



POLICIES
for
2018

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Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

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BASIC PRINCIPLES

Purpose of Farm Bureau

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

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

Farm Bureau Beliefs and Philosophy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We believe that America's system of private

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

48 We support a society free of drug abuse.

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

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

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

7 8 **The Constitution**

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

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

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

36 37 **States' Rights and Sovereignty**

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

1 **Religious Life**

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

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

- 12 1. We vigorously support retention of:
- 13 1.1. "So Help Me God" in official oaths;
 - 14 1.2. The phrase "In God We Trust" on our coin;
 - 15 1.3. The fourth verse of the "Star Spangled
16 Banner;" and
 - 17 1.4. The phrase "Under God" in the Pledge of
18 Allegiance.

19
20 **Capitalism-Private Competitive Enterprise**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 **Economy in Government**

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

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

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

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

20 We support economy at all levels of government.

21
22 **Education**

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 **Political Parties**

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

4 We recommend that Farm Bureau members
5 support the political party of their choice.

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

9 We strongly favor retaining the county central
10 political committees composed of county precinct
11 committee people and their existing functions within
12 the party structure.

13 We are opposed to shifting the functions of coun-
14 ty committee to a district committee.

15
16 **COMMODITIES**

17
18 **(1) Agrichemicals/Pesticides**

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

24 We support increased research and labeling for
25 minor-use pesticide registrations.

26 We recommend that compliance with federally
27 approved label instructions should absolve farmers
28 or commercial applicators from liability claims of
29 environmental pollution.

30 We support the continued use of approved
31 pesticides and/or related products until conclusive
32 scientific evidence proves there is an unacceptable
33 risk.

34 We oppose fumigant buffer zone limitations
35 proposed by the EPA without research giving
36 substantial evidence that current practices are
37 negatively affecting bystanders.

38
39 **(2) Commodity Commissioners**

40 We support commodity commissions that collect
41 more than \$5,000,000 annually have a board elected
42 solely by the growers.

43 **(3) Commodity Diseases**

44 We urge the Idaho State Department of
45 Agriculture to do all within its power to prohibit the
46 importation of Anthracnose virus into Idaho.

47 We support the quarantine of all sources of the
48 potato wart virus.

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

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

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

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

18 19 **(4) Commodity Promotion**

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

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

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

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

35 We support commodity commission efforts to
36 build a grower data base by collecting producer
37 names and addresses from the first point of sale.

38 39 **(5) Commodity Sales**

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

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

47 We oppose double discounts by grain dealers.

48 We support licensing and bonding of all

1 commodity brokers by the State of Idaho.

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

6

7 **(6) Commodity Testing Equipment**

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

12

13 **(7) Environmental Studies**

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

21

22 **(8) Fair Trade**

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

30

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

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

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

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

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

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

48

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

2 We strongly believe a government agency making
3 public 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 false. Such agencies must be required to
7 compensate or indemnify individuals and companies
8 for the monetary losses that occur because of poor
9 or false 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.

15
16 **(11) Forage/Soil Sample Testing**

17 We recommend that action be taken to set
18 uniform guidelines for all testing labs in the analysis
19 of forage and soil samples, with the Idaho Department
20 of Agriculture to administer them.

21
22 **(12) Hay Certification**

23 We support a uniform state noxious weed free
24 hay certification program.

25
26 **(13) Industrial Grade Hemp**

27 We support legalizing the production of
28 industrial grade hemp with 0.3% THC
29 (Tetrahydrocannabinol), or less in Idaho, and to
30 authorize the University of Idaho and the Idaho
31 Department of Agriculture to conduct research and
32 pilot programs to determine suitable varieties to
33 meet market demand.

34 We support the requirement that growers
35 of industrial grade hemp register their fields with
36 the appropriate regulatory or enforcement
37 agency.

38
39 **(14) Lien Law**

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

44
45 Delivered feed shall not be encumbered by
46 a blanket lien from a financial institution until the
47 grower/supplier is paid in full.

LIVESTOCK

(15) Animal Care

1. We support:
 - 1.1. The rights of owners and producers to raise their animals in accordance with commonly accepted animal husbandry practices.
 - 1.2. Fines and/or reimbursement for animal research lost and all costs and damage incurred, when farms or research facilities are willfully damaged. Responsible persons or organizations should pay all costs.
 - 1.3. The role of a licensed veterinarian in the care of animals and support current licensing standards for veterinarians.
 - 1.4. The Idaho Veterinary Practice Act and oppose any efforts to weaken it or the licensing standards.
 - 1.5. Punishments for those with non-service animals who attempt to portray them as service animals.
2. We oppose:
 - 2.1. Any legislation, regulatory action or funding, whether private or public, that interferes with commonly accepted animal husbandry practices.
 - 2.2. Legislation that would give animal rights organizations the right to establish standards for the raising, marketing, handling, feeding, housing or transportation of livestock and production animals and any legislation that would pay bounties to complainants.
 - 2.3. Any livestock and production animal care legislation that would impose a stricter penalty than the 2016 law.
 - 2.4. The creation of an Idaho livestock care standards board.
 - 2.5. Requiring a licensed veterinarian for docking, dehorning, castration and any routine livestock healthcare management practices.
 - 2.6. Comfort animals having the same rights and privileges as service animals covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

(16) Animal ID

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

1 We support the right of the owner to choose
2 among the acceptable methods of identification and
3 to leave their animals unidentified prior to movement
4 from the premises of origin.

5 We support having the Idaho State Department
6 of Agriculture determine acceptable methods of
7 identification, including hot or cold brands, for the
8 state.

9 10 **(17) Bovine Tuberculosis**

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

14 15 **(18) Brucellosis**

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

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

20 We support regulations requiring the appropriate
21 state and federal agencies to control and eradicate
22 this disease in wildlife.

23 We oppose separating the state into zones for
24 definition of brucellosis-free status.

25 We oppose the establishment of any herds of free
26 roaming buffalo outside of Yellowstone National Park.

27 28 **(19) CAFO Regulations**

29 We support efforts by all livestock associations to
30 create MOUs with the appropriate state and federal
31 agencies.

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

34 35 **(20) Cattle Liens**

36 Liens should not be attached to livestock until
37 ownership can be proven and verified.

38 39 **(21) Data Confidentiality**

40 We support the confidentiality of data collected on
41 farms and feedlots. Only final reports or conclusions
42 should be made a matter of public record. No data
43 collected from individual operations should be made
44 public.

45 46 **(22) Domestic Cervidae**

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

1 We support the right of domestic cervidae owners
2 to breed, raise, harvest, and market all members of
3 the cervidae family indigenous to Idaho that can be
4 legally acquired.

5 6 **(23) Equine**

7 We oppose any attempt to eliminate the right
8 of the equine owner or BLM to the minimal stress
9 slaughter of their equine for consumption or any other
10 purpose.

11 We support construction of new slaughtering
12 facilities and/or use of existing processing facilities in
13 Idaho to slaughter equines without duress.

14 We support the right of individuals and non-
15 governmental organizations to save horses from
16 slaughter as long as they take possession of the
17 horses and are responsible for their care and feeding.

18 We support the continued classification of
19 equines as marketable livestock and oppose any
20 efforts to classify them as pets or companion animals.

21 When an equine is in the custody of a
22 government agency and an adoption has not been
23 able to take place within 6 months, that equine should
24 be harvested or euthanized with minimal stress and
25 without delay.

26 We support funding for USDA food service
27 inspectors in facilities that harvest horses.

28 29 **(24) Federal/State Inspectors of Small Meat 30 Processing Plants**

31 We support federal meat inspectors being made
32 available to small meat processors.

33 We support state certified meat inspectors.

34 35 **(25) Foot and Mouth/BSE Disease**

36 We support stringent controls to protect Idaho's
37 livestock industry from foot and mouth disease
38 and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). In
39 addition, the United States must impose restrictions
40 on importation of animals and animal products that
41 could carry other contagious infectious diseases.

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

45 We oppose any announcement to the media
46 of BSE suspects in the United States until the final
47 scientific determination is made whether they are
48 positive or negative.

1 We support allowing entities to voluntarily
2 test all slaughtered animals for bovine spongiform
3 encephalopathy (BSE) in order to ship products to
4 countries that require individual tests.

