



**Policies
for
2022**

Adopted by the Delegates
at the 82nd Annual Meeting of the
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Fort Hall, Idaho
December 2021

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BASIC PRINCIPLES

Purpose of Farm Bureau

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

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

Farm Bureau Beliefs and Philosophy

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

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

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

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

Ownership of property and property rights are among the human rights essential to the

1 preservation of individual freedom. The right to own
2 property must be preserved at all costs.

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

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

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

11 We believe in the representative form of
12 government; a republic as provided in our
13 Constitution; in limitations upon government power;
14 in maintenance of equal opportunity; in the right of
15 each individual to worship as he chooses; and in
16 freedom of speech, press, and peaceful assembly.

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

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

31 We believe in the right of all individuals to
32 choose their own occupation; to be rewarded
33 according to their contribution to society and to save,
34 invest, spend, or convey their earnings to their heirs.

35 These rights are accompanied by the
36 responsibility that all individuals must meet the
37 financial obligations they have incurred.

38 We support a society free of drug abuse.

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

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

43 We support public schools starting the day by
44 reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

45 46 **The Constitution**

47 Stable and honest government with prescribed
48 and limited powers is essential to freedom and
49 progress. The Constitution of the United States was

1 well designed to secure individual liberty by a
2 division of federal authority among the Legislative,
3 Executive and Judicial branches. The Tenth
4 Amendment assures that liberties are further
5 secured for the states and the people through the
6 retention of those powers not specifically delegated
7 to the federal government. The constitutional
8 prerogatives of each branch of government should
9 be preserved from encroachment.

10 We support the Constitution as the supreme law
11 of the land. Changes should be made only through
12 constitutional amendments, not by federal policy or
13 regulation. One of the greatest dangers threatening
14 our republic and system of private, competitive
15 enterprise is the socialization of America through the
16 centralization of power and authority in the federal
17 government. The centralization of power and
18 responsibility in the federal government violates
19 constitutional purposes. It has usurped state
20 sovereignty and individual freedom and should be
21 reversed.

22 In defense of our Constitution, and of the
23 sovereignty of the U.S.A., we oppose the
24 centralization of power worldwide into one world
25 government.
26

27 **State's Rights and Sovereignty**

28 We support the protection and defense of states'
29 rights and state sovereignty over all powers not
30 otherwise enumerated and granted to the federal
31 government as specified in the 10th amendment to
32 the constitution. The federal government must
33 respect state laws and state agencies. All lands
34 within the boundaries of Idaho, excluding those
35 lands as allowed by Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17
36 of the U.S. Constitution and ceded to the federal
37 government by the Idaho Legislature, shall be
38 subject solely to the laws and jurisdiction of the
39 state.
40

41 **Religious Life**

42 Our Nation was founded on spiritual faith and
43 belief in God. Whereas the Constitution of the United
44 States was founded on moral and Judeo-Christian
45 religious principles, moral, ethical, and traditional
46 family values should get equal support and
47 consideration in the public schools as do the
48 atheistic and humanistic views.

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

4 We vigorously support retention of:

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

11 **Family Values**

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

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

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

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

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

25 **Capitalism - Private Competitive Enterprise**

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 We also believe that no element of society has
2 more concern for, understanding of, or a greater
3 stake in, the proper husbandry of poultry, livestock,
4 fur-bearers, game animals and aquaculture than the
5 producer.
6

7 **Economy in Government**

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

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

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

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

24 We support economy at all levels of
25 government.
26

27 **Education**

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

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

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

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

45 We believe all school systems must be
46 accountable to provide opportunities for all students
47 to obtain proficiency in the basics of reading, writing
48 and mathematics. Parents and guardians must be

1 kept informed by the school system of the
2 educational progress of their children.

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

6

7 **Political Parties**

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

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

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

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

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

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.

25 2. Commodity Diseases

26 We support:

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

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

We oppose double discounts by grain dealers.

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

We support amending the Idaho Pure Seed Law to fully disclose the contents of all seed lots by requiring the tag or label to list each plant species therein by name and rate of occurrence.

We support the state having one statewide licensing program to allow for the sale of meat in bulk to individual people and/or their families.

5. Environmental Studies

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

6. Fair Trade

We support strict adherence to bilateral and multilateral trade agreements to which the United States is a party to prevent unfair practices by

1 competing nations and to assure unrestricted access
2 to domestic and world markets. All trade agreements
3 should be continuously monitored and enforced to
4 ensure they result in fair trade.
5

6 **7. Field Testing Biotechnology Products**

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

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

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

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

20 We support scientifically accurate consumer
21 education about the safety and benefits of
22 genetically engineered crops.
23

24 **8. Food Safety/Government Accountability**

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

33 We support laws and regulations that exempt
34 farmers and ranchers from liability from food
35 contamination when best practices or food safety
36 programs have been followed and no gross
37 negligence has been shown.
38

39 **9. Lien Law**

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

44 We oppose delivered feed being encumbered by
45 a blanket lien from a financial institution until the
46 grower/supplier is paid in full.

1 **10. Seed Indemnity Fund**

2 We support aligning the financial reporting
3 requirements for the Seed Indemnity Fund and the
4 Commodity Indemnity Fund.

5
6 **LIVESTOCK**

7
8 **11. LIVESTOCK**

9
10 **I. Care**

11 **We support:**

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

23 **We oppose:**

- 24 1. Any legislation, regulatory action or funding,
25 whether private or public, that interferes with
26 commonly accepted animal husbandry practices
27 and livestock harvesting;
28 2. Legislation that would give animal rights
29 organizations the right to establish standards for
30 the raising, marketing, handling, feeding, housing
31 or transportation of livestock and production
32 animals and any legislation that would pay
33 bounties to complainants;
34 3. Any livestock and production animal care
35 legislation that would impose a stricter penalty
36 than the 2016 law;
37 4. The creation of an Idaho livestock care standards
38 board;
39 5. Requiring a licensed veterinarian for docking,
40 dehorning, castration, pregnancy checking and
41 any other routine livestock healthcare
42 management practices; and
43 6. Comfort animals having the same rights and
44 privileges as service animals covered by the
45 Americans with Disabilities Act.

1 II. Diseases

2 **Bovine Tuberculosis**

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

5 6 **Brucellosis**

7 **We support:**

- 8 1. Regulations requiring the appropriate state and
9 federal agencies to control and eradicate this
10 disease in wildlife.
- 11 2. The National Park Service eradicating brucellosis
12 in Yellowstone and Grand Teton Parks.

13 **We oppose:**

- 14 1. All efforts to eliminate the mandatory vaccination
15 law and require its complete enforcement.
- 16 2. Separating the state into zones for definition of
17 brucellosis-free status.
- 18 3. The establishment of any herds of free roaming
19 buffalo outside of Yellowstone National Park.

