Policies for 2019

Adopted by the Delegates at the 79th Annual Meeting of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Boise, Idaho
December 2018
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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 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 when men are free, responsible individuals. The exercise of free will, rather than force, is consistent with the maintenance of liberty.
Individual freedom and opportunity must not be sacrificed in a quest for guaranteed “security.”

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

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

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

We believe in government by law, impartially administered, and without special privilege.
We support agricultural programs and organizations that give equal opportunity for developing skills, knowledge and leadership ability.

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

The U.S. Supreme Court imposed one man one vote rule should be overturned and return the United States to the republican form of government that was envisioned by the framers of the Constitution.

Individuals have a moral responsibility to help preserve freedom for future generations by participating in public affairs and by helping to elect candidates who share their fundamental beliefs and principles.

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

We believe in the right of every man to choose his own occupation; to be rewarded according to his contribution to society and to save, invest, spend, or convey his earnings to his heirs.
These rights are accompanied by the responsibility that each man has to meet the financial obligations he has incurred.

We support a society free of drug abuse.
We support English as the official language of Idaho and the United States.
We support English as the language that students should learn and use in public schools.
We support that public schools start the day with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Constitution

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

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

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

State’s Rights and Sovereignty

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

Religious Life
Our Nation was founded on spiritual faith and
belief in God. Whereas the Constitution of the United
States was founded on moral and religious
principles, moral, ethical and traditional family values
should get equal support and consideration in the
public schools as do the atheistic and humanistic
views.

We support the right to have religious beliefs
and symbols of those beliefs presented in our
communities.
1. We vigorously support retention of:
1.1. “So Help Me God” in official oaths;
1.2. The phrase “In God We Trust” on our coin;
1.3. The fourth verse of the “Star Spangled
Banner;” and
1.4. The phrase “Under God” in the Pledge of
Allegiance.

Capitalism - Private Competitive Enterprise
We believe in the American capitalistic, private,
competitive enterprise system in which property is
privately owned, privately managed, operated for
profit, individual satisfaction and responsible
stewardship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Economy in Government**

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

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

We believe that Article 8, Section 1, “Limitation of Public Indebtedness” of the state Constitution is the main reason for the healthy financial condition of Idaho’s government. We will oppose any attempt to amend this section of the Constitution.

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

We support economy at all levels of government.

**Education**

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

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

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

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

We believe all school systems must be accountable to provide opportunities for all students to obtain proficiency in the basics of reading, writing and mathematics. Parents and guardians must be kept informed by the school system of the educational progress of their children.
We believe parents and guardians have an inherent right and obligation to discipline their own children.

**Political Parties**

Strong, responsive political parties are essential to the United States system of elective government. We recommend that Farm Bureau members support the political party of their choice. We believe that government should in no way be involved directly in the political process but should lay down certain rules to assure fair and proper elections. We strongly favor retaining the county central political committees composed of county precinct committee people and their existing functions within the party structure. We are opposed to shifting the functions of county committees to a district committee.

**COMMODITIES**

1. **Agrichemicals/Pesticides**
   1. We support:
      1.1. Increased research and labeling for minor-use pesticide registrations; and
      1.2. The continued use of approved pesticides and/or related products until conclusive scientific evidence proves there is an unacceptable risk.
   2. We oppose:
      2.1. Establishment of zones of agricultural land in which any kind of legal application or storage of agricultural chemicals is curtailed without sound, scientifically validated evidence to warrant curtailment; and
      2.2. Fumigant buffer zone limitations proposed by the EPA without research giving substantial evidence that current practices are negatively affecting bystanders.
   3. We recommend that compliance with federally approved label instructions should absolve farmers or commercial applicators from liability claims of environmental pollution.
2. Commodity Diseases

1. We support:
   1.1. The quarantine of all sources of the potato wart virus;
   1.2. Active research and the dissemination of information to all interested parties related to rhizomania and urge that any imposed restrictions be based on scientific data;
   1.3. Any phytosanitary action taken by the Idaho Department of Agriculture to protect the Idaho potato industry from the threat of the “Pratylenchus Neglectus” nematode;
   1.4. The rewrite of the Idaho Plant Pest Act to include language to protect growers from being subject to unnecessary search and seizure without probable cause, and advanced warning to enter a premises; and
   1.5. A federal and state PCN (Pale Cyst Nematode) program that is based on good science, stakeholder participation, and minimal impact to grower operations.

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

3. Commodity Commissions

1. We support commodity commissions having:
   1.1. Self-governing status with no political influence;
   1.2. Boards solely elected by the growers/producers;
   1.3. Uniform provisions to run referendums;
   1.4. Commissioner districts representing even areas of production;
   1.5. Legal entities a right to cast votes in elections; and
   1.6. Nominations held for a month-long period followed by a month-long voting period so that all growers can be represented and participate.

4. Commodity Sales

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

We support changes to crop insurance that truly reflect a safety net.
We oppose double discounts by grain dealers.

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

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

5. Environmental Studies

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

6. Fair Trade

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

7. Field Testing Biotechnology Products

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

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

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

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

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

8. Food Safety/Government Accountability

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

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

9. Industrial Grade Hemp

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

10. Lien Law

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

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

LIVESTOCK

11. 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. The role of a licensed veterinarian in the care of animals and support current licensing standards for veterinarians;

1.3. The Idaho Veterinary Practice Act and oppose any efforts to weaken it or the licensing standards; and

1.4. 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; and

2.6. Comfort animals having the same rights and privileges as service animals covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

12. 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.

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

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

We support eliminating the mandatory brand inspection for equine in Idaho.

We support an option for having a brand inspection for the lifetime of ownership for the equine.

We support raising the fee for the lifetime inspection.

13. Bovine Tuberculosis

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

14. Brucellosis

We oppose all efforts to eliminate the mandatory vaccination law and require its complete enforcement.
We insist that the National Park Service eradicate brucellosis in Yellowstone and Grand Teton Parks.

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

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

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

15. CAFO Regulations

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

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

16. Data Confidentiality

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

17. Domestic Cervidae

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

18. Equine

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

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

We support the right of individuals and nongovernmental organizations to save horses from slaughter as long as they take possession of the horses and are responsible for their care and feeding.

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

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

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

19. Foot and Mouth/BSE Disease

We support stringent controls to protect Idaho’s livestock industry from foot and mouth disease and BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy).

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

We support allowing entities to voluntarily test all slaughtered animals for BSE in order to ship products to countries that require individual tests.

20. Law Enforcement Training

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

21. Livestock Brands

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

22. Manure Management

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

1. We support:

1.1. Research on manure management including such areas as odor reduction and waste and nutrient management; and

1.2. Programs that educate livestock operators on techniques regarding properly managed organic nutrient systems, especially if implemented with consistent Best Management Practices (BMPs) developed by extension, university and the livestock industry.
2. We oppose:
   2.1. Manure being classified as industrial, solid, or hazardous waste or as raw sewage.