5
6 **(26) Law Enforcement Training**

7 We support law enforcement officers being
8 trained in proper livestock herding techniques and
9 how to properly euthanize livestock as part of the
10 Idaho Peace Officers Standardized Training.

11
12 **(27) Livestock Brands**

13 We support the concept that livestock may be
14 left unbranded at the discretion of the owner except
15 for those livestock grazing on federal/state managed
16 lands.

17
18 **(28) Livestock Theft**

19 We support a mandatory prison term, fine, and
20 restitution as a minimum sentence for a felony live-
21 stock theft conviction.

22
23 **(29) Manure Management**

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

26 1. We support:

- 27 1.1. Research on manure management
28 including such areas as odor reduction and
29 waste and nutrient management.
30 1.2. Programs that educate livestock operators
31 on techniques regarding properly managed
32 organic nutrient systems, especially if imple-
33 mented with consistent Best Management
34 Practices (BMPs) developed by extension, uni-
35 versity and the livestock industry.
36 1.3. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture
37 allowing certification of third-party soil sam-
38 pling for nutrient management plan compliance
39 purposes.
40 1.4. We support changing ISDA phosphorous man-
41 agement rules to include Phosphorous Site
42 Indexing.

43 2. We oppose:

- 44 2.1. Manure being classified as industrial, solid, or
45 hazardous waste or as raw sewage.

46
47 **(30) State Veterinarian**

48 We believe the Animal Health Division of

1 the Idaho Department of Agriculture should be
2 administered by a licensed veterinarian.

3 4 **WATER**

5 6 **(31) Aquifer Recharge**

7 We support the beneficial use of managed ba-
8 sin-wide aquifer recharge with the state being in-
9 volved with both financial support and implementation.

10 11 **(32) Artesian Wells**

12 We support the current law regarding artesian
13 wells, if adequate funding for the cost-sharing of well
14 repairs is provided.

15 We oppose the designation of the heat value
16 from a geothermal source as being the only
17 beneficial use.

18 19 **(33) Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs**

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

23 24 **(34) Cloud Seeding**

25 We support the application of cloud seeding and
26 we encourage continued investment in the application
27 and research of cloud seeding.

28 We encourage the Idaho Legislature and the
29 Idaho Department of Water Resources to study and
30 allocate funding for cloud seeding efforts that are
31 proving beneficial to increasing precipitation.

32 33 **(35) Comprehensive State Water Plan**

34 We urge the Governor to appoint Water Resource
35 Board members who will be protective of the waters
36 of the State of Idaho.

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

39 We support requiring legislative approval before
40 establishing minimum stream flow, instream flow,
41 reconnect permits, river basin plans and state water
42 plans.

43 We support amending the Idaho Constitution,
44 Article XV Water Rights Section 7, State Water
45 Resource Agency to read "That any change
46 shall become effective only by approval of the
47 legislature."

48 We support a mandatory requirement for
legislative approval of agreements made by state

1 agencies with federal agencies when dealing with
2 commitments on water.

3 We support the Swan Falls Agreement as
4 originally written in October of 1984.

5
6 **(36) Dams**

7 We support legislation that would focus the
8 attention of the Northwest Power Planning Council's
9 authority on planning, to provide for present and
10 future power needs of northwest power states and
11 away from other secondary issues.

12 We support the construction, improvement
13 and increased size of storage facilities that provide
14 multiple beneficial uses of Idaho's water, and
15 encourage municipalities, federal agencies and tribal
16 agencies to advocate and fund additional storage
17 to help meet their increasing demands for water,
18 thus avoiding the need to take irrigation water from
19 agriculture.

20 We support the continued existence and current
21 usage of all dams on the Columbia and Snake
22 Rivers. We oppose any efforts to destroy or decrease
23 production of those dams.

24 We support construction of the Galloway Dam on
25 the Weiser River.

26
27 **(37) Effluent Trading**

28 We support the concept of effluent trading.

29
30 **(38) Flood Control**

31 We recommend that steps, including additional
32 storage facilities, increased recharge and land
33 transfers from federal to state ownership, be taken to
34 control future flooding within the state of Idaho.

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

37
38 **(39) Moratorium**

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

42 **(40) Outstanding Resource Waters**

43 We support the Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs)
44 and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) process,
45 recognizing that Outstanding Resource Waters
46 (ORWs) are part of this process.

47 We oppose nominations of ORWs by parties
48 other than BAGs and WAGs.

1 **(41) State Purchase of Water Rights for Mitigation**

2 We support having the State of Idaho purchase
3 water rights for mitigation purposes to be held by
4 the State Water Board, so water trade may benefit
5 recharge and pump conversions.

6
7 **(42) Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLS)**

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

18
19 **(43) Transfer of Water Rights**

20 We oppose the transfer of water rights to the
21 Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).

22 We oppose the taking of water for fish flushing.
23 Water held by the Idaho Water Resources Board
24 will be held and used for purposes intended and in
25 accordance with state law.

26 We believe all water in Idaho should be used
27 beneficially. In the event the BOR or IDWR desires
28 use of water they would have to negotiate on a yearly
29 basis for rental-pool water in accordance with state
30 water law.

31 We oppose out-of-basin transfers of irrigation
32 water from lands enrolled in the federal cropland
33 set-aside program for use on lands that have not
34 historically been used for agricultural development.

35 We oppose the continued use of the 427,000
36 acre-feet of water for flow augmentation.

37
38 **(44) Waste Management**

39 We oppose mandatory facility construction
40 without scientific proof of environmental on an
41 individual basis.

42
43 **(45) Water Development on New Non-Ag
44 Development**

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

1 **(46) Water Quality**

2 1. We support:

- 3 1.1. The continued management of water quality,
4 both underground and surface, by utilizing
5 “Best Management Practices” (BMPs) as
6 contained in USDA’s “Natural Resource
7 Conservation Services Field Office Technical
8 Guide” and Idaho’s “Forest Practices Act”.
9 Changes in these BMPs should be based
10 only on scientifically monitored data rather
11 than “best professional judgment.”
12 1.2. The development of BMPs for recreational
13 uses.
14 1.3. The efforts of canal and irrigation districts to
15 halt unwanted drainage into their water sys-
16 tems.

17 2. We oppose:

- 18 2.1. The Forest Practices Act Streamside
19 Retention Rule (Shade Rule) unless accom-
20 panied by fair market appraised value com-
21 pensation to landowners for loss of property
22 rights.
23 2.2. The DEQ having the authority to arbitrarily
24 impose penalties on landowners without first
25 identifying the problem and giving the land-
26 owner an opportunity to correct the problem.
27 If there is a difference of opinion concerning
28 the extent of the problem, a reasonable and
29 cost-effective appeal process of the DEQ de-
30 cision should be available to the landowner.
31 2.3. Levying fees associated with State NPDES
32 programs implementation, operation and per-
33 mit issuance on agriculture and aquaculture
34 producers.
35

36 **(47) Water Quality Standards**

37 Water quality standards must be site specific and
38 realistically achievable for each water body. These
39 standards must at least partially support designated
40 beneficial uses.
41

42 **(48) Water Rights**

43 1. We support:

- 44 1.1. State ownership and control of Idaho water
45 held in trust for the residents of the State of
46 Idaho, and will oppose any policy, program,
47 or regulation, including Federal Energy
48 Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing,