20 21 **Foot and Mouth/BSE disease**

22 **We Support:**

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

29 **We Oppose:**

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

33 34 III. Grazing

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

40 **We support:**

- 41 1. The protection of grazing on public lands as a
42 viable economic solution for managing agencies
43 of rangeland by reducing forage minimizing costs
44 for fighting catastrophic wildfires;
- 45 2. "Best Management Practices" by all State and
46 Federal agencies, land grant colleges and
47 research facilities on how grazing affects habitat
48 for all wildlife including sage grouse leks;

- 1 **3.** “Rangeland Management Plans” that use current
2 science-based information developed by the
3 Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, Forest Service,
4 and NRCS including the development of a
5 certification process recognized by these
6 agencies which would allow grazing permit
7 holders to submit voluntary forage monitoring
8 data to be used in the creation and development
9 of said plans;
- 10 **4.** Range management plans should be developed
11 in careful and considered consultation,
12 cooperation, and coordination with local
13 government, permittees, lessees and landowners
14 involved;
- 15 **5.** The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, the
16 Experimental Stewardship Program, and the
17 Coordinated Resource Management Program
18 encouraging producer control and supporting
19 fees;
- 20 **6.** Our local NRCS “Grazing Land Conservation
21 Initiative” (GLCI) and the “Conservation Reserve
22 Program” (CRP) and its programs of intermittent
23 grazing which pay producers to set aside
24 marginal ground to enhance soil health;
- 25 **7.** Grazing fee formulas for AUM’s currently used by
26 Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, Forest Service,
27 and (PRIA) which are based upon forage
28 monitoring by agencies and permittees under the
29 “Federal Land Policy and Management Act” of
30 1976 (FLPMA);
- 31 **8.** The current grazing permit holder to have first
32 right of refusal when land is sold and when there
33 is no permit holder, the adjacent landowner
34 should be given the first right of refusal based on
35 appraised value;
- 36 **9.** All holders of grazing preference be fairly
37 compensated when federal land is sold, traded,
38 or exchanged and any entity acquiring property
39 from the federal government to compensate
40 grazing preference holders;
- 41 **10.** Requiring any entity which acquires property
42 from the federal government to compensate
43 grazing preference holders for loss of their
44 property rights if that entity does not continue to
45 maintain and protect those rights;
- 46 **11.** Funding from both federal and state
47 governments for the operation and research of
48 the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois;

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

25 **We oppose:**

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

44
45 **Open Range**

46 We oppose any changes to Idaho open range
47 laws.

1 **IV.State**

2 **CAFO Regulations**

3 **We support:**

- 4 1.Efforts by all livestock associations to create
5 MOUs with the appropriate state and federal
6 agencies.
7 2.Matters pertaining to CAFO regulation other than
8 siting should be under the jurisdiction of the state.
9

10 **Meat Inspectors**

11 **We support:**

- 12 1. State certified meat inspectors for small meat
13 processing plants.
14 2. State meat inspection program in Idaho which
15 would allow for the intrastate commercial sale of
16 meat.
17 3. More kill facilities in our rural areas of the state.
18 4. Having large animal veterinarians and other
19 interested individuals in rural areas becoming
20 certified meat inspectors under a state meat
21 inspection program.
22 5. All mobile butchers and processors to require a
23 trip permit, brand inspection slip or bill of sale on
24 all bovine animals they receive and retain those
25 records for a 3-year period to help monitor theft
26 and illegal taking and processing of animals.
27

28 **Veterinarian**

29 **We support:**

- 30 1. The Animal Health Division of the Idaho
31 Department of Agriculture and believe that it
32 should be administered by a licensed veterinarian.
33

34 **Animal ID**

35 **We support:**

- 36 1. Procedures and or equipment for an animal ID
37 program that makes it possible to trace an animal
38 back to its original location;
39 2. The right of the owner to choose among the
40 acceptable methods of identification and to leave
41 their animals unidentified prior to movement from
42 the premises of origin;
43 3. Having the Idaho State Department of Agriculture
44 determine acceptable methods of identification,
45 including hot or cold brands, for the state.

1 **Livestock Brands**

2 **We support:**

- 3 1.The concept that livestock may be left unbranded
4 at the discretion of the owner except for those
5 livestock grazing on federal/state managed lands.
6

7 **Manure Management**

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

10 **We support:**

- 11 1. Research on manure management including such
12 areas as odor reduction and waste and nutrient
13 management; and
14 2. Programs that educate livestock operators on
15 techniques regarding properly managed organic
16 nutrient systems, especially if implemented with
17 consistent Best Management Practices (BMPs)
18 developed by extension, university, and the
19 livestock industry.

20 **We oppose:**

- 21 1.Manure being classified as industrial, solid, or
22 hazardous waste or as raw sewage.
23

24 **Data Confidentiality**

25 **We support:**

- 26 1.The confidentiality of data collected on farms and
27 feedlots. Only final reports or conclusions should
28 be made a matter of public record. No data
29 collected from individual operations should be
30 made public.
31

32 **V. Riparian Management**

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

38 **We support:**

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

1 **VI. Domestic Cervidae**

2 **We support:**

- 3 1. The right of domestic cervidae owners to breed,
4 raise, harvest, and market all members of the
5 cervidae family indigenous to Idaho that can be
6 legally acquired.
7

8 **VII. Equine**

9 **We support:**

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

27 **We oppose:**

- 28 1. Any attempt to eliminate the right of the equine
29 owner or BLM to the minimal stress slaughter of
30 their equine for consumption or any other
31 purpose.
32

33 **VIII. Law Enforcement Training**

34 **We support:**

- 35 1. Law enforcement officers being trained in open
36 range laws, proper livestock herding techniques
37 and how to properly euthanize livestock as part of
38 the Idaho Peace Officers Standardized Training.
39 2. Immediate notification by law enforcement or
40 emergency personnel to landowners when fences
41 or property sustain damage due to accidents, or
42 by entrance of emergency personnel.
43 3. Law enforcement officers being trained in brand
44 identification.
45 4. Law enforcement officers being trained to work
46 with the brand inspector and dispatch to identify
47 livestock owners.

1 WATER

3 **12. Aquifer Recharge**

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

8 We support rules, including water rental pool
9 rules changes, that encourage recharge using
10 available water to improve aquifer health, protect
11 Idaho water, and keep water in Idaho.

13 **13. Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs**

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

18 **14. Cloud Seeding**

19 We support cloud seeding and encourage
20 continued investment in its application and research.

21 We support the Legislature and the Idaho Water
22 Resource Board continuing to study and fund cloud
23 seeding efforts.

25 **15. Comprehensive State Water Plan**

26 **We support:**

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

39 **We oppose:**

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

43 **16. Dams**

44 **We support:**

- 45 1. The Northwest Power Planning Council focusing
46 its efforts on issues that will provide the region
47 with its current and future power needs;

- 1 **2.** The construction, improvement and increased
2 size of storage facilities that provide beneficial
3 multiple uses of Idaho's water;
- 4 **3.** Municipalities, federal agencies, and tribes
5 advocating for and funding additional storage
6 projects to help meet the increasing demand for
7 water, and avoid taking irrigation water from
8 agricultural purposes;
- 9 **4.** The continued existence and current usage of all
10 dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. We
11 oppose any efforts to destroy or decrease
12 production of those dams;
- 13 **5.** Construction of the Galloway Dam on the Weiser
14 River; and
- 15 **6.** Raising of the Lost Valley Reservoir Dam.

17. Flood Control

18 We support additional storage facilities,
19 increased recharge, and federal land transfers to
20 state ownership to control future flooding.

18. Ground Water Districts

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

28 We oppose any diminishment of authority of
29 local water districts or groundwater districts through
30 creation of a Groundwater Management Area.

19. International Water Agreements

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

20. Moratorium

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

21. Non-Ag Water Development

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

1 **22. Outstanding Resource Waters**

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

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

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

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

20 **24. Transfer of Water Rights**

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

26 **We support:**

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

33 **We oppose:**

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

46 **25. Waste Management**

47 We oppose mandatory waste management
48 facility construction without scientific proof of
49 environmental pollution on an individual basis.

1 **26. Water Quality**

2 **We support:**

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

16 **We oppose:**

- 17 1. The DEQ having the authority to arbitrarily impose
18 penalties on landowners without first identifying
19 the problem and giving the landowner an
20 opportunity to correct the problem. If there is a
21 difference of opinion concerning the extent of the
22 problem, a reasonable and cost-effective appeal
23 process of the DEQ decision should be available
24 to the landowner; and
- 25 2. Levying fees associated with State NPDES
26 programs implementation, operation, and permit
27 issuance on agriculture and aquaculture
28 producers.

