



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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1 BASIC PRINCIPLES

3 **Purpose of Farm Bureau**

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

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

17 **Farm Bureau Beliefs and Philosophy**

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 We believe that a strong and viable agricultural
40 industry is one of the most important cornerstones in
41 the foundation of our national security, and the
42 importance of that role in society must never be
43 taken for granted. Economic progress, cultural
44 advancement, ethical and religious principles
45 flourish best when men are free, responsible
46 individuals. The exercise of free will, rather than
47 force, is consistent with the maintenance of liberty.

1 Individual freedom and opportunity must not be
2 sacrificed in a quest for guaranteed “security.”

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

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

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

17 We believe in government by law, impartially
18 administered, and without special privilege.

19 We support agricultural programs and
20 organizations that give equal opportunity for
21 developing skills, knowledge and leadership ability.

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

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

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

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

1 These rights are accompanied by the
2 responsibility that each man has to meet the
3 financial obligations he has incurred.

4 We support a society free of drug abuse.

5 We support English as the official language of
6 Idaho and the United States.

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

9 We support that public schools start the day with
10 reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

11 **The Constitution**

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

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

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

40 **State's Rights and Sovereignty**

41 We support the protection and defense of states'
42 rights and state sovereignty over all powers not
43 otherwise enumerated and granted to the federal
44 government as specified in the 10th amendment to
45 the constitution. The federal government must
46 respect state laws and state agencies. All lands
47 within the boundaries of Idaho, excluding those
48
49

1 lands as allowed by Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17
2 of the U.S. Constitution and ceded to the federal
3 government by the Idaho Legislature, shall be
4 subject solely to the laws and jurisdiction of the
5 state.
6

7 **Religious Life**

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

15 We support the right to have religious beliefs
16 and symbols of those beliefs presented in our
17 communities.

- 18 1. We vigorously support retention of:
 - 19 1.1. "So Help Me God" in official oaths;
 - 20 1.2. The phrase "In God We Trust" on our coin;
 - 21 1.3. The fourth verse of the "Star Spangled
22 Banner;" and
 - 23 1.4. The phrase "Under God" in the Pledge of
24 Allegiance.

25 **Capitalism - Private Competitive Enterprise**

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

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

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

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

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

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

47 We also believe that no element of society has
48 more concern for, understanding of, or a greater
49

1 stake in, the proper husbandry of poultry, livestock,
2 fur-bearers, game animals and aquaculture than the
3 producer.
4

5 **Economy in Government**

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

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

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

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

22 We support economy at all levels of
23 government.
24

25 **Education**

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 **Political Parties**

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

8 We recommend that Farm Bureau members
9 support the political party of their choice.

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

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

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

21 **COMMODITIES**

22 **1. Agrichemicals/Pesticides**

23 1. We support:

24 1.1. Increased research and labeling for minor-
25 use pesticide registrations; and

26 1.2. The continued use of approved pesticides
27 and/or related products until conclusive
28 scientific evidence proves there is an
29 unacceptable risk.
30

31 2. We oppose:

32 2.1. Establishment of zones of agricultural land
33 in which any kind of legal application or
34 storage of agricultural chemicals is curtailed
35 without sound, scientifically validated
36 evidence to warrant curtailment; and

37 2.2. Fumigant buffer zone limitations proposed
38 by the EPA without research giving
39 substantial evidence that current practices
40 are negatively affecting bystanders.

41 3. We recommend that compliance with federally
42 approved label instructions should absolve
43 farmers or commercial applicators from liability
44 claims of environmental pollution.
45

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.

1 We oppose double discounts by grain dealers.

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

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

8 9 **5. Environmental Studies**

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

17 18 **6. Fair Trade**

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

26 27 **7. Field Testing Biotechnology Products**

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

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

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

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

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

44 45 **8. Food Safety/Government Accountability**

46 We strongly believe a government agency
47 making public health decisions that result in product
48 recalls, product seizures or destruction of perishable
49 goods must be held accountable when such

1 decisions prove false. Such agencies must be
2 required to compensate or indemnify individuals and
3 companies for the monetary losses that occur
4 because of poor or false regulatory decisions.

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

10 **9. Industrial Grade Hemp**

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

18 **10. Lien Law**

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

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

26 **LIVESTOCK**

27 **11. Animal Care**

28 1. We support:

29 1.1. The rights of owners and producers to raise
30 their animals in accordance with commonly
31 accepted animal husbandry practices;

32 1.2. The role of a licensed veterinarian in the
33 care of animals and support current
34 licensing standards for veterinarians;

35 1.3. The Idaho Veterinary Practice Act and
36 oppose any efforts to weaken it or the
37 licensing standards; and

38 1.4. Punishments for those with non-service
39 animals who attempt to portray them as
40 service animals.