- 1 which would infringe on this right.
- 2 1.2. Defining local public interest, under water
3 right law, to give priority to beneficial uses
4 and agricultural viability, with local vested in-
5 terest and use, a priority.
- 6 1.3. Sanctions upon any party making frivolous
7 claims against water right applications.
8 Frivolous claims are not reasonably grounded
9 in fact or law causing unnecessary delay, in-
10 creased cost, or harassment.
- 11 1.4. Permittees on federal land being recognized
12 and acknowledged as the owners of stock
13 water rights in their allotments as their live-
14 stock provide beneficial use under state law.
15 We support legislation codifying the holding in
16 the Joyce decision that stockwater rights are
17 an appurtenance of the base property.
- 18 1.5. Requiring that minimum stream flows not
19 jeopardize water rights and being financed by
20 the benefit recipients.
- 21 1.6. The continued wise development of all
22 Idaho's rivers and their tributaries as working
23 rivers.
- 24 1.7. First in time, first in right, and state control of
25 water issues within appropriate Idaho agen-
26 cies without federal regulatory or legislative
27 intervention.
- 28 1.8. The privatization of Idaho irrigation canal sys-
29 tems.
- 30 1.9. The protection of canal and drain ditch ease-
31 ments from arbitrarily being taken over by cit-
32 ies, counties, states, federal or private devel-
33 opers or private landowners and developed
34 into green belts or bike paths.
- 35 1.10. The concept of conjunctive-use management
36 when scientific evidence is available to sup-
37 port such management.
- 38 1.11. Efforts by local groundwater districts to pro-
39 vide supplemental or water bank water to
40 senior surface water users to prevent curtail-
41 ment of junior water rights. Irrigation districts
42 shall have no net loss of irrigated acres due to
43 growth and development.
- 44 2. We oppose:
- 45 2.1. The Water Resources Board accepting any
46 further applications for water rights on surface
47 stream water of the state that has been over
48 decreed and adjudicated. Adequate water for

- 1 domestic and agricultural purposes should
2 have priority over other uses when the waters
3 of any natural stream is insufficient, as per
4 Article 15, Section 3 of the Idaho Constitution.
- 5 2.2. Changing the historical beneficial use of water
6 rights when that change will have a negative
7 impact on other water right holders.
- 8 2.3. The federal government changing the historic
9 priorities and uses of water storage reser-
10 voirs.
- 11 2.4. Any diminishment of storage fill rights due to
12 flood control or other discharge prior to sea-
13 son use including efforts by any entity that
14 would count flood control releases against the
15 storage rights of water right holders.
- 16 2.5. Any federal agencies' use of priority dates, in
17 regard to water rights, that are not in accor-
18 dance with Idaho Water Law.
- 19 2.6. The adoption of source water protection
20 plans/ordinances by local government that
21 create land use policies prohibiting generally
22 accepted farming and animal agriculture prac-
23 tices/activities.
- 24 2.7. Indian tribes requiring/requesting water right
25 encroachment permits on state waters.
- 26 2.8. Agreements between water groups that ne-
27 glect the first in time, first in right and treat
28 senior, junior, trust and expansion rights near-
29 equal.
- 30 2.9. The 5-year averages that were used to deter-
31 mine the quantity of water that is allowed to
32 be pumped by a user in the future.

33 34 **(49) Water Spreading**

35 We support voluntary conservation of water use
36 by updating irrigation systems. Increases in irrigated
37 acres (water spread acres) due to redesigning or
38 remodeling irrigation systems or development of
39 areas within a recorded water right, should not be
40 excluded from irrigation. Conservation should not
41 adversely affect the full use of an irrigation water right.

42 We support legislation and rule making that will
43 protect the full use of an irrigation water right.

44 45 **(50) Water Use - International Water Agreements**

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

1 generation.

2 3 **LAND USE**

4 **(51) Conservation Reserve Program – Grazing**

5 We support managed grazing every three years
6 or other mid-management tools of CRP acres to
7 enhance the health of vegetation at the discretion of
8 local committees.

9 We support the separation of haying and grazing
10 on CRP acres and the use of both as separate
11 management tools.

12 **(52) Experimental Stewardship Program**

13 We support and encourage the continuation and
14 expansion of the Experimental Stewardship Program
15 and Coordinated Resource Management Program,
16 (CRMP) as long as producer control is maintained in
17 all decisions concerning range management.

18 **(53) Government Land Transactions**

19 1. We support:

- 20 1.1. No net loss of private property.
- 21 1.2. Enactment of legislation to require prior legis-
22 lative approval for any state land acquisition
23 on a parcel-by-parcel basis.
- 24 1.3. Prohibiting the sale of state land to the feder-
25 al government or agencies of the federal gov-
26 ernment, except for the purpose of building
27 federal facilities or structures.
- 28 1.4. When land is to be sold, the current grazing
29 permit holder must have the first right of re-
30 fusal. If there is no permit holder, the adja-
31 cent landowner should be given the first right
32 of refusal based on appraised value. When
33 federal land is sold, traded, or exchanged, all
34 holders of grazing preference must be fairly
35 compensated.
- 36 1.5. Requiring any entity which acquires property
37 from the federal government, to compensate
38 grazing preference holders on the former fed-
39 erally administered lands for the loss of their
40 property rights if that entity does not continue
41 to maintain and protect those rights.
- 42 1.6. The enactment of legislation to ensure that
43 none of the valid existing private rights are
44 lost in any land exchange between Idaho and
45 the federal government or in the transfer of
46
47
48

1 federal lands to Idaho.
2 1.7. Amending the Idaho Constitution to mandate
3 that any federal land conveyed to the state in
4 any manner from the date of the passage will
5 be managed for multiple use and sustained
6 yield; that all valid existing rights will be hon-
7 ored; and allow for the sale of the isolated,
8 landlocked, and uneconomical parcels with
9 the first right of refusal going to the adjoining
10 landowner(s) at fair appraised value.

11 2. We oppose:

12 2.1. Any land exchanges involving publicly owned
13 land unless there is strong local support.

14 15 **(54) Government-Managed Lands**

16 We support multiple-use management of federal
17 and state lands with due regard for the traditional
18 rights of use.

19 We urge county governments to have a land-use
20 management plan with which both state and federal
21 agencies would coordinate in order to protect the land
22 within their tax base.

23 We support a study of the Payment in Lieu of
24 Taxes formula to determine if it is meeting its purpose
25 and is equitable in its distribution of funds.

26 We urge the legislature and the governor
27 to assert their authority and take all necessary
28 measures to protect the citizens and counties of the
29 state of Idaho from federal agency overreach.

30 We support the equal-footing doctrine and insist
31 on the passage of legislation to establish a deadline
32 for complete transfer of public land back to state
33 jurisdiction and management.

34 We support the Idaho Legislature joining with
35 other states in the West, in an interstate compact,
36 with respect to the transfer of public lands.

37 Holders of grazing permits or leases should not
38 be penalized or removed from allotments because
39 of administrative errors or omissions of the land-
40 managing agency.

41 On state and federal government grazing permits
42 and/or lease rules, the word "grazing" needs to be
43 further defined as livestock consumption of forage
44 and brush for livestock production with benefits of
45 weed and fire control.

46 We support grazing contracts on non-grazed
47 public lands to reduce excess fuel that contributes to
48 range or forest fires.

1 We support the timely salvage of trees in burn
2 areas within our state.

3 We support legislation that would promote
4 harvest of trees and forage on federal and state land
5 to help prevent and control wildfire.

6 We encourage the release of federal, state and
7 local government held lands for development or
8 private use.

9

10 **(55) Grazing Fees**

11 We support the current state grazing fee formula
12 and the PRIA formula concept.

13

14 **(56) Grazing Permit Transfer**

15 We oppose the U.S. Forest Service ruling that
16 will prevent transferring grazing permits for 25 head
17 or less.

18

19 **(57) Idaho Forest Practices Act**

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

22

23 **(58) Idaho Grazing Land Conservation Initiative (GLCI)**

24 We support the Idaho Grazing Land Conservation
25 Initiative.

26

27 **(59) Landfills on BLM Lands**

28 We encourage the development of new, as well
29 as the continued use of, county landfills on BLM
30 lands.

31

32 **(60) Local, State or National Land Designation**

33 We oppose any infringement upon private
34 property rights through any designation of land by
35 any government entity, including highway scenic
36 byways/corridors, National Heritage Areas, National
37 Monuments and National Parks. We oppose any
38 change to federal or state land designation when
39 there is the potential to harm agriculture.

40 We oppose Craters of the Moon becoming a
41 national park.

42

43 **(61) Mineral Rights**

44 We support legislation that would transfer
45 government-retained mineral rights to current
46 landowners (at no expense to the landowners), where
47 there has been no meaningful mineral activity for 10
48 years.

1 We support requiring that property deeds state
2 the name and address of the person or entity who
3 owns the mineral rights for each property. If mineral
4 rights are sold or transferred, the deed should be
5 updated. The surface owner should be notified and
6 offered first right of refusal.