23. State Inspectors of Small Meat Processing Plants
   We support state certified meat inspectors.

24. State Veterinarian
   We believe the Animal Health Division of the Idaho Department of Agriculture should be administered by a licensed veterinarian.

WATER

25. Aquifer Recharge
   We support the beneficial use of managed basin-wide aquifer recharge with the state being involved with both financial support and implementation.

26. Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs
   Release of water in power head space in Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs shall be controlled solely by state water law.

27. Cloud Seeding
   We support the application of cloud seeding and we encourage continued investment in the application and research of cloud seeding.
   We encourage the Idaho Legislature and the Idaho Department of Water Resources to study and allocate funding for cloud seeding efforts that are proving beneficial to increasing precipitation.

28. Comprehensive State Water Plan
   We urge the Governor to appoint Water Resource Board members who will be protective of the waters of the State of Idaho.
   We oppose all minimum stream flows unless sufficient storage is built to supply priority needs first.
   We support requiring legislative approval before establishing minimum stream flow, instream flow, reconnect permits, river basin plans and state water plans.
   We support amending the Idaho Constitution, Article XV Water Rights Section 7, State Water Resource Agency to read, “That any change shall become effective only by approval of the legislature.”
We support a mandatory requirement for legislative approval of agreements made by state agencies with federal agencies when dealing with commitments on water. We support the Swan Falls Agreement as originally written in October of 1984.

29. Dams

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

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

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

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

30. Effluent Trading

We support the concept of effluent trading.

31. Flood Control

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

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

We support fill of existing reservoirs following flood control releases to ensure that current water users’ reservoir space is filled and protected from new appropriations.

32. Moratorium

We support the current Idaho Department of Water Resources moratoriums on critical groundwater development.
33. Outstanding Resource Waters
   We support the Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs) and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) process, recognizing that Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs) are part of this process.
   We oppose nominations of ORWs by parties other than BAGs and WAGs.

34. State Purchase of Water Rights for Mitigation
   We support having the State of Idaho purchase water rights for mitigation purposes to be held by the State Water Board, so water trade may benefit recharge and pump conversions.

35. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)
   We support mandating Idaho’s Department of Environmental Quality to conduct an Economic Impact Analysis of an area’s businesses (including the agri-business and agricultural operations of that area) before initiating a TMDL process for that geographic area. The analysis shall be provided to the Watershed Advisory Group before consideration is given to develop and implement a TMDL. A copy of the analysis shall also be provided to the germane committees of the Idaho Legislature.

36. Transfer of Water Rights
   We oppose the transfer of water rights to the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).
   We oppose the taking of water for fish flushing. Water held by the Idaho Water Resources Board will be held and used for purposes intended and in accordance with state law.
   We believe all water in Idaho should be used beneficially. In the event the BOR or IDWR desires use of water they would have to negotiate on a yearly basis for rental-pool water in accordance with state water law.
   We oppose out-of-basin transfers of irrigation water from lands enrolled in the federal cropland set-aside program for use on lands that have not historically been used for agricultural development.
   We support re-evaluation of the need for flow augmentation on the grounds that the science does not support any biological benefit.
37. Waste Management
   We oppose mandatory facility construction without scientific proof of environmental pollution on an individual basis.

38. Water Development on New Non-Ag Development
   We support legislation that would require developers to supply water and water-delivery systems using existing water rights or gray water to new developments.

39. Water Quality
   1. We support:
      1.1. The continued management of water quality, both underground and surface, by utilizing “Best Management Practices” (BMPs) as contained in USDA’s “Natural Resource Conservation Services Field Office Technical Guide” and Idaho’s “Forest Practices Act.” Changes in these BMPs should be based only on scientifically monitored data rather than “best professional judgement;”
      1.2. The development of BMPs for recreational uses; and
      1.3. The efforts of canal and irrigation districts to halt unwanted drainage into their water systems.
   2. We oppose:
      2.1. The DEQ having the authority to arbitrarily impose penalties on landowners without first identifying the problem and giving the landowner an opportunity to correct the problem. If there is a difference of opinion concerning the extent of the problem, a reasonable and cost-effective appeal process of the DEQ decision should be available to the landowner; and
      2.2. Levying fees associated with State NPDES programs implementation, operation and permit issuance on agriculture and aquaculture producers.

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

1. We support:

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

1.2. Defining local public interest, under water right law, to give priority to beneficial uses and agricultural viability, with local vested interest and use, a priority;

1.3. Sanctions upon any party making frivolous claims against water right applications. Frivolous claims are not reasonably grounded in fact or law causing unnecessary delay, increased cost, or harassment;

1.4. Permittees on federal land being recognized and acknowledged as the owners of stock water rights in their allotments as their livestock provide beneficial use under state law and the water rights are an appurtenance of the private base property;

1.5. Requiring that minimum stream flows, not jeopardize water rights and are being financed by the benefit recipients;

1.6. The continued wise development of all Idaho’s rivers and their tributaries as working rivers;

1.7. First in time, first in right, and state control of water issues within appropriate Idaho agencies without federal regulatory or legislative intervention;

1.8. The privatization of Idaho irrigation canal systems;

1.9. The protection of canal and drain ditch easements from arbitrarily being taken over by cities, counties, state, federal or private developers or private landowners and developed into green belts or bike paths;

1.10. The concept of conjunctive-use management when scientific evidence is available to support such management; and

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

2. We oppose:

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

2.2. Changing the historical beneficial use of water rights when that change will have a negative impact on other water right holders;

2.3. The federal government changing the historic priorities and uses of water storage reservoirs;

2.4. Any diminishment of storage fill rights due to flood control or other discharge prior to season use including efforts by any entity that would count flood control releases against the storage rights of water right holders;

2.5. Any federal agencies’ use of priority dates, in regard to water rights, that are not in accordance with Idaho Water Law;

2.6. The adoption of source water protection plans/ordinances by local government that create land use policies prohibiting generally accepted farming and animal agriculture practices/activities;

2.7. Indian tribes requiring/requesting water right encroachment permits on state waters;

2.8. Agreements between water groups that neglect the first in time, first in right and treat senior, junior, trust and expansion rights near-equal; and

2.9. The 5-year averages that were used to determine the quantity of water that is allowed to be pumped by a user in the future.
42. Water Spreading

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

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

43. Water Use - International Water Agreements

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

44. Government Land Transactions

1. We support:

   1.1. No net loss of private property;
   1.2. Enactment of legislation to require prior legislative approval for any state land acquisition on a parcel-by-parcel basis;
   1.3. Prohibiting the sale of state land to the federal government or agencies of the federal government, except for the purpose of building federal facilities or structures;
   1.4. When land is to be sold, the current grazing permit holder must have the first right of refusal. If there is no permit holder, the adjacent landowner should be given the first right of refusal based on appraised value. When federal land is sold, traded, or exchanged, all holders of grazing preference must be fairly compensated;
   1.5. Requiring any entity which acquires property from the federal government, to compensate grazing preference holders on the former federally administered lands for the loss of their property rights if that entity does not continue to maintain and protect those rights;
   1.6. The enactment of legislation to ensure that none of the valid existing private rights are
1. lost in any land exchange between Idaho and the federal government or in the transfer of federal lands to Idaho;