41 2. We oppose:

42 2.1. Any legislation, regulatory action or funding,
43 whether private or public, that interferes
44 with commonly accepted animal husbandry
45 practices;

- 1 2.2. Legislation that would give animal rights
2 organizations the right to establish
3 standards for the raising, marketing,
4 handling, feeding, housing or transportation
5 of livestock and production animals and any
6 legislation that would pay bounties to
7 complainants;
- 8 2.3. Any livestock and production animal care
9 legislation that would impose a stricter
10 penalty than the 2016 law;
- 11 2.4. The creation of an Idaho livestock care
12 standards board;
- 13 2.5. Requiring a licensed veterinarian for
14 docking, dehorning, castration and any
15 routine livestock healthcare management
16 practices; and
- 17 2.6. Comfort animals having the same rights
18 and privileges as service animals covered
19 by the Americans with Disabilities Act.
20

21 **12. Animal ID**

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

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

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

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

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

38 We support raising the fee for the lifetime
39 inspection.
40

41 **13. Bovine Tuberculosis**

42 We support an ISDA surveillance testing
43 program for Bovine Tuberculosis and its continued
44 funding.
45

46 **14. Brucellosis**

47 We oppose all efforts to eliminate the mandatory
48 vaccination law and require its complete
49 enforcement.

1 We insist that the National Park Service
2 eradicate brucellosis in Yellowstone and Grand
3 Teton Parks.

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

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

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

12 **15. CAFO Regulations**

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

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

19 **16. Data Confidentiality**

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

25 **17. Domestic Cervidae**

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

30 **18. Equine**

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

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

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

43 We support the continued classification of
44 equines as marketable livestock and oppose any
45

1 efforts to classify them as pets or companion
2 animals.

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

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

11 **19. Foot and Mouth/BSE Disease**

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

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

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

22 **20. Law Enforcement Training**

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

28 **21. Livestock Brands**

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

34 **22. Manure Management**

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

37 1. We support:

- 38 1.1. Research on manure management
39 including such areas as odor reduction and
40 waste and nutrient management; and
- 41 1.2. Programs that educate livestock operators
42 on techniques regarding properly managed
43 organic nutrient systems, especially if
44 implemented with consistent Best
45 Management Practices (BMPs) developed
46 by extension, university and the livestock
47 industry.

- 1 2. We oppose:
2 2.1. Manure being classified as industrial, solid,
3 or hazardous waste or as raw sewage.
4

5 **23. State Inspectors of Small Meat**
6 **Processing Plants**

7 We support state certified meat inspectors.
8

9 **24. State Veterinarian**

10 We believe the Animal Health Division of the
11 Idaho Department of Agriculture should be
12 administered by a licensed veterinarian.
13

14 **WATER**

15 **25. Aquifer Recharge**

16 We support the beneficial use of managed
17 basin-wide aquifer recharge with the state being
18 involved with both financial support and
19 implementation.
20

21 **26. Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs**

22 Release of water in power head space in Bureau
23 of Reclamation reservoirs shall be controlled solely
24 by state water law.
25

26 **27. Cloud Seeding**

27 We support the application of cloud seeding and
28 we encourage continued investment in the
29 application and research of cloud seeding.
30

31 We encourage the Idaho Legislature and the
32 Idaho Department of Water Resources to study and
33 allocate funding for cloud seeding efforts that are
34 proving beneficial to increasing precipitation.
35

36 **28. Comprehensive State Water Plan**

37 We urge the Governor to appoint Water
38 Resource Board members who will be protective of
39 the waters of the State of Idaho.

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

42 We support requiring legislative approval before
43 establishing minimum stream flow, instream flow,
44 reconnect permits, river basin plans and state water
45 plans.

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

1 We support a mandatory requirement for
2 legislative approval of agreements made by state
3 agencies with federal agencies when dealing with
4 commitments on water.

5 We support the Swan Falls Agreement as
6 originally written in October of 1984.
7

8 **29. Dams**

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

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

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

26 We support construction of the Galloway Dam
27 on the Weiser River.
28

29 **30. Effluent Trading**

30 We support the concept of effluent trading.
31

32 **31. Flood Control**

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

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

40 We support fill of existing reservoirs following
41 flood control releases to ensure that current water
42 users' reservoir space is filled and protected from
43 new appropriations.
44

45 **32. Moratorium**

46 We support the current Idaho Department of
47 Water Resources moratoriums on critical
48 groundwater development.
49

1 **33. Outstanding Resource Waters**

2 We support the Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs)
3 and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) process,
4 recognizing that Outstanding Resource Waters
5 (ORWs) are part of this process.

6 We oppose nominations of ORWs by parties
7 other than BAGs and WAGs.
8

9 **34. State Purchase of Water Rights for
10 Mitigation**

11 We support having the State of Idaho purchase
12 water rights for mitigation purposes to be held by the
13 State Water Board, so water trade may benefit
14 recharge and pump conversions.
15

16 **35. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)**

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

28 **36. Transfer of Water Rights**

29 We oppose the transfer of water rights to the
30 Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).

31 We oppose the taking of water for fish flushing.
32 Water held by the Idaho Water Resources Board will
33 be held and used for purposes intended and in
34 accordance with state law.