7
8 **(62) Mining**

9 We support the continuation of mineral extraction
10 in Idaho as long as the appropriate mine reclamation
11 and environmental protections are in place and
12 followed.

13
14 **(63) Notification of Property Damage**

15 We support notification to landowners when
16 fences or property sustain damage due to accidents.

17
18 **(64) Open Range**

19 We oppose any changes to Idaho open range
20 and fence laws.

21
22 **(65) Pest Control**

23 We support enforcement of current laws to
24 give counties authority to spray and control insect
25 infestations on private land, with the cost of the
26 spraying to be assessed to the current tax base of the
27 present owner of the land.

28 We support safe and effective county and state
29 pest control programs when landowner property
30 rights are respected and commodity production is not
31 adversely affected by the program(s).

32 We support legislation that requires local,
33 state and federal governments to manage their
34 lands and control their noxious weeds and pests
35 so that no harm is done to adjoining lands, crops
36 and animals.

37
38 **(66) Protecting Farm Land**

39 We ask all units of government to give high
40 priority to the protection of farmland and/or grazing
41 land when considering other uses of such lands for
42 public purposes. There should be no governmental
43 taking of private property rights by restriction of use
44 without just and due compensation.

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

47 We oppose any infringement of private property
48 rights caused by regulation of rivers and dams for
endangered species.

1 We oppose infringement on private property
2 rights caused by highway districts and transportation
3 departments.

4 5 **(67) Range Management Plans**

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

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

18 We support the development of a certification
19 process recognized by the Idaho Department of
20 Lands, BLM, and U.S. Forest Service which would
21 allow grazing permit holders to submit monitoring
22 data that must be recognized and considered in the
23 development and creation of range management
24 plans.

25 26 **(68) Rangeland Resource Commission**

27 We support the Rangeland Resource
28 Commission and the fees assessed.

29 30 **(69) Regulation of Agricultural Practices**

31 1. We support:

- 32 1.1. Long-standing sound agricultural practices
33 such as field burning, including grass seed,
34 straw, residue burning, timber slash burning
35 and animal-waste disposal, cultivation and
36 harvest practices.
- 37 1.2. Farmer participation in voluntary airshed qual-
38 ity programs.
- 39 1.3. The farmer's right to farm by being able to
40 carry on sound farming and forestry practi-
41 ces and to be free from environmental regu-
42 lations that are not proportionately beneficial
43 to the implementation cost.

44 2. We oppose:

- 45 2.1. Any legislation or regulations that would seg-
46 regate any agricultural industry, agricultural
47 crop, cropping practice or geographical area
48 and would impose a higher air quality, water

1 quality or environmental standard than is re-
2 quired of any other person, entity, industry or
3 geographical area within the state.

4 2.2. Regulations on agricultural practices that are
5 not validated by sound peer reviewed scientif-
6 ic process and supported by scientific fact.

7 2.3. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture
8 having the authority to impose sanctions on
9 livestock operators without first identifying
10 specific problems and giving the operators an
11 opportunity to correct said problems.

12 2.4. Mandatory registration or licensing of farms
13 and ranches.

14 15 **(70) Right to Farm**

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

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

23 24 **(71) Riparian Management**

25 Proper multiple-use management of riparian
26 areas is essential.

27 We believe these highly productive areas can be
28 properly harvested with modern forest or livestock
29 Best Management Practices (BMPs) and still improve
30 riparian habitat for all uses.

31 We believe these areas should be properly used
32 but not abused. However, management of the entire
33 allotment should not be governed by forage utilization
34 of riparian areas.

35 We support the concept that all existing roads
36 along Class 2 streams be given grandfather rights
37 approval.

38 39 **(72) Sheep Grazing**

40 We believe that sheep grazing is a valuable
41 use of Idaho forage and resist attempts to terminate
42 grazing permits and/or move domestic sheep
43 because of their proximity to bighorn sheep.

44 We support the Best Management Practice
45 concept for dealing with this issue.

46 47 **(73) State and County Noxious Weed Control**

48 We support stronger enforcement of Idaho's
noxious weed law by the state and counties, together

1 with appropriate use of special management-zone
2 provisions.

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

10 We urge the Idaho State Department of
11 Agriculture to require timely and effective noxious
12 weed control by all railroads on their rights of way
13 within the state.

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

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

20

21 **(74) Timber Management**

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

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

30

31 **(75) Timber Trespass**

32 We support legislation that would award delivered
33 log values to landowners with no deduction for
34 logging for incidental timber trespass. Additional
35 penalties would be established for intentional
36 trespass.

37

38 **(76) Wilderness and Restrictive Zones**

39 We oppose all dedication of land in Idaho for
40 wilderness and roadless areas and support the
41 release of lands currently held in Wilderness Study
42 Areas (WSA) back to multiple-use management. All
43 lands designated as non-suitable for wilderness must
44 be immediately released from WSA status.

45 We support the traditional balanced multiple-use
46 practices on all federal/state lands and that access
47 to existing wilderness be free and accessible for
48 everyone.

1 We oppose designation of lands in Idaho as
2 biosphere reserves, corridors or buffer zones, using
3 the Lands Legacy Initiative, the Antiquities Act and
4 the National Monument Declarations by the executive
5 branch of the government.

6 We support adding adequate fire breaks in exist-
7 ing wilderness areas.

8 We oppose any expansion of the boundaries of
9 the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA).

10 We oppose any reinterpretation of the mandates
11 of the SNRA which would impose further use
12 restrictions.

13 We oppose the reduction or curtailment of
14 any grazing or farming activity for the creation or
15 recognition of wildlife corridors.

16 **(77) Wildfire Control**

17 1. We support:

- 18 1.1. Changing fire-control policy to put out any fire
19 upon arrival or as soon as safely possible.
20 Local entities (such as counties, fire districts,
21 and forest or rangeland protective associa-
22 tions) and private landowners and individuals
23 need to be allowed to act as first responders.
24 When the protection of the health, safety, and
25 property of the citizens are in jeopardy, the lo-
26 cal protective associations must be allowed to
27 act beyond the first response and initial attack
28 phase of a fire. Local landowners must be
29 allowed to protect private property.
- 30 1.2. Changing state and federal wildfire policy to
31 require that state and federal fire managers
32 and incident commanders coordinate with
33 county and local fire departments and land-
34 owners.
- 35 1.3. A provision that state and federal agencies
36 will allow forest or rangeland protective as-
37 sociations in neighboring states, that meet
38 the requirements of their home state, to enter
39 into mutual aid agreements with forest and
40 rangeland protective associations across
41 state lines.
- 42 1.4. An increase in management activities, such
43 as thinning and grazing, to achieve federal
44 agency goals of reducing the potential for
45 catastrophic wildfires.
- 46 1.5. A provision that state and federal agencies
47 maintain a fire break strategically located to
48

- 1 protect private property and to control large
2 wild fires.
- 3 1.6. An aggressive initial attack and suppression
4 on all forest and rangeland wildfires on public
5 land and firefighting suppression activities in
6 addition to fire management, in order to pro-
7 tect our water basins and watersheds.
- 8 2. We oppose:
- 9 2.1. Landowners being held accountable for fire
10 suppression costs except in cases of gross
11 negligence.
- 12 2.2. Efforts by the Idaho Department of Lands to
13 include small forestry and/or hazard manage-
14 ment operations to be defined as "Forestry
15 Operations."
16

17 FISH AND WILDLIFE

18 (78) Animal Damage Control

19 We support animal damage control programs
20 to control and manage predators, rodents and
21 destructive wildlife.
22

23 (79) Animal Threat and Public Safety

24 It shall be the responsibility of U.S. Fish and
25 Wildlife Services and any state agencies, that
26 manage predatory or proven problem animals, to
27 notify all residences within a 5-mile radius using a
28 911 reverse calling system of potential conflict in their
29 area.
30

31 (80) Emergency Feeding of Wild Game

32 We oppose feeding big-game animals except
33 in emergency situations defined by criteria such as
34 snow depth, temperature, wind chill, and available
35 forage.
36

37 All money collected by Fish and Game for the
38 emergency feeding of wild game should be used only
39 for feed and feeding, fencing for haystack protection,
40 and control of predators that are displacing big game
41 animals and preying on them.
42

43 (81) Endangered Species Act

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

47 We believe basic requirements of human life have
48 priority over protection of other species, including

1 threatened or endangered (T/E) species. A thorough
2 consideration of all potential adverse impacts to hu-
3 man economic and social welfare should be an inte-
4 gral part of any consideration to list any T/E species.