1.7. Amending the Idaho Constitution to mandate that any federal land conveyed to the state in any manner from the date of the passage will be managed from multiple use and sustained yield; that all valid existing rights will be honored; and allow for the sale of the isolated, landlocked, and uneconomical parcels with the first right of refusal going to the adjoining landowner(s) at fair appraised value; and

1.8. No net loss of tax base with all land exchanges and sales. Tax obligations must stay with the property.

2. We oppose:

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

45. Government-Managed Lands

1. We support:

1.1. Multiple-use management of federal and state lands with protection of the traditional rights of use;

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

1.3. The equal-footing doctrine and insist on the passage of legislation to establish a deadline for complete transfer of public land back to state jurisdiction and management;

1.4. The Idaho Legislature joining with other states in the West, in an interstate compact, with respect to the transfer of public lands;

1.5. The timely salvage of trees in burn areas within our state;

1.6. Legislation that would promote harvest of trees and forage on federal and state land to help prevent and control wildfire;

1.7. The use of land-use management plans by county governments to encourage state and federal agencies to coordinate and protect the land within their tax base;

1.8. The legislature and the governor asserting their authority and taking all necessary measures to protect the citizens and
counties of the state of Idaho from federal agency overreach; and
1.9. The release of federal, state and local government held lands for development or private use.

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

1. We support:

1.1. The protection of grazing on public lands as a viable economic solution for managing agencies of rangeland by reducing forage minimizing costs for fighting catastrophic wildfires;

1.2. “Best Management Practices” by all State and Federal agencies, land grant colleges and research facilities on how grazing affects habitat for all wildlife including sage grouse leks;

1.3. “Rangeland Management Plans” that use current science-based information developed by the Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, Forest Service, and NRCS including the development of a certification process recognized by these agencies which would allow grazing permit holders to submit voluntary forage monitoring data to be used in the creation and development of said plans;

1.4. Range management plans should be developed in careful and considered consultation, cooperation, and coordination with local government, permittees, lessees and landowners involved;

1.5. The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, the Experimental Stewardship Program, and the Coordinated Resource Management Program encouraging producer control and supporting fees;

1.6. Our local NRCS “Grazing Land Conservation Initiative” (GLCI) and the “Conservation Reserve Program” (CRP) and its programs of intermittent grazing
which pay producers to set aside marginal
ground to enhance soil health;

1.7. Grazing fee formulas for AUM’s currently
used by Idaho Department of Lands, BLM,
Forest Service, and (PRIA) which are
based upon forage monitoring by agencies
and permittees under the “Federal Land
Policy and Management Act” of 1976
(FLPMA);

1.8. The current grazing permit holder to have
first right of refusal when land is sold and
when there is no permit holder, the
adjacent landowner should be given the
first right of refusal based on appraised
value;

1.9. All holders of grazing preference be fairly
compensated when federal land is sold,
traded, or exchanged and any entity
acquiring property from the federal
government to compensate grazing
preference holders;

1.10. Requiring any entity which acquires
property from the federal government to
compensate grazing preference holders for
loss of their property rights if that entity
does not continue to maintain and protect
those rights;

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

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

1.13. Selling of a permit by a holder to another
interested party that will continue using the
permit for its original intended purpose;

1.14. The new “Outcome Based Grazing
Authorizations” of 2017, which is designed
to offer a more coordinated approach to
resolve disputes between the BLM and its
partners within the livestock grazing
community when issuing trading
authorizations; and
1.15. All stakeholders being a part of the vetting
process when curtailment, termination, or
fee increases of any existing grazing
permits or allotments are proposed.

2. We oppose:
2.1. The reduction or curtailment of any grazing
activity for the creation or recognition of
wildlife corridors;
2.2. The U.S. Forest Service ruling that will
prevent transferring grazing permits for 25
head or less;
2.3. The termination of grazing permits for
administrative errors or omissions of the
land managing agency;
2.4. Mandatory forage monitoring by livestock
permittees on federal lands as proposed by
the Federal Land Management Policy Act;
2.5. The termination or curtailment of permittees
because of livestock proximity to bighorn
sheep, bison, and sage grouse; and
2.6. The purchase or retirement of grazing
permits or allotments by any State or
Federal agency, group, or individual whose
sole purpose is to not allow any further
grazing.

47. Idaho Forest Practices Act
We support the Idaho Forest Practices Act
except where it infringes on private property rights. We oppose The Forest Practices Act Streamside Retention Rule (Shade Rule) unless accompanied by fair market appraised value compensation to landowners for loss of property rights.

48. Landfills on BLM Lands
We encourage the development of new, as well as the continued use of, county landfills on BLM lands.

49. Local, State or National Land Designation
We oppose any infringement upon private property rights through any designation of land by any government entity, including highway scenic byways/corridors, National Heritage Areas, National Monuments and National Parks. We oppose any
change to federal or state land designation when there is the potential to harm agriculture.

We oppose Craters of the Moon becoming a national park.

50. Mineral Rights

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

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

51. Mining

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

52. Notification of Property Damage

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

53. Open Range

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

54. Pest Control

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

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

We support legislation that requires local, state and federal governments to manage lands to prevent spread of noxious weeds and pests from their lands to adjoining lands, crops and animals.
55. Protecting Farm Land
There should be no governmental taking of private property rights by restriction of use without just and due compensation.

We support the federal and state “takings” law in support of the U.S. Constitution, Article V.

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

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

56. Regulation of Agricultural Practices
1. We support:
   1.1. Long-standing sound agricultural practices such as field burning, including grass seed, straw, residue burning, timber slash burning and animal-waste disposal, cultivation and harvest practices;
   1.2. Farmer participation in voluntary airshed quality programs; and
   1.3. The farmer’s right to farm by being able to carry on sound farming and forestry practices and to be free from environmental regulations that are not proportionately beneficial to the implementation cost.

2. We oppose:
   2.1. Any legislation or regulations that would segregate any agricultural industry, agricultural crop, cropping practice or geographical area and would impose a higher air quality, water quality or environmental standard than is required of any other person, entity, industry or geographical area within the state;
   2.2. Regulations on agricultural practices that are not validated by sound peer reviewed scientific process and supported by scientific fact;
   2.3. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture having the authority to impose sanctions on livestock operators without first identifying specific problems and giving the operators an opportunity to correct said problems; and
   2.4. Mandatory registration or licensing of farms and ranches.
57. Right to Farm
We support the right-to-farm law, and the concept behind it, and encourage legislative changes to strengthen the law so it can be enforced at the local governmental levels through conditional use permits or other permitting processes.
We support local, state, and federal agriculture exemptions from dust rules.