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

40 We oppose out-of-basin transfers of irrigation
41 water from lands enrolled in the federal cropland set-
42 aside program for use on lands that have not
43 historically been used for agricultural development.

44 We support re-evaluation of the need for flow
45 augmentation on the grounds that the science does
46 not support any biological benefit.
47

1 **37. Waste Management**

2 We oppose mandatory facility construction
3 without scientific proof of environmental pollution on
4 an individual basis.
5

6 **38. Water Development on New Non-Ag
7 Development**

8 We support legislation that would require
9 developers to supply water and water-delivery
10 systems using existing water rights or gray water to
11 new developments.
12

13 **39. Water Quality**

- 14 1. We support:
- 15 1.1. The continued management of water
16 quality, both underground and surface, by
17 utilizing “Best Management Practices”
18 (BMPs) as contained in USDA’s “Natural
19 Resource Conservation Services Field
20 Office Technical Guide” and Idaho’s “Forest
21 Practices Act.” Changes in these BMPs
22 should be based only on scientifically
23 monitored data rather than “best
24 professional judgement;”
 - 25 1.2. The development of BMPs for recreational
26 uses; and
 - 27 1.3. The efforts of canal and irrigation districts to
28 halt unwanted drainage into their water
29 systems.
- 30 2. We oppose:
- 31 2.1. The DEQ having the authority to arbitrarily
32 impose penalties on landowners without
33 first identifying the problem and giving the
34 landowner an opportunity to correct the
35 problem. If there is a difference of opinion
36 concerning the extent of the problem, a
37 reasonable and cost-effective appeal
38 process of the DEQ decision should be
39 available to the landowner; and
 - 40 2.2. Levying fees associated with State NPDES
41 programs implementation, operation and
42 permit issuance on agriculture and
43 aquaculture producers.
44

45 **40. Water Quality Standards**

46 Water quality standards must be site specific
47 and realistically achievable for each water body.
48 These standards must at least partially support
49 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

1 curtailment of junior water rights. Irrigation
2 districts shall have no net loss of irrigated
3 acres due to growth and development.

4 2. We oppose:

5 2.1. The Idaho Department of Water Resources
6 accepting any further applications for water
7 rights on surface stream water of the state
8 that has been over-decreed and
9 adjudicated. Adequate water for domestic
10 and agricultural purposes should have
11 priority over other uses when the waters of
12 any natural stream is insufficient, as per
13 Article 15, Section 3 of the Idaho
14 Constitution;

15 2.2. Changing the historical beneficial use of
16 water rights when that change will have a
17 negative impact on other water right
18 holders;

19 2.3. The federal government changing the
20 historic priorities and uses of water storage
21 reservoirs;

22 2.4. Any diminishment of storage fill rights due
23 to flood control or other discharge prior to
24 season use including efforts by any entity
25 that would count flood control releases
26 against the storage rights of water right
27 holders;

28 2.5. Any federal agencies' use of priority dates,
29 in regard to water rights, that are not in
30 accordance with Idaho Water Law;

31 2.6. The adoption of source water protection
32 plans/ordinances by local government that
33 create land use policies prohibiting
34 generally accepted farming and animal
35 agriculture practices/activities;

36 2.7. Indian tribes requiring/requesting water
37 right encroachment permits on state
38 waters;

39 2.8. Agreements between water groups that
40 neglect the first in time, first in right and
41 treat senior, junior, trust and expansion
42 rights near-equal; and

43 2.9. The 5-year averages that were used to
44 determine the quantity of water that is
45 allowed to be pumped by a user in the
46 future.
47

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.

LAND USE

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
2 and the federal government or in the
3 transfer of federal lands to Idaho;
4 1.7. Amending the Idaho Constitution to
5 mandate that any federal land conveyed to
6 the state in any manner from the date of the
7 passage will be managed from multiple use
8 and sustained yield; that all valid existing
9 rights will be honored; and allow for the
10 sale of the isolated, landlocked, and
11 uneconomical parcels with the first right of
12 refusal going to the adjoining landowner(s)
13 at fair appraised value; and
14 1.8. No net loss of tax base with all land
15 exchanges and sales. Tax obligations must
16 stay with the property.
17 2. We oppose:
18 2.1. Any land exchanges involving publicly
19 owned land unless there is strong local
20 support.
21

