- 40 2. Any increase in funding for the Idaho Department
41 of Fish and Game from either the general fund or
42 license fees without showing a specific need or
43 use for the funds;
- 44 3. The erection of either permanent or temporary
45 hunting or viewing blinds within 100 feet of a
46 developed livestock watering site on public lands;
- 47 4. Idaho Fish and Game abdicating responsibility for
48 year after year losses due to depredation impacts
49 regardless of other reimbursements;

- 1 5. Idaho Fish and Game utilizing animal depredation
2 claims to count against actual production history
3 (APH); and
- 4 6. The feeding of wild ungulates because of the
5 consequences to agriculture, municipalities, and
6 natural habitat.
- 7 7. The state of Idaho forfeiting their authority to the
8 federal government over wildlife management.

9 **67. Fish and Game—Prior Notification**

11 The Idaho Department of Fish and Game must
12 have permission from the landowner before entering
13 private property.

14 **68. Fish Species Population Management**

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

21 **69. Grizzly Bear**

22 **We support:**

- 24 1. The grizzly bear being removed from the
25 endangered species list and the transfer of all
26 grizzly bear management to Idaho Fish and
27 Game;
- 28 2. The state-regulated hunting of grizzly bears;
- 29 3. Requiring the costs associated with grizzlies,
30 including triple damages for depredation costs, to
31 be borne by the federal government, and its
32 agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services;
- 33 4. Paying compensation to state and local agencies
34 when any assistance in the management, control,
35 or defense of the public is needed from such
36 agencies. Compensation to state and local
37 agencies should be paid regardless of whether a
38 request has been made by a federal agency for
39 assistance until such time as the current grizzly
40 bear policy can be changed to allow less conflict
41 with humans and livestock; namely the delisting of
42 the grizzly bear and transfer of management to
43 individual states' authority;
- 44 5. Requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to
45 coordinate all grizzly bear related activities with
46 the Idaho Fish and Game and local county
47 officials;
- 48 6. Enhanced management of grizzly bears, including
49 relocation from farmsteads, homesteads, and

1 other public settlements with emphasis on public
2 notification of problem bears;

- 3 **7.** Idaho Fish and Game managing grizzly bears with
4 human safety as the priority; utilizing all tools and
5 methods available, including removal aversive
6 conditioning; and
7 **8.** Euthanizing any known problem bear that has
8 threatened human safety.

9 **We oppose:**

- 10 **1.** The reintroduction of grizzly bear into any area of
11 the State of Idaho.
12

13 **70. IDFG / USF&W Responsibility**

14 **We support:**

- 15 **1.** Requiring state or federal wildlife personnel to file
16 an environmental and economic impact statement
17 before they can release non-native insects or
18 plants in Idaho or make regulations that affect the
19 counties and/or the state;
20 **2.** The Idaho State Department of Agriculture's ban
21 on the release of deleterious exotic animals into
22 the State of Idaho;
23 **3.** Requiring all state and federal agency personnel
24 going through the elected county sheriff for all law
25 enforcement; and
26 **4.** The creation of a wildlife management system
27 where property owners and IDFG cooperatively
28 manage wildlife and income generated from that
29 management unit be shared between both parties.

30 **We oppose:**

- 31 **1.** The relocation of wild game and non-game
32 species without proper notice being given to
33 residents and property owners in the area where
34 they are released. Local county officials must
35 receive official notice at least 30 days prior to any
36 relocation or release, into the wild, of any species
37 raised in captivity;
38 **2.** Relocation or release into the wild of wolves or
39 grizzlies that have been raised in captivity; and
40 **3.** The Idaho Fish and Game Department engaging
41 in activities that encourage only non-consumptive
42 uses of fish and wildlife species in Idaho.
43

44 **71. Introduction of Salmon**

45 We oppose the introduction of salmon above the
46 Brownlee Dam.

1 **72. Invasive Species**

2 We support adequate state funding for
3 inspections of all water craft and other vessels to
4 prevent the spread and infestation of any non-native
5 aquatic species in Idaho waters.
6

7 **73. Prion Disease**

8 We support the continuing research into Chronic
9 Wasting Disease and its relation to other prion
10 diseases and public health.

