



# **Policies**

for

# **2026**

Adopted by the Delegates  
at the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the  
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho  
December 2025



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# **BASIC PRINCIPLES**

## **Purpose of Farm Bureau**

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

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

## **Farm Bureau Beliefs and Philosophy**

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

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

## **The Constitution**

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

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

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

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

## 1      **Private Property**

2      We believe that America's system of private  
3      ownership of property and the means of production  
4      has been, and is, one of the prominent keystones of  
5      our republic. This element of our economic system  
6      and the personal rights attendant to private property,  
7      including grazing rights on federal land allotments  
8      and water rights, which is a property right, must be  
9      maintained and protected. We believe in the power  
10     of the elected constitutional sheriff to protect our  
11     rights of property and liberty as protected in the  
12     Constitution of the United States of America.

13     Ownership of property and property rights are  
14     among the human rights essential to preserving  
15     individual freedom.

## 17      **State's Rights and Sovereignty**

18     We support the protection and defense of states'  
19     rights and state sovereignty over all powers not  
20     otherwise enumerated and granted to the federal  
21     government as specified in the 10<sup>th</sup> amendment to  
22     the Constitution.

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

## 31      **Religious Life**

32     Our nation was founded on spiritual faith and  
33     belief in God. Whereas the Constitution of the United  
34     States was founded on moral and Judeo-Christian  
35     religious principles, moral, ethical, and traditional  
36     family values should get support and consideration  
37     in the public schools.

38     We support the retention of the following:

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

## 1      **Family Values**

2      We believe God has ordained the family as the  
3      foundational institution of human society.

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

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

## 10     **Capitalism - Private Competitive Enterprise**

11     We believe in the American capitalistic, private,  
12     competitive enterprise system in which property is  
13     privately owned, privately managed, operated for  
14     profit, individual satisfaction, and responsible  
15     stewardship.

16     We believe individuals have the right to choose  
17     their occupation and receive the rewards for their  
18     contribution to society. Individuals have the right to  
19     save, invest, spend, and convey their earnings to  
20     their heirs.

21     We believe in a competitive business  
22     environment in which supply and demand are the  
23     primary determinants of market prices.

## 24     **Education**

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

28     We believe education starts with the parent or  
29     guardian and is extended to the schools as a  
30     cooperative partnership.

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

## 34     **Political Parties**

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

37     We encourage Farm Bureau members to  
38     support the political party of their choice.

39     We believe that government involvement in the  
40     election process should be limited to laying down  
41     certain rules to ensure fair and proper elections.

# **IFBF POLICIES**

## 1                   COMMODITIES

### 2                   **1. Agrichemicals/Pesticides**

#### 3                   **We support:**

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

#### 14                  **We oppose:**

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

### 24                  **2. Commodity Diseases**

#### 25                  **We support:**

- 26                  1. The quarantine of all sources of the potato wart  
27                  virus;
- 28                  2. Active research and the dissemination of  
29                  information to all interested parties related to  
30                  rhizomania and urge that any imposed  
31                  restrictions be based on scientific data;
- 32                  3. A federal and state PCN (Pale Cyst Nematode)  
33                  program that is based on good science,  
34                  stakeholder participation, and minimal impact to  
35                  grower operations; and
- 36                  4. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture doing  
37                  all within its power to prohibit the importation of  
38                  Anthracnose virus into Idaho.

### 39                  **3. Commodity Commissions**

40                  We support having commodity commissions in  
41                  Idaho.

#### 42                  **We support commodity commissions having:**

- 43                  1. Self-governing status with no political influence;
- 44                  2. Boards solely elected by the growers/producers;
- 45                  3. Uniform provisions to run referendums;

- 1      4. Commissioner districts representing even areas
- 2      of production;
- 3      5. The right for legal entities to cast votes in
- 4      elections;
- 5      6. Nominations held for a month-long period
- 6      followed by a month-long voting period so that all
- 7      growers can be represented and participate; and
- 8      7. Uniform provision for refunds for all or a portion of
- 9      the commodity tax.

## 10      **4. Commodity Sales**

### 11      **We support:**

- 13      1. The expansion of Idaho agricultural markets, domestic and foreign; and
- 14      2. 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.

### 19      **We oppose:**

- 20      3. Double discounts by grain dealers.

## 22      **5. Environmental Studies**

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

## 31      **6. Field Testing Biotechnology Products**

### 32      **We support:**

- 33      1. Effective field testing of new biotechnology products to promote commercial use of products that will benefit agriculture and the general public.
- 34      2. Scientifically accurate consumer education about the safety and benefits of genetically engineered crops.
- 35      3. Any law or regulation requiring registration of agriculture producers who use or sell biotech-based products or commodities.

### 42      **We oppose:**

- 43      4. Any law or regulation requiring registration or labeling of agricultural products containing GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms).
- 44      5. Attempts to restrict or prohibit planting of biotechnology crops on either a statewide or county by county basis.

## 1      7. Food Safety/Government Accountability

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

10     We support laws and regulations that exempt  
11    farmers and ranchers from liability from food  
12    contamination when best practices or food safety  
13    programs have been followed and no gross  
14    negligence has been shown.

## 16     8. Lien Law

17     **We oppose:**

- 18     1. Any attempt to alter the system of centralized  
19     filing or first-in-time, first-in-right system of lien  
20     priorities, either in revised UCC Article 9, or any  
21     other legislation.
- 22     2. Delivered feed being encumbered by a blanket  
23     lien from a financial institution until the  
24     grower/supplier is paid in full.

## 26     9. Seed Indemnity Fund

27     We support aligning the financial reporting  
28     requirements for the Seed Indemnity Fund and the  
29     Commodity Indemnity Fund.

## 31     LIVESTOCK

## 33     10. Animal Care

34     **We support:**

- 35     1. The role of a licensed veterinarian in the care of  
36     animals and support current licensing standards  
37     for veterinarians; and
- 38     2. Research on new technologies as new diseases  
39     present threats to animal health and food  
40     security.

41     **We oppose:**

- 42     3. Legislation that would give any non-regulatory  
43     organizations the right to establish standards for  
44     the raising, marketing, handling, feeding,  
45     housing, or transportation of livestock and  
46     production animals and any legislation pertaining  
47     to livestock care that would pay bounties to  
48     complainants;

- 1      **4. Any livestock and production animal care**
- 2      **legislation that would impose a stricter penalty**
- 3      **than the 2016 law;**
- 4      **5. The creation of an Idaho livestock care standards**
- 5      **board;**
- 6      **6. Requiring a licensed veterinarian for docking,**
- 7      **dehorning, castration, pregnancy checking,**
- 8      **embryo transfer, and any other routine livestock**
- 9      **healthcare management practices; and**
- 10     **7. Legislation that would ban the use of federally**
- 11     **approved mRNA vaccines in livestock.**

## **11. Animal ID**

### **We support:**

- 1      **1. Procedures and/or equipment for an animal ID**
- 2      **program that makes it possible to trace an animal**
- 3      **back to its original location;**
- 4      **2. The right of the owner to choose among the**
- 5      **acceptable methods of identification and to leave**
- 6      **their animals unidentified prior to movement from**
- 7      **the premises of origin;**
- 8      **3. Having the Idaho State Department of Agriculture**
- 9      **determine acceptable methods of identification, in**
- 10     **addition to hot or cold brands, for the state; and**
- 11     **4. The continuation of the Idaho State Brand Board**
- 12     **and reasonable actions that must be taken to keep**
- 13     **it solvent, including adjusting fee caps with the**
- 14     **livestock industries' input and approval and**
- 15     **discretionary adjustments of the fees under the**
- 16     **legislatively set fee caps.**

### **We oppose:**

- 1      **5. Mandatory EID tags; and**
- 2      **6. Mandatory virtual fencing and electronic tracking**
- 3      **for livestock.**

## **12. Biosecurity**

We support requiring any state or local authorities to follow reasonable biosecurity measures put in place by individual farms or ranches.

## **13. Bovine Tuberculosis**

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

1 **14. Brucellosis**

2 **We support:**

3 1. Regulations requiring the appropriate state and  
4 federal agencies to control and eradicate this  
5 disease in wildlife;  
6 2. The National Park Service eradicating brucellosis  
7 in Yellowstone and Grand Teton Parks;  
8 3. Using the DSA (Designated Surveillance Area)  
9 zones as currently enforced for the testing of  
10 brucellosis to prove brucellosis-free status; and  
11 4. The mandatory vaccination law.

12 **We oppose:**

13 5. The establishment of any herds of free roaming  
14 bison outside of Yellowstone National Park.

16 **15. CAFO Regulations**

17 **We support:**

18 1. Efforts by all livestock associations to create  
19 MOUs with the appropriate state and federal  
20 agencies; and  
21 2. Matters pertaining to CAFO regulation other than  
22 siting should be under the jurisdiction of the state.

24 **16. Data Confidentiality**

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

31 **17. Domestic Cervidae**

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

37 **18. Equine**

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

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

## 19. Foot and Mouth/BSE disease

### We support:

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

### We oppose:

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

## 20. Law Enforcement Training

### We support:

1. Law enforcement officers being trained in open range laws, proper livestock herding techniques, and how to properly euthanize livestock as part of the Idaho Peace Officers Standardized Training;
2. Immediate notification by law enforcement or emergency personnel to landowners when fences or property sustain damage due to accidents, or by entrance of emergency personnel;
3. Law enforcement officers being trained in brand identification; and
4. Law enforcement officers being trained to work with the brand inspector and dispatch to identify livestock owners.