22 **45. Government-Managed Lands**

- 23 1. We support:
24 1.1. Multiple-use management of federal and
25 state lands with protection of the traditional
26 rights of use;
27 1.2. We support a study of the Payment In Lieu
28 of Taxes formula to determine if it is
29 meeting its purpose and is equitable in its
30 distribution of funds;
31 1.3. The equal-footing doctrine and insist on the
32 passage of legislation to establish a
33 deadline for complete transfer of public land
34 back to state jurisdiction and management;
35 1.4. The Idaho Legislature joining with other
36 states in the West, in an interstate compact,
37 with respect to the transfer of public lands;
38 1.5. The timely salvage of trees in burn areas
39 within our state;
40 1.6. Legislation that would promote harvest of
41 trees and forage on federal and state land
42 to help prevent and control wildfire;
43 1.7. The use of land-use management plans by
44 county governments to encourage state
45 and federal agencies to coordinate and
46 protect the land within their tax base;
47 1.8. The legislature and the governor asserting
48 their authority and taking all necessary
49 measures to protect the citizens and

- 1 counties of the state of Idaho from federal
2 agency overreach; and
3 1.9. The release of federal, state and local
4 government held lands for development or
5 private use.
6

7 **46. Grazing**

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

13 1. We support:

- 14 1.1. The protection of grazing on public lands as
15 a viable economic solution for managing
16 agencies of rangeland by reducing forage
17 minimizing costs for fighting catastrophic
18 wildfires;
19 1.2. “Best Management Practices” by all State
20 and Federal agencies, land grant colleges
21 and research facilities on how grazing
22 affects habitat for all wildlife including sage
23 grouse leks;
24 1.3. “Rangeland Management Plans” that use
25 current science-based information
26 developed by the Idaho Department of
27 Lands, BLM, Forest Service, and NRCS
28 including the development of a certification
29 process recognized by these agencies
30 which would allow grazing permit holders to
31 submit voluntary forage monitoring data to
32 be used in the creation and development of
33 said plans;
34 1.4. Range management plans should be
35 developed in careful and considered
36 consultation, cooperation, and coordination
37 with local government, permittees, lessees
38 and landowners involved;
39 1.5. The Idaho Rangeland Resource
40 Commission, the Experimental Stewardship
41 Program, and the Coordinated Resource
42 Management Program encouraging
43 producer control and supporting fees;
44 1.6. Our local NRCS “Grazing Land
45 Conservation Initiative” (GLCI) and the
46 “Conservation Reserve Program” (CRP)
47 and its programs of intermittent grazing

- 1 which pay producers to set aside marginal
2 ground to enhance soil health;
- 3 1.7. Grazing fee formulas for AUM's currently
4 used by Idaho Department of Lands, BLM,
5 Forest Service, and (PRIA) which are
6 based upon forage monitoring by agencies
7 and permittees under the "Federal Land
8 Policy and Management Act" of 1976
9 (FLPMA);
- 10 1.8. The current grazing permit holder to have
11 first right of refusal when land is sold and
12 when there is no permit holder, the
13 adjacent landowner should be given the
14 first right of refusal based on appraised
15 value;
- 16 1.9. All holders of grazing preference be fairly
17 compensated when federal land is sold,
18 traded, or exchanged and any entity
19 acquiring property from the federal
20 government to compensate grazing
21 preference holders;
- 22 1.10. Requiring any entity which acquires
23 property from the federal government to
24 compensate grazing preference holders for
25 loss of their property rights if that entity
26 does not continue to maintain and protect
27 those rights;
- 28 1.11. Funding from both federal and state
29 governments for the operation and
30 research of the U.S. Sheep Experiment
31 Station in Dubois;
- 32 1.12. A grazing preference right being transferred
33 from one base property to another base
34 property, if the transferor shall own or
35 control the base property from which the
36 grazing preference right is being
37 transferred and file with the authorized
38 officer a properly completed transfer
39 application for approval to the respective
40 agency;
- 41 1.13. Selling of a permit by a holder to another
42 interested party that will continue using the
43 permit for its original intended purpose;
- 44 1.14. The new "Outcome Based Grazing
45 Authorizations" of 2017, which is designed
46 to offer a more coordinated approach to
47 resolve disputes between the BLM and its
48 partners within the livestock grazing

- 1 community when issuing trading
2 authorizations; and
3 1.15. All stakeholders being a part of the vetting
4 process when curtailment, termination, or
5 fee increases of any existing grazing
6 permits or allotments are proposed.
7 2. We oppose:
8 2.1. The reduction or curtailment of any grazing
9 activity for the creation or recognition of
10 wildlife corridors;
11 2.2. The U.S. Forest Service ruling that will
12 prevent transferring grazing permits for 25
13 head or less;
14 2.3. The termination of grazing permits for
15 administrative errors or omissions of the
16 land managing agency;
17 2.4. Mandatory forage monitoring by livestock
18 permittees on federal lands as proposed by
19 the Federal Land Management Policy Act;
20 2.5. The termination or curtailment of permittees
21 because of livestock proximity to bighorn
22 sheep, bison, and sage grouse; and
23 2.6. The purchase or retirement of grazing
24 permits or allotments by any State or
25 Federal agency, group, or individual whose
26 sole purpose is to not allow any further
27 grazing.
28