58. Riparian Management
Proper multiple-use management of riparian areas is essential.
We believe these highly productive areas can be properly harvested with modern forest or livestock Best Management Practices (BMPs) and still improve riparian habitat for all uses.
We believe these areas should be properly used but not abused. However, management of the entire allotment should not be governed by forage utilization of riparian areas.
We support the concept that all existing roads along streams be given grandfather rights approval.

59. State and County Noxious Weed Control
1. We support:
   1.1. Strong enforcement of Idaho’s noxious weed law by the state and counties, together with appropriate use of special management-zone provisions;
   1.2. Idaho Transportation Department weed control policies at both state and district levels be required to be in compliance with the Idaho Noxious Weed Law each year by controlling all infestations of noxious weeds in a timely and effective manner and by controlling noxious weeds on the full width of all rights of way;
   1.3. Enforcement of timely and effective noxious weed control by all railroads on their rights of ways within the state; and
   1.4. Adding dog rose (Rosa canina) and sweet briar (Rosa eglanteria) to the Idaho noxious weed list.

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

61. Timber Trespass
We support legislation that would award delivered log values to landowners with no deduction for logging for incidental timber trespass. Additional penalties would be established for intentional trespass.

62. Wilderness and Restrictive Zones
1. We support:
   1.1. The traditional balanced multiple-use practices on all federal/state lands and that access to existing wilderness be free and accessible for everyone; and
   1.2. Adding adequate fire breaks in existing wilderness areas.
2. We oppose:
   2.1. All dedication of land in Idaho for wilderness and roadless areas and support the release of lands currently held in Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) back to multiple-use management. All lands designated as non-suitable for wilderness must be immediately released from WSA status;
   2.2. Designation of lands in Idaho as biosphere reserves, corridors or buffer zones, using the Lands Legacy Initiative, the Antiquities Act or National Monument Declarations by the executive branch of the government;
   2.3. Any expansion of the boundaries of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA);
   2.4. Any reinterpretation of the mandates of the SNRA which would impose further use restrictions; and
   2.5. The reduction or curtailment of any grazing or farming activity for the creation or recognition of wildlife corridors.

63. Wildfire Control
1. We support:
   1.1. Fire-control policy to put out any fire upon arrival or as soon as safely possible. Local
entities (such as counties, fire districts, and forest or rangeland protective associations) and private landowners and individuals being allowed to act as first responders. When the protection of the health, safety, and property of the citizens are in jeopardy, the local protective associations being allowed to act beyond the first response and initial attack phase of a fire. Local landowners must be allowed to protect private property including livestock on federal and state lands;

1.2. Changing state and federal wildfire policy to require that state and federal fire managers and incident commanders coordinate with county and local fire departments and landowners;

1.3. A provision that state and federal agencies will allow forest or rangeland protective associations in neighboring states, that meet the requirements of their home state, to enter into mutual aid agreements with forest and rangeland protective associations across state lines;

1.4. An increase in management activities, such as thinning and grazing, to achieve federal agency goals of reducing the potential for catastrophic wildfires;

1.5. A provision that state and federal agencies maintain a fire break strategically located to protect private property and to control large wild fires; and

1.6. An aggressive initial attack and suppression on all forest and rangeland wildfires on public land and firefighting suppression activities in addition to fire management, in order to protect our water basins and watersheds.

2. We oppose:

2.1. Landowners being held accountable for fire suppression costs except in cases of gross negligence; and

2.2. Efforts by the Idaho Department of Lands to include small forestry and/or hazard management operations to be defined as “Forestry Operations.”
FISH AND WILDLIFE

64. Animal Damage Control
We support animal damage control programs to control and manage predators, rodents and destructive wildlife.

65. Animal Threat and Public Safety
It shall be the responsibility of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services and any state agencies, that manage predatory or proven problem animals, to notify all residences within a 5-mile radius using a 9-1-1 reverse calling system of potential conflict in their area.

66. Endangered Species Act
We believe that modern society cannot continue to operate on the premise that all species must be preserved at any cost.
We believe basic requirements of human life have priority over protection of other species, including threatened or endangered (T/E) species. A thorough consideration of all potential adverse impacts to human economic and social welfare should be an integral part of any consideration to list and T/E species.

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

1.6. Livestock grazing as an effective tool to reduce wildfires and enhance plant and wildlife habitat.

2. We oppose:

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

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

2.3. Implementation of the endangered species pesticide labeling program, other than in critical habitat;

2.4. The listing of the Giant Palouse Earthworm (Driloleirus americanus) and the Greater Sage Grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus) and Slick Spot Peppergrass (Lepidium papilliferum) as an endangered species;

2.5. Listing any species before its critical habitat is identified within its scientifically established historical range. Habitat site specific assessments and recovery plans must include comprehensive appreciation and inclusion of the protection of private property rights; and

2.6. Any critical-habitat designation until it has been established beyond scientific doubt that the species in question is actually present and that endangered or threatened status is actually warranted. The data to satisfy the scientific criteria should meet the guidelines of the Data Quality Act under federal statutes sections 3504(d)(1) and 3516 of title 44, United States Code. The agency, organization or individual requesting the critical-habitat designation must bear the cost of proving presence of the species and this must be done through the use of the best available peer reviewed science.

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

1. We support:
   
   1.1. The department using good-neighbor management practices on the land they now own, including fences, pests, noxious weeds, and providing sportsmen with guidance and marked boundaries;

   1.2. The Fish and Game Department controlling the concentration of wildlife numbers on all lands and being prohibited from entering into agreements to limit access to any area, without approval of the local governing authority;

   1.3. Retaining the December 2016 composition and selection method of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission;

   1.4. Implementing a requirement for non-resident mentored youth hunts where both the non-resident mentor and the mentored youth must purchase matching species tags. Non-resident tags should cost more than resident tags;

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

   1.6. Reducing the depredation deductible. Compensation by IDFG for crop loss due to depredation shall be for actual loss minus the one-time deductible and should be expediently paid with no pro-rating;

   1.7. Oversight of the depredation account by the Idaho Department of Agriculture with technical support provided by Idaho Fish and Game;

   1.8. Fish and Game being responsible and pay for damages caused by management decisions;

   1.9. Idaho Fish and Game issuing emergency depredation permits to ag producers and landowners to harvest animals that are causing verifiable damage to crops, livestock and property. The issuance of these depredation permits by IDFG and other actions by IDFG to relieve depredation shall be free of conditions that landowners must allow hunting on their land. Landowners should be allowed to determine who hunts and they should be
allowed to receive compensation for allowing hunts on their private property;

1.10. Creating depredation areas for landowners who are annually affected by depredating animals and support mechanisms for quicker response in those areas;

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

1.12. Investigating transactions between the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to determine if there is a conflict of interest.