## 21. Manure Management

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

### We support:

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

### We oppose:

3. Manure being classified as industrial, solid, or hazardous waste or as raw sewage.

1 **22. Meat Inspectors**

2 **We support:**

3 1. State certified meat inspectors for small meat  
4 processing plants;

5 2. State meat inspection programs in Idaho which  
6 would allow for the intrastate commercial sale of  
7 meat; and

8 3. Having large animal veterinarians and other  
9 interested individuals in rural areas becoming  
10 certified meat inspectors under a state meat  
11 inspection program;

12 **23. State Veterinarian**

13 We support the Animal Health Division of the  
14 Idaho State Department of Agriculture and believe  
15 that it should be administered by a licensed  
16 veterinarian.

17 **18 WATER**

19 **24. Aquifer Recharge**

20 **We support:**

21 1. The beneficial use of managed basin-wide aquifer  
22 recharge with the state being involved with both  
23 financial support and implementation.

24 2. Rules, including water rental pool rules changes,  
25 that encourage recharge using available water to  
26 improve aquifer health, protect Idaho water, and  
27 keep water in Idaho.

28 **29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 25. Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs**

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

33 **26. Cloud Seeding**

34 **We support:**

35 1. Cloud seeding and encourage continued  
36 investment in its application and research;

37 2. The Legislature and the Idaho Water Resource  
38 Board continuing to study and fund cloud seeding  
39 efforts;

40 3. The beneficial use of cloud seeding (both aerial  
41 and ground generated) as a sound science tool to  
42 mitigate and enhance state surface and ground  
43 water storage levels;

44 4. The Idaho Water Resource Board's continued  
45 investment in cloud seeding opportunities;

- 1      **5.** Partnering with state, county, and private entities  
2      in the funding of cloud seeding;
- 3      **6.** The protection and privacy of individual  
4      landowners for placement, maintenance, and the  
5      operation of cloud seeding generators; and
- 6      **7.** Conducting independent, sound science-based  
7      reviews and studies of any potential environmental  
8      effects of all chemistries used in cloud seeding  
9      with particular emphasis on silver iodide as the  
10     primary compound.

11     **We oppose:**

- 12     **8.** Any group or entity claiming water from cloud  
13     seeding operations.

14     **27. Comprehensive State Water Plan**

15     **We support:**

- 16     **1.** The Governor appointing individuals to the Idaho  
17     Water Resource Board who will protect the water  
18     resources of the State;
- 19     **2.** Requiring legislative approval before establishing  
20     minimum stream flow, instream flow, reconnect  
21     permits, river basin plans, and state water plans;
- 22     **3.** Amending the Idaho Constitution, Article XV  
23     Water Rights Section 7, State Water Resource  
24     Agency to read, "That any change shall become  
25     effective only by approval of the legislature.;"
- 26     **4.** Legislative approval for water agreements made  
27     between the state and federal government;
- 28     **5.** The state working with water users to find  
29     meaningful long-term solutions to water supply  
30     challenges that maximizes, preserves, and  
31     creates sustainable water supplies for farms,  
32     ranches, and supporting industries;
- 33     **6.** State funded research to improve and better  
34     understand state aquifers; and
- 35     **7.** Managing Idaho's water resources to meet the  
36     irrigation needs of senior water users while  
37     keeping as much farmland in production  
38     agriculture as possible.

39     **We oppose:**

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

1           **28. Dams**

2           **We support:**

- 3           1. The rebuilding of the Teton Dam and building  
4           additional dams to improve the water situation in  
5           Idaho;
- 6           2. The Northwest Power Planning Council focusing  
7           its efforts on issues that will provide the region  
8           with its current and future power needs;
- 9           3. The construction, improvement, and increased  
10          size of storage facilities that provide beneficial  
11          multiple uses of Idaho's water;
- 12          4. Municipalities, federal agencies, and tribes  
13          advocating for and funding additional storage  
14          projects to help meet the increasing demand for  
15          water, and avoid taking irrigation water from  
16          agricultural purposes;
- 17          5. The continued existence and current usage of all  
18          dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. We  
19          oppose any efforts to destroy or decrease  
20          production of those dams;
- 21          6. The Bureau of Reclamation working with water  
22          users (i.e., water districts, irrigation companies,  
23          etc.) to discuss opportunities to contract any  
24          available storage space in the state's reservoir  
25          systems; and
- 26          7. Uncontracted storage space in Bureau of  
27          Reclamation reservoirs being made available to  
28          in-basin water organizations (i.e., water districts,  
29          irrigation companies, etc.) prior to out-of-basin  
30          parties.

31           **29. Domestic Wells**

32           **We support:**

- 33          1. Idaho water law first-in-time, first-in-right, being  
34          applied to all wells drilled in Idaho, including  
35          domestic wells;
- 36          2. Evaluating domestic wells by county under Idaho  
37          water law for new wells in the future which would  
38          require developers to supply irrigation water  
39          and/or irrigation water delivery systems using  
40          existing water rights and/or gray water to new  
41          developments;
- 42          3. The Department of Water Resources enforcing  
43          the domestic well exemption restrictions on one  
44          half acre homesteads not to exceed 13,000  
45          gallons of water used per day; and
- 46          4. Negotiations amongst stakeholders to reform the  
47          domestic exemption under Idaho water law.

1           **30. Flood Control**

2           We support additional storage facilities,  
3           increased recharge, and federal land transfers to  
4           state ownership to control future flooding.

5           **31. Ground Water Districts**

6           We support changing the boundaries of local  
7           groundwater districts that are directly connected to  
8           the underground aquifer to include those who are  
9           not currently participating but are of a common  
10          ground water source.

11          We oppose any diminishment of authority of  
12          local water districts or groundwater districts through  
13          creation of a Groundwater Management Area.

14          **32. International Water Agreements**

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

19          **33. Irrigation District Fees**

20          We support legislation for irrigation districts to  
21          levy development-related fees to reduce burdens on  
22          existing patrons.

23          **34. Moratorium**

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

27          **35. Outstanding Resource Waters**

28          We support the Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs)  
29          and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) process as  
30          it pertains to Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs).

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

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

34          We support mandating Idaho's Department of  
35          Environmental Quality to conduct an Economic  
36          Impact Analysis of an area's businesses (including  
37          the agri-business and agricultural operations of that  
38          area) before initiating a TMDL process for that  
39          geographic area. The analysis shall be provided to  
40          the Watershed Advisory Group before consideration  
41          is given to develop and implement a TMDL. A copy

1 of the analysis shall also be provided to the germane  
2 committees of the Idaho Legislature.  
3

4 **37. Transfer of Water Rights**

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

10 **We support:**

- 11 1. Re-evaluation of the need for flow augmentation  
12 on the grounds that the science does not support  
13 any biological benefit; and
- 14 2. IDWR automatically transferring stock water rights  
15 from any federal agency to the allotment  
16 permittee.

17 **We oppose:**

- 18 3. The transfer of water rights to the Bureau of  
19 Reclamation (BOR);
- 20 4. The taking of water for fish flushing. Water held by  
21 the Idaho Water Resource Board will be held and  
22 used for purposes intended and in accordance  
23 with state law; and
- 24 5. Out-of-basin transfers of irrigation water from  
25 lands enrolled in the federal cropland set-aside  
26 program for use on lands that have not  
27 historically been used for agricultural  
28 development.

29 **38. Waste Management**

30 We oppose mandatory agricultural waste  
31 management facility construction without scientific  
32 proof of environmental pollution on an individual  
33 basis.

34 **39. Water Conservation**

35 **We support:**

- 36 1. Voluntary conservation of water use by updating  
37 irrigation systems. Conservation should not  
38 adversely affect the full use of an irrigation water  
39 right.
- 40 2. Legislation and rulemaking that will  
41 protect the full use of an irrigation water right.
- 42 3. We support the implementation of alternative  
43 technology for the improvement of water  
44 efficiency and storage.

## 1 **40. 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 4. 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 5. Levying fees associated with State NPDES  
26 programs implementation, operation, and permit  
27 issuance on agriculture and aquaculture  
28 producers.

## 30 **41. Water Quality Standards**

31 Water quality standards must be site specific  
32 and realistically achievable for each water body.

## 34 **42. Water Quality Trading**

35 We support the concept of water quality trading.

## 37 **43. Water Rights**

### 38 **We support:**

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

45 2. Defining local public interest, under water right  
46 law, to give priority to beneficial uses and  
47 agricultural viability, with local vested interest and  
48 use, a priority;

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

**37      We oppose:**

- 38     **14.** The Idaho Department of Water Resources  
39     accepting any further applications for water rights  
40     on surface stream water of the state that has  
41     been over-decreed and adjudicated. Adequate  
42     water for domestic and agricultural purposes  
43     should have priority over other uses when the  
44     water of any natural stream is insufficient, as per  
45     Article 15, Section 3 of the Idaho Constitution;
- 46     **15.** Changing the historical beneficial use of water  
47     rights when that change will have a negative  
48     impact on other water right holders;

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

26  
27     **44. Water Rights Mitigation**

28     We support the state purchasing and holding  
29     water rights for the purpose of mitigation, so water  
30     trade may benefit aquifer recharge and groundwater  
31     conservation.