30 **27. Water Quality Standards**

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

36 **28. Water Quality Trading**

37 We support the concept of water quality trading.
38

39 **29. Water Rights**

40 **We support:**

- 41 1. State ownership and control of Idaho water held in
42 trust for the residents of the State of Idaho, and
43 will oppose any policy, program or regulation,
44 including Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
45 (FERC) relicensing, which would infringe on this
46 right;

- 1 2. Defining local public interest, under water right
2 law, to give priority to beneficial uses and
3 agricultural viability, with local vested interest and
4 use, a priority;
- 5 3. Sanctions upon any party making frivolous claims
6 against water right applications;
- 7 4. Permittees on federal land being recognized and
8 acknowledged as the owners of stock water
9 rights in their allotments as their livestock provide
10 beneficial use under state law and the water
11 rights are an appurtenance of the private base
12 property;
- 13 5. Requiring that minimum stream flows not
14 jeopardize water rights and are being financed by
15 the benefit recipients;
- 16 6. The continued wise development of all Idaho's
17 rivers and their tributaries as working rivers;
- 18 7. First in time, first in right, and state control of
19 water issues within appropriate Idaho agencies
20 without federal regulatory or legislative
21 intervention;
- 22 8. The privatization of Idaho irrigation canal systems;
- 23 9. The protection of canal and drain ditch easements
24 from arbitrarily being taken over by cities,
25 counties, state, federal or private developers or
26 private landowners and developed into green
27 belts or bike paths;
- 28 10. The concept of conjunctive-use management
29 when scientific evidence is available to support
30 such management;
- 31 11. Efforts by local groundwater districts to provide
32 supplemental or water bank water to senior
33 surface water users to prevent curtailment of
34 junior water rights. Irrigation districts shall have
35 no net loss of irrigated acres due to growth and
36 development; and
- 37 12. Idaho water law that denies considering flood
38 control releases as a beneficial use.

39 **We oppose:**

- 40 1. The Idaho Department of Water Resources
41 accepting any further applications for water rights
42 on surface stream water of the state that has
43 been over-decreed and adjudicated. Adequate
44 water for domestic and agricultural purposes
45 should have priority over other uses when the
46 water of any natural stream is insufficient, as per
47 Article 15, Section 3 of the Idaho Constitution;

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

30. **Water Rights Mitigation**

31 We support the state purchasing and holding

32 water rights for the purpose of mitigation, so water

33 trade may benefit aquifer recharge and groundwater

34 conservation.

31. **Water Spreading**

35 We support voluntary conservation of water use

36 by updating irrigation systems. Increases in irrigated

37 acres (water spread acres) due to redesigning or

38 remodeling irrigation systems or development of

39 areas within a recorded water right, should not be

40 excluded from irrigation. Conservation should not

41 adversely affect the full use of an irrigation water

42 right.

43 We support legislation and rulemaking that will

44 protect the full use of an irrigation water right.

1 LAND USE

2 3 **32. Government Land Designations**

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

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

13 14 **33. Government Land Transactions**

15 **We support:**

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

- 1 going to the adjoining landowner(s) at fair
2 appraised value; and
3 **8.** No net loss of tax base with all land exchanges
4 and sales. Tax obligations must stay with the
5 property.

6 **We oppose:**

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

11 **34. Government-Managed Lands**

12 **We support:**

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

42
43 **35. Idaho Forest Practices Act**

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

46 We support the consideration of all facets of the
47 stream ecosystem within the IDL Forest Practices

1 Act rules, rather than just shade, to better maintain
2 and enhance fisheries habitat.

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

9 **36. Landfills on BLM Lands**

10 We encourage the development of new, and the
11 continued use of existing, county landfills on BLM
12 lands.
13

14 **37. Mineral Rights**

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

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

27 **38. Mining**

28 We support the continuation of mineral
29 extraction in Idaho as long as the appropriate mine
30 reclamation and environmental protections are in
31 place and followed.
32

33 **39. Pest Control**

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

39 We support safe and effective county and state
40 pest control programs when landowner property
41 rights are respected, and commodity production is
42 not adversely affected by the program(s).

43 We support legislation that requires local, state,
44 and federal governments to manage lands to
45 prevent spread of noxious weeds and pests from
46 their lands to adjoining lands, crops and animals.

40. Regulation of Agricultural Practices

We support:

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

We oppose:

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

41. Right to Farm

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

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

42. State and County Noxious Weed Control

We support:

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

- 1 2. Idaho Transportation Department weed control
2 policies at both state and district levels be required
3 to be in compliance with the Idaho Noxious Weed
4 Law each year by controlling all infestations of
5 noxious weeds in a timely and effective manner
6 and by controlling noxious weeds on the full width
7 of all rights of way;
- 8 3. Enforcement of timely and effective noxious weed
9 control by all railroads on their rights of ways
10 within the state; and
- 11 4. The addition of *Ventenata dubia* to the Idaho
12 Noxious weed list.

13 14 **43. Timber Management**

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

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

23 24 **44. Wilderness and Restrictive Zones**

25 **We support:**

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

32 **We oppose:**

- 33 1. All dedication of land in Idaho for wilderness and
34 roadless areas and support the release of lands
35 currently held in Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)
36 back to multiple-use management. All lands
37 designated as non-suitable for wilderness must be
38 immediately released from WSA status;
- 39 2. Designation of lands in Idaho as biosphere
40 reserves, corridors or buffer zones, using the
41 Lands Legacy Initiative, the Antiquities Act or
42 National Monument Declarations by the executive
43 branch of the government;
- 44 3. Any expansion of the boundaries of the Sawtooth
45 National Recreation Area (SNRA);
- 46 4. Any reinterpretation of the mandates of the SNRA
47 which would impose further use restrictions; and

- 1 **5.** The reduction or curtailment of any grazing or
- 2 farming activity for the creation or recognition of
- 3 wildlife corridors.

4 **45. Wildfire Control**

5 **We support:**

- 6 **1.** Fire-control policy to put out any fire upon arrival
- 7 or as soon as safely possible. Local entities (such
- 8 as counties, fire districts, and forest or rangeland
- 9 protective associations) and private landowners
- 10 and individuals being allowed to act as first
- 11 responders. When the protection of the health,
- 12 safety, and property of the citizens are in jeopardy,
- 13 the local protective associations being allowed to
- 14 act beyond the first response and initial attack
- 15 phase of a fire. Local landowners must be allowed
- 16 to protect private property including livestock on
- 17 federal and state lands;
- 18 **2.** Changing state and federal wildfire policy to
- 19 require that state and federal fire managers and
- 20 incident commanders coordinate with county and
- 21 local fire departments and landowners;
- 22 **3.** A provision that state and federal agencies will
- 23 allow forest or rangeland protective associations in
- 24 neighboring states, that meet the requirements of
- 25 their home state, to enter into mutual aid
- 26 agreements with forest and rangeland protective
- 27 associations across state lines;
- 28 **4.** An increase in management activities, such as
- 29 thinning and grazing, to achieve federal agency
- 30 goals of reducing the potential for catastrophic
- 31 wildfires;
- 32 **5.** A provision that state and federal agencies
- 33 maintain a fire break strategically located to
- 34 protect private property and to control large
- 35 wildfires; and
- 36 **6.** An aggressive initial attack and suppression on all
- 37 forest and rangeland wildfires on public land and
- 38 firefighting suppression activities in addition to fire
- 39 management, in order to protect our water basins
- 40 and watersheds.