29 **47. Idaho Forest Practices Act**

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

32 We oppose The Forest Practices Act
33 Streamside Retention Rule (Shade Rule) unless
34 accompanied by fair market appraised value
35 compensation to landowners for loss of property
36 rights.
37

38 **48. Landfills on BLM Lands**

39 We encourage the development of new, as well
40 as the continued use of, county landfills on BLM
41 lands.
42

43 **49. Local, State or National Land 44 Designation**

45 We oppose any infringement upon private
46 property rights through any designation of land by
47 any government entity, including highway scenic
48 byways/corridors, National Heritage Areas, National
49 Monuments and National Parks. We oppose any

1 change to federal or state land designation when
2 there is the potential to harm agriculture.

3 We oppose Craters of the Moon becoming a
4 national park.
5

6 **50. Mineral Rights**

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

12 We support requiring that property deeds state
13 the name and address of the person or entity who
14 owns the mineral rights for each property. If mineral
15 rights are sold or transferred, the deed should be
16 updated. The surface owner should be notified and
17 offered first right of refusal.
18

19 **51. Mining**

20 We support the continuation of mineral
21 extraction in Idaho as long as the appropriate mine
22 reclamation and environmental protections are in
23 place and followed.
24

25 **52. Notification of Property Damage**

26 We support notification to landowners when
27 fences or property sustain damage due to accidents.
28

29 **53. Open Range**

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

33 **54. Pest Control**

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

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

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

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.

1 **57. Right to Farm**

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

7 We support local, state, and federal agriculture
8 exemptions from dust rules.
9

10 **58. Riparian Management**

11 Proper multiple-use management of riparian
12 areas is essential.

13 We believe these highly productive areas can be
14 properly harvested with modern forest or livestock
15 Best Management Practices (BMPs) and still
16 improve riparian habitat for all uses.

17 We believe these areas should be properly used
18 but not abused. However, management of the entire
19 allotment should not be governed by forage
20 utilization of riparian areas.

21 We support the concept that all existing roads
22 along streams be given grandfather rights approval.
23

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

25 1. We support:

26 1.1. Strong enforcement of Idaho's noxious
27 weed law by the state and counties,
28 together with appropriate use of special
29 management-zone provisions;

30 1.2. Idaho Transportation Department weed
31 control policies at both state and district
32 levels be required to be in compliance with
33 the Idaho Noxious Weed Law each year by
34 controlling all infestations of noxious weeds
35 in a timely and effective manner and by
36 controlling noxious weeds on the full width
37 of all rights of way;

38 1.3. Enforcement of timely and effective noxious
39 weed control by all railroads on their rights
40 of ways within the state; and

41 1.4. Adding dog rose (*Rosa canina*) and sweet
42 briar (*Rosa eglanteria*) to the Idaho noxious
43 weed list.
44

45 **60. Timber Management**

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

1 We oppose actions by the Land Board or
2 Department of Lands that would inhibit or further
3 restrict these processes, including, but not limited to,
4 habitat conservation plans and conservation
5 easements.
6

7 **61. Timber Trespass**

8 We support legislation that would award
9 delivered log values to landowners with no
10 deduction for logging for incidental timber trespass.
11 Additional penalties would be established for
12 intentional trespass.
13

14 **62. Wilderness and Restrictive Zones**

15 1. We support:

- 16 1.1. The traditional balanced multiple-use
17 practices on all federal/state lands and that
18 access to existing wilderness be free and
19 accessible for everyone; and
- 20 1.2. Adding adequate fire breaks in existing
21 wilderness areas.

22 2. We oppose:

- 23 2.1. All dedication of land in Idaho for
24 wilderness and roadless areas and support
25 the release of lands currently held in
26 Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) back to
27 multiple-use management. All lands
28 designated as non-suitable for wilderness
29 must be immediately released from WSA
30 status;
- 31 2.2. Designation of lands in Idaho as biosphere
32 reserves, corridors or buffer zones, using
33 the Lands Legacy Initiative, the Antiquities
34 Act or National Monument Declarations by
35 the executive branch of the government;
- 36 2.3. Any expansion of the boundaries of the
37 Sawtooth National Recreation Area
38 (SNRA);
- 39 2.4. Any reinterpretation of the mandates of the
40 SNRA which would impose further use
41 restrictions; and
- 42 2.5. The reduction or curtailment of any grazing
43 or farming activity for the creation or
44 recognition of wildlife corridors.
45

46 **63. Wildfire Control**

47 1. We support:

- 48 1.1. Fire-control policy to put out any fire upon
49 arrival or as soon as safely possible. Local

1 entities (such as counties, fire districts, and
2 forest or rangeland protective associations)
3 and private landowners and individuals
4 being allowed to act as first responders.
5 When the protection of the health, safety,
6 and property of the citizens are in jeopardy,
7 the local protective associations being
8 allowed to act beyond the first response
9 and initial attack phase of a fire. Local
10 landowners must be allowed to protect
11 private property including livestock on
12 federal and state lands;