32  
33     **LAND USE**

34  
35     **45. Government Land Designations**

36     **We oppose:**

37     **1.** Any infringement upon private property rights  
38     through any designation of land by any  
39     government entity, including highway scenic  
40     byways/corridors, National Heritage Areas,  
41     National Monuments, and National Parks. We  
42     oppose any change to federal or state land  
43     designation when there is the potential to harm  
44     agriculture.  
45     **2.** Craters of the Moon becoming a national park.

## 1 **46. Government Land Transactions**

### 2 **We support:**

- 3 **1. No net loss of private property over a rolling 25**  
4 **year period;**
- 5 **2. Enactment of legislation to require prior legislative**  
6 **approval for any state land acquisition on a parcel-**  
7 **by-parcel basis;**
- 8 **3. Amending the Idaho Constitution to require any**  
9 **land purchased by the Federal Government be**  
10 **approved by the state legislature;**
- 11 **4. Prohibiting the sale of state land to the federal**  
12 **government or agencies of the federal**  
13 **government, except for the purpose of building**  
14 **federal facilities or structures;**
- 15 **5. When isolated land-locked or uneconomical**  
16 **federal land is to be sold, the current grazing**  
17 **permit holder must have the first right of refusal. If**  
18 **there is no permit holder, the adjacent landowner**  
19 **should be given the first right of refusal based on**  
20 **appraised value;**
- 21 **6. When federal land is sold, traded, or exchanged,**  
22 **all holders of grazing preference must be fairly**  
23 **compensated;**
- 24 **7. Requiring any entity which acquires property from**  
25 **the federal government, to compensate grazing**  
26 **preference holders on the former federally**  
27 **administered lands for the loss of their property**  
28 **rights if that entity does not continue to maintain**  
29 **and protect those rights;**
- 30 **8. The transfer of federal lands to the state of Idaho**  
31 **as State Public Lands, with legislation to protect all**  
32 **private rights (water, grazing, mining, logging and**  
33 **public access), on the transferred lands. These**  
34 **transferred lands would continue to be protected**  
35 **as multi-purpose/split estate lands as they were**  
36 **under Federal administration;**
- 37 **9. Amending the Idaho Constitution to mandate that**  
38 **any federal land conveyed to the state in any**  
39 **manner from the date of the passage will be**  
40 **managed for multiple use and sustained yield; that**  
41 **all valid existing rights will be honored; and allow**  
42 **for the sale of isolated, landlocked, and**  
43 **uneconomical parcels with the first right of refusal**  
44 **going to the adjoining landowner(s) at fair**  
45 **appraised value; and**
- 46 **10. No net loss of tax base with all land exchanges**  
47 **and sales. Tax obligations must stay with the**  
48 **property.**

1 **We oppose:**

2 11. Any land exchanges involving publicly owned  
3 land unless there is strong local support; and  
4 12. The State purchasing private property for  
5 investment purposes.

6 **47. Government-Managed Lands**

7 **We support:**

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

38 **48. Grazing**

39 We believe grazing to be an effective tool in  
40 maintaining sustainable rangeland, forests,  
41 improving watersheds, wildlife habitat, reduction of  
42 wildfire potential, and supporting ranchers and rural  
43 community economies.

44 **We support:**

45 1. The protection of grazing on public lands as a  
46 viable economic solution for managing agencies

1 to reduce fuel loads and minimize costs for  
2 fighting wildfires;

3 **2. Research on how grazing affects habitat for all**  
4 **wildlife including sage grouse leks in the**  
5 **development of BMPs;**

6 **3. The development of rangeland management**  
7 **plans that use current science-based information;**

8 **4. The development of a certification process**  
9 **recognized by the land management agencies,**  
10 **which would allow grazing permit holders to**  
11 **submit voluntary forage monitoring data to be**  
12 **used in the creation and development of**  
13 **rangeland management plans, that would**  
14 **become a part of the official record and be**  
15 **included in the permittees' permanent file;**

16 **5. The incorporation of allotment management plans**  
17 **as allowed in FLPMA 1752 (D), developed in**  
18 **careful and considered consultation, cooperation,**  
19 **and coordination with the permittees, lessees,**  
20 **and landowners involved, district grazing advisory**  
21 **boards and any state having lands within the area**  
22 **covered by such allotment management plans;**

23 **6. The Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission,**  
24 **encouraging producer control and supporting**  
25 **fees;**

26 **7. Our local NRCS "Grazing Land Conservation**  
27 **Initiative" (GLCI) and the "Grassland**  
28 **Conservation Reserve Program" (GCRP)**  
29 **programs to preserve and improve the**  
30 **sustainability and productivity of grazing lands;**

31 **8. The current state grazing fee formula and PRIA**  
32 **formula concept;**

33 **9. The right to sell or transfer grazing preference**  
34 **rights, consistent with the qualifications in the**  
35 **Taylor Grazing Act (43 USCA 315b) and Idaho**  
36 **code Title 25 Chapter 9;**

37 **10. The new "Outcome Based Grazing**  
38 **Authorizations" of 2017, the Experimental**  
39 **Stewardship Program and the Coordinated**  
40 **Resource Management Program which are**  
41 **designed to offer a more coordinated approach**  
42 **between the BLM and permittees when issuing**  
43 **grazing authorizations for the purpose of**  
44 **improving management of grazing on public**  
45 **lands by offering livestock operators greater**  
46 **flexibility to changing, on-the-ground conditions;**

47 **11. The due process rights of the owners of the**  
48 **existing grazing permits and allotments being**  
49 **honored when curtailment or termination of those**

allotments are proposed or implemented in accordance with FLPMA Section IV title IV Section 402 (g); and

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

## We oppose:

13. The reduction or curtailment of any grazing activity for the creation or recognition of wildlife corridors:

14. The termination of grazing permits for administrative errors or omissions of the land managing agency;

15. The termination or curtailment of permittees because of livestock proximity to bighorn sheep, bison, and sage grouse; and

16. The purchase or retirement of grazing permits or allotments by any state or federal agency, group, or individual whose sole purpose is to not allow any further grazing.

## **49. Idaho Forest Practices Act**

## We support:

1. The Idaho Forest Practices Act except where it infringes on private property rights.

2. The consideration of all facets of the stream ecosystem within the IDL Forest Practices Act rules, rather than just shade, to better maintain and enhance fisheries habitat.

## We oppose:

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

## 50. Land Surveys

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

## 51. Landfills on BLM Lands

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

1                   **52. Mineral Rights**

2                   **We support:**

3                   1. Legislation that would transfer government-  
4                   retained mineral rights to current landowners (at  
5                   no expense to the landowners), where there has  
6                   been no meaningful mineral activity for 10 years.  
7                   2. Requiring that property deeds state the name and  
8                   address of the person or entity who owns the  
9                   mineral rights for each property. If mineral rights  
10                  are sold or transferred, the deed should be  
11                  updated. The surface owner should be notified  
12                  and offered first right of refusal.

14                  **53. Mining**

15                  **We support:**

16                  1. And encourage the continuation of mineral  
17                  extraction in Idaho as long as the appropriate  
18                  mine reclamation and environmental protections  
19                  are in place and followed.  
20                  2. An economic use analysis to analyze the loss of  
21                  current agricultural uses and compensation  
22                  including displacement of use.  
23                  3. The opening of the proposed Caldwell Canyon  
24                  open-pit phosphate mine located outside of Soda  
25                  Springs, Idaho.

27                  **54. Open Range**

28                  We support a law that imposes penalties on  
29                  groups or individuals who tamper with a lawful fence  
30                  as defined in Idaho Code.

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

34                  **55. Pest Control**

35                  **We support:**

36                  1. Enforcement of current laws to give counties  
37                  authority to spray and control insect infestations  
38                  on private land, with the cost of the spraying to be  
39                  assessed to the present owner of the land.  
40                  2. Safe and effective county and state pest control  
41                  programs when landowner property rights are  
42                  respected, and commodity production is not  
43                  adversely affected by the program(s).  
44                  3. Legislation that requires local, state, and federal  
45                  governments to manage lands to prevent spread  
46                  of noxious weeds and pests from their lands to  
47                  adjoining lands, crops, and animals.

1           **56. Regulation of Agricultural Practices**

2           **We support:**

3           1. Agricultural practices such as burning, animal-  
4           waste disposal, cultivation, and harvest practices;  
5           2. Agricultural and forestry representation on boards  
6           created in regard to airshed quality programs; and  
7           3. The farmer's right to farm by being able to carry  
8           on sound farming and forestry practices and to be  
9           free from environmental regulations that are not  
10           proportionately beneficial to the implementation  
11           cost.

12           **We oppose:**

13           4. Any legislation or regulations that would  
14           segregate any agricultural industry, agricultural  
15           crop, cropping practice or geographical area and  
16           would impose a higher air quality, water quality or  
17           environmental standard than is required of any  
18           other person, entity, industry, or geographical area  
19           within the state;  
20           5. Regulations on agricultural practices that are not  
21           validated by sound peer reviewed scientific  
22           process and supported by scientific fact;  
23           6. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture having  
24           the authority to impose sanctions on livestock  
25           operators without first identifying specific problems  
26           and giving the operators an opportunity to correct  
27           said problems; and  
28           7. Efforts to regulate logging slash burning on  
29           private timberlands by the Idaho Department of  
30           Environmental Quality (DEQ).