41 **We oppose:**

- 42 **1.** Landowners being held accountable for fire
- 43 suppression costs except in cases of gross
- 44 negligence.
- 45

FISH AND WILDLIFE

46. Animal Damage Control

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

47. Animal Threat and Public Safety

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

48. 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;

- 1 5. Congress providing depredation funding for
2 losses or damage resulting from endangered
3 species and to mandate responsibility to deal with
4 such losses; and
- 5 6. Bull Trout being delisted and managed through
6 state management plans.

7 **We oppose:**

- 8 1. Any effort to create a State Endangered Species
9 Act (ESA);
- 10 2. Road closures and restrictions imposed on land
11 and water in the name of critical habitat;
- 12 3. Implementation of the endangered species
13 pesticide labeling program, other than in critical
14 habitat;
- 15 4. The listing of the Giant Palouse Earthworm
16 (*Driloleirus americanus*) and the Greater Sage
17 Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and Slick
18 Spot Peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) as an
19 endangered species;
- 20 5. Listing any species before its critical habitat is
21 identified within its scientifically established
22 historical range. Habitat site specific assessments
23 and recovery plans must include comprehensive
24 protection of private property rights; and
- 25 6. Any critical-habitat designation until it has been
26 established beyond scientific doubt that the
27 species in question is actually present and that
28 endangered or threatened status is actually
29 warranted. The data to satisfy the scientific criteria
30 should meet the guidelines of the Data Quality Act
31 under federal statutes sections 3504(d)(1) and
32 3516 of title 44, United States Code. The agency,
33 organization or individual requesting the critical-
34 habitat designation must bear the cost of proving
35 presence of the species and this must be done
36 through the use of the best available peer
37 reviewed science.

38
39 **49. Fish and Game Department**

40 **We support:**

- 41 1. The department using good-neighbor
42 management practices on the land they now own,
43 including fences, pests, noxious weeds, and
44 providing sportsmen with guidance and marked
45 boundaries;
- 46 2. The Fish and Game Department controlling the
47 concentration of wildlife numbers on all lands and
48 being prohibited from entering into agreements to

- 1 limit access to any area, without approval of the
- 2 local governing authority;
- 3 **3.** Implementing a requirement for non-resident
- 4 mentored youth hunts where both the non-resident
- 5 mentor and the mentored youth must purchase
- 6 matching species tags. Non-resident tags should
- 7 cost more than resident tags;
- 8 **4.** A Habitat Improvement Program and request
- 9 Idaho Fish and Game Commission to reflect
- 10 strong emphasis on multiple use;
- 11 **5.** Reducing the depredation deductible.
- 12 Compensation by IDFG for crop loss due to
- 13 depredation shall be for actual loss minus the one-
- 14 time deductible and should be expediently paid
- 15 with no pro-rating;
- 16 **6.** Oversight of the depredation account by the Idaho
- 17 Department of Agriculture with technical support
- 18 provided by Idaho Fish and Game;
- 19 **7.** Fish and Game being responsible and pay for
- 20 damages caused by management decisions;
- 21 **8.** Idaho Fish and Game issuing emergency
- 22 depredation permits to ag producers and
- 23 landowners to harvest animals that are causing
- 24 verifiable damage to crops, livestock and property.
- 25 The issuance of these depredation permits by
- 26 IDFG and other actions by IDFG to relieve
- 27 depredation shall be free of conditions that
- 28 landowners must allow hunting on their land.
- 29 Landowners should be allowed to determine who
- 30 hunts and they should be allowed to receive
- 31 compensation for allowing hunts on their private
- 32 property;
- 33 **9.** Creating depredation areas for landowners who
- 34 are annually affected by depredating animals and
- 35 support mechanisms for quicker response in those
- 36 areas;
- 37 **10.** The Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP)
- 38 being made available to anyone owning 320 acres
- 39 or more and recipients of these tags should be
- 40 free to do what they wish with the tags;
- 41 **11.** Investigating transactions between the Idaho Fish
- 42 and Wildlife Foundation and the Idaho Department
- 43 of Fish and Game to determine if there is a conflict
- 44 of interest;
- 45 **12.** The creation of landowner preference tags for the
- 46 exclusive use of non-resident kindred relations of
- 47 the first or second degree for landowners whose
- 48 property exceeds 160 contiguous acres; and

1 **13.** Additional landowner preference tags based on a
2 pro rata basis for each additional 640 acres of
3 contiguous ownership.

4 **We oppose:**

- 5 1. The acquisition of additional land by the Fish and
6 Game Department;
7 2. Any increase in funding for the Idaho Department
8 of Fish and Game from either the general fund or
9 license fees without showing a specific need or
10 use for the funds;
11 3. The erection of either permanent or temporary
12 hunting or viewing blinds within 100 feet of a
13 developed livestock watering site on public lands;
14 4. Idaho Fish and Game abdicating responsibility for
15 year after year losses due to depredation impacts
16 regardless of other reimbursements;
17 5. Idaho Fish and Game utilizing animal depredation
18 claims to count against actual production history
19 (APH); and
20 6. The feeding of wild ungulates because of the
21 consequences to agriculture, municipalities, and
22 natural habitat.

23
24 **50. Fish and Game—Prior Notification**

25 The Idaho Department of Fish and Game must
26 have permission from the landowner before entering
27 private property.

28
29 **51. Fish Species Population Management**

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

35
36 **52. Grizzly Bear**

37 **We support:**

- 38 1. The grizzly bear being removed from the
39 endangered species list and the transfer of all
40 grizzly bear management to Idaho Fish and
41 Game;
42 2. The state-regulated hunting of grizzly bears;
43 3. Requiring the costs associated with grizzlies,
44 including triple damages for depredation costs, to
45 be borne by the federal government, and its
46 agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services;
47 4. Paying compensation to state and local agencies
48 when any assistance in the management, control,
49 or defense of the public is needed from such

1 agencies. Compensation to state and local
2 agencies should be paid regardless of whether a
3 request has been made by a federal agency for
4 assistance until such time as the current grizzly
5 bear policy can be changed to allow less conflict
6 with humans and livestock; namely the delisting of
7 the grizzly bear and transfer of management to
8 individual states' authority;

- 9 **5.** Requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to
10 coordinate all grizzly bear related activities with
11 the Idaho Fish and Game and local county
12 officials;
- 13 **6.** Enhanced management of grizzly bears, including
14 relocation from farmsteads, homesteads, and
15 other public settlements with emphasis on public
16 notification of problem bears; and
- 17 **7.** Idaho Fish and Game managing grizzly bears with
18 human safety as the priority; utilizing all tools and
19 methods available, including removal, and
20 aversive conditioning.

21 **We oppose:**

- 22 **1.** The reintroduction of grizzly bear into any area of
23 the State of Idaho; and
- 24 **2.** The relocation of any known problem bear that
25 has threatened human safety outside a recovery
26 zone regardless of the number of strikes against it.

27

28 **53. IDFG / USF&W Responsibility**

29 **We support:**

- 30 **1.** Reform of the Idaho Department of Fish and
31 Game to create local management of the wildlife
32 of Idaho. This program should be site specific to
33 control damage caused from overpopulated
34 species of both game and non-game animals;
- 35 **2.** Requiring state or federal wildlife personnel to file
36 an environmental and economic impact statement
37 before they can release non-native insects or
38 plants in Idaho or make regulations that affect the
39 counties and/or the state;
- 40 **3.** The Idaho State Department of Agriculture's ban
41 on the release of deleterious exotic animals into
42 the State of Idaho; and
- 43 **4.** Requiring all state and federal agency personnel
44 going through the elected county sheriff for all law
45 enforcement.