- 13 1.2. Changing state and federal wildfire policy to
14 require that state and federal fire managers
15 and incident commanders coordinate with
16 county and local fire departments and
17 landowners;
 - 18 1.3. A provision that state and federal agencies
19 will allow forest or rangeland protective
20 associations in neighboring states, that
21 meet the requirements of their home state,
22 to enter into mutual aid agreements with
23 forest and rangeland protective
24 associations across state lines;
 - 25 1.4. An increase in management activities, such
26 as thinning and grazing, to achieve federal
27 agency goals of reducing the potential for
28 catastrophic wildfires;
 - 29 1.5. A provision that state and federal agencies
30 maintain a fire break strategically located to
31 protect private property and to control large
32 wild fires; and
 - 33 1.6. An aggressive initial attack and
34 suppression on all forest and rangeland
35 wildfires on public land and firefighting
36 suppression activities in addition to fire
37 management, in order to protect our water
38 basins and watersheds.
- 39 2. We oppose:
- 40 2.1. Landowners being held accountable for fire
41 suppression costs except in cases of gross
42 negligence; and
 - 43 2.2. Efforts by the Idaho Department of Lands to
44 include small forestry and/or hazard
45 management operations to be defined as
46 "Forestry Operations."
47

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

- 1 endangered species and to mandate
2 responsibility to deal with such losses; and
3 1.6. Livestock grazing as an effective tool to
4 reduce wildfires and enhance plant and
5 wildlife habitat.
- 6 2. We oppose:
- 7 2.1. Any effort to create a State Endangered
8 Species Act (ESA);
- 9 2.2. Road closures and restrictions imposed on
10 land and water in the name of critical
11 habitat;
- 12 2.3. Implementation of the endangered species
13 pesticide labeling program, other than in
14 critical habitat;
- 15 2.4. The listing of the Giant Palouse Earthworm
16 (*Driloleirus americanus*) and the Greater
17 Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)
18 and Slick Spot Peppergrass (*Lepidium*
19 *papilliferum*) as an endangered species;
- 20 2.5. Listing any species before its critical habitat
21 is identified within its scientifically
22 established historical range. Habitat site
23 specific assessments and recovery plans
24 must include comprehensive appreciation
25 and inclusion of the protection of private
26 property rights; and
- 27 2.6. Any critical-habitat designation until it has
28 been established beyond scientific doubt
29 that the species in question is actually
30 present and that endangered or threatened
31 status is actually warranted. The data to
32 satisfy the scientific criteria should meet the
33 guidelines of the Data Quality Act under
34 federal statutes sections 3504(d)(1) and
35 3516 of title 44, United States Code. The
36 agency, organization or individual
37 requesting the critical-habitat designation
38 must bear the cost of proving presence of
39 the species and this must be done through
40 the use of the best available peer reviewed
41 science.
- 42 3. If lethal action is taken against any threatened or
43 endangered species for the preservation of
44 public safety, all investigations should be
45 conducted by the local officials of the county
46 involved. All applicable state and government
47 agencies are to be notified so as to provide
48 assistance when called upon.
- 49

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

- 1 allowed to receive compensation for
2 allowing hunts on their private property;
3 1.10. Creating depredation areas for landowners
4 who are annually affected by depredating
5 animals and support mechanisms for
6 quicker response in those areas;
7 1.11. The Landowner Appreciation Program
8 (LAP) being made available to anyone
9 owning 320 acres or more and recipients of
10 these tags should be free to do what they
11 wish with the tags; and
12 1.12. Investigating transactions between the
13 Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the
14 Idaho Department of Fish and Game to
15 determine if there is a conflict of interest.
- 16 2. We oppose:
- 17 2.1. The acquisition of additional land by the
18 Fish and Game Department;
19 2.2. Any increase in funding for the Idaho
20 Department of Fish and Game from either
21 the general fund or license fees without
22 showing a specific need or use for the
23 funds;
24 2.3. The erection of either permanent or
25 temporary hunting or viewing blinds within
26 100 feet of a developed livestock watering
27 site on public lands;
28 2.4. Idaho Fish and Game abdicating
29 responsibility for year after year losses due
30 to depredation impacts regardless of other
31 reimbursements; and
32 2.5. Idaho Fish and Game utilizing animal
33 depredation claims to count against actual
34 production history (APH).
35

36 **68. Fish and Game—Prior Notification**

37 The Idaho Department of Fish and Game must
38 have permission from the landowner before entering
39 private property.
40

41 **69. Fish and Game—Private Reservoir 42 Companies**

43 Fish and Game Department shall pay private
44 reservoir companies for the use of that reservoir for
45 fish habitat. The Department should also pay
46 upkeep assessments on reservoirs in which they
47 own water.
48

1 **70. Fish and Game/U.S. Fish & Wildlife**
2 **Responsibility**

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

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

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

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

27 We support the Idaho State Department of
28 Agriculture's ban on the release of deleterious exotic
29 animals into the State of Idaho.