31           **57. Right to Farm**

32           **We support:**

33           1. The right-to-farm law.  
34           2. Local, state, and federal agriculture exemptions  
35           from dust rules.

36           **58. Riparian Management**

37           Proper multiple-use management of riparian  
38           areas is essential. These highly productive areas  
39           can be properly harvested with modern forest or  
40           livestock Best Management Practices (BMPs) and  
41           still improve riparian habitat for all uses.

42           **We support:**

43           1. Forage utilization requirements of riparian areas  
44           being managed separate from the entire grazing  
45           allotment; and

1      2. The concept that all existing roads along streams  
2      be given grandfather rights approval.

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

5      **We support:**

6      1. Strong enforcement of Idaho's noxious weed law  
7      by the state and counties, together with  
8      appropriate use of special management-zone  
9      provisions;  
10     2. Requiring Idaho Transportation Department weed  
11    control policies at both state and district levels to  
12    be in compliance with the Idaho Noxious Weed  
13    Law each year by controlling all infestations of  
14    noxious weeds in a timely and effective manner  
15    and by controlling noxious weeds on the full width  
16    of all rights-of-way;  
17     3. Enforcement of timely and effective noxious weed  
18    control by all railroads on their rights of ways  
19    within the state; and  
20     4. The addition of *Venetenata dubia* to the Idaho  
21    noxious weed list.

22     **60. Timber Management**

23     **We support:**

24     1. All efforts by the Department of Lands to optimize  
25    the timber yields and stumpage prices as  
26    mandated by the Idaho Constitution.  
27     2. The "Fix our Forests Act".

28     **We oppose:**

29     3. Actions by the Land Board or Department of  
30    Lands that would inhibit or further restrict these  
31    processes, including, but not limited to, habitat  
32    conservation plans and conservation easements.

33     **61. Wilderness and Restrictive Zones**

34     **We support:**

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

41     **We oppose:**

42     3. All dedication of land in Idaho for wilderness and  
43    roadless areas and support the release of lands  
44    currently held in Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)  
45    back to multiple-use management. All lands  
46    designated as non-suitable for wilderness must be  
47    immediately released from WSA status;

- 1      4. Designation of lands in Idaho as biosphere
- 2      reserves, corridors, or buffer zones; using the
- 3      Lands Legacy Initiative; the Antiquities Act, or
- 4      National Monument Declarations by the executive
- 5      branch of the government;
- 6      5. Any expansion of the boundaries of the Sawtooth
- 7      National Recreation Area (SNRA);
- 8      6. Any reinterpretation of the mandates of the SNRA
- 9      which would impose further use restrictions; and
- 10     7. The reduction or curtailment of any grazing or
- 11     farming activity for the creation or recognition of
- 12     wildlife corridors.

## 14     **62. Wildfire Control**

### 15     **We support:**

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

1 management, in order to protect our water basins  
2 and watersheds; and

3 **7. Incentives to forestland owners to produce**  
4 **commercial forest products from non-saw timber**  
5 **(firewood, post and pole materials or biomass.)**

6 **We oppose:**

7 **8. Landowners being held financially liable for fire**  
8 **suppression costs except in cases of gross**  
9 **negligence.**

## 10 **FISH AND WILDLIFE**

### 11 **63. Animal Damage Control**

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

### 15 **64. Animal Threat and Public Safety**

16 It shall be the responsibility of U.S. Fish and  
17 Wildlife Services and any state agencies that  
18 manage predatory or proven problem animals to  
19 notify all residences within a five-mile radius using a  
20 9-1-1 reverse calling system of potential conflict in  
21 their area.

### 22 **65. Endangered Species Act**

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

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

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

39 **We support:**

40 **1. A revision of the ESA to include a more thorough**  
41 **consideration of agriculture, mining, logging, and**  
42 **tree farming in such a manner that these activities**  
43 **will be sustained and made part of any recovery**

1 plan. Recovery of T/E species should not receive  
2 higher priority than human uses or rights;  
3 **2. Anadromous hatchery fish and wild fish being**  
4 **treated equally under the ESA. Hatchery fish**  
5 **should be counted toward recovery of the species;**  
6 **3. Eliminating the marking of hatchery fish;**  
7 **4. Congress providing depredation funding for**  
8 **losses or damage resulting from endangered**  
9 **species and to mandate responsibility to deal with**  
10 **such losses; and**  
11 **5. Bull Trout being delisted and managed through**  
12 **state management plans.**

13 **We oppose:**

14 **6. Road closures and restrictions imposed on land**  
15 **and water in the name of critical habitat;**  
16 **7. Implementation of the endangered species**  
17 **pesticide labeling program, other than in critical**  
18 **habitat;**  
19 **8. The listing of the Giant Palouse Earthworm**  
20 **(*Driloleirus americanus*), Greater Sage Grouse**  
21 **(*Centrocercus urophasianus*), and Slick Spot**  
22 **Peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) as**  
23 **endangered species;**  
24 **9. Listing any species before its critical habitat is**  
25 **identified within its scientifically established**  
26 **historical range. Habitat site specific assessments**  
27 **and recovery plans must include comprehensive**  
28 **protection of private property rights;**  
29 **10. Any critical-habitat designation until it has been**  
30 **established beyond scientific doubt that the**  
31 **species in question is actually present and that**  
32 **threatened or endangered status is actually**  
33 **warranted. The data to satisfy the scientific criteria**  
34 **should meet the guidelines of the Data Quality Act**  
35 **under federal statutes sections 3504(d)(1) and**  
36 **3516 of title 44, United States Code. The agency,**  
37 **organization, or individual requesting the critical-**  
38 **habitat designation must bear the cost of proving**  
39 **presence of the species and this must be done**  
40 **through the use of the best available peer**  
41 **reviewed science; and**  
42 **11. The relocation of an endangered species, or**  
43 **addition to an endangered species population**  
44 **without clearance through the state of Idaho.**

45 **66. Fish and Game Department**

46 **We support:**

47 **1. The Fish and Game Department controlling the**  
48 **concentration of wildlife numbers on all lands and**

1 being prohibited from entering into agreements to  
2 limit access to any area, without approval of the  
3 local governing authority;

4 **2. Compensation by IDFG for crop loss due to**  
5 **depredation;**

6 **3. Fish and Game being responsible and pay for**  
7 **damages caused by management decisions;**

8 **4. Idaho Fish and Game issuing emergency**  
9 **depredation permits to ag producers and**  
10 **landowners to harvest animals that are causing**  
11 **verifiable damage to crops, livestock, and**  
12 **property. The issuance of these depredation**  
13 **permits shall be free of conditions that landowners**  
14 **must allow hunting on their land. Landowners**  
15 **should be allowed to determine who hunts on their**  
16 **private property;**

17 **5. The Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP) being**  
18 **made available to anyone owning 320 acres or**  
19 **more and recipients of these tags should be free**  
20 **to do what they wish with the tags;**

21 **6. The creation of landowner preference tags for the**  
22 **exclusive use of non-resident kindred relations of**  
23 **the first or second degree for landowners whose**  
24 **property exceeds 160 contiguous acres;**

25 **7. Additional landowner preference tags based on a**  
26 **pro rata basis for each additional 640 acres of**  
27 **contiguous ownership;**

28 **8. Individuals who draw a LAP tag sitting out the**  
29 **following year on the same LAP hunt;**

30 **9. Landowner Permission Hunt Vouchers (LPH) being**  
31 **used as an extra big game tag; and**

32 **10. Requiring all fish screens to have lockable fish**  
33 **bypasses.**

34 **We oppose:**

35 **11. The acquisition of additional land by the Fish and**  
36 **Game Department;**

37 **12. The erection of either permanent or temporary**  
38 **hunting or viewing blinds within 100 feet of a**  
39 **developed livestock watering site on public lands;**

40 **13. Idaho Fish and Game abdicating responsibility for**  
41 **year after year losses due to depredation impacts**  
42 **regardless of other reimbursements; and**

43 **14. The state of Idaho forfeiting their authority to the**  
44 **federal government over wildlife management.**

45 **67. Fish and Game – Prior Notification**

46 The Idaho Department of Fish and Game must  
47 have permission from the landowner before entering  
48 private property.

1           **68. Fish Species Population Management**

2           We support alternative scientific applications to  
3           modify fish species populations without affecting  
4           contractual agreements or causing detrimental  
5           effects on flood control, irrigators, recreation, and  
6           economies.

7           **69. IDFG / USF&W Responsibility**

8           **We support:**

- 9           1. Requiring state or federal wildlife personnel to file  
10           an environmental and economic impact statement  
11           before they can release non-native insects or  
12           plants in Idaho or make regulations that affect the  
13           counties and/or the state;
- 14           2. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture's ban  
15           on the release of deleterious exotic animals into  
16           the State of Idaho;
- 17           3. Requiring all state and federal agency personnel  
18           going through the elected county sheriff for all law  
19           enforcement;
- 20           4. The creation of a wildlife management system  
21           where property owners and IDFG cooperatively  
22           manage wildlife and income generated from that  
23           management unit be shared between both parties;  
24           and
- 25           5. Idaho state's sovereign right to manage wildlife on  
26           all its state and private lands to protect private  
27           property and public safety without the need to  
28           receive prior authorization from any federal  
29           agency.