46 **We oppose:**

- 47 **1.** The relocation of wild game and non-game
48 species without proper notice being given to
49 residents and property owners in the area where

1 they are released. Local county officials must
2 receive official notice at least 30 days prior to any
3 relocation or release, into the wild, of any species
4 raised in captivity;

5 **2.** Relocation or release into the wild of wolves or
6 grizzlies that have been raised in captivity; and

7 **3.** The Idaho Fish and Game Department engaging
8 in activities that encourage only non-consumptive
9 uses of fish and wildlife species in Idaho.

10 11 **54. Introduction of Salmon**

12 We oppose the introduction of salmon above the
13 Brownlee Dam.

14 15 **55. Invasive Species**

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

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

22 23 **56. Prion Disease**

24 We support the continuing research into Chronic
25 Wasting Disease and its relation to other prion
26 diseases and public health.

27 We support the continuing development of a
28 strategy to deal with this dilemma. We expect the
29 Idaho Fish and Game to cooperate with sampling
30 and assisting in other efforts to develop a consistent
31 strategy.

32 33 **57. Private Reservoir Companies**

34 Fish and Game Department shall pay private
35 reservoir companies for the use of that reservoir for
36 fish habitat. The Department should also pay
37 upkeep assessments on reservoirs in which they
38 own water.

39 40 **58. Sage Grouse**

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

45 We support grazing on public lands as a primary
46 method of increasing sage grouse populations by
47 controlling the amount of vegetation that fuels
48 wildfires.

1 We support rearing and releasing of sage
2 grouse.

3 4 **59. Salmon Recovery**

5 **We support the following salmon-recovery**
6 **alternatives:**

- 7 1. Utilizing new hydroelectric turbine technologies to
8 achieve the goals of increased power production
9 and reduced hazards to fish;
- 10 2. Privatizing salmon fisheries for increased
11 numbers and stronger fish. Net barge
12 transportation as a safer way of transporting smolt
13 to ocean;
- 14 3. Ocean predator control during the two-year cycle
15 from smolt to maturity;
- 16 4. Regulating harvest of offshore and instream
17 salmon;
- 18 5. Improved dam passage of smolt to ocean and
19 mature salmon's migration back to spawning
20 grounds; and
- 21 6. The Federal Columbia River Power System as
22 one of the largest sources of clean, renewable
23 electricity in the Pacific Northwest.

24 **We Oppose:**

- 25 1. The removal of Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental,
26 Little Goose and Lower Granite dams on the lower
27 Snake River;
- 28 2. The taxpayer funded payments to compensate
29 entities for lost revenues from dam removal;
- 30 3. The costs associated with the removal of these
31 four dams;
- 32 4. The loss of Idaho's only seaport in Lewiston
33 eliminating the most cost-efficient shipping of farm
34 commodities; and
- 35 5. The power replacement costs paid to business
36 with a mix of solar, wind, nuclear, and batteries.
37 (Short term fixes with negative long-term effects)

38 39 **60. Snake River Basin Snails**

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

43 We oppose the future listing of new snail
44 species.

1 **61. Wolves**

2 **We support:**

- 3 1. All methods of year-round wolf control and
4 population management statewide;
- 5 2. Funding for state agencies tasked with wolf
6 management and support appropriate
7 compensation for damages incurred by producers;
- 8 3. Adding wolves to the IDF&G depredation list so
9 that depredation on livestock can be paid by the
10 IDF&G Big Game Depredation and Prevention
11 Fund;
- 12 4. Requiring when possible, all wolf carcasses to be
13 presented for testing for communicable diseases,
14 especially the tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus*
15 which causes Hydatid Disease in livestock, elk,
16 deer, and humans;
- 17 5. State law which expands the Idaho Fish and
18 Game's responsibility of managing this recovered
19 predator increasing their monetary contribution to
20 the Wolf Depredation Control Board to \$300,000
21 annually;
- 22 6. The Wolf Depredation Control Board being able to
23 enter into agreements with private contractors for
24 more efficient means of removing wolves; and
- 25 7. Property owner's rights in protecting their property
26 in a timely manner using any method that has
27 proven effective.

28 **We oppose:**

- 29 1. Any efforts to relist the wolf as endangered.
30

31 **EASEMENTS**

32
33 **62. Conservation / Scenic Easements**

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

38 We oppose the Yellowstone to Yukon
39 Conservation Initiative (Y2Y).
40

41 **ENERGY**

42
43 **63. Affordable Energy**

44 **We support:**

- 45 1. Transparency in how energy monopolies plan to
46 incur expenses and make investments that are
47 passed on to ratepayers;

2. Thorough, fair, and publicly involved process for evaluating rate requests and setting rates; and
3. Increased focus on removing barriers to widely available and affordable sources of energy.

64. Alternative Energy

We support:

1. The development of cost-effective alternative energy;
2. County control in the siting of these projects;
3. Sales tax incentives to assist in the development of alternative energy projects of less than one megawatt constructed on or by existing agriculture operations; and
4. Alternative energy should not receive subsidies beyond the bulk market rate. Any such contracts shall be allowed to expire.

We oppose:

1. A broad moratorium on alternative energy projects.

65. Bonneville Power Administration Credit

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

66. Electrical Energy

1. Hydroelectric Dams:

We support

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

2. Renewables:

We Support:

- 2.1. Utilities operating in Idaho developing economically feasible renewable energy portfolios;
- 2.2. The construction of economically feasible power generation facilities in Idaho, including those that

1 use plant and/or animal residue or logging slash;
2 and
3 **2.3.** An annual true-up for net metering rather than a
4 monthly true-up.
5

6 **3. Regulations:**

7 **We support:**

8 **3.1.** State agencies removing barriers that prevent
9 utilities from increasing Idaho's power
10 generation capacity; and

11 **3.2.** Current laws that require coal fired plants be
12 held to strict standards in the construction,
13 operation, and retirement of the facility.

14 **We oppose:**

15 **3.1.** Any deregulation, reorganization, merger or
16 consolidation of power generation or
17 transmission which could result in loss of water
18 rights, less service or increased rates; and

19 **3.2.** The sale of any public utility company operating
20 in the State of Idaho to an entity either partially
21 or wholly owned by a foreign government.

22 **4. Transmission:**

23 **We support:**

24 **4.1.** Upgrades in transmission and distribution.
25 Routing of utility corridors should be placed on
26 public land first and then to the areas of least
27 impact to private property owners;

28 **4.2.** The initiation of on and off ramps in
29 transmission lines within the State of Idaho; and

30 **4.3.** Using utility transmission corridors established
31 by the county to lessen the impact on private
32 property owners.

33 **5. PUC Rates:**

34 **We oppose:**

35 **5.1.** Any action by the PUC to move in the direction
36 of inverted block rates or in any major rate
37 design revision that would be detrimental to
38 agriculture.
39

40 **67. Fossil Fuels**

41 We support the mining and drilling of fossil fuels.
42 We support the legislature ensuring that rules for
43 oil and natural gas production safeguard the water
44 aquifers for all citizens and protect property owners'
45 rights to use their property.

1 If a local government entity bans the
2 development of mineral rights in its jurisdiction, it
3 should be considered a property rights “taking” and
4 compensation should be provided to the property
5 owner.

6 **68. Nuclear Energy**

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

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

15 We support development of the fast burn sector
16 of nuclear technology which massively reduces or
17 eliminates the need for nuclear waste disposal.