11 We support the continuing development of a
12 strategy to deal with this dilemma. We expect the
13 Idaho Fish and Game to cooperate with sampling
14 and assisting in other efforts to develop a consistent
15 strategy.
16

17 **74. Private Reservoir Companies**

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

24 **75. Sage Grouse**

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

29 We support grazing on public lands as a primary
30 method of increasing sage grouse populations by
31 controlling the amount of vegetation that fuels
32 wildfires.

33 We support rearing and releasing of sage
34 grouse.
35

36 **76. Salmon Recovery**

37 **We support the following salmon-recovery**
38 **alternatives:**

- 39 1. Utilizing new hydroelectric turbine technologies to
40 achieve the goals of increased power production
41 and reduced hazards to fish;
- 42 2. Privatizing salmon fisheries for increased
43 numbers and stronger fish. Net barge
44 transportation as a safer way of transporting smolt
45 to ocean;
- 46 3. Ocean predator control during the two-year cycle
47 from smolt to maturity;

- 1 4. Regulating harvest of offshore and instream
- 2 salmon;
- 3 5. Improved dam passage of smolt to ocean and
- 4 mature salmon's migration back to spawning
- 5 grounds; and
- 6 6. The Federal Columbia River Power System as
- 7 one of the largest sources of clean, renewable
- 8 electricity in the Pacific Northwest.

9 **We Oppose:**

- 10 1. The removal of Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental,
- 11 Little Goose and Lower Granite dams on the lower
- 12 Snake River;
- 13 2. The taxpayer funded payments to compensate
- 14 entities for lost revenues from dam removal;
- 15 3. The costs associated with the removal of these
- 16 four dams;
- 17 4. The loss of Idaho's only seaport in Lewiston
- 18 eliminating the most cost-efficient shipping of farm
- 19 commodities; and
- 20 5. The power replacement costs paid to business
- 21 with a mix of solar, wind, nuclear, and batteries.
- 22 (Short term fixes with negative long-term effects)
- 23

24 **77. Snake River Basin Snails**

25 We support the delisting of snail species in the

26 Snake River Basin and the grouping of snail species

27 based on taxonomic/biological similarities.

28 We oppose the future listing of new snail

29 species.

30

31 **78. Wolves**

32 **We support:**

- 33 1. All methods of wolf control and population
- 34 management statewide;
- 35 2. Funding for state agencies tasked with wolf
- 36 management and support appropriate
- 37 compensation for damages incurred by producers;
- 38 3. Adding wolves to the IDF&G depredation list so
- 39 that depredation on livestock can be paid by the
- 40 IDF&G Big Game Depredation and Prevention
- 41 fund;
- 42 4. Requiring when possible, all wolf carcasses to be
- 43 presented for testing for communicable diseases,
- 44 especially the tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus*
- 45 which causes Hydatid Disease in livestock, elk,
- 46 deer, and humans;
- 47 5. State law which expands the Idaho Fish and
- 48 Game's responsibility of managing this recovered
- 49 predator increasing their monetary contribution to

- 1 the Wolf Depredation Control Board to \$300,000
2 annually;
- 3 **6.** The Wolf Depredation Control Board being able to
4 enter into agreements with private contractors for
5 more efficient means of removing wolves;
- 6 **7.** Property owner's rights in protecting their property
7 in a timely manner using any method that has
8 proven effective.

9 **We oppose:**

- 10 1. Any efforts to relist the wolf as endangered.

11
12 **EASEMENTS**

13
14 **79. Conservation / Scenic Easements**

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

19 We oppose the Yellowstone to Yukon
20 Conservation Initiative (Y2Y).

21
22 **ENERGY**

23
24 **80. Affordable Energy**

25 **We support:**

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

36 **We Oppose:**

- 37 1. Any infringement on the ability of agribusiness to
38 access, evaluate, or cost-effectively utilize widely
39 available technologies for managing their energy
40 requirements.