30           **We oppose:**

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

43           **70. Introduction of Salmon**

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

## 1 **71. Invasive Species**

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

## 7 **72. Large Predators**

### 8 **Grizzly Bears**

#### 9 **We support:**

- 10 1. The grizzly bear being removed from the  
11 endangered species list and transferring all  
12 management to Idaho Fish and Game;
- 13 2. State funding for depredation losses to producers  
14 administered by the ISDA;
- 15 3. The Idaho Fish and Game in managing the grizzly  
16 bear when delisted;
- 17 4. Euthanizing any grizzly bear deemed responsible  
18 of killing livestock or threatening human safety;
- 19 5. Encouraging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services  
20 to coordinate all problem grizzly bear activity with  
21 the Idaho Fish and Game and local authorities;
- 22 6. Reversing the Federal Registry Rule by having  
23 each of the six grizzly bear recovery zones be  
24 managed separately rather than being managed  
25 as one;
- 26 7. Calling on USDA Wildlife Services to confirm all  
27 depredation losses into one of three categories  
28 authorized by the ISDA for repayment. First for  
29 confirmed kills. Second for probable kills. Third for  
30 possible kills;
- 31 8. Idaho Fish and Game managing grizzly bears with  
32 human safety as a priority, utilizing all tools and  
33 methods available including removal and aversive  
34 conditioning;
- 35 9. The right of landowners to protect themselves,  
36 their families, and properties from all predators  
37 including grizzly bears and wolves without legal  
38 retaliation; and
- 39 10. The federal government paying compensation to  
40 state and local agencies when any assistance in  
41 the management, control, or defense of the public  
42 is needed from such agencies. Compensation to  
43 state and local agencies should be paid regardless  
44 of whether a request has been made by a federal  
45 agency for assistance until such time as the  
46 current grizzly bear policy can be changed to allow  
47 less conflict with humans and livestock; namely  
48 the delisting of the grizzly bear and transfer of  
49 management to individual states' authority.

1 **We oppose:**

2 11. The reintroduction or release of grizzly bears into  
3 any area of the State of Idaho.

4 **Wolves**

5 **We support:**

6 1. The Idaho Fish and Game in the stable  
7 management of this delisted species;  
8 2. Producer payment for losses caused by wolf  
9 depredation categorized by USDA Wildlife  
10 Services for confirmed, probable, and possible  
11 kills;  
12 3. The wolf depredation board being able to enter  
13 into agreements with private contractors for more  
14 efficient means of removing wolves; and  
15 4. A robust surveillance program that tests to the  
16 strain level and tests wolves from all regions of  
17 the state of Idaho for communicable diseases  
18 especially the tapeworm, *Echinococcus*  
19 *granulosus*, which causes hydatid disease in  
20 livestock, elk, deer, and humans. These findings  
21 should be made available to the public.

22 **We oppose:**

23 5. The re-listing of the wolf as endangered.

24 **73. Prion Disease**

25 **We support:**

26 1. The continuing research into Chronic Wasting  
27 Disease and its relation to other prion diseases  
28 and public health.  
29 2. The continuing development of a strategy to deal  
30 with this dilemma.

31 **74. Private Reservoir Companies**

32 We support IDF&G paying private reservoir  
33 companies for the use of that reservoir for fish  
34 habitat and upkeep assessments on reservoirs in  
35 which they own water.

36 **75. Sage Grouse**

37 **We support:**

38 1. Predator control as a method to increase sage  
39 grouse populations. We encourage the use of  
40 bounties to control all non-protected sage grouse  
41 predators.  
42 2. Grazing on public lands as a primary method of  
43 increasing sage grouse populations by controlling  
44 the amount of vegetation that fuels wildfires.

1       **3. Rearing and releasing of sage grouse.**

2

## 3       **76. Salmon Recovery**

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

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

23       **We Oppose:**

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

38

## 39       **77. 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 additional snail  
44      species.

## 1 EASEMENTS

## 2

### 3 **78. Conservation / Scenic Easements**

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

8 We oppose the Yellowstone to Yukon  
9 Conservation Initiative (Y2Y).

## 10 ENERGY

## 11

### 12 **79. Affordable Energy**

13 **We support:**

- 14 1. Transparency in how energy monopolies plan to  
15 incur expenses and make investments that are  
16 passed on to ratepayers;
- 17 2. A thorough, fair, and publicly involved process for  
18 evaluating rate requests and setting rates;
- 19 3. Increased focus on removing barriers to widely  
20 available and affordable sources of energy, such  
21 as on-site generation;
- 22 4. Idaho utility companies having an export rate  
23 established for on-site farm generation;
- 24 5. Responsible growth and innovation in the energy  
25 sector; and
- 26 6. Policies that require new large energy loads to  
27 bear the full, direct costs of infrastructure  
28 necessary to support their operations. The burden  
29 of building out new generation, transmission, or  
30 distribution capacity should not fall on existing  
31 ratepayers.

### 32 **80. Alternative Energy**

33 **We support:**

- 34 1. The development of cost-effective alternative  
35 energy as long as it does not negatively impact  
36 public land grazing;
- 37 2. County control in the siting of these projects;
- 38 3. Sales tax incentives to assist in the development  
39 of alternative energy projects of less than one  
40 megawatt constructed on or by existing agriculture  
41 operations; and
- 42 4. Alternative energy should not receive subsidies  
43 beyond the bulk market rate. Any such contracts  
44 shall be allowed to expire.

1 **We oppose:**

2 **5. A broad moratorium on alternative energy**  
3 **projects.**

5 **81. Electrical Energy**

6 **1. Hydroelectric Dams:**

7 **We support:**

8 **1.1. The continued careful use of water as one of**  
9 **our renewable natural resources through**  
10 **existing and the construction of new hydro**  
11 **projects, as future demands for electrical energy**  
12 **increase;**

13 **1.2. The adaptation of hydro projects to generate**  
14 **power for sale; and**

15 **1.3. The relicensing of dams, including Hells Canyon**  
16 **Complex, using a least cost mitigation plan**  
17 **reflecting the desire for the customers to have a**  
18 **reliable power source at reasonable rates.**

19 **2. Renewables:**

20 **We Support:**

21 **2.1. Utilities operating in Idaho developing**  
22 **economically feasible renewable energy**  
23 **portfolios;**

24 **2.2. The construction of economically feasible power**  
25 **generation facilities in Idaho, including those that**  
26 **use plant and/or animal residue or logging slash;**

27 **2.3. An annual true-up for net metering rather than a**  
28 **monthly true-up;**

29 **2.4. The right of property owners to generate**  
30 **electricity to partially or fully offset the energy**  
31 **requirement on their property, limited only by**  
32 **conditions necessary to protect public health,**  
33 **safety, service quality, or grid reliability; and**

34 **2.5. The ability of agribusiness to access, evaluate,**  
35 **and cost-effectively utilize technologies that**  
36 **enable them to control and reduce energy costs.**

37 **3. Regulations:**

38 **We support:**

39 **3.1. State agencies removing barriers that prevent**  
40 **utilities from increasing Idaho's power**  
41 **generation capacity; and**

42 **We oppose:**

43 **3.2. Any deregulation, reorganization, merger or**  
44 **consolidation of power generation or**  
45 **transmission which could result in loss of water**  
46 **rights, less service, or increased rates; and**

1      **3.3. The sale of any public utility company operating**  
2      **in the State of Idaho to an entity either partially**  
3      **or wholly owned by a foreign government.**

4      **4. Transmission:**

5      **We support:**

6      **4.1. Upgrades in transmission and distribution.**

7          Routing of utility corridors should be placed on  
8          public land first and then to the areas of least  
9          impact to private property owners;

10     **4.2. The initiation of on and off ramps in**  
11     **transmission lines within the State of Idaho; and**

12     **4.3. Using utility transmission corridors established**  
13     **by the county to lessen the impact on private**  
14     **property owners.**

15     **5. PUC Rates:**

16     **We oppose:**

17     **5.1. Any action by the PUC to move in the direction**  
18     **of inverted block rates or in any major rate**  
19     **design revision that would be detrimental to**  
20     **agriculture.**

21     **82. Fossil Fuels**

22     **We support:**

23     **1. The mining and drilling of fossil fuels.**

24     **2. The legislature ensuring that rules for oil and**  
25     **natural gas production safeguard the water**  
26     **aquifers for all citizens and protect property**  
27     **owners' rights to use their property.**

28     If a local government entity bans the development of  
29     mineral rights in its jurisdiction, it should be  
30     considered a property rights "taking" and  
31     compensation should be provided to the property  
32     owner.