5 1. We support:

6 1.1. A revision of the ESA to include a more thor-
7 ough consideration of agriculture, mining, log-
8 ging and tree farming in such a manner that
9 these activities will be sustained and made
10 part of any recovery plan. Recovery of (T/E)
11 species should not receive higher priority
12 than human uses or rights.

13 1.2. Anadromous hatchery fish and wild fish being
14 treated equally under the ESA. Hatchery fish
15 should be counted toward recovery of the
16 species.

17 1.3. Eliminating the marking of hatchery fish.

18 1.4. The right of landowners to protect them-
19 selves, their families, livestock and properties
20 from all predators including grizzly bears and
21 wolves without legal retaliation.

22 1.5. Congress providing depredation funding for
23 losses or damage resulting from endangered
24 species and to mandate responsibility to deal
25 with such losses.

26 1.6. Livestock grazing as an effective tool to re-
27 duce wildfires and enhance plant and wildlife
28 habitat.

29 2. We oppose:

30 2.1. Any effort to create a State Endangered
31 Species Act (ESA).

32 2.2. Road closures and restrictions imposed on
33 land and water in the name of critical habitat.

34 2.3. Implementation of the endangered species
35 pesticide labeling program, other than in criti-
36 cal habitat.

37 2.4. The listing of the Giant Palouse Earthworm
38 (*Driloleirus americanus*) and the Greater
39 Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)
40 and Slick Spot Peppergrass (*Lepidium papil-
41 liferum*) as an endangered species.

42 2.5. Listing any species before its critical habitat
43 is identified within its scientifically established
44 historical range. Habitat site specific assess-
45 ments and recovery plans must include com-
46 prehensive appreciation and inclusion of the
47 protection of private property rights.

48 2.6. Any critical-habitat designation until it has

1 been established beyond scientific doubt that
2 the species in question is actually present
3 and that endangered or threatened status is
4 actually warranted. The data to satisfy the
5 scientific criteria should meet the guidelines
6 of the Data Quality Act under federal stat-
7 utes sections 3504(d)(1) and 3516 of title 44,
8 United States Code. The agency, organiza-
9 tion or individual requesting the critical-habitat
10 designation must bear the cost of proving
11 presence of the species and this must be
12 done through the use of the best available
13 peer reviewed science.

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

20
21 **(82) Fish and Game Department**

22 1. We support:

23 1.1. The department using good-neighbor man-
24 agement practices on the land they now
25 own, including fences, pests, noxious weeds,
26 and providing sportsmen with guidance and
27 marked boundaries.

28 1.2. The Fish and Game Department controlling
29 the concentration of wildlife numbers on all
30 lands and being prohibited from entering into
31 agreements to limit access to any area, with-
32 out approval of the local governing authority.

33 1.3. Retaining the December 2016 composition
34 and selection method of the Idaho Fish and
35 Game Commission.

36 1.4. Implementing a requirement for non-resi-
37 dent mentored youth hunts where both the
38 non-resident mentor and the mentored youth
39 must purchase matching species tags. Non-
40 resident tags should cost more than resident
41 tags.

42 1.5. A Habitat Improvement Program and request
43 Idaho Fish and Game Commission to reflect
44 strong emphasis on multiple use.

45 1.6. Reducing the depredation deductible.
46 Compensation by IDFG for crop loss due
47 to depredation shall be for actual loss mi-
48 nus the one-time deductible and should be

- 1 expediently paid with no pro-rating.
- 2 1.7. Oversight of the depredation account by
3 the Idaho Department of Agriculture with
4 technical support provided by Idaho Fish and
5 Game.
- 6 1.8. Using leftover depredation funds to build a
7 one-year reserve to be used in heavy loss
8 years.
- 9 1.9. Fish and Game being responsible and pay for
10 damages caused by management decisions.
- 11 1.10. Idaho Fish and Game issuing emergency
12 depredation permits to ag producers and
13 landowners to harvest animals that are caus-
14 ing verifiable damage to crops, livestock and
15 property. The issuance of these depredation
16 permits by IDFG and other actions by IDFG to
17 relieve depredation shall be free of conditions
18 that landowner must allow hunting on their
19 land. Landowners should be allowed to deter-
20 mine who hunts and they should be allowed
21 to receive compensation for allowing hunts on
22 their private property. Emergency depredation
23 permit holders should have the option to re-
24 tain possession of harvested animals.
- 25 1.11. Creating depredation areas for landowners
26 who are annually affected by depredating
27 animals and support mechanisms for quicker
28 response in those areas.
- 29 1.12. The Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP)
30 being made available to anyone owning 320
31 acres or more and recipients of these tags
32 should be free to do what they wish with the
33 tags.
- 34 1.13. Investigating transactions between the Idaho
35 Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Idaho
36 Department of Fish and Game to determine if
37 there is a conflict of interest.
- 38 2. We oppose:
- 39 2.1. The acquisition of additional land by the Fish
40 and Game Department.
- 41 2.2. Any increase in funding for the Idaho
42 Department of Fish and Game from either the
43 general fund or license fees without showing
44 a specific need or use for the funds.
- 45 2.3. The erection of either permanent or tempo-
46 rary hunting or viewing blinds within 100 feet
47 of a developed livestock watering site on pub-
48 lic lands.

1 **(83) Fish and Game – Prior Notification**

2 The Idaho Department of Fish and Game must
3 have permission from the landowner before entering
4 private property.

5
6 **(84) Fish and Game – Private Reservoir
7 Companies**

8 Fish and Game Department shall pay private
9 reservoir companies for the use of that reservoir for
10 fish habitat. The Department should also pay up-
11 keep assessments on reservoirs in which they own
12 water.

13
14 **(85) Fish and Game / U.S. Fish & Wildlife
15 Responsibility**

16 We support reform of the Idaho Department of
17 Fish and Game to create local management of the
18 wildlife of Idaho. This program should be site specific
19 to control damage caused from over populated
20 species of both game and non-game animals.

21 We oppose the relocation of wild game and non-
22 game species without proper notice being given to
23 residents and property owners in the area where they
24 are released. Local county officials must receive
25 official notice at least 30 days prior to any relocation
26 or release, into the wild, of any species raised in
27 captivity. We oppose relocation or release into the
28 wild of wolves or grizzlies that have been raised in
29 captivity.

30 The Idaho Fish and Game Department should
31 not engage in activities that encourage only non-
32 consumptive uses of fish and wildlife species in
33 Idaho.

34 The state or federal wildlife personnel shall be
35 required to file an environmental and economic
36 impact statement before they can release non-native
37 insects or plants in Idaho or make regulations that
38 affect the counties and/or the state.

39 We support the Idaho State Department of
40 Agriculture's ban on the release of deleterious exotic
41 animals into the State of Idaho.

42 All state and federal agency personnel must
43 go through the elected county sheriff for all law
44 enforcement.

45
46 **(86) Fish Species Population Management**

47 We support alternative scientific applications
48 to modify fish species population without affecting

1 contractual agreements or causing detrimental
2 effects on flood control, irrigators, recreation and
3 economies.

4 5 **(87) Grizzly Bear**

6 We support the delisting of the grizzly bear from
7 the endangered species status.

8 We support a hunting season on the grizzly.

9 The costs associated with grizzlies, including triple
10 damages for depredation costs, should be borne by
11 the federal government, and its agencies such as
12 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

13 Compensation should be paid to state and local
14 agencies when any assistance in the management,
15 control, or defense of the public is needed from such
16 agencies. Compensation to state and local agencies
17 should be paid regardless of whether a request
18 has been made by a federal agency for assistance
19 until such time as the current grizzly bear policy can
20 be changed to allow less conflict with humans and
21 livestock namely the delisting of the grizzly bear and
22 transfer of management to individual states' authority.

23 We support requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
24 Services to coordinate all grizzly bear related
25 activities with the Idaho Fish and Game and local
26 county officials.