18 We support the Idaho National Laboratory
19 providing the lead role in advancing the
20 development of this technology.

21 **69. Power Demand Control Program**

22 We support demand control programs as long
23 as current water rights and power usage contracts
24 are protected. These programs must remain on a
25 voluntary basis.
26

27 **70. Renewable Fuels**

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

33 We encourage all state and local governments
34 to assist in developing renewable fuel projects in
35 Idaho.
36

37 We support the availability of low-cost fuels,
38 including off-road bio-fuels, for the operation of
39 farms and ranches.
40

41 **71. Utility Companies**

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

45 We support utility companies retaining the
46 liability when underground utility lines are not at the
47 required depths.

1 We oppose requiring farmers to call dig line in
2 order to work their fields for planting, cultivation and
3 harvesting activities, where underground utility lines
4 exist.

5 If dig line is required to be used in normal
6 farming cultivation practices, we support the 21-day
7 time constraint being extended as long as flags and
8 or markings for underground utilities are left
9 untouched.

10 LABOR

11 **72. Legal Aid**

12 We oppose state funding of Idaho Legal Aid
13 Services.

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

16 **73. Minimum Wage**

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

19 **74. New Hire Reporting**

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

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

26 **75. Unemployment Insurance**

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

30 **76. Workers Compensation**

31 Workers compensation for agricultural
32 employers should provide:

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

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

1 We support having the settlement reduced by
2 the percentage that was determined that the worker
3 was responsible.
4

5 TAX

6

7 **77. Assessed Value of Ag Production Land**

8 We support ag land being assessed at its actual
9 use value for taxation purposes.

10 **We support:**

- 11 1. Assessed values being capped at a 5% increase
12 in any given year;
- 13 2. The retention of five-acre minimum productivity
14 option and the Bare Land & Yield Option for forest
15 lands; and
- 16 3. Legislation that allows county commissioners to
17 appeal an assessment change by the Idaho State
18 Tax Commission for a category of property.

19 **We oppose:**

- 20 1. The State Tax Commission having power to
21 equalize county property tax assessments.
22

23 **78. Budget Caps**

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

30 We oppose the creation of additional tax entities
31 that could be exempt from such limitations and
32 restraints.
33

34 **79. Fuel Tax**

35 We support the refund of tax paid on fuel used
36 off-road.

37 We support having non-taxed dyed-fuel
38 available for off-road use.

39 We support an alternative tax for non-
40 combustion engine vehicles.
41

42 **80. Funding Local Government and Schools**

43 **We support:**

- 44 1. Gradually reducing the property tax burden to
45 fund public schools and local government;
- 46 2. Legislation mandating that plant facilities levy
47 monies can be used only for capital expenditures
48 related to school operation and maintenance;

- 1 **3.** The creation of standardized mandatory full
2 disclosure of the school district's revenues and
3 expenditures that are related to extracurricular
4 activities; separated into curriculum and athletics,
5 and budgeted in standard categories of salaries,
6 transportation, supplies, and capital expenditures;
7 and
- 8 **4.** Removing the school budget stabilization levy that
9 was authorized in the 2006 Special Legislative
10 Session, unless it is supported by a local vote.

11 **We oppose:**

- 12 **1.** Judges being allowed to levy taxes;
- 13 **2.** Indefinite or permanent supplemental school
14 levies on taxpayers, regardless of the number of
15 consecutive levies passed; and
- 16 **3.** School districts carrying over plant facilities levy
17 funds to finance the construction of new buildings
18 or the acquisition of additional property.

19
20 **81. Impact Fees**

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

24 We support simplification of current impact fee
25 rules and procedures.

26 We support schools being included in the
27 definition of public facilities in order to be eligible to
28 receive impact fees.

29 **82. Investment Tax Credit**

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

33
34 **83. Local Option Taxation**

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

38
39 **84. Maximum Levy Rates**

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

42
43 **85. Personal Tax Privacy Rights**

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

1 **86. Property Tax**

2 **We support:**

- 3 1. Limiting yearly property assessment increases to a
- 4 maximum of the state inflation rate;
- 5 2. Legislation that would allow county tax
- 6 assessments and collection on property that has
- 7 been purchased by non-profit groups and placed
- 8 in tax exempt status, such as a tax code that
- 9 covers environmental tax-exempt classification.
- 10 3. Exempting all equipment used in the production of
- 11 agricultural commodities from personal property
- 12 tax;
- 13 4. Efforts to amend the Idaho Forest Tax Law to
- 14 allow forest landowners to designate and maintain
- 15 multiple timberland parcels under respective Bare
- 16 Land and Yield (Category 6) or Productivity
- 17 (Category 7) classifications;
- 18 5. Legislation that would reform the property tax
- 19 budget formula which currently allows county
- 20 budgets to grow more than twice as fast as
- 21 population plus inflation; and
- 22 6. Legislation that prevents the taxes of existing
- 23 residents to unfairly increase and moves us closer
- 24 to growth paying for itself.

25 **We oppose:**

- 26 1. Budget increases and foregone balances that
- 27 current Idaho State Law allows for local
- 28 governments;
- 29 2. Shifting property tax to agricultural real estate; and
- 30 3. Local taxing districts shifting the property tax
- 31 burden to business, rental property owners and
- 32 farmers when homeowner's exemption is
- 33 increased.

34 **87. Property Tax Replacement**

35 We recommend that a fee in lieu of taxes be
36 assessed on all lands removed from tax rolls by
37 state or federal agency management. We favor an
38 annual fee equivalent to local private property tax on
39 land.
40

41 **88. Sales Tax**

42 We oppose removing the sales tax exemption
43 on production items.

44 We support legislation that would exempt
45 nonprofit organizational fund-raising from paying
46 sales tax on those receipts.
47

1 **89. Services Tax**

2 We oppose all tax on services.
3

4 **90. Special Taxing Districts**

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

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

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

18 We support a 10-year sunset on all special
19 taxing districts, after which they would require re-
20 authorization by the voters to continue.
21

22 **91. State Budget**

23 We support zero-based budgeting.

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

27 We oppose balancing budget shortfalls by any
28 tax increase.
29

30 **92. Super Majority**

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

34 We oppose circumventing the required two-
35 thirds majority by creative financing options.
36

37 **93. Tax Refund Extension**

38 We support income tax assessments and
39 income tax refunds having the same statute of
40 limitations.
41

42 **94. Taxing Districts Sharing Administrators**

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

1 **95. Urban Renewal Districts**

2 We support the repeal of urban renewal laws.

3 **LOCAL AFFAIRS**

4
5 **96. Annexation**

6 We are opposed to areas adjacent to a city
7 being annexed into the city unless a two-thirds
8 majority of those owning property in the area
9 proposed for annexation vote in favor of the
10 annexation.
11

12 **97. County Commissioners**

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

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

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

27 We support county commissioners being elected
28 by the voters who live in the district which they
29 represent.
30

31 **98. Distribution of Federal Fines**

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

35 We support legislation that would require federal
36 agencies to return a portion of federal fines collected
37 in the county where the infraction occurred.
38

39 **99. Elections**

40 **We support:**

- 41 1. Allowing Idaho residents who own real property in
42 a taxing district to vote on any tax proposal in that
43 district;
44 2. Consolidation of all elections, including school
45 bonds/levies to the May and November elections;

- 1 **3.** Requiring a minimum of 30% voter turnout if a
- 2 school bond/levy election occurs on March or
- 3 August dates;
- 4 **4.** A Mandatory pre-registration requirement to be
- 5 eligible to vote in all local bond elections;
- 6 **5.** Requiring photo identification, proof of residency
- 7 and proof of U.S. citizenship for new voter
- 8 registration;
- 9 **6.** Pay raises for elected officials only taking effect
- 10 after the official stands again for election; and
- 11 **7.** Changing the number of members of the Idaho
- 12 redistricting commission to 7 with the majority on
- 13 the commission reflecting the current partisan
- 14 makeup of the legislature; and
- 15 **8.** Absentee ballots with verification of identity and
- 16 signatures.