33     **83. Nuclear Energy**

34     **We support:**

35     **1. The generation of electricity from nuclear reactors**  
36     **in meeting our future energy needs and urge the**  
37     **development of permanent disposal sites for**  
38     **radioactive waste material where it will not**  
39     **endanger the aquifer in Idaho.**

40     **2. Research and development of further usage of**  
41     **radioactive waste materials and safer ways of**  
42     **storage.**

43     **3. Development of nuclear technology which**  
44     **reduces or eliminates the need for nuclear waste**  
45     **disposal.**

1      4. The Idaho National Laboratory providing the lead  
2      role in advancing the development of this  
3      technology.  
4

5      **84. Power Demand Control Program**

6      We support demand control programs as long  
7      as current water rights and power usage contracts  
8      are protected. These programs must remain on a  
9      voluntary basis.  
10

11      **85. Renewable Fuels**

12      We encourage all state and local governments  
13      to assist in developing renewable fuel projects in  
14      Idaho.  
15

16      **We support:**

17      1. The promotion and use of alternative fuels made  
18      from agricultural products, as long as they are  
19      driven by open markets and not economically  
20      supported by mandates and government  
21      subsidies.  
22      2. The availability of low-cost fuels, including off-  
23      road bio-fuels, for the operation of farms and  
24      ranches.  
25

26      **86. Utility Companies**

27      **We support:**

28      1. Utility companies that damage public roads being  
29      responsible for restoring roadways to their original  
30      state for at least a period of two years.  
31      2. Utility companies retaining the liability when  
32      underground utility lines are not at the required  
33      depths.  
34

35      **We oppose:**

36      4. Requiring farmers to call dig line in order to work  
37      their fields for planting, cultivation and  
38      harvesting activities, where underground utility  
39      lines exist. If dig line is required to be used in  
40      normal farming cultivation practices, we support  
41      the 21-day time constraint being extended as  
42      long as flags and or markings for underground  
43      utilities are left untouched.  
44

45      **LABOR**

46      **87. Legal Aid**

47      We oppose state funding of Idaho Legal Aid  
Services.  
48

1           **88. Minimum Wage**

2           We support the principle that wage and overtime  
3           negotiations should be matters determined between  
4           employers and employees, without the need for  
5           mandates from state or federal governments.

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

8           **89. Unemployment Insurance**

9           We support eligibility requirements being made  
10           realistic to reflect agriculture's seasonal employment  
11           practices.

12           **90. Workers Compensation**

13           **We support:**

14           1. Workers compensation for agricultural employers  
15           providing:  
16           - Cost control measures and fair base rates;  
17           - Mediation for agricultural concerns;  
18           - Protection from third party lawsuits; and  
19           - Employer protection from worker caused injuries  
20           (i.e. drug & alcohol).

21           2. Changes in the existing Workers' Compensation  
22           Law that would take into consideration the  
23           employee's responsibility when an accident occurs.

24           3. Having the settlement reduced by the percentage  
25           that was determined that the worker was  
26           responsible.

27           **TAX**

28           **91. Assessed Value of Ag Production Land**

29           **We support:**

30           1. Ag land being assessed at its actual use value for  
31           taxation purposes.  
32           2. The retention of five-acre minimum productivity  
33           option and the Bare Land & Yield Option for forest  
34           lands; and  
35           3. Legislation that allows county commissioners to  
36           appeal an assessment change by the Idaho State  
37           Tax Commission for a category of property.

38           **We oppose:**

39           4. The State Tax Commission having power to  
40           equalize county property tax assessments.

1 **92. Budget Caps**

2 **We support:**

3 1. A statewide re-evaluation of the current three  
4 percent property tax budget growth cap for all  
5 taxing districts compared to a population and  
6 resource-based system.

7 **We oppose:**

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

14 3. The creation of additional tax entities that could  
15 be exempt from such limitations and restraints.

17 **93. Fuel Tax**

18 **We support:**

19 1. The refund of tax paid on fuel used off-road.

20 2. Having non-taxed dyed-fuel available for off-road  
21 use.

22 3. An alternative tax for non-combustion engine  
23 vehicles.

25 **94. Funding Local Government and Schools**

26 **We support:**

27 1. Reducing the property tax burden to fund public  
28 schools and local government;

29 2. Legislation mandating that plant facilities levy  
30 monies can be used only for capital expenditures  
31 related to school operation and maintenance; and

32 3. Legislation allowing school districts to exclude  
33 agricultural land from any future school bond or  
34 levy elections.

35 **We oppose:**

36 4. Judges being allowed to levy taxes;

37 5. Indefinite or permanent supplemental school  
38 levies on taxpayers, regardless of the number of  
39 consecutive levies passed; and

40 6. School districts carrying over plant facilities levy  
41 funds to finance the construction of new buildings  
42 or the acquisition of additional property.

1 **95. Impact Fees**

2 **We support:**

3 1. Local impact fees on new or expanding  
4 developments to pay for the services required to  
5 support growth.

6 2. Simplification of current impact fee rules and  
7 procedures.

8 3. Schools being included in the definition of public  
9 facilities in order to be eligible to receive impact  
10 fees.

11 **96. Investment Tax Credit**

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

15 **97. Local Option Taxation**

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

19 **98. Maximum Levy Rates**

20 We support developing a system to enforce the  
21 existing one percent levy limit law.

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

24 **99. Personal Tax Privacy Rights**

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

28 **100. Property Tax**

29 **We support:**

30 1. Legislation that would allow county tax  
31 assessments and collection on property that has  
32 been purchased by non-profit groups and placed  
33 in tax exempt status, such as a tax code that  
34 covers environmental tax-exempt classification;

35 2. Efforts to amend the Idaho Forest Tax Law to  
36 allow forest landowners to designate and maintain  
37 multiple timberland parcels under respective Bare  
38 Land and Yield (Category 6) or Productivity  
39 (Category 7) classifications;

40 3. Legislation that would reform the property tax  
41 budget formula which currently allows county  
42 budgets to grow more than twice as fast as  
43 population plus inflation; and

1       4. Legislation that prevents the taxes of existing  
2       residents to unfairly increase and moves us closer  
3       to growth paying for itself.

4       **We oppose:**

5       5. Local taxing districts shifting the property tax  
6       burden to business, rental property owners, and  
7       farmers when homeowner's exemption is  
8       increased.

9

## 10      **101. Property Tax Replacement**

11     We recommend that a fee in lieu of taxes be  
12     assessed on all lands removed from tax rolls by  
13     state or federal agency management. We favor an  
14     annual fee equivalent to local private property tax on  
15     land.

16     When sales tax revenues received by local  
17     taxing districts increase, local property taxes should  
18     be required to be reduced by a lesser amount.

19

## 20      **102. Sales Tax**

21     We support legislation that would exempt  
22     nonprofit organizational fund-raising from paying  
23     sales tax on those receipts.

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

26

## 27      **103. Services Tax**

28     We oppose sales tax on services.

29

## 30      **104. Special Taxing Districts**

31       **We support:**

32       1. A requirement that all new taxing districts must be  
33       approved by a 66-2/3% majority vote of the  
34       registered voters within a district.

35       2. Giving all taxing districts the option, to be funded  
36       by a household fee rather than through an ad  
37       valorum (property) tax. If a taxing district chooses  
38       the household fee option, those fees must be  
39       subject to the 3% budget increase cap and any  
40       bonds they pass must also be paid through  
41       household fees.

42       3. A 10-year sunset on all special taxing districts,  
43       after which they would require re-authorization by  
44       the voters to continue.

1      **105. State Budget**

2      **We support:**

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

17     **We oppose:**

18     6. Balancing budget shortfalls by any tax increase.

19      **106. Super Majority**

20      **We support:**

21      1. Retaining the 66-2/3% majority vote as required in  
22      the Idaho State Constitution for bond levies.  
23      2. Requiring taxing districts to wait at least 11  
24      months before running a failed bond measure  
25      again.

26      **We oppose:**

27      3. Circumventing the required two-thirds majority by  
28      creative financing options.

29      **107. Urban Renewal Districts**

30      We support the repeal of urban renewal laws.

31      **LOCAL AFFAIRS**

32      **108. County Commissioners**

33      We encourage county commissioners to develop  
34      a Natural Resource Plan that clearly states the  
35      objectives and policies of the county in regard to  
36      management of the natural resources located on  
37      public lands in their county.

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

1 **We support:**

2 1. The formation of a formal NRAC (Natural  
3 Resources Advisory Committee) within each  
4 county.  
5 2. County commissioners being elected by the  
6 voters who live in the district which they represent.

8 **109. Elections**

9 **We support:**

10 1. Allowing Idaho residents who own real property in  
11 a taxing district to vote on any tax proposal in that  
12 district;  
13 2. Consolidation of all elections, including school  
14 bonds/levies to the May and November elections;  
15 3. A mandatory pre-registration requirement to be  
16 eligible to vote in all local bond elections;  
17 4. The voters of counties in the state of Idaho  
18 approving the pay raises that the county elected  
19 officials receive on the May primary ballot. The  
20 raises would have to be a dollar amount not a  
21 percentage. The raises would go into effect the  
22 following October when the county budgets for the  
23 next year start;  
24 5. Changing the number of members of the Idaho  
25 Redistricting Commission to 7 with the majority on  
26 the commission reflecting the current partisan  
27 makeup of the legislature;  
28 6. Absentee ballots with verification of identity and  
29 signatures; and  
30 7. Moving Idaho's legislative candidate filing  
31 deadline to be at least two months earlier.