41
42 **81. Alternative Energy**

43 **We support:**

- 44 1. The development of cost-effective alternative
45 energy;
- 46 2. County control in the siting of these projects;
- 47 3. Sales tax incentives to assist in the development
48 of alternative energy projects of less than one

- 1 megawatt constructed on or by existing agriculture
2 operations; and
3 **4.** Alternative energy should not receive subsidies
4 beyond the bulk market rate. Any such contracts
5 shall be allowed to expire.

6 **We oppose:**

- 7 **1.** A broad moratorium on alternative energy
8 projects.

9
10 **82. Electrical Energy**

11 **1. Hydroelectric Dams:**

12 **We support**

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

24 **2. Renewables:**

25 **We Support:**

- 26 **2.1.** Utilities operating in Idaho developing
27 economically feasible renewable energy
28 portfolios;
29 **2.2.** The construction of economically feasible power
30 generation facilities in Idaho, including those that
31 use plant and/or animal residue or logging slash;
32 **2.3.** An annual true-up for net metering rather than a
33 monthly true-up;
34 **2.4.** The right of property owners to generate
35 electricity to partially or fully offset the energy
36 requirement on their property, limited only by
37 conditions necessary to protect public health,
38 safety, service quality, or grid reliability; and
39 **2.5.** The ability of agribusiness to access, evaluate,
40 and cost-effectively utilize technologies that
41 enable them to control and reduce energy costs.

42 **3. Regulations:**

43 **We support:**

- 44 **3.1.** State agencies removing barriers that prevent
45 utilities from increasing Idaho's power
46 generation capacity; and

1 **3.2.** Current laws that require coal fired plants be
2 held to strict standards in the construction,
3 operation, and retirement of the facility.

4 **We oppose:**

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

9 **3.2.** The sale of any public utility company operating
10 in the State of Idaho to an entity either partially
11 or wholly owned by a foreign government.

12 **4. Transmission:**

13 **We support:**

14 **4.1.** Upgrades in transmission and distribution.

15 Routing of utility corridors should be placed on
16 public land first and then to the areas of least
17 impact to private property owners;

18 **4.2.** The initiation of on and off ramps in
19 transmission lines within the State of Idaho; and

20 **4.3.** Using utility transmission corridors established
21 by the county to lessen the impact on private
22 property owners.

23 **5. PUC Rates:**

24 **We oppose:**

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

29
30 **83. Fossil Fuels**

31 We support the mining and drilling of fossil fuels.

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

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

41
42 **84. Nuclear Energy**

43 We support the generation of electricity from
44 nuclear reactors in meeting our future energy needs
45 and urge the development of permanent disposal

1 sites for radioactive waste material where it will not
2 endanger the aquifer in Idaho.

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

6 We support development of nuclear technology
7 which reduces or eliminates the need for nuclear
8 waste disposal.

9 We support the Idaho National Laboratory
10 providing the lead role in advancing the
11 development of this technology.

12 **85. Power Demand Control Program**

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

17 **86. Renewable Fuels**

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

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

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

29 **87. Utility Companies**

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

33 We support utility companies retaining the
34 liability when underground utility lines are not at the
35 required depths.

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

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

1 LABOR

2
3 **88. Legal Aid**

4 We oppose state funding of Idaho Legal Aid
5 Services.

6
7 **89. Minimum Wage**

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

10
11 **90. New Hire Reporting**

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

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

18
19 **91. Unemployment Insurance**

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

23
24 **92. Workers Compensation**

25 Workers compensation for agricultural
26 employers should provide:

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

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

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

39
40 TAX

41
42 **93. Assessed Value of Ag Production Land**

43 We support ag land being assessed at its actual
44 use value for taxation purposes.

45 **We support:**

- 46 **1.** The retention of five-acre minimum productivity
47 option and the Bare Land & Yield Option for forest
48 lands; and

1 2. Legislation that allows county commissioners to
2 appeal an assessment change by the Idaho State
3 Tax Commission for a category of property.