27 28 **(88) Invasive Species**

29 We support efforts to remove Asian clams from
30 the waters of Idaho.

31 We support the listing of quagga mussels as an
32 invasive species.

33 We support adequate state funding for
34 inspections of all water craft and other vessels to
35 prevent the spread and infestation of quagga/zebra
36 mussels in Idaho waters.

37 38 **(89) Sage Grouse**

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

43 We support grazing on public lands as a primary
44 method of increasing sage grouse populations by
45 controlling the amount of vegetation that fuels wild
46 fires.

47 We support private sector rearing and releasing
48 of sage grouse.

1 **(90) Introduction of Salmon**

2 We oppose the introduction of salmon above the
3 Brownlee Dam.

4
5 **(91) Salmon Recovery**

6 We support the following salmon-recovery
7 alternatives:

- 8 1. Physically modifying the dams rather than
9 tearing them down or lowering water levels.
- 10 2. Improving barging such as net barge
11 transportation.
- 12 3. Privatizing salmon fisheries for stronger fish.
- 13 4. Controlling predators of salmon.
- 14 5. Utilizing new hydroelectric turbine
15 technologies to achieve the goals of increased
16 power production and reduced hazards to fish.
- 17 6. Regulating harvest of off-shore and instream
18 fish.

19
20 **(92) Snake River Basin Snails**

21 We support the delisting of snail species in the
22 Snake River Basin and the grouping of snail species
23 based on taxonomic/biological similarities.

24 We oppose the future listing of new snail species.

25
26 **(93) Wolves**

27 We support hunting and trapping of wolves in all
28 hunting units including:

- 29 1. Allowing an earlier start time for open foothold
30 trapping in all units open to wolf trapping;
- 31 2. Longer check time on all lethal sets;
- 32 3. Allowing outfitters to sell wolf trapping trips;
- 33 4. Making it legal to shoot wolves over baits
- 34 5. Eliminating regulations requiring diverters on
35 snares;
- 36 6. Allowing year-round hunting and trapping
37 statewide with emphasis in high depredation
38 areas; and/or
- 39 7. Allowing an increase in wolf tags per person.

40 We support enforcement of Idaho Code that
41 requires the Idaho Fish and Game to coordinate with
42 local government.

43 We support a mandate for the Idaho Fish and
44 Game Department to collar wolves for depredation
45 management.

46 We support Idaho Fish and Game directing
47 Wildlife Services in taking control actions for wolves in
48 chronic depredation areas during winter months when

1 the use of aircraft can be more successful.

2 The costs associated with wolves, including triple
3 damages for depredation costs, should be borne by
4 the federal government, and its agencies such as
5 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

6 We support adding wolves to the IDF&G
7 depredation list so that depredation on livestock can
8 be paid by the IDF&G Big Game Depredation and
9 Prevention Fund.

10 We request that all wolf carcasses be presented
11 for testing for communicable diseases, especially the
12 tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus* which causes
13 Hydatid Disease in livestock, elk, deer and humans.

14 **EASEMENTS**

15 **(94) Conservation Easements and Scenic** 16 **Easements**

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

21 We oppose the Yellowstone to Yukon
22 Conservation Initiative (Y2Y).

23 **ENERGY**

24 **(95) Affordable Energy**

25 We support:

- 26 1. Transparency in how energy monopolies plan
27 to incur expenses and make investments that
28 are passed on to ratepayers;
- 29 2. Thorough, fair and publicly involved process
30 for evaluating rate requests and setting rates;
31 and
- 32 3. Increased focus on removing barriers to
33 widely available and affordable sources of
34 energy.

35 **(96) Alternative Energy**

36 We support the development of alternative
37 energy.

38 We oppose a broad moratorium on alternative
39 energy projects.

40 We support county control in the siting of these
41 projects.

42 We support sales tax incentives to assist in the
43 development of alternative energy projects of less
44 than one megawatt constructed on or by existing
45

1 agriculture operations.

2 We support that alternative energy should not
3 receive subsidies beyond the bulk market rate. Any
4 such contracts shall be allowed to expire.

5

6 **(97) Bonneville Power Administration Credit**

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

10

11 **(98) Electrical Energy**

12 **1. Hydroelectric Dams:**

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

17 We encourage the adoption of hydro projects to
18 generate power for sale.

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

23 **2. Renewables:**

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

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

31 We support an annual true-up for net metering
32 rather than a monthly true-up.

33 **3. Regulations:**

34 We encourage state agencies to remove barriers
35 that prevent utilities from increasing Idaho's power
36 generation capacity.

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

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

44 We oppose the sale of any public utility company
45 operating in the state of Idaho to an entity either
46 partially or wholly owned by a foreign government.

47 **4. Transmission:**

48 We support upgrades in transmission and

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

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

6 7 **(99) Farm Produced Fuel**

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

11 12 **(100) Fossil Fuels**

13 We support the mining and drilling of fossil fuels.

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

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

23 24 **(101) Nuclear Energy**

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

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

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

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

39 40 **(102) Power Demand Control Program**

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

45 46 **(103) Renewable Fuels**

47 We support the promotion and use of alternative
48 fuels made from agricultural products, as long as they
are driven by open markets and not economically

1 supported by mandates and government subsidies.

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

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

7
8 **(104) Utility Companies**

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

12
13 **LABOR**

14
15 **(105) Legal Aid**

16 We oppose state funding of Idaho Legal Aid
17 Services.

18 We oppose the uninvited presence of Legal Aid
19 personnel soliciting business on private property.

20
21 **(106) Minimum Wage**

22 We oppose any state minimum wage that is
23 higher than the federal minimum wage.

24
25 **(107) New Hire Reporting**

26 We support changes in the Idaho New Hire
27 Reporting Law to extend the reporting date to 60
28 days.

29 We support not having to report seasonal
30 temporary workers that work less than 45 days in a
31 year.

32
33 **(108) Unemployment Insurance**

34 Eligibility requirements should be made realistic
35 to reflect agriculture's seasonal employment
36 practices.

37
38 **(109) Workers Compensation**

39 Workers compensation for agricultural employers
40 should provide:

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

46 We support changes in the existing Workers'
47 Compensation Law that would take into consideration
48 the employee's responsibility when an accident
occurs.

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

4 5 **TAX**

6 7 **(110) Agricultural Property Tax Shifts**

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

10 11 **(111) Assessed Value of Ag Production Land**

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

23 We support assessed values being capped at a
24 5% increase in any given year.

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

28 29 **(112) Budget Caps**

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

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

39 40 **(113) Fuel Tax**

41 We oppose repealing the refund of tax paid on
42 fuel used off-road.

43 We oppose taxing dyed fuel.

44 45 **(114) Impact Fees**

46 We support local impact fees on new or
47 expanding developments to pay for the services
48 required to support growth.

1 We support simplification of current impact fee
2 rules and procedures.

3 4 **(115) Investment Tax Credit**

5 We support retention of the current three percent
6 investment tax credit provisions, or an increase in the
7 credit.

8 9 **(116) Local Option Taxation**

10 We support local option taxation when used
11 specifically for projects that would have been paid for
12 with property tax dollars.

13 14 **(117) Maximum Levy Rates**

15 We oppose raising the maximum statutory levy
16 rates for any taxing authority.

17 18 **(118) Personal Tax Privacy Rights**

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

21 22 **(119) Property Tax**

23 We oppose budget increases and foregone
24 balances that current Idaho State Law allows for local
25 governments.

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

28 We support legislation that would allow county
29 tax assessments and collection on property that has
30 been purchased by non-profit groups and placed in
31 tax exempt status, such as a tax code that covers
32 environmental tax exempt classification.

33 We support exempting all equipment used in the
34 production of agricultural commodities from personal
35 property tax.

36 37 **(120) Property Tax - Funding Local Government and Schools**

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

40 We are opposed to judges being allowed to levy
41 taxes.

42 We support legislation mandating that plant
43 facilities levy monies can be used only for capital
44 expenditures related to school operation and
45 maintenance.

46 We oppose school districts carrying over these
47 funds to finance the construction of new buildings or
48 the acquisition of additional property.

1 We support removing the school budget
2 stabilization levy that was authorized in the 2006
3 Special Legislative Session, unless it is supported by
4 a local vote.