2. We oppose:

2.1. The acquisition of additional land by the Fish and Game Department;

2.2. Any increase in funding for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game from either the general fund or license fees without showing a specific need or use for the funds;

2.3. The erection of either permanent or temporary hunting or viewing blinds within 100 feet of a developed livestock watering site on public lands;

2.4. Idaho Fish and Game abdicating responsibility for year after year losses due to depredation impacts regardless of other reimbursements; and

2.5. Idaho Fish and Game utilizing animal depredation claims to count against actual production history (APH).

68. Fish and Game—Prior Notification

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

69. Fish and Game—Private Reservoir Companies

Fish and Game Department shall pay private reservoir companies for the use of that reservoir for fish habitat. The Department should also pay upkeep assessments on reservoirs in which they own water.
70. Fish and Game/U.S. Fish & Wildlife Responsibility

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

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

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

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

We support the Idaho State Department of Agriculture’s ban on the release of deleterious exotic animals into the State of Idaho.

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

71. Fish Species Population Management

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

72. Grizzly Bear

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

We support a hunting season on the grizzly.

The costs associated with grizzlies, including triple damages for depredation costs, should be borne by the federal government, and its agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.
Compensation should be paid to state and local agencies when any assistance in the management, control, or defense of the public is needed from such agencies. Compensation to state and local agencies should be paid regardless of whether a request has been made by a federal agency for assistance until such time as the current grizzly bear policy can be changed to allow less conflict with humans and livestock namely the delisting of the grizzly bear and transfer of management to individual states’ authority.

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

We oppose reintroduction of grizzly bear into any area of the state of Idaho.

73. Introduction of Salmon
We oppose the introduction of salmon above the Brownlee Dam.

74. Invasive Species
We support efforts to remove Asian clams from the waters of Idaho.
We support the listing of quagga mussels as an invasive species.
We support adequate state funding for inspections of all water craft and other vessels to prevent the spread and infestation of quagga/zebra mussels in Idaho waters.

75. Sage Grouse
We support predator control as a method to increase sage grouse populations. We encourage the use of bounties to control all non-protected sage grouse predators.
We support grazing on public lands as a primary method of increasing sage grouse populations by controlling the amount of vegetation that fuels wild fires.
We support private sector rearing and releasing of sage grouse.

76. Salmon Recovery
1. We support the following salmon-recovery alternatives:
1.1. Physically modifying the dams rather than tearing them down or lowering the water levels;
1.2. Improving barging such as net barge transportation;
1.3. Privatizing salmon fisheries for stronger fish;
1.4. Controlling predators of salmon;
1.5. Utilizing new hydroelectric turbine technologies to achieve the goals of increased power production and reduced hazards to fish; and
1.6. Regulating harvest of off-shore and instream fish.

77. Snake River Basin Snails
We support the delisting of snail species in the Snake River Basin and the grouping of snail species based on taxonomic/biological similarities. We oppose the future listing of new snail species.

78. Wolves
1. We support hunting and trapping of wolves in all hunting units including:
   1.1. Allowing an earlier start time for open foothold trapping in all units open to wolf trapping;
   1.2. Longer check time on all lethal sets;
   1.3. Allowing outfitters to sell wolf trapping trips;
   1.4. Making it legal to shoot wolves over baits;
   1.5. Eliminating regulations requiring diverters on snares;
   1.6. Allowing year-round hunting and trapping statewide with emphasis in high depredation areas; and/or
   1.7. Allowing an increase in wolf tags per person.

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

   We support a mandate from the legislature to the Idaho Fish and Game directing Wildlife Services to take control actions for wolves during winter months, when the use of aircraft can be more successful.

   Wolf Depredation Control Board (WDCB) funds should be spent on contracting for collaring, for control actions, university-level myopathy research,
and maintaining availability of a flight-worthy helicopter.

We support existence of the WDCB, or similar entity, and continued funding to provide services at the 2018 level or greater.

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

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

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

**EASEMENTS**

79. Conservation Easements and Scenic Easements

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

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

**ENERGY**

80. Affordable Energy

1. We support:

   1.1. Transparency in how energy monopolies plan to incur expenses and make investments that are passed on to ratepayers;

   1.2. Thorough, fair and publicly involved process for evaluating rate requests and setting rates; and

   1.3. Increased focus on removing barriers to widely available and affordable sources of energy.

81. Alternative Energy

We support the development of alternative energy.
We oppose a broad moratorium on alternative energy projects.

We support county control in the siting of these projects.

We support sales tax incentives to assist in the development of alternative energy projects of less than one megawatt constructed on or by existing agriculture operations.

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

82. Bonneville Power Administration Credit

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

83. Electrical Energy

1. Hydroelectric Dams:

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

We encourage the adoptions of hydro projects to generate power for sale.

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

2. Renewables:

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

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

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

3. Regulations:

We encourage state agencies to remove barriers that prevent utilities from increasing Idaho’s power generation capacity.
We oppose any deregulation, reorganization, merger or consolidation of power generation or transmission which could result in loss of water rights, less service or increased rates.

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

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

4. Transmission:

   We support upgrades in transmission and distribution. Routing of utility corridors should be placed on public land first and then to the areas of least impact to private property owners.

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

84. Farm Produced Fuel

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

85. Fossil Fuels

   We support the mining, and drilling of fossil fuels.

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

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

86. Nuclear Energy

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

   We support research and development of further usage of radioactive waste materials and safer ways of storage.
We support development of the fast burn sector of nuclear technology which massively reduces or eliminates the need for nuclear waste disposal.

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

87. Power Demand Control Program
We support demand control programs as long as current water rights and power usage contracts are protected. These programs must remain on a voluntary basis.

88. Renewable Fuels
We support the promotion and use of alternative fuels made from agricultural products, as long as they are driven by open markets and not economically supported by mandates and government subsidies.

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

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

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

LABOR

90. Legal Aid
We oppose state funding of Idaho Legal Aid Services.

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

91. Minimum Wage
We oppose any state minimum wage that is higher than the federal minimum wage.

92. New Hire Reporting
We support changes in the Idaho New Hire Reporting Law to extend the reporting date to 60 days.
We support not having to report seasonal temporary workers that work less than 45 days in a year.

93. Unemployment Insurance
Eligibility requirements should be made realistic to reflect agriculture’s seasonal employment practices.

94. Workers Compensation
Workers compensation for agricultural employers should provide:
1. Cost control measures and fair base rates;
2. Mediation for agricultural concerns;
3. Protection from third party lawsuits; and
4. Employer protection from worker caused injuries (i.e. drug & alcohol).
We support changes in the existing Workers’ Compensation Law that would take into consideration the employee’s responsibility when an accident occurs.
We support having the settlement reduced by the percentage that was determined that the worker was responsible.