33 **110. Emergency Response Fees**

34 We oppose the imposition of response fees for  
35 emergency services that are funded through taxes.

37 **111. Public Hearings**

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

42 **112. Zoning**

43 County commissioners should control all zoning  
44 in the county. Zoning should be site specific within  
45 the county.

46 We oppose the use of blanket zoning  
47 ordinances, including sustainable development and  
48 smart-growth initiatives.

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

5

## 6        EDUCATION

7

### 8        113. Ag in the Classroom

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

11

### 12      114. Career Technical Education

13

#### We support:

- 14      1. Enhanced funding for Idaho's career & technical  
15      education, agricultural science, and technology  
16      courses and programs.
- 17      2. That each high school in the state be awarded  
18      one teacher FTE earmarked only for CTE, but to  
19      not supplant any current teacher FTE that has  
20      been used for CTE.

21

### 22      115. Local Control of Education

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

27        We support local school boards maintaining  
28        control and policy over dress standards, personal  
29        conduct standards, curriculum, and traditional  
30        gender roles.

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

34

### 35      116. State Endowment Lands

36

#### We support:

- 37      1. The State Land Board in its mission to use state  
38      endowment lands for the benefit of the  
39      beneficiaries.
- 40      2. An amendment to the funding formula that would  
41      allow for a portion of the proceeds to stay with  
42      local schools near the lands that generate the  
43      income.

44

### 45      117. Veterinary Students

46        We support efforts to incentivize vet students  
47        studying large production animal medicine to  
48        practice in Idaho.

## 1 STATE AFFAIRS

## 2

### 3 **118. Agricultural Research and Extension**

4 We request the legislature examine the role of  
5 the University of Idaho as the land grant college and  
6 take steps to ensure the university honors its  
7 commitment as our agricultural research facility.

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

11 County agents should be first and foremost  
12 county agricultural agents.

#### 13 **We support:**

- 14 1. The University of Idaho Agricultural Research and  
15 Extension Service;
- 16 2. Any products developed by any research facility  
17 utilizing state funds for research should be made  
18 available to Idaho citizens royalty-free;
- 19 3. Expanded research and education in all crop  
20 areas relative to Idaho. This must also include new  
21 and improved plant and animal varieties along with  
22 effective insect, pest, disease and weed controls;
- 23 4. An informational exchange and cooperative effort  
24 within the contiguous area in ag-chemical  
25 registration and research as well as plant/animal  
26 variety improvement research. Every effort should  
27 be made by state and county officials and the  
28 University of Idaho to retain an agricultural  
29 extension agent in each county as an extension  
30 service of our land grant university. Strong  
31 pressure must be exerted to revitalize and improve  
32 the agricultural information and education  
33 programs;
- 34 5. The hiring of new extension educators in the  
35 College of Agricultural and Life Sciences with  
36 primary training and experience in commercial  
37 agriculture and forestry; and
- 38 6. Full funding, from both federal and state  
39 governments, for operations and research at the  
40 current U.S. Sheep Experiment Station, including  
41 continuous research on the effects of grazing and  
42 sage grouse habitat, and the relationship between  
43 wildfire and grazing.

### 45 **119. ATV Safety**

#### 46 **We support:**

- 47 1. Provisions that hold spectators accountable for  
48 negligent conduct that endangers participants or  
49 property, consistent with Idaho Code.

1       **2. Legislation that limits the liability of landowners,**  
2        **sponsors, and professionals involved in off-**  
3        **highway vehicle (OHV) activities.**

4       **We oppose:**

5       **3. The creation of a mandatory class or special**  
6        **license for the ability to ride an OHV on private or**  
7        **public land.**

8

## 9       **120. Audits**

10      We support a more affordable way to comply  
11      with the Idaho Transparency Act when an audit is  
12      required.

13

## 14      **121. Ballot Initiative**

15      **We support:**

16      **1. Requiring all ballot initiatives to collect signatures**  
17        **from 6% of registered voters from two-thirds of all**  
18        **legislative districts.**

19      **2. All ballot initiatives requiring a two-thirds majority**  
20       **vote to pass.**

21      **3. Legislation that will prohibit drug legalization by**  
22       **citizen initiatives.**

23      **4. A requirement that no more than 10% of the**  
24       **signatures can come from any one county.**

25      **We oppose:**

26      **5. Taxes being levied through the initiative process.**

27

## 28      **122. Citizen Legislature**

29      We support the Idaho Legislature remaining a  
30      citizen legislature and the session should only run  
31      from approximately the first Monday in January till  
32      the last Friday in March. All special sessions should  
33      be limited to 20 days.

34

## 35      **123. Constitutional Defense Fund**

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

39

## 40      **124. County Fairs**

41      **We support:**

42      **1. The review and revision of all fair related state**  
43       **statutes to better reflect current year-round**  
44       **fairgrounds operations;**

45      **2. Public hearings and an advisory vote of the**  
46       **county if county commissioners wish to move a**  
47       **county fairgrounds to a different location, or if**

1 county commissioners wish to change how a  
2 county fairgrounds is managed; and  
3 **3. Changing the state statute (Idaho code 22-202A)**  
4 to increase the current 200,000 county population  
5 threshold to 500,000 based on the U.S. census or  
6 do away with 22-202A completely.

7

## 8 **125. Cross Deputization**

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

12

## 13 **126. Definition of Agricultural Buildings**

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

16 **1. They are buildings where agricultural products are**  
17 **stored, housed, or grown;**

18 **2. They are buildings where agricultural equipment,**  
19 **including licensed vehicles that are used in the**  
20 **production of agriculture can be fixed, repaired, or**  
21 **stored;**

22 **3. They are buildings that are used for the normal**  
23 **servicing of an agricultural business; and**

24 **4. They can be used by employees as a place of**  
25 **employment as well as a place to have meals and**  
26 **take bathroom breaks as required by GAP (Good**  
27 **Agricultural Practices).**

28 We support the agricultural building permit  
29 exemption and would support an Idaho Code  
30 amendment that expressly defines the term  
31 “agricultural building,” as defined by the International  
32 Building Code and to include agricultural equipment  
33 maintenance, to ensure that it is applied more  
34 consistently throughout all counties in Idaho.

35

## 36 **127. Driver's Privilege Card**

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

44

## 45 **128. Environmental Social Governance**

46 We oppose the unsolicited and undefined use of  
47 ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) scores to  
48 evaluate individuals, corporations, or institutions.

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

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

6

7      **130. Farm to Consumer Direct Sales**

8      **We support:**

9      1. Legislation and policy that promotes and protects  
10     direct farm to consumer sales of locally grown  
11     agricultural products.

12     2. Small farm businesses and consumer access to  
13     food grown on small farms.

14     3. The reduction of ISDA regulations that hinder  
15     small/cottage farms from ease of production and  
16     sales direct to consumers.

17     4. The modernization of ISDA and Health and  
18     Welfare rules that hinder agricultural direct to  
19     consumer sales.

20

21      **131. Government Overreach**

22      **We oppose:**

23      1. Federal and state government operating  
24     commercial businesses in competition with private  
25     enterprise.

26      2. Lockdowns analogous to martial law by the  
27     governor and the legislature.

28

29      **132. Hazardous Waste**

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

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

38      We support a statewide hazardous materials  
39     clean-up day.

40

41      **133. Health Insurance**

42      **We support:**

43      1. Private optional health insurance;

44      2. Legislation that permits, promotes, and/or assists:  
45        2.1. In individual health savings accounts with tax  
46        free withdrawals for all health insurance  
47        premiums;

1           **2.2.** In free market solutions to health care costs  
2           and access;  
3           **2.3.** In free clinics funded by local  
4           community/faith-based organizations; and  
5           **2.4.** In development of Direct Primary Care in  
6           Idaho supporting the offering of wraparound  
7           health insurance policies.

8           **3.** Health insurance as a risk management tool by  
9           reducing and/or eliminating the number of  
10          mandated services.

11          **We oppose:**

12          **4.** Any legislation to require employers to carry  
13           health insurance on their employees whether  
14           they are seasonal or full-time.

15          **134. Judicial Confirmation**

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

19          **135. Liability and Tort Claims**

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

23          **136. Marijuana**

24          **We support:**

25          **1.** Marijuana staying on the class 1 list of banned  
26           controlled substances in the State of Idaho.  
27          **2.** Retailers of hemp derived products having to be  
28           licensed by the Idaho Department of Agriculture  
29           and inspected by the state to ensure compliance  
30           with Idaho’s drug policy.

31          **137. Medicaid**

32          **We support:**

33          **1.** Repeal of Medicaid expansion;  
34          **2.** Informing the taxpayers each year of the cost of  
35           Medicaid expansion and the effect on state  
36           budgets; and  
37          **3.** Medicaid expansion being paid for with state of  
38           Idaho general funds.

39          **We oppose:**

40          **4.** County property taxes paying any portion of  
41           Medicaid expansion.

1           **138. Mental and Behavioral Health**

2           We support programs and initiatives that  
3           address mental and behavioral health issues that  
4           affect veterans, agricultural, and rural communities  
5           statewide.

6

7           **139. One Senator Per County**

8           We support an amendment to change the Idaho  
9           Constitution to return to one senator per county.

10

11           **140. Preserving Agriculture**

12           **We support:**

13           1. Legislation to protect agriculture land through  
14           voluntary agreements and programs based on  
15           incentives.