5 We support the creation of standardized
6 mandatory full disclosure of the school district's
7 revenues and expenditures that are related to
8 extracurricular activities; separated into curriculum
9 and athletics, and budgeted in standard categories
10 of salaries, transportation, supplies and capital
11 expenditures.

12 We oppose indefinite or permanent supplemental
13 school levies on taxpayers, regardless of the number
14 of consecutive levies passed.

15 16 **(121) Sales Tax**

17 We oppose removing the sales tax exemption on
18 production items.

19 We support legislation that would exempt non-
20 profit organizational fund-raising from paying sales
21 tax on those receipts.

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

24 25 **(122) Services Tax**

26 We oppose all tax on services.

27 28 **(123) Special Taxing Districts**

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

32 We support legislation allowing special taxing
33 districts to be funded by a household fee. All taxing
34 districts that charge fees should be under the
35 same three percent cap that applies to counties
36 and municipalities.

37 We support giving library districts the option to
38 be funded by a household fee rather than through
39 an ad valorem tax. If the library district chooses the
40 household fee option, any bonds they pass must also
41 be paid through household fees.

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

45 46 **(124) State Budget**

47 We support zero-based budgeting.

48 We support a constitutional amendment limiting
state spending to a calculation determined by

1 population growth and economic growth of the state.
2 We oppose balancing budget shortfalls by any tax
3 increase.

4 We oppose any state funding of Planned
5 Parenthood.

6

7 **(125) Super Majority**

8 We support retaining the 66-2/3% majority vote
9 as required in the Idaho State Constitution for bond
10 levies.

11 We oppose circumventing the required two-thirds
12 majority by creative financing options.

13

14 **(126) Tax Compensation for Federal and State
15 Managed Lands**

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

19 We favor an annual fee equivalent to local private
20 property tax on land.

21

22 **(127) Tax Liens**

23 We oppose the recording of federal tax
24 liens (IRS) by the county recorder without due
25 process of law.

26

27 **(128) Tax Refund Extension**

28 We support income tax assessments and income
29 tax refunds having the same statute of limitations.

30

31 **(129) Taxing Districts Sharing Administrators**

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

36

37 **(130) Urban Renewal Districts**

38 We support the repeal of urban renewal laws.

39

40 **(131) Young Farmers and Ranchers Tax Credits**

41 We support legislation to allow agricultural asset
42 owners to earn tax credits for leasing their assets (ag-
43 ricultural land, depreciable machinery or equipment,
44 breeding livestock, buildings, etc.) to young farmers
45 or ranchers.

46 We support tax credits as an incentive for hiring
47 beginning farmers and ranchers to perform contract
48 labor.

LOCAL AFFAIRS

(132) Annexation

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

(133) County Commissioners

We encourage county commissioners to develop a Natural Resource Plan per NEPA guidelines that clearly state the objectives and policies of the county in regards to management of the natural resources located on public lands in their county.

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

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

(134) Distribution of Federal Fines

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

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

(135) Elections

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

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

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

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

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

1 We support changing the number of members
2 of the Idaho redistricting commission to 7 with the
3 majority on the commission reflecting the current
4 partisan makeup of the legislature.

5 6 **(136) Emergency Response Fees**

7 We oppose the imposition of a “crash tax” to
8 cover the cost of cleaning up spills at the site of an
9 accident.

10 We favor reducing regulatory burdens which
11 prohibit low-cost clean-up solutions.

12 13 **(137) Indigent Care Funding**

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

23 24 **(138) Notice of Zoning Change**

25 Water-right holders or recipients of water
26 delivered through property that is proposed to be
27 rezoned should receive the same notification of
28 public hearings as surrounding landowners.

29 30 **(139) Public Hearings**

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

34 35 **(140) Zoning**

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

41 We recognize and encourage the use of planning
42 tools allowed under state law to encourage planned
43 and orderly growth in or near agricultural areas.

44 **EDUCATION**

45 46 **(141) Adolescent Nutrition**

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

1 **(142) Ag in the Classroom**

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

4 We support an increase in funding for Ag in the
5 classroom.

6
7 **(143) Career Technical Education**

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

11
12 **(144) Contracts for Teachers**

13 We recommend that the tenure system for school
14 teachers be eliminated and replaced with contracts
15 based on evaluation and performance.

16 We support the concept of incentive pay that will
17 improve teacher excellence.

18 School teachers should have the option of being
19 able to negotiate their own contract with the school
20 district as a private contractor.

21
22 **(145) Education Funding**

23 We support that funding be made available
24 from the state endowment fund’s reserve account to
25 be used to maintain/replace existing buildings and
26 facilities in school districts throughout the state.

27 Endowment funds designated for public schools
28 should be used for school funding only.

29
30 **(146) Education Standards and Assessments**

31 We support using:

- 32 1. Professionally established standards and
33 assessments that can be modified to reflect
34 locally recognized educational values, goals
35 and philosophy.
- 36 2. Standards to ensure the progression of a
37 student that reflect a comprehension of the
38 subject.

39
40 **(147) Knowledge of Constitution**

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

46
47 **(148) Local Control of Education**

48 We encourage the State Board of Education

1 and the Idaho Legislature to refuse federal funds
2 aimed at promoting control of educational programs
3 in public schools by the federal government.

4 We support the repeal of the federal education
5 program, Common Core and SBAC testing, in the
6 State of Idaho.

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

10

11 **(149) Mandatory Agriculture Education Class**

12 We support state legislature's approving
13 legislation requiring all high school students to take
14 Ag-Ed in order to graduate, utilizing current STEM
15 classes already available.

16

17 **(150) No Increase in School Time**

18 We oppose increasing required school hours
19 beyond 990 hours per year.

20

21 **(151) Parental Choice in Education**

22 We support the voucher system for education.

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

28 We support optional kindergarten.

29 We oppose public funding of pre-kindergarten.

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

35

36 **(152) Veterinary Students**

37 We support an increase from eleven (11) to fif-
38 teen (15) seats per year for Idaho residents in the
39 Washington-Idaho Cooperative Veterinary Medical
40 Education Program.

41

42 **STATE AFFAIRS**

43

44 **(153) Agricultural Research and Extension**

45 We support the University of Idaho Agricultural
46 Research and Extension Service and urge the
47 Legislature to adequately fund this vital program.

48 We support adequate funding to the College
of Agricultural and Life Sciences to allow research

1 to develop new improved varieties of seed that are
2 classed as public varieties.

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

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

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

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

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

30 We support the hiring of new extension educators
31 in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
32 with primary training and experience in commercial
33 agriculture and forestry.

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

40

41 **(154) ATV Safety**

42 We oppose the creation of a mandatory class or
43 special license for the ability to ride an ATV on private
44 or public land.

45 We oppose efforts to require the transporting of
46 firefighting equipment that would present a hazard
47 to the safe and effective operation of ATV and other
48 OHV recreational equipment.

1 **(155) Bicycle Safety**

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

4
5 **(156) Cell Phone Use**

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

8
9 **(157) Commercial Auction Company Bonding**

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

13
14 **(158) Constitutional Defense Fund**

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

18
19 **(159) County Fairs**

20 We support the review and revision of all county
21 fair related state statutes to better reflect current year
22 round fairground operations under the administration
23 of local appointed fair boards even above the 200,000
24 county population limit.

25
26 **(160) Cross Deputization of Law Enforcement
27 Officers**

28 We believe that cross deputization of county
29 sheriffs and any tribal law enforcement officers should
30 be voluntary.

31
32 **(161) Definition of Agricultural Buildings**

33 We support changes to Idaho Code to define
34 agricultural buildings as follows:

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

48

1 **(162) Executive Branch MOU/MOA**

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

5 We support granting the legislature the ability
6 to override a governor's veto after the session is
7 adjourned.

8
9 **(163) Falsifying Reports**

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

15
16 **(164) Hazardous Waste**

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

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

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

28
29 **(165) Health Insurance**

30 We support private optional health insurance.

31 We oppose the Patient Protection and Affordable
32 Care Act and fines for individuals and employers who
33 refuse to carry health insurance.