TAX

95. Agricultural Property Tax Shifts
We are opposed to shifting property tax to agricultural real estate.

96. Assessed Value of Ag Production Land
We believe all land being used for commercial agricultural production should be appraised for tax purposes according to its current use, eliminating any consideration of its speculative value, using realistic productivity figures, realistic cost deduction, including government mandated control of noxious weeds, taking into account the USDA’s annual report on farm real estate values in Idaho and that only the landlord’s net share of production be used in computing value for tax purposes, as prescribed by Idaho State Tax Commission rules and regulations.
We support assessed values being capped at a 5% increase in any given year.
We support the retention of five-acre minimum productivity option and the Bare Land & Yield Option for forest lands.
We support legislation that limits the Idaho Tax Commission from compelling a reassessment of a category of property after March 1 of each year.

We support legislation that allows county commissioners to appeal an assessment change by the Idaho State Tax Commission for a category of property.

97. Budget Caps

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

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

98. Fuel Tax

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

We oppose taxing dyed fuel.

99. Impact Fees

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

We support simplification of current impact fee rules and procedures.

100. Investment Tax Credit

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

101. Local Option Taxation

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

102. Maximum Levy Rates

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

103. Personal Tax Privacy Rights

We oppose the county tax assessor’s office requiring personal tax information to establish land use.
104. Property Tax

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

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

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

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

105. Property Tax-Funding Local
Government and Schools

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

We are opposed to judges being allowed to levy
taxes.

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

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

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

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

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

106. Sales Tax

We oppose removing the sales tax exemption
on production items.
We support legislation that would exempt nonprofit organizational fund-raising from paying sales tax on those receipts.

107. Services Tax
   We oppose all tax on services.

108. Special Taxing Districts
   We support a requirement that all new taxing districts must be approved by a 66-2/3% majority vote of the registered voters within a district.
   We support legislation allowing special taxing districts to be funded by a household fee. All taxing districts that charge fees should be under the same three percent cap that applies to counties and municipalities.
   We support giving library districts the option to be funded by a household fee rather than through an ad valorem tax. If the library district chooses the household fee option, any bonds they pass must also be paid through household fees.
   We support a 10-year sunset on all special taxing districts, after which they would require re-authorization by the voters to continue.

109. State Budget
   We support zero-based budgeting.
   We support a constitutional amendment, limiting state spending to a calculation determined by population growth and economic growth of the state.
   We oppose balancing budget shortfalls by any tax increase.
   We oppose any state funding of Planned Parenthood.

110. Super Majority
   We support retaining the 66-2/3% majority vote as required in the Idaho State Constitution for bond levies.
   We oppose circumventing the required two-thirds majority by creative financing options.

111. Tax Compensation for Federal and State Managed Lands
   We recommend that a fee in lieu of taxes be assessed on all lands removed from tax rolls by state or federal agency management.
We favor an annual fee equivalent to local private property tax on land.

112. Tax Liens
   We oppose the recording of federal tax liens (IRS) by the county recorder without due process of law.

113. Tax Refund Extension
   We support income tax assessments and income tax refunds having the same statute of limitations.

114. Taxing Districts Sharing Administrators
   We encourage similar taxing districts to share administrators and secretaries on a county-wide or multi-district basis to help ease the tax burden of administration.

115. Urban Renewal Districts
   We support the repeal of urban renewal laws.

LOCAL AFFAIRS

116. 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.

117. County Commissioners
   We encourage county commissioners to develop a Natural Resource Plan per NEPA guidelines that clearly states the objectives and policies of the county in regard 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.
118. 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.

119. 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.
We support changing the number of members of the Idaho redistricting commission to 7 with the majority on the commission reflecting the current partisan makeup of the legislature.

120. Emergency Response Fees
We oppose the imposition of a “crash tax” to cover the cost of cleaning up spills at the site of an accident.
We favor reducing regulatory burdens which prohibit low-cost clean-up solutions.

121. Indigent Care Funding
We support the use of the interest from the tobacco settlement monies to reduce the indigent care deductible now being paid for by the property owners. The deductible should continue to decrease incrementally as the settlement monies increase, not to drop below $1,000. The reduced deductible for tobacco-related illnesses should be expanded to include a reduced deductible for all health-related situations.

122. Public Hearings
Public hearings that affect a given area of the state must be held in the area that is affected, at a reasonable time and date for those impacted.
123. Zoning
County commissioners should control all zoning in the county. Zoning should be site specific within the county; we oppose the use of blanket zoning ordinances, including sustainable development and smart-growth initiatives.
We recognize and encourage the use of planning tools allowed under state law to encourage planned and orderly growth in or near agricultural areas.

EDUCATION

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

125. Ag in the Classroom
We support "Ag in the Classroom" in school curriculum to increase student literacy of agriculture.
We support an increase in funding for Ag in the classroom.

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

127. Contracts for Teachers
We recommend that the tenure system for school teachers be eliminated and replaced with contracts based on evaluation and performance.
We support the concept of incentive pay that will improve teacher excellence.
School teachers should have the option of being able to negotiate their own contract with the school district as a private contractor.

128. Education Funding
We support that funding be made available from the state endowment fund’s reserve account to be used to maintain/replace existing buildings and facilities in school districts throughout the state.
Endowment funds designated for public schools should be used for school funding only.
129. Education Standards and Assessments
1. We support using:
   1.1. Professionally established standards and assessments that can be modified to reflect locally recognized educational values, goals and philosophy; and
   1.2. Standards to ensure the progression of a student that reflect a comprehension of the subject.

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

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

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

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

132. Mandatory Agriculture Education Class
We support state legislation requiring all high school students to take Ag-Ed in order to graduate, utilizing current STEM classes already available.

133. No Increase in School Time
We oppose increasing required school hours beyond 990 hours per year.

134. Parental Choice in Education
We support the voucher system for education.

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

We support optional kindergarten.

We oppose public funding of pre-kindergarten.

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

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

STATE AFFAIRS

136. Agricultural Research and Extension
1. We support:
   1.1. The University of Idaho Agricultural
       Research and Extension Service and urge
       the Legislature to adequately fund this vital
       program;
   1.2. Adequate funding to the College of
       Agricultural and Life Sciences to allow
       research to develop new improved varieties
       of seed that are classed as public varieties;
   1.3. Expanded research and education in all
       crop areas relative to Idaho. This must also
       include new and improved plant and animal
       varieties along with effective insect, pest,
       disease and weed controls;
   1.4. An informational exchange and cooperative
       effort within the tri-state area in agchemical
       registration and research as well as
       plant/animal variety improvement research.
       Every effort should be made by state and
       county officials and the University of Idaho
       to retain an agricultural extension agent in
       each county as an extension service of our
       land grant university. Strong pressure must
       be exerted to revitalize and improve the
       agricultural information and education
       programs;
   1.5. The hiring of new extension educators in
       the College of Agricultural and Life
       Sciences with primary training and
       experience in commercial agriculture and
       forestry; and
   1.6. Full funding, from both federal and state
       governments, for operations and research
       at the current U.S. Sheep Experiment
       Station, including continuous research on
       the effects of grazing and sage grouse
habitat, and the relationship between wildfire and grazing.