4 **We oppose:**

5 1. The State Tax Commission having power to
6 equalize county property tax assessments.
7

8 **94. Budget Caps**

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

15 We oppose the creation of additional tax entities
16 that could be exempt from such limitations and
17 restraints.
18

19 **95. Fuel Tax**

20 We support the refund of tax paid on fuel used
21 off-road.

22 We support having non-taxed dyed-fuel
23 available for off-road use.

24 We support an alternative tax for non-
25 combustion engine vehicles.
26

27 **96. Funding Local Government and Schools**

28 **We support:**

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

44 **We oppose:**

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

1 **3.** School districts carrying over plant facilities levy
2 funds to finance the construction of new buildings
3 or the acquisition of additional property.
4

5 **97. Impact Fees**

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

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

11 We support schools being included in the
12 definition of public facilities in order to be eligible to
13 receive impact fees.
14

15 **98. Investment Tax Credit**

16 We support retention of the current three
17 percent investment tax credit provisions, or an
18 increase in the credit.
19

20 **99. Local Option Taxation**

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

25 **100. Maximum Levy Rates**

26 We oppose raising the maximum statutory levy
27 rates for any taxing authority.
28

29 **101. Personal Tax Privacy Rights**

30 We oppose the county assessor's office
31 requiring personal tax information to establish land
32 use.
33

34 **102. Property Tax**

35 **We support:**

- 36 **1.** Limiting yearly property assessment increases to a
37 maximum of the state inflation rate;
- 38 **2.** Legislation that would allow county tax
39 assessments and collection on property that has
40 been purchased by non-profit groups and placed
41 in tax exempt status, such as a tax code that
42 covers environmental tax-exempt classification.
- 43 **3.** Maintaining the exemption of all equipment used
44 in the production of agricultural commodities from
45 personal property tax;
- 46 **4.** Efforts to amend the Idaho Forest Tax Law to
47 allow forest landowners to designate and maintain
48 multiple timberland parcels under respective Bare

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

10 **We oppose:**

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

19

20 **103. Property Tax Replacement**

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

26

27 **104. Sales Tax**

28 We oppose removing the sales tax exemption
29 on production items.

30 We support legislation that would exempt
31 nonprofit organizational fund-raising from paying
32 sales tax on those receipts.

33

34 **105. Services Tax**

35 We oppose all tax on services.

36

37 **106. Special Taxing Districts**

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

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

46 We support giving library districts the option to
47 be funded by a household fee rather than through an
48 ad valorem tax. If the library district chooses the

1 household fee option, any bonds they pass must
2 also be paid through household fees.

3 We support a 10-year sunset on all special
4 taxing districts, after which they would require re-
5 authorization by the voters to continue.
6

7 **107. State Budget**

8 **We support:**

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

23 **We oppose:**

- 24 1. Balancing budget shortfalls by any tax increase.
25

26 **108. Super Majority**

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

30 We oppose circumventing the required two-
31 thirds majority by creative financing options.
32

33 **109. Taxing Districts Sharing Administrators**

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

39 **110. Urban Renewal Districts**

40 We support the repeal of urban renewal laws.
41

42 **LOCAL AFFAIRS**

43 **111. Annexation**

44 We are opposed to areas adjacent to a city
45 being annexed into the city unless a two-thirds
46 majority of those owning property in the area
47

1 proposed for annexation vote in favor of the
2 annexation.

3 4 **112. County Commissioners**

5 We encourage county commissioners to develop
6 a Natural Resource Plan that clearly states the
7 objectives and policies of the county in regard to
8 management of the natural resources located on
9 public lands in their county.

10 We encourage county commissioners to invoke
11 the “coordination mandate” of Congress set forth in
12 federal statutes with the public land management
13 agencies plans and actions that may negatively
14 impact the county’s economy, culture and heritage.