17 **We oppose:**

- 18 **1.** Unsolicited mail-in voting and vote harvesting
- 19 practices.

20

21 **100. Emergency Response Fees**

22 We oppose the imposition of a “crash tax” to

23 cover the cost of cleaning up spills at the site of an

24 accident.

25 We favor reducing regulatory burdens which

26 prohibit low-cost clean-up solutions.

27

28 **101. Public Hearings**

29 Public hearings that affect a given area of the

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

31 reasonable time and date for those impacted.

32

33 **102. Zoning**

34 County commissioners should control all zoning

35 in the county. Zoning should be site specific within

36 the county.

37 We oppose the use of blanket zoning

38 ordinances, including sustainable development and

39 smart-growth initiatives.

40 We recognize and encourage the use of

41 planning tools allowed under state law to encourage

42 planned and orderly growth in or near agricultural

43 areas.

1 EDUCATION

2
3 **103. Ag in the Classroom**

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

6 We support an increase in funding for Ag in the
7 Classroom.

8 **104. Career Technical Education**

9 We support enhanced funding for Idaho's
10 Career & Technical Education, Agricultural Science
11 and Technology courses and programs.
12

13 **105. Contracts for Teachers**

14 School teachers should have the option of being
15 able to negotiate their own contract with the school
16 district as a private contractor.
17

18 **106. Knowledge of Constitution**

19 We support requiring students graduating from
20 Idaho schools to have a thorough understanding of
21 the Constitution and the form of government that it
22 gives us in accordance with the original intent of the
23 founders.
24

25 **107. Local Control of Education**

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

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

33 We oppose the gathering of personal
34 information of students that is not related to their
35 academic education without parental consent.
36

37 **108. Mandatory Agriculture Education Class**

38 We support state legislation requiring all high
39 school students to take Ag-Ed in order to graduate,
40 utilizing current STEM classes already available.
41

42 **109. No Increase in School Time**

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

1 **110. Parental Choice in Education**

2 **We support:**

- 3 1. The voucher system for education;
- 4 2. The continuing freedom of Idaho parents to
- 5 choose private school, parochial school, home
- 6 school, public charter school or public school as
- 7 prescribed in the Idaho Constitution and in Idaho
- 8 Code;
- 9 3. Optional kindergarten; and
- 10 4. Legislation amending the Blaine Amendment,
- 11 Section 5, Article IX of the Constitution of the State
- 12 of Idaho to provide for an educational system of
- 13 grants or monetary assistance in which the money
- 14 follows the child.

15 **We oppose:**

- 16 1. Public funding of pre-kindergarten.

17

18 **111. Veterinary Students**

19 We support efforts to incentivize vet students

20 studying large food animal medicine to practice in

21 Idaho.

22

23 **STATE AFFAIRS**

24

25 **112. Agricultural Research and Extension**

26 We request the legislature examine the role of

27 the University of Idaho as the land grant college and

28 take steps to ensure the university honors its

29 commitment as our agricultural research facility. The

30 university should be on the same budgeting system

31 as the State of Idaho.

32 We recommend that extension activities assist

33 farm programs on a first-priority basis, including the

34 integrated Farm Management Program.

35 We believe that county agents should be first

36 and foremost county agricultural agents.

37 **We support:**

- 38 1. The University of Idaho Agricultural Research and
- 39 Extension Service;
- 40 2. Any products developed by any research facility
- 41 utilizing state funds for research should be made
- 42 available to Idaho citizens royalty-free;
- 43 3. Expanded research and education in all crop
- 44 areas relative to Idaho. This must also include new
- 45 and improved plant and animal varieties along with
- 46 effective insect, pest, disease and weed controls;
- 47 4. An informational exchange and cooperative effort
- 48 within the tri-state area in agchemical registration
- 49 and research as well as plant/animal variety

1 improvement research. Every effort should be
2 made by state and county officials and the
3 University of Idaho to retain an agricultural
4 extension agent in each county as an extension
5 service of our land grant university. Strong
6 pressure must be exerted to revitalize and improve
7 the agricultural information and education
8 programs;

9 **5.** The hiring of new extension educators in the
10 College of Agricultural and Life Sciences with
11 primary training and experience in commercial
12 agriculture and forestry; and

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

20 **113. ATV Safety**

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

25 **114. Auction Company Bonding**

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

30 **115. Ballot Initiative**

31 We support requiring all ballot initiatives to
32 collect signatures from 6% of registered voters from
33 two-thirds of all legislative districts.

34 We support all ballot initiatives requiring a two-
35 thirds majority vote to pass.

36 We oppose taxes being levied through the
37 initiative process.

39 **116. Bicycle Safety**

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

43 **117. Constitutional Defense Fund**

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

1 **118. County Fairs**

2 We support the review and revision of all county
3 fair related state statutes to better reflect current
4 year-round fairground operations under the
5 administration of local appointed fair boards even
6 above the 200,000-county population limit.

7 **119. Cross Deputization**

8 We believe that cross deputization of county
9 sheriffs and any tribal law enforcement officers
10 should be voluntary.
11

12 **120. Definition of Agricultural Buildings**

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

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

28 **121. Driver's Privilege Card**

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

37 **122. Emissions Testing**

38 We support agricultural producers being allowed
39 a one-time exemption filing for the life of a vehicle
40 until that vehicle is sold or disposed of.
41

42 **123. Executive Branch MOU/MOA**

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

1 We support granting the legislature the ability to
2 override a governor's veto after the session is
3 adjourned.
4

5 **124. Falsifying Reports**

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

11 **125. Government Overreach**

12 We oppose vaccine passports and mandatory
13 vaccinations that disrupt agriculture.
14

15 **126. Hazardous Waste**

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

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

24 We support a statewide hazardous materials
25 clean-up day.
26

27 **127. Health Insurance**

28 **We support:**

- 29 1. Private optional health insurance;
- 30 2. Legislation that permits, promotes, and/or assists:
 - 31 2.1. In individual health savings accounts with tax
32 free withdrawals for all health insurance
33 premiums;
 - 34 2.2. In free market solutions to health care costs
35 and access;
 - 36 2.3. In free clinics funded by local
37 community/faith-based organizations; and
 - 38 2.4. In development of Direct Primary Care in
39 Idaho supporting the offering of wraparound
40 health insurance policies.
- 41 3. Health insurance as a risk management tool by
42 reducing and/or eliminating the number of
43 mandated services.