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

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

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

137. ATV Safety
   We oppose the creation of a mandatory class or special license for the ability to ride an ATV on private or public land.
   We oppose efforts to require the transporting of firefighting equipment that would present a hazard to the safe and effective operation of ATV and other OHV recreational equipment.

138. Ballot Initiative
   We support requiring all ballot initiatives to collect signatures from 6% of registered voters in each of the 35 legislative districts.

139. Bicycle Safety
   We support bicyclists using public roadways be subject to the same laws that motorists must obey.

140. Cell Phone Use
   We oppose any legislation that would ban cell phone use in vehicles for voice communication.

141. Commercial Auction Company Bonding
   We support legislation that would require licensing and bonding of commercial auction companies.

142. Constitutional Defense Fund
   We support adding another leadership position to the existing four-member council when voting on the distribution of Constitutional Defense Funds.
143. County Fairs
We support the review and revision of all county fair related state statutes to better reflect current year-round fairground operations under the administration of local appointed fair boards even above the 200,000-county population limit.

144. Cross Deputization of Law Enforcement Officers
We believe that cross deputization of county sheriffs and any tribal law enforcement officers should be voluntary.

145. Definition of Agricultural Buildings
1. We support changes to Idaho Code to define agricultural buildings as follows:
   1.1. They are buildings where agricultural products are stored, housed or grown;
   1.2. They are buildings where agricultural equipment, including licensed vehicles that are used in the production of agriculture can be fixed, repaired or stored;
   1.3. They are buildings that are used for the normal servicing of an agricultural business; and
   1.4. They can be used by employees as a place of employment as well as a place to have meals and take bathroom breaks as required by GAP (Good Agricultural Practices).

146. Executive Branch MOU/MOA
We oppose actions by the governor entering into Memorandums of Understanding or Memorandums of Agreement without legislative oversight and approval.
We support granting the legislature the ability to override a governor’s veto after the session is adjourned.

147. Falsifying Reports
Knowingly filing a false report and/or complaint to any agency shall be considered a misdemeanor and the perpetrator should be required to pay damages and/or expenses to the individual that was falsely accused as well as the investigating agency.
148. Hazardous Waste
We believe that each state should, to the extent possible, take the responsibility for treatment and disposal of hazardous waste generated in its state and that these waste products be disposed of in the most feasible manner that will not endanger life or resources.

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

We support a statewide hazardous materials clean-up day.

149. Health Insurance

1. We support:
   1.1. Private optional health insurance;
   1.2. Legislation that permits, promotes, and/or assists:
      1.2.1. In individual health savings accounts with tax free withdrawals for all health insurance premiums;
      1.2.2. In free market solutions to health care costs and access;
      1.2.3. In the establishment of defined contribution programs as opposed to defined benefit programs;
      1.2.4. In free clinics funded by local community/faith-based organizations; and
      1.2.5. In development of Direct Primary Care in Idaho supporting the offering of wraparound health insurance policies.
   1.3. We support health insurance as a risk management tool by reducing and/or eliminating the number of mandated services.

2. We oppose:
   2.1. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and fines for individuals and employers who refuse to carry health insurance; and
   2.2. Any legislation to require employers to carry health insurance on their employees whether they are seasonal or full-time.

150. Judicial Confirmation
We support the repeal of the “Judicial Confirmation,” Title 7, Chapter 13, Idaho Code, for ordinary and necessary expenses.
151. Legislative Testimony
We support accepting testimony at legislative hearings via remote audio/visual technology to be managed by the sponsorship of a legislator.

152. Liability and Tort Claims
We support current Idaho Statutes dealing with liability and tort claims and will resist any effort to weaken or erode them.

153. Medicaid
1. We oppose Medicaid expansion.
2. If Medicaid expansion is deemed constitutional, we would encourage significant side boards such as:
   2.1. Inclusion of language enabling the state to repeal the expansion if federal matching dollars are significantly reduced or if the federal government changes the percentage of the poverty level as tied to social security;
   2.2. Copay requirements for medical visits;
   2.3. Work requirements for able adults;
   2.4. Partial premium payments being paid by participants based on a sliding scale;
   2.5. Language that encourages participants to access correct portals for healthcare; and
   2.6. Options for $500 Medical Savings Accounts to be used for primary healthcare and Medicaid only to be used for catastrophic coverage.

154. One Senator Per County
We support an amendment to change the Idaho Constitution to allow one senator per county.

155. PERSI
We support changing the formula for retirement benefits to reflect total contribution in a fiscally responsible way that protects the taxpayers of Idaho and is fair to public employees who have contributed to the fund.

156. Private Property Rights/Eminent Domain
1. We support:
   1.1. Defining private property to include, but not be limited to, all land, crops, timber, water
rights, mineral rights, and all other
appurtenances and any other consideration
associated with land ownership;
1.2. An Idaho Constitutional Amendment
defining public use as found in the eminent
domain doctrine to prohibit the
condemnation of private property for
economic development or any use by
private parties. If private property is taken,
compensation must be prompt, just and
adequate; and
1.3. Compensating landowners in the cases of
partial taking of real property, when
government-imposed regulations cause a
loss in value of private property.
Landowners or tenants shall not be held
liable for any damages incurred as a result
of the condemnation. Entities condemning
property shall assume liability for any
damages incurred by landowners.
2. We oppose:
2.1. Landowners having lands adjacent to
federal and or state lands should not be
forced through coercion or fear of
imprisonment to allow new easements
across their land for public access to
federal and state lands. The taking of
property or easements should be permitted
only when there is eminent domain; and
2.2. The use of eminent domain for recreational
purposes, for private economic
development or to expand the land holding
of wildlife agencies.

157. Proof of Citizenship
We support the identification of U.S. citizenship
on Idaho driver’s licenses.

158. Proprietary Information
We oppose laws requiring insurance companies
or other private business entities to provide
proprietary information to state or federal agencies.

159. PUC Rates
We oppose any action by the PUC to move in
the direction of inverted block rates or in any major
rate design revision that would be detrimental to
agriculture.
160. Public Employees Bargaining
   We believe that public employees, when negotiating contracts, should be separate entities in themselves, and by statute not allowed to delegate or reassign their negotiating rights to professional negotiating forces.

161. Re-Establish Congressional Lawmaking Responsibility
   We support the state legislature in its efforts to encourage Congress to reclaim its constitutional responsibility of making law.

162. Refugees in the United States
   We oppose sheltering refugees who do not agree to uphold American constitutional government and values.
   We oppose any refugee program that adds increased stress to local services. We support any county that chooses to refuse or remove refugee programs in their county.