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

19 We support county commissioners being elected
20 by the voters who live in the district which they
21 represent.

22 23 **113. Distribution of Federal Fines**

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

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

30 31 **114. Elections**

32 **We support:**

- 33 **1.** Allowing Idaho residents who own real property in
34 a taxing district to vote on any tax proposal in that
35 district;
- 36 **2.** Consolidation of all elections, including school
37 bonds/levies to the May and November elections;
- 38 **3.** Requiring a minimum of 30% voter turnout if a
39 school bond/levy election occurs on March or
40 August dates;
- 41 **4.** A Mandatory pre-registration requirement to be
42 eligible to vote in all local bond elections;
- 43 **5.** Requiring photo identification, proof of residency
44 and proof of U.S. citizenship for new voter
45 registration;
- 46 **6.** Pay raises for elected officials only taking effect
47 after the official stands again for election; and
- 48 **7.** Changing the number of members of the Idaho
49 redistricting commission to 7 with the majority on

1 the commission reflecting the current partisan
2 makeup of the legislature; and
3 **8. Absentee ballots with verification of identity and**
4 signatures.

5 **We oppose:**

6 **1. Unsolicited mail-in voting and vote harvesting**
7 practices.

8
9 **115. Emergency Response Fees**

10 We oppose the imposition of response fees for
11 emergency services that are funded through
12 property taxes.

13
14 **116. Public Hearings**

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

18
19 **117. Zoning**

20 County commissioners should control all zoning
21 in the county. Zoning should be site specific within
22 the county.

23 We oppose the use of blanket zoning
24 ordinances, including sustainable development and
25 smart-growth initiatives.

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

30
31 **EDUCATION**

32
33 **118. Ag in the Classroom**

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

36
37 **119. Career Technical Education**

38 We support enhanced funding for Idaho's
39 Career & Technical Education, Agricultural Science
40 and Technology courses and programs.

41
42 **120. Knowledge of Constitution**

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

121. Local Control of Education

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

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

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

122. Veterinary Students

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

STATE AFFAIRS

123. Agricultural Research and Extension

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

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

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

We support:

1. The University of Idaho Agricultural Research and Extension Service;
2. Any products developed by any research facility utilizing state funds for research should be made available to Idaho citizens royalty-free;
3. Expanded research and education in all crop areas relative to Idaho. This must also include new and improved plant and animal varieties along with effective insect, pest, disease and weed controls;
4. An informational exchange and cooperative effort within the tri-state area in ag-chemical registration and research as well as plant/animal variety improvement research. Every effort should be made by state and county officials and the University of Idaho to retain an agricultural extension agent in each county as an extension

1 service of our land grant university. Strong
2 pressure must be exerted to revitalize and improve
3 the agricultural information and education
4 programs;

5 **5.** The hiring of new extension educators in the
6 College of Agricultural and Life Sciences with
7 primary training and experience in commercial
8 agriculture and forestry; and

9 **6.** Full funding, from both federal and state
10 governments, for operations and research at the
11 current U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, including
12 continuous research on the effects of grazing and
13 sage grouse habitat, and the relationship between
14 wildfire and grazing.
15

16 **124. ATV Safety**

17 We oppose the creation of a mandatory class or
18 special license for the ability to ride an ATV on
19 private or public land.
20

21 **125. Auction Company Bonding**

22 We support legislation that would require
23 licensing and bonding of commercial auction
24 companies.
25

26 **126. Ballot Initiative**

27 We support requiring all ballot initiatives to
28 collect signatures from 6% of registered voters from
29 two-thirds of all legislative districts.

30 We support all ballot initiatives requiring a two-
31 thirds majority vote to pass.

32 We oppose taxes being levied through the
33 initiative process.
34

35 **127. Bicycle Safety**

36 We support bicyclists using public roadways be
37 subject to the same laws that motorists must obey.
38

39 **128. Citizen Legislature**

40 We support the Idaho Legislature remaining a
41 citizen legislature and the session should only run
42 from approximately the first Monday in January till
43 the last Friday in March. All special sessions should
44 be limited to 20 days.