30 All state and federal agency personnel must go
31 through the elected county sheriff for all law
32 enforcement.
33

34 **71. Fish Species Population Management**

35 We support alternative scientific applications to
36 modify fish species population without affecting
37 contractual agreements or causing detrimental
38 effects on flood control, irrigators, recreation and
39 economies.
40

41 **72. Grizzly Bear**

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

44 We support a hunting season on the grizzly.

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

1 Compensation should be paid to state and local
2 agencies when any assistance in the management,
3 control, or defense of the public is needed from such
4 agencies. Compensation to state and local agencies
5 should be paid regardless of whether a request has
6 been made by a federal agency for assistance until
7 such time as the current grizzly bear policy can be
8 changed to allow less conflict with humans and
9 livestock namely the delisting of the grizzly bear and
10 transfer of management to individual states'
11 authority.

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

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

18 **73. Introduction of Salmon**

19 We oppose the introduction of salmon above the
20 Brownlee Dam.

21 **74. Invasive Species**

22 We support efforts to remove Asian clams from
23 the waters of Idaho.

24 We support the listing of quagga mussels as an
25 invasive species.

26 We support adequate state funding for
27 inspections of all water craft and other vessels to
28 prevent the spread and infestation of quagga/zebra
29 mussels in Idaho waters.

30 **75. Sage Grouse**

31 We support predator control as a method to
32 increase sage grouse populations. We encourage
33 the use of bounties to control all non-protected sage
34 grouse predators.

35 We support grazing on public lands as a primary
36 method of increasing sage grouse populations by
37 controlling the amount of vegetation that fuels wild
38 fires.

39 We support private sector rearing and releasing
40 of sage grouse.

41 **76. Salmon Recovery**

42 1. We support the following salmon-recovery
43 alternatives:
44

- 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,

1 and maintaining availability of a flight-worthy
2 helicopter.

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

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

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

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

20 EASEMENTS

22 **79. Conservation Easements and Scenic 23 Easements**

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

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

31 ENERGY

33 **80. Affordable Energy**

34 1. We support:

35 1.1. Transparency in how energy monopolies
36 plan to incur expenses and make
37 investments that are passed on to
38 ratepayers;

39 1.2. Thorough, fair and publicly involved
40 process for evaluating rate requests and
41 setting rates; and

42 1.3. Increased focus on removing barriers to
43 widely available and affordable sources of
44 energy.

46 **81. Alternative Energy**

47 We support the development of alternative
48 energy.

1 We oppose a broad moratorium on alternative
2 energy projects.

3 We support county control in the siting of these
4 projects.

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

9 We support that alternative energy should not
10 receive subsidies beyond the bulk market rate. Any
11 such contracts shall be allowed to expire.
12

13 **82. Bonneville Power Administration Credit**

14 We support some type of BPA credit that allows
15 all citizens of Idaho to benefit from the BPA's use of
16 Idaho water for power generation.
17

18 **83. Electrical Energy**

19 **1. Hydroelectric Dams:**

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

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

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

32 **2. Renewables:**

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

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

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

42 **3. Regulations:**

43 We encourage state agencies to remove
44 barriers that prevent utilities from increasing Idaho's
45 power generation capacity.

1 We oppose any deregulation, reorganization,
2 merger or consolidation of power generation or
3 transmission which could result in loss of water
4 rights, less service or increased rates.

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

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

12 **4. Transmission:**

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

17 We support the initiation of on and off ramps in
18 transmission lines within the State of Idaho.
19

20 **84. Farm Produced Fuel**

21 We support grants, cost share programs and
22 bio-fuel production tax credits for farm-scale bio-fuel
23 projects.
24

25 **85. Fossil Fuels**

26 We support the mining, and drilling of fossil
27 fuels.

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

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

38 **86. Nuclear Energy**

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

44 We support research and development of further
45 usage of radioactive waste materials and safer ways
46 of storage.

1 We support development of the fast burn sector
2 of nuclear technology which massively reduces or
3 eliminates the need for nuclear waste disposal.