34 We support legislation that permits, promotes,
35 and/or assists:

- 36 1. In the inclusion of out-of-state health
37 insurance companies participation in the
38 marketplace of health insurance in Idaho;
- 39 2. In individual health savings accounts with tax
40 free withdrawals for all health insurance
41 premiums;
- 42 3. In free market solutions to health care costs
43 and access;
- 44 4. In the establishment of defined contribution
45 programs as opposed to defined benefit
46 programs;
- 47 5. In free clinics funded by local community/
48 faith-based organizations; and

1 6. In development of Direct Primary Care in
2 Idaho supporting the offering of wraparound
3 health insurance policies.

4 We support health insurance as a risk
5 management tool by reducing and/or eliminating the
6 number of mandated services.

7 We oppose any legislation to require employers
8 to carry health insurance on their employees whether
9 they are seasonal or full-time.

10

11 **(166) Judicial Confirmation**

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

15

16 **(167) Legislative Testimony**

17 We support accepting testimony at legislative
18 hearings via remote audio/visual technology to be
19 managed by the sponsorship of a legislator.

20

21 **(168) Liability and Tort Claims**

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

25

26 **(169) Medicaid**

27 We oppose Medicaid expansion.

28

29 **(170) PERSI**

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

35

36 **(171) Private Property Rights/Eminent Domain**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21
22 **(173) Proprietary Information**

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

26
27 **(174) PUC Rates**

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

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

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

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

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

44
45 **(177) Re-Establish Congressional Lawmaking
Responsibility**

46 We support the state legislature in its efforts to
47 encourage Congress to reclaim its constitutional
48 responsibility of making law.

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

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

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

10 11 **(178) Refugees in The United States**

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

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

19 20 **(179) Regulation Reform**

21 We support:

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

29 30 **(180) Regulatory Fines**

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

35 36 **(181) Rights-of-Way**

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

46 We urge enactment of legislation to require that
47 adjacent landowners be given priority to purchase
48 at fair market value lands that have been vacated

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

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

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

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

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

29

30 **(182) Right to Bear Arms**

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

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

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

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

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

1 **(183) Road Closures**

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

5 We oppose the closure of any existing roads.

6
7 **(184) State Agencies**

8 1. We support:

9 1.1. The Soil Conservation Commission or suc-
10 cessor entity advising and aiding local Soil
11 Conservation Districts by providing technical
12 support and a mechanism to receive financial
13 support at no less than fiscal year 2010 levels.

14 1.2. Representation by an agricultural producer on
15 the Board of Regents for Idaho's land grant
16 university and on the Idaho Fish and Game
17 Commission.

18 1.3. Legislation to require that government rules
19 and regulations, wherever applicable, be
20 based upon supportive disciplinary peer
21 reviewed scientific data and that wherever
22 policies, rules or regulations do not meet this
23 standard the responsible individual and/or in-
24 dividuals can be held liable.

25 1.4. When a state law enforcement agency makes
26 an arrest there should be a means provided to
27 reimburse the county for all costs associated
28 in maintaining the prisoner.

29 1.5. The legislature reviewing agency rules. In
30 order to approve a new rule, both the House
31 and Senate must agree. A rule shall be re-
32 jected if either the House or Senate does not
33 approve.

34 2. We oppose:

35 2.1. Combining, splitting or changing government
36 agencies without the approval of users of the
37 services.

38 2.2. Regulating any phase of farm and ranch busi-
39 ness by any state agency that does not have
40 an agricultural representative as a member of
41 its policy making board or committee.

42
43 **(185) State Building Code**

44 We support amending the State Building Code to
45 prevent infringement on private property rights through
46 excessive permit requirements.

47 **(186) State Hatch Act**

48 We favor restoring the State Hatch Act, 67-5311

1 Limitation of Political Activity, to its original form and
2 content.

3
4 **(187) State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)**

5 We oppose the expansion of the authority of the
6 SHPO and oppose any state funding.

7
8 **(188) State Legal Reform**

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

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

27 We support legislation to restore the election of
28 district judges.

29 We support the open and full disclosure of the
30 actions of the Idaho Judicial Council.

31 Entities from outside the jurisdiction of taxing
32 districts that file lawsuits against public entities should
33 be required to pay all legal expenses.

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

38 We support Idaho courts only use the United
39 States and Idaho Laws in the court system.

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

46 We support requiring judges to inform jurors of the
47 legality of jury nullification.

48

1 **(189) States' Rights and Sovereignty**

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

10

11 **(190) Term Limits**

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

16

17 **(191) Transportation**

18 1. We support:

- 19 1.1. Continuation of independent road districts
20 without oversight by county commissioners.
- 21 1.2. The Idaho Department of Transportation uti-
22 lizing revenue sources efficiently to maintain
23 and construct Idaho roads.
- 24 1.3. The Idaho Department of Transportation in-
25 creasing their cost saving efforts.
- 26 1.4. The sales tax collected from vehicles (vehi-
27 cles, batteries, tires and other general parts)
28 going to road maintenance.
- 29 1.5. Increases in gross weights with axle weights
30 non-changing.
- 31 1.6. The continued use of long combination vehi-
32 cles (LCVs).
- 33 1.7. The Idaho Department of Transportation pol-
34 icy of issuing oversize load permits for Idaho
35 public roads.
- 36 1.8. The continued improvement of Idaho's agri-
37 cultural roadways.
- 38 1.9. Accountability of highway transportation de-
39 partment's engineers for the cost over-runs
40 and/or miscalculations for wrongful designs of
41 highway projects.
- 42 1.10. Increasing permit fees on loads exceeding
43 200,000 GVW to be comparable with fees in
44 surrounding states.
- 45 1.11. The review of current Idaho Transportation
46 Department policies regarding economics of
47 maintenance versus new construction of road-
48 ways.

- 1 1.12. Expenses for environmental studies and the
2 expenses required to meet the mandated en-
3 vironmental standards being calculated and
4 tabulated on an environmental budget and
5 not included in the Highway Construction and
6 Maintenance budget.
- 7 1.13. Construction and/or improvement of a North-
8 South Highway to the Canadian border.
- 9 1.14. Port districts in Idaho that help move agricul-
10 tural commodities.
- 11 1.15. Semi-trucks and/or trailer brake systems
12 conforming to the Federal Motor Carrier
13 Safety Act safety standards of the year of
14 manufacture of each unit. Any rules, regula-
15 tions or requirements adopted by the Idaho
16 Transportation Department cannot exceed
17 federal requirements.
- 18 1.16. Access of agricultural implements of hus-
19 bandry and vehicles to any and all local,
20 county and state roads/highways in Idaho,
21 and oppose the imposition of any minimum
22 speed requirements.
- 23 2. We oppose:
 - 24 2.1. A tax or fee increase on fuel.
 - 25 2.2. A tax or fee increase on vehicles.
 - 26 2.3. The removal of the Port of Entry system from
27 the Department of Transportation.

28 29 **(192) Trespass**

30 We support programs to educate the public about
31 private property rights and about trespass laws.
32 Landowners retain the right to refuse access within
33 the current law.

34 IDFG shall make a concerted effort to
35 educate hunters about private property rights
36 and the location of private property in their
37 hunting regulations and maps. It is the hunters'
38 responsibility to know where they can hunt and not
39 the landowners' responsibility to mark or post their
40 property.

41 We support making it unlawful to enter any
42 facility, legally or illegally, to use or attempt to use a
43 camera, video recorder, or any other video or audio
44 recording device without permission from the owner
45 or authorized agent.

46 We support a law placing the burden of trespass
47 on the trespasser instead of the landowner.

48 We support the implementation of a trespassing

1 policy that would make it necessary for a person or
2 entity accessing private property for the purpose of
3 gathering data of any type to first get permission to
4 enter the property in written format from the property
5 owner.

6
7 **(193) Unfunded Mandates**

8 All new laws passed by the legislature that put
9 financial burdens on the counties or cities should be
10 funded by the state.

11
12 **(194) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)**

13 We support the commercial use of UAVs for
14 natural resource management and for agricultural
15 use.

16
17 **(195) U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals**

18 We support the division of the Ninth Circuit
19 Court of Appeals to add a new northwest U.S. Circuit
20 Court of Appeals.

21
22 **(196) Welfare Reform**

23 Believing that all people should productively
24 engage in providing for their own sustainability, we
25 support elimination of welfare in Idaho replacing it
26 with work programs.

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