1 **129. Constitutional Defense Fund**

2 We support adding another leadership position
3 to the existing four-member council when voting on
4 the distribution of Constitutional Defense Funds.
5

6 **130. County Fairs**

7 We support the review and revision of all county
8 fair related state statutes to better reflect current
9 year-round fairground operations under the
10 administration of local appointed fair boards even
11 above the 200,000-county population limit.

12 **131. Cross Deputization**

13 We believe that cross deputization of county
14 sheriffs and any tribal law enforcement officers
15 should be voluntary.
16

17 **132. Definition of Agricultural Buildings**

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

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

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

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

42 **134. Environmental Social Governance**

43 We oppose the unsolicited and undefined use of
44 ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) scores to
45 evaluate individuals, corporations, or institutions.

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

2 We oppose actions by the governor entering into
3 Memorandums of Understanding or Memorandums
4 of Agreement without legislative oversight and
5 approval.
6

7 **136. Falsifying Reports**

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

14 **137. Government Overreach**

15 **We oppose:**

- 16 1. Vaccine passports and mandatory vaccinations
17 that disrupt agriculture; and
18 2. Government operating commercial businesses in
19 competition with private enterprise.
20

21 **138. Hazardous Waste**

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

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

30 We support a statewide hazardous materials
31 clean-up day.
32

33 **139. Health Insurance**

34 **We support:**

- 35 1. Private optional health insurance;
36 2. Legislation that permits, promotes, and/or assists:
37 **2.1.** In individual health savings accounts with tax
38 free withdrawals for all health insurance
39 premiums;
40 **2.2.** In free market solutions to health care costs
41 and access;
42 **2.3.** In free clinics funded by local
43 community/faith-based organizations; and
44 **2.4.** In development of Direct Primary Care in
45 Idaho supporting the offering of wraparound
46 health insurance policies.
47 3. Health insurance as a risk management tool by
48 reducing and/or eliminating the number of
49 mandated services.

1 **We oppose:**

- 2 1. Any legislation to require employers to carry
3 health insurance on their employees whether
4 they are seasonal or full-time.
5

6 **140. Judicial Confirmation**

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

11 **141. Liability and Tort Claims**

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

16 **142. Marijuana**

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

20 We support legislation that will prohibit drug
21 legalization by citizen initiatives.
22

23 **143. Medicaid**

24 **We support:**

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

31 **We oppose:**

- 32 1. County property taxes paying any portion of
33 Medicaid expansion.
34

35 **144. Mental and Behavioral Health**

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

41 **145. One Senator Per County**

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

45 **146. Preserving Agriculture**

46 We support legislation to protect agriculture
47 land through voluntary agreements and programs
48 based on incentives.

147. Property Rights/Eminent Domain

We support:

1. Defining private property to include, but not be limited to, all land, crops, timber, water rights, mineral rights, all other appurtenances and any other consideration associated with land ownership;
2. An Idaho Constitutional Amendment defining public use as found in the eminent domain doctrine to prohibit the condemnation of private property for economic development or any use by private parties. If private property is taken, compensation must be prompt, just and adequate;
3. Compensating landowners in the cases of partial taking of real property, when government-imposed regulations cause a loss in value of private property. Landowners or tenants shall not be held liable for any damages incurred as a result of the condemnation. Entities condemning property shall assume liability for any damages incurred by landowners.
4. The federal and state "takings" law in support of the U.S. Constitution, Article V; and
5. Amending the State Building Code to prevent infringement on private property rights through excessive permit requirements.

We oppose:

1. Landowners having lands adjacent to federal and or state lands should not be forced through coercion or fear of imprisonment to allow new easements across their land for public access to federal and state lands. The taking of property or easements should be permitted only when there is eminent domain;
2. The use of eminent domain for recreational purposes, for private economic development or to expand the land holding of wildlife agencies;
3. Any infringement of private property rights caused by regulations of rivers and dams for endangered species;
4. Infringement on private property rights caused by highway districts and transportation departments; and
5. Governmental taking of private property rights by restriction of use without just and due compensation.