163. Regulation Reform
   1. We support:
      1.1. Complete review of existing regulations to determine their effectiveness and appropriateness prior to assigning more restrictive regulations; and
      1.2. Peer review of the existing regulations to determine their potential to mitigate the problems they address.

164. Regulatory Fines
   The remedy for any violation of federal and state agency rules should be to fix the problem rather than to pay fines unless the violation rises to the level of a felony.

165. Rights-of-Way
   1. We Support:
      1.1. Access to or through federal lands using RS2477;
      1.2. Allowing county commissioners the ability to determine the validity of an RS2477 claim, the right to move an RS2477 when it occurs on private land and the ability to temporarily close an RS2477 for resource reasons. To prevent the misuse of RS2477
claims, we recognize the superiority of a property’s title over RS2477 claims; and

1.3. Enactment of legislation to require that adjacent landowners be given priority to purchase at fair market value lands that have been vacated by railways, power companies, roadways, etc.

2. We oppose:

2.1. Committing easement rights-of-way obtained by public or private sectors to any new or additional purpose, either during their original usage or after abandonment, without consent of the owner of the land underlying the easement. Upon abandonment of railway or utility rights-of-way or leases, all property and rights associated with such rights-of-way or leases should revert to the current owner of the original tract; and

2.2. The use of RS2477 as a tool for the taking of private property without just compensation as prescribed in the Constitution.

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

166. Right to Bear Arms

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

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

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

We declare all firearms and ammunition made and retained in-state are beyond the authority of the federal government.
We support expanding reciprocity with other states for concealed carry permits.

167. Road Closures
We believe when any government entity closes a road, use on these roads for commodity production should be exempted from the closure. We oppose the closure of any existing roads.

168. Road Infrastructure on State Endowment Lands
We support the Idaho Department of Lands hiring or contracting a transportation planner to organize road infrastructure on endowment lands.

169. State Agencies
1. We support:
   1.1. The Soil Conservation Commission or successor entity advising and aiding local Soil Conservation Districts by providing technical support and a mechanism to receive financial support at no less than fiscal year 2010 levels;
   1.2. Representation by an agricultural producer on the Board of Regents for Idaho’s land grant university and on the Idaho Fish and Game Commission;
   1.3. Legislation to require that government rules and regulations, wherever applicable, be based upon supportive disciplinary peer reviewed scientific data and that wherever policies, rules or regulations do not meet this standard the responsible individual and/or individuals can be held liable;
   1.4. When a state law enforcement agency makes an arrest, there should be a means provided to reimburse the county for all costs associated in maintaining the prisoner; and
   1.5. The legislature reviewing agency rules. In order to approve a new rule, both the House and Senate must agree. A rule shall be rejected if either the House or Senate does not approve.

2. We oppose:
   2.1. Combining, splitting or changing government agencies without the approval of users of the services; and
2.2. Regulating any phase of farm and ranch business by any state agency that does not have an agricultural representative as a member of its policy making board or committee.

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

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

172. State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
We oppose the expansion of the authority of the SHPO and oppose any state funding.

173. State Legal Reform
1. We Support:
1.1. Reform of the state’s civil justice system, which would cure or substantially solve many of the problems farmers face with hostile, harassing legal services lawsuits. Any person or organization that sues to prevent livestock operation siting, or the use of agriculture or resource management practices, should be required to post a bond in a reasonable amount, which will be forfeited to the defendant to help defray their costs in the event that the suit is unsuccessful;

1.2. Legislation by the Idaho Legislature that would require any entity bringing such lawsuits to post substantial bonds based on the potential harm of the lawsuit. Individuals who file complaints against an agricultural operation and request an investigation must pay a fee to cover administration costs. Complete names, addresses and phone numbers are required on each complaint;

1.3. Legislation to elect district judges when appointments are made within one year of the next election;

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

1.5. Legislation to amend Idaho state statutes to ensure that justice and equity prevail in the awarding of attorney fees;

1.6. Idaho courts using only the United States and Idaho Laws in the court system;

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

1.8. Requiring judges to inform jurors of the legality of jury nullification.

174. States’ Rights and Sovereignty

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

175. Transportation

1. We support:

1.1. Continuation of independent road districts without oversight by county commissioners;

1.2. The Idaho Transportation Department utilizing revenue sources efficiently to maintain and construct Idaho roads;

1.3. The Idaho Transportation Department increasing their cost saving efforts;

1.4. The sales tax collected from vehicles (vehicles, batteries, tires and other general parts) going to road maintenance;

1.5. Increases in gross weights with axle weights non-changing;

1.6. The continued use of long combination vehicles (LCVs);

1.7. The Idaho Transportation Department policy of issuing oversize load permits for Idaho public roads;

1.8. The continued improvement of Idaho’s agricultural roadways;
1.9. Accountability of highway transportation department’s engineers for the cost over-runs and/or miscalculations for wrongful designs of highway projects;

1.10. Increasing permit fees on loads exceeding 200,000 GVW to be comparable with fees in surrounding states;

1.11. The review of current Idaho Transportation Department policies regarding economics of maintenance versus new construction of roadways;

1.12. Expenses for environmental studies and the expenses required to meet the mandated environmental standards being calculated and tabulated on an environmental budget and not included in the Highway Construction and Maintenance budget;

1.13. Construction and/or improvement of a North-South Highway to the Canadian border;

1.14. Port districts in Idaho that help move agricultural commodities;

1.15. Access of agricultural implements of husbandry and vehicles to any and all local, county and state roads/highways in Idaho, and oppose the imposition of any minimum speed requirements; and

1.16. Alternative solutions to wildlife overpasses.

2. We oppose:

2.1. A tax or fee increase on fuel;

2.2. A tax or fee increase on vehicles;

2.3. The removal of the Port of Entry system from the Department of Transportation; and

2.4. Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) wildlife overpass construction unless wildlife overpasses are the most effective solution.

176. Trespass

1. We support:

1.1. Programs to educate the public about private property rights and about trespass laws. Landowners retain the right to refuse access within the current law;

1.2. IDFG shall make a concerted effort to educate hunters about private property
rights and the location of private property in
their hunting regulations and maps. It is the
hunters’ responsibility to know where they
can hunt, and not the landowners’
responsibility to mark or post their property;

1.3. Making it unlawful to enter any facility,
legally or illegally, to use or attempt to use
a camera, video recorder, or any other
video or audio recording device without
permission from the owner or authorized
agent;

1.4. A law placing the burden of trespass on the
trespasser instead of the landowner;

1.5. The implementation of a trespassing policy
that would make it necessary for a person
or entity accessing private property, for the
purpose of gathering data of any type, to
first get permission to enter the property in
written format from the property owner; and

1.6. Mandatory education regarding current
trespass laws and private property rights in
the Hunter education program.

177. Tribal Jurisdiction on Reservations

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

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

178. Unfunded Mandates

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

179. Welfare Reform

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