16           2. An amendment to the APA act to include a  
17           financial incentive that would reduce the state  
18           income tax.

19

20           **141. Property Rights/Eminent Domain**

21           **We support:**

22           1. Defining private property to include, but not be  
23           limited to, all land, crops, timber, water rights,  
24           mineral rights, all other appurtenances, and any  
25           other consideration associated with land  
26           ownership;

27           2. An Idaho constitutional amendment defining  
28           public use as found in the eminent domain  
29           doctrine to prohibit the condemnation of private  
30           property for economic development or any use by  
31           private parties. If private property is taken,  
32           compensation must be prompt, just and adequate;

33           3. Compensating landowners in the cases of partial  
34           taking of real property, when government-imposed  
35           regulations cause a loss in value of private  
36           property. Landowners or tenants shall not be held  
37           liable for any damages incurred as a result of the  
38           condemnation. Entities condemning property shall  
39           assume liability for any damages incurred by  
40           landowners;

41           4. The federal and state “takings” law in support of  
42           the U.S. Constitution, Article V; and

43           5. Amending the State Building Code to prevent  
44           infringement on private property rights through  
45           excessive permit requirements.

46           **We oppose:**

47           6. Landowners having lands adjacent to federal  
48           and/or state lands being forced to allow new

1 easements across their land for public access to  
2 federal and state lands. The taking of property or  
3 easements should be permitted only when there is  
4 eminent domain;

5 7. The use of eminent domain for recreational  
6 purposes, for private economic development, or to  
7 expand the land holding of wildlife agencies;

8 8. Any infringement of private property rights caused  
9 by regulations of rivers and dams for endangered  
10 species;

11 9. Infringement on private property rights caused by  
12 highway districts and transportation departments;  
13 and

14 10. Governmental taking of private property rights by  
15 restriction of use without just and due  
16 compensation.

17

## 18 **142. Proprietary Information**

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

22

## 23 **143. Public Employees Bargaining**

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

29

## 30 **144. Regulation Reform**

31 We support peer reviews of the existing  
32 regulations to determine their potential to mitigate  
33 the problems they address.

34

## 35 **145. Regulatory Fines**

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

40

## 41 **146. Rights-of-Way**

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

1 **We Support:**

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

15 **We oppose:**

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

28 **147. Right to Bear Arms**

29 **We support:**

30 1. Current law that allows law-abiding citizens the  
31 right to bear arms and be free from legal jeopardy  
32 when protecting themselves, their families, and  
33 their property.  
34 2. Expanding reciprocity with other states for  
35 concealed carry permits.

36 **We oppose:**

37 3. The retaining of personal records collected by the  
38 FBI as a result of firearms purchase background  
39 checks.  
40 4. Any abridgment of the Second Amendment to the  
41 U.S. Constitution which protects the right to keep  
42 and bear arms.

43 **148. Road Closures**

44 We oppose the permanent closure, or  
45 obliteration of any existing public roads on public  
46 land.

1        When any government entity closes a road,  
2        agricultural, timber, and mineral production and  
3        transportation should be exempted from the closure.  
4

5 **149. Roads on State Endowment Lands**

6        We support the Idaho Department of Lands  
7        hiring or contracting a transportation planner to  
8        organize road infrastructure on endowment lands.  
9

10 **150. State Agencies**

11 **We support:**

12        1. The Soil Conservation Commission or successor  
13        entity advising and aiding local Soil Conservation  
14        Districts by providing technical support and  
15        funding at the statutory level; and  
16        2. Legislation to require that government rules and  
17        regulations, wherever applicable, be based upon  
18        supportive disciplinary peer reviewed scientific  
19        data, balanced with economic feasibility, and that  
20        wherever policies, rules or regulations do not meet  
21        this standard the responsible individual and/or  
22        individuals can be held liable.  
23

24 **151. State Historic Preservation Office**

25        We oppose the expansion of the authority of the  
26        SHPO and oppose any state funding.  
27

28 **152. State Legal Reform**

29 **We Support:**

30        1. Reform of the state's civil justice system, which  
31        would solve many of the problems farmers face  
32        with hostile, harassing legal services lawsuits;  
33        2. Legislation that would require any entity bringing  
34        such lawsuits to post substantial bonds based on  
35        the potential harm of the lawsuit. Individuals who  
36        file complaints against an agricultural operation and  
37        request an investigation must pay a fee to cover  
38        administration costs. Complete names, addresses,  
39        and phone numbers are required on each  
40        complaint;  
41        3. Legislation to elect district judges when  
42        appointments are made within one year of the next  
43        election;  
44        4. Entities from outside the jurisdiction of taxing  
45        districts that file lawsuits against public entities  
46        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;
8. Requiring judges to inform jurors of the legality of jury nullification; and
9. Pesticides, including glyphosate, that have been federally regulated and labeled being protected against failure to warn claims.

## **153. 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 violates the constitutional provisions for making, altering, or abolishing laws or in any other way violates individual or state rights.

## **154. Transportation**

### **We support:**

1. Continuation of independent road districts without oversight by county commissioners;
2. Increases in gross weights with axle weights non-changing;
3. The continued use of long combination vehicles (LCVs);
4. The Idaho Transportation Department policy of issuing oversize load permits for Idaho public roads;
5. The continued improvement of Idaho's agricultural roadways;
6. Accountability of highway transportation department's engineers for the cost over-runs and/or miscalculations for wrongful designs of highway projects;
7. Increasing permit fees on loads exceeding 200,000 GVW to be comparable with fees in surrounding states;

- 1    8. ITD thoroughly analyzing all projects and
- 2        processes to provide the greatest benefit for each
- 3        dollar spent;
- 4    9. Expenses for environmental studies and the
- 5        expenses required to meet the mandated
- 6        environmental standards being calculated and
- 7        tabulated on an environmental budget and not
- 8        included in the Highway Construction and
- 9        Maintenance budget;
- 10 10. Construction and/or improvement of a North-South Highway to the Canadian border;
- 11 11. Port districts in Idaho that help move agricultural
- 12        commodities;
- 13 12. Access of agricultural implements of husbandry
- 14        and vehicles to any and all local, county and state
- 15        roads/highways in Idaho, and oppose the
- 16        imposition of any minimum speed requirements;
- 17 13. Alternative solutions to wildlife overpasses;
- 18 14. The Idaho Transportation Department allowing
- 19        axle weight limit violations for livestock and
- 20        commodity haulers to be waived as long as the
- 21        truck's gross weight is less than or equal to the
- 22        maximum weight-limit;
- 23 15. 129,000 GVW limits on all highways within the
- 24        state that can accommodate the weight;
- 25 16. 115 feet vehicle lengths when the highways can
- 26        accommodate the length;
- 27 17. Universal off-track standards for highways within
- 28        Idaho;
- 29 18. Increases in automobile liability minimums to a
- 30        level to cover reasonable medical and
- 31        replacement costs;
- 32 19. Stricter penalties for drivers of vehicles without
- 33        insurance;
- 34 20. Ag equipment with legal signage having the right
- 35        of way. When motorists are approaching
- 36        agriculture equipment, they must yield the right of
- 37        way similar to emergency vehicles; and
- 38 21. We support an increase of funding for traffic
- 39        studies on rural highways.

**41    We oppose:**

- 42 22. The removal of the Port of Entry system from the
- 43        Department of Transportation.

**45    155. Trespass**

**46    We support:**

- 47 1. Landowners retaining the right to refuse access
- 48        within the current law;

1      **2. Reasonable provisions for livestock owners to**  
2      **retrieve stray livestock from private land; and**  
3      **3. Idaho revising state law or the Idaho Constitution**  
4      **to reject the open-field doctrine by making it**  
5      **unlawful for any person, including any state or**  
6      **federal agency representatives, to enter private**  
7      **property without the permission of the owner or**  
8      **authorized agent, a valid warrant, or demonstrable**  
9      **probable cause.**

10     **156. Tribal Jurisdiction on Reservations**

11     We support all residents and landowners  
12     sharing equally in funding county and city fees for  
13     police, fire, EMS, roads, and sanitation within tribal  
14     reservation boundaries.

15     We oppose any act by the State of Idaho to  
16     return to the federal government any jurisdiction  
17     acquired over Indian tribes under Federal Public  
18     Law 280.

20     **157. Unfunded Mandates**

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

25     **158. Voting Records**

26     We support the Idaho legislature creating  
27     and maintaining a web-based searchable voting  
28     record database available to all registered voters  
29     detailing all votes made during the legislative  
30     session.

32     **159. Welfare Reform**

33     Believing that all people should productively  
34     engage in providing for their own sustainability, we  
35     support the reduction of welfare in Idaho replacing it  
36     with work programs for those who are able.

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### Clarification of Separation

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

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

The Idaho Farm Bureau Federation is solely responsible for these policies. The Farm Bureau Insurance Company (FBIC) of Idaho is a separate entity and does not contribute to the policies or direction of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation. All inquiries regarding IFBF policy should be directed to the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation.

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## **Mission Statement:**

**Idaho Farm Bureau**

**empowers Idaho agriculture.**

## **Vision Statement:**

**For all to recognize and respect Idaho  
agriculture as essential.**





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