1 **148. Proprietary Information**

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

5 **149. Public Employees Bargaining**

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

12 **150. Regulation Reform**

13 **We support:**

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

21 **151. Regulatory Fines**

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

27 **152. Rights-of-Way**

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

35 **We Support:**

- 36 1. Access to or through federal lands using RS2477
37 (federally granted rights-of-way);
38 2. Allowing county commissioners the ability to
39 determine the validity of an RS2477 claim, the right
40 to move an RS2477 when it occurs on private land
41 and the ability to temporarily close an RS2477 for
42 resource reasons. To prevent the misuse of
43 RS2477 claims, we recognize the superiority of a
44 property's title over RS2477 claims; and
45 3. Enactment of legislation to require that adjacent
46 landowners be given priority to purchase at fair

1 market value lands that have been vacated by
2 railways, power companies, roadways, etc.

3 **We oppose:**

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

17 **153. Right to Bear Arms**

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

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

25 We oppose the retaining of personal records
26 collected by the FBI as a result of firearms purchase
27 background checks.

28 We support expanding reciprocity with other
29 states for concealed carry permits.
30

31 **154. Road Closures**

32 We believe when any government entity closes
33 a road, use on these roads for commodity
34 production should be exempted from the closure.

35 We oppose the closure of any existing roads.
36

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

38 We support the Idaho Department of Lands
39 hiring or contracting a transportation planner to
40 organize road infrastructure on endowment lands.
41

42 **156. State Agencies**

43 **We support:**

- 44 1. The Soil Conservation Commission or successor
45 entity advising and aiding local Soil Conservation
46 Districts by providing technical support and
47 funding at the statutory level;

- 1 2. Representation by an agricultural producer on the
2 Board of Regents for Idaho's land grant university
3 and on the Idaho Fish and Game Commission;
- 4 3. Legislation to require that government rules and
5 regulations, wherever applicable, be based upon
6 supportive disciplinary peer reviewed scientific
7 data, balanced with economic feasibility, and that
8 wherever policies, rules or regulations do not meet
9 this standard the responsible individual and/or
10 individuals can be held liable;
- 11 4. When a state law enforcement agency makes an
12 arrest, there should be a means provided to
13 reimburse the county for all costs associated in
14 maintaining the prisoner; and
- 15 5. The legislature reviewing agency rules. In order to
16 approve a new rule, both the House and Senate
17 must agree. A rule shall be rejected if either the
18 House or Senate does not approve.

19 **We oppose:**

- 20 1. Combining, splitting, or changing government
21 agencies without the approval of users of the
22 services; and
- 23 2. Regulating any phase of farm and ranch business
24 by any state agency that does not have an
25 agricultural representative as a member of its
26 policy making board or committee.

27
28 **157. State Hatch Act**

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

32
33 **158. State Historic Preservation Office**

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

36 **159. State Legal Reform**

37 **We Support:**

- 38 1. Reform of the state's civil justice system, which
39 would cure or substantially solve many of the
40 problems farmers face with hostile, harassing legal
41 services lawsuits. Any person or organization that
42 sues to prevent livestock operation siting, or the
43 use of agriculture or resource management
44 practices, should be required to post a bond in a
45 reasonable amount, which will be forfeited to the
46 defendant to help defray their costs in the event
47 that the suit is unsuccessful;

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

29 **160. States' Rights and Sovereignty**

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

39 **161. Transportation**

40 **We support:**

- 41 **1.** Continuation of independent road districts without
42 oversight by county commissioners;
- 43 **2.** The Idaho Transportation Department utilizing
44 revenue sources efficiently to maintain and
45 construct Idaho roads;
- 46 **3.** The Idaho Transportation Department increasing
47 their cost saving efforts;
- 48 **4.** Increases in gross weights with axle weights non-
49 changing;