44 **We oppose:**

- 45 1. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
46 and fines for individuals and employers who
47 refuse to carry health insurance; and

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

5 **128. Judicial Confirmation**

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

9 **129. Liability and Tort Claims**

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

14 **130. Marijuana**

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

18 We support legislation that will prohibit drug
19 legalization by citizen initiatives.
20

21 **131. Medicaid**

22 **We support:**

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

29 **We oppose:**

- 30 1. County property taxes paying any portion of
31 Medicaid expansion.
32

33 **132. Mental and Behavioral Health**

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

39 **133. One Senator Per County**

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

43 **134. Preserving Agriculture**

44 We support legislation to protect agriculture
45 land through voluntary agreements and programs
46 based on incentives

135. 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 **136. 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 **137. 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 **138. Refugees in the United States**

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

16 We oppose any refugee program that adds
17 increased stress to local services. We support any
18 county that chooses to refuse or remove refugee
19 programs in their county.
20

21 **139. Regulation Reform**

22 **We support:**

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

30 **140. Regulatory Fines**

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

36 **141. Rights-of-Way**

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

44 **We Support:**

- 45 1. Access to or through federal lands using RS2477
46 (federally granted rights-of-way);

- 1 **2.** Allowing county commissioners the ability to
2 determine the validity of an RS2477 claim, the right
3 to move an RS2477 when it occurs on private land
4 and the ability to temporarily close an RS2477 for
5 resource reasons. To prevent the misuse of
6 RS2477 claims, we recognize the superiority of a
7 property's title over RS2477 claims; and
- 8 **3.** Enactment of legislation to require that adjacent
9 landowners be given priority to purchase at fair
10 market value lands that have been vacated by
11 railways, power companies, roadways, etc.

12 **We oppose:**

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

25
26 **142. Right to Bear Arms**

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

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

34 We oppose the retaining of personal records
35 collected by the FBI as a result of firearms purchase
36 background checks.

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

39
40 **143. Road Closures**

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

44 We oppose the closure of any existing roads.

1 **144. Roads on State Endowment Lands**

2 We support the Idaho Department of Lands
3 hiring or contracting a transportation planner to
4 organize road infrastructure on endowment lands.

5 **145. State Agencies**

6 **We support:**

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

29 **We oppose:**

- 30 1. Combining, splitting, or changing government
31 agencies without the approval of users of the
32 services; and
- 33 2. Regulating any phase of farm and ranch business
34 by any state agency that does not have an
35 agricultural representative as a member of its
36 policy making board or committee.
- 37

38 **146. State Hatch Act**

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

42

43 **147. State Historic Preservation Office**

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

148. State Legal Reform

We Support:

1. Reform of the state's civil justice system, which would cure or substantially solve many of the problems farmers face with hostile, harassing legal services lawsuits. Any person or organization that sues to prevent livestock operation siting, or the use of agriculture or resource management practices, should be required to post a bond in a reasonable amount, which will be forfeited to the defendant to help defray their costs in the event that the suit is unsuccessful;
2. Legislation by the Idaho Legislature that would require any entity bringing such lawsuits to post substantial bonds based on the potential harm of the lawsuit. Individuals who file complaints against an agricultural operation and request an investigation must pay a fee to cover administration costs. Complete names, addresses and phone numbers are required on each complaint;
3. Legislation to elect district judges when appointments are made within one year of the next election;
4. Entities from outside the jurisdiction of taxing districts that file lawsuits against public entities should be required to pay all legal expenses;
5. Legislation to amend Idaho state statutes to ensure that justice and equity prevail in the awarding of attorney fees;
6. Idaho courts using only the United States and Idaho laws in the court system;
7. As a matter of equity, when a private party must act in the place of the Attorney General to enforce and protect the Idaho Constitution and statutes, the Idaho Legislature must reimburse the party for all reasonable attorney fees and costs if the courts fail to do so; and
8. Requiring judges to inform jurors of the legality of jury nullification.

149. States' Rights and Sovereignty

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

1 **150. Transportation**

2 **We support:**

- 3 1. Continuation of independent road districts without
4 oversight by county commissioners;
- 5 2. The Idaho Transportation Department utilizing
6 revenue sources efficiently to maintain and
7 construct Idaho roads;
- 8 3. The Idaho Transportation Department increasing
9 their cost saving efforts;
- 10 4. Increases in gross weights with axle weights non-
11 changing;
- 12 5. The continued use of long combination vehicles
13 (LCVs);
- 14 6. The Idaho Transportation Department policy of
15 issuing oversize load permits for Idaho public
16 roads;
- 17 7. The continued improvement of Idaho's agricultural
18 roadways;
- 19 8. Accountability of highway transportation
20 department's engineers for the cost over-runs
21 and/or miscalculations for wrongful designs of
22 highway projects;
- 23 9. Increasing permit fees on loads exceeding 200,000
24 GVW to be comparable with fees in surrounding
25 states;
- 26 10. The review of current Idaho Transportation
27 Department policies regarding economics of
28 maintenance versus new construction of
29 roadways;
- 30 11. Expenses for environmental studies and the
31 expenses required to meet the mandated
32 environmental standards being calculated and
33 tabulated on an environmental budget and not
34 included in the Highway Construction and
35 Maintenance budget;
- 36 12. Construction and/or improvement of a North-
37 South Highway to the Canadian border;
- 38 13. Port districts in Idaho that help move agricultural
39 commodities;
- 40 14. Access of agricultural implements of husbandry
41 and vehicles to any and all local, county and state
42 roads/highways in Idaho, and oppose the
43 imposition of any minimum speed requirements;
- 44 15. Alternative solutions to wildlife overpasses.
- 45 16. The Idaho Transportation Department allowing
46 axle weight limit violations for livestock and
47 commodity haulers to be waived as long as the
48 truck's gross weight is less than or equal to the
49 maximum weight-limit;

- 1 **17.** 129,000 GVW limits on all highways within the
- 2 state that can accommodate the weight;
- 3 **18.** 115 feet vehicle lengths when the highways can
- 4 accommodate the length;
- 5 **19.** Universal off-track standards for highways within
- 6 Idaho;
- 7 **20.** Increases in automobile liability minimums to a
- 8 level to cover reasonable medical and
- 9 replacement costs; and
- 10 **21.** Stricter penalties for drivers of vehicles without
- 11 insurance.

12 **We oppose:**

- 13 **1.** A tax or fee increase on fuel;
- 14 **2.** A tax or fee increase on vehicles;
- 15 **3.** The removal of the Port of Entry system from the
- 16 Department of Transportation; and
- 17 **4.** Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) wildlife
- 18 overpass construction unless wildlife overpasses
- 19 are the most effective solution.

20
21 **151. Trespass**

22 **We support:**

- 23 **1.** Programs to educate the public about private
- 24 property rights and about trespass laws.
- 25 Landowners retain the right to refuse access
- 26 within the current law;
- 27 **2.** IDFG making a concerted effort to educate hunters
- 28 about private property rights and the location of
- 29 private property in their hunting regulations and
- 30 maps. It is the hunters' responsibility to know
- 31 where they can hunt, and not the landowners'
- 32 responsibility to mark or post their property;
- 33 **3.** Making it unlawful for any person, representative of
- 34 state or federal agency or organization to enter
- 35 private property to use or attempt to use a camera,
- 36 video recorder, or any other video or audio
- 37 recording device without permission from the
- 38 owner or authorized agent;
- 39 **4.** A law placing the burden of trespass on the
- 40 trespasser instead of the landowner;
- 41 **5.** Mandatory education regarding current trespass
- 42 laws and private property rights in the Hunter
- 43 education program; and
- 44 **6.** Idaho revising state law or the Idaho Constitution
- 45 to reject open-field doctrine.

1 **152. Tribal Jurisdiction on Reservations**

2 We support the requirement that tribes and the
3 affected municipalities and counties collaborate and
4 coordinate to ensure that the best interests of the
5 tribe and the surrounding communities are served if
6 a tribe submits a retrocession resolution to the
7 governor.

8 We oppose any act by the State of Idaho to
9 return to the federal government any jurisdiction
10 acquired over Indian tribes under Federal Public
11 Law 280.

12
13 **153. Unfunded Mandates**

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

17
18 **154. Welfare Reform**

19 Believing that all people should productively
20 engage in providing for their own sustainability, we
21 support elimination of welfare in Idaho replacing it
22 with work programs.

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