- 1 **5.** The continued use of long combination vehicles
2 (LCVs);
- 3 **6.** The Idaho Transportation Department policy of
4 issuing oversize load permits for Idaho public
5 roads;
- 6 **7.** The continued improvement of Idaho's agricultural
7 roadways;
- 8 **8.** Accountability of highway transportation
9 department's engineers for the cost over-runs
10 and/or miscalculations for wrongful designs of
11 highway projects;
- 12 **9.** Increasing permit fees on loads exceeding 200,000
13 GVW to be comparable with fees in surrounding
14 states;
- 15 **10.** The review of current Idaho Transportation
16 Department policies regarding economics of
17 maintenance versus new construction of
18 roadways;
- 19 **11.** Expenses for environmental studies and the
20 expenses required to meet the mandated
21 environmental standards being calculated and
22 tabulated on an environmental budget and not
23 included in the Highway Construction and
24 Maintenance budget;
- 25 **12.** Construction and/or improvement of a North-
26 South Highway to the Canadian border;
- 27 **13.** Port districts in Idaho that help move agricultural
28 commodities;
- 29 **14.** Access of agricultural implements of husbandry
30 and vehicles to any and all local, county and state
31 roads/highways in Idaho, and oppose the
32 imposition of any minimum speed requirements;
- 33 **15.** Alternative solutions to wildlife overpasses.
- 34 **16.** The Idaho Transportation Department allowing
35 axle weight limit violations for livestock and
36 commodity haulers to be waived as long as the
37 truck's gross weight is less than or equal to the
38 maximum weight-limit;
- 39 **17.** 129,000 GVW limits on all highways within the
40 state that can accommodate the weight;
- 41 **18.** 115 feet vehicle lengths when the highways can
42 accommodate the length;
- 43 **19.** Universal off-track standards for highways within
44 Idaho;
- 45 **20.** Increases in automobile liability minimums to a
46 level to cover reasonable medical and
47 replacement costs; and
- 48 **21.** Stricter penalties for drivers of vehicles without
49 insurance.

1 **We oppose:**

- 2 1. A tax or fee increase on fuel;
3 2. A tax or fee increase on vehicles; and
4 3. The removal of the Port of Entry system from the
5 Department of Transportation.
6

7 **162. Trespass**

8 **We support:**

- 9 1. Programs to educate the public about private
10 property rights and about trespass laws.
11 Landowners retain the right to refuse access within
12 the current law;
13 2. IDFG making a concerted effort to educate hunters
14 about private property rights and the location of
15 private property in their hunting regulations and
16 maps. It is the hunters' responsibility to know where
17 they can hunt, and not the landowners'
18 responsibility to mark or post their property;
19 3. Making it unlawful for any person, representative of
20 state or federal agency or organization to enter
21 private property to use or attempt to use a camera,
22 video recorder, or any other video or audio
23 recording device without permission from the owner
24 or authorized agent;
25 4. A law placing the burden of trespass on the
26 trespasser instead of the landowner;
27 5. Mandatory education regarding current trespass
28 laws and private property rights in the Hunter
29 education program; and
30 6. Idaho revising state law or the Idaho Constitution
31 to reject open-field doctrine.

32 **163. Tribal Jurisdiction on Reservations**

33 We support the requirement that tribes and the
34 affected municipalities and counties collaborate and
35 coordinate to ensure that the best interests of the
36 tribe and the surrounding communities are served if
37 a tribe submits a retrocession resolution to the
38 governor.

39 We oppose any act by the State of Idaho to
40 return to the federal government any jurisdiction
41 acquired over Indian tribes under Federal Public
42 Law 280.
43

44 **164. Unfunded Mandates**

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

1 **165. Welfare Reform**

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

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Idaho Farm Bureau Federation & Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Idaho

Policies found in the Idaho Farm Bureau Policy Book are under the purview of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, the largest general farm organization in Idaho. Policies result from grassroots processes where members propose, debate, and vote to add, delete, and modify the policies found in the policy book annually.

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

The Idaho Farm Bureau Federation is solely responsible for these policies. The Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company of Idaho is a separate entity. The insurance company is in no way directed by nor does it contribute to the policies of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation.

All inquiries regarding IFBF policy should be directed to the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation.

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