4 We support the utilization of the Idaho National
5 Laboratory to provide the lead role in advancing the
6 continued development of this technology.
7

8 **87. Power Demand Control Program**

9 We support demand control programs as long
10 as current water rights and power usage contracts
11 are protected. These programs must remain on a
12 voluntary basis.
13

14 **88. Renewable Fuels**

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

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

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

27 **89. Utility Companies**

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

32 **LABOR**

33 **90. Legal Aid**

34 We oppose state funding of Idaho Legal Aid
35 Services.

36 We oppose the uninvited presence of Legal Aid
37 personnel soliciting business on private property.
38
39

40 **91. Minimum Wage**

41 We oppose any state minimum wage that is
42 higher than the federal minimum wage.
43

44 **92. New Hire Reporting**

45 We support changes in the Idaho New Hire
46 Reporting Law to extend the reporting date to 60
47 days.

1 We support not having to report seasonal
2 temporary workers that work less than 45 days in a
3 year.
4

5 **93. Unemployment Insurance**

6 Eligibility requirements should be made realistic
7 to reflect agriculture's seasonal employment
8 practices.
9

10 **94. Workers Compensation**

11 Workers compensation for agricultural
12 employers should provide:

- 13 1. Cost control measures and fair base rates;
- 14 2. Mediation for agricultural concerns;
- 15 3. Protection from third party lawsuits; and
- 16 4. Employer protection from worker caused
17 injuries (i.e. drug & alcohol).

18 We support changes in the existing Workers'
19 Compensation Law that would take into
20 consideration the employee's responsibility when an
21 accident occurs.

22 We support having the settlement reduced by
23 the percentage that was determined that the worker
24 was responsible.
25

26 **TAX**

27

28 **95. Agricultural Property Tax Shifts**

29 We are opposed to shifting property tax to
30 agricultural real estate.
31

32 **96. Assessed Value of Ag Production Land**

33 We believe all land being used for commercial
34 agricultural production should be appraised for tax
35 purposes according to its current use, eliminating
36 any consideration of its speculative value, using
37 realistic productivity figures, realistic cost deduction,
38 including government mandated control of noxious
39 weeds, taking into account the USDA's annual
40 report on farm real estate values in Idaho and that
41 only the landlord's net share of production be used
42 in computing value for tax purposes, as prescribed
43 by Idaho State Tax Commission rules and
44 regulations.

45 We support assessed values being capped at a
46 5% increase in any given year.

47 We support the retention of five-acre minimum
48 productivity option and the Bare Land & Yield Option
49 for forest lands.

1 We support legislation that limits the Idaho Tax
2 Commission from compelling a reassessment of a
3 category of property after March 1 of each year.

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

9 **97. Budget Caps**

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

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

20 **98. Fuel Tax**

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

23 We oppose taxing dyed fuel.

25 **99. Impact Fees**

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

29 We support simplification of current impact fee
30 rules and procedures.

32 **100. Investment Tax Credit**

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

37 **101. Local Option Taxation**

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

42 **102. Maximum Levy Rates**

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

46 **103. Personal Tax Privacy Rights**

47 We oppose the county tax assessor's office
48 requiring personal tax information to establish land
49 use.

1 **104. Property Tax**

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

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

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

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

15
16 **105. Property Tax-Funding Local
17 Government and Schools**

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

20 We are opposed to judges being allowed to levy
21 taxes.

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

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

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

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

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

43
44 **106. Sales Tax**

45 We oppose removing the sales tax exemption
46 on production items.

1 We support legislation that would exempt
2 nonprofit organizational fund-raising from paying
3 sales tax on those receipts.
4

5 **107. Services Tax**

6 We oppose all tax on services.
7

8 **108. Special Taxing Districts**

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

12 We support legislation allowing special taxing
13 districts to be funded by a household fee. All taxing
14 districts that charge fees should be under the same
15 three percent cap that applies to counties and
16 municipalities.

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

22 We support a 10-year sunset on all special
23 taxing districts, after which they would require re-
24 authorization by the voters to continue.
25

26 **109. State Budget**

27 We support zero-based budgeting.

28 We support a constitutional amendment , limiting
29 state spending to a calculation determined by
30 population growth and economic growth of the state.

31 We oppose balancing budget shortfalls by any
32 tax increase.

33 We oppose any state funding of Planned
34 Parenthood.
35

36 **110. Super Majority**

37 We support retaining the 66-2/3% majority vote
38 as required in the Idaho State Constitution for bond
39 levies.

40 We oppose circumventing the required two-
41 thirds majority by creative financing options.
42

43 **111. Tax Compensation for Federal and 44 State Managed Lands**

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

1 We favor an annual fee equivalent to local
2 private property tax on land.

3 4 **112. Tax Liens**

5 We oppose the recording of federal tax liens
6 (IRS) by the county recorder without due process of
7 law.

8 9 **113. Tax Refund Extension**

10 We support income tax assessments and
11 income tax refunds having the same statute of
12 limitations.

13 14 **114. Taxing Districts Sharing 15 Administrators**

16 We encourage similar taxing districts to share
17 administrators and secretaries on a county-wide or
18 multi-district basis to help ease the tax burden of
19 administration.

20 21 **115. Urban Renewal Districts**

22 We support the repeal of urban renewal laws.

23 24 **LOCAL AFFAIRS**

25 26 **116. Annexation**

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

32 33 **117. County Commissioners**

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

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

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

1 **118. Distribution of Federal Fines**

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

5 We support legislation that would require federal
6 agencies to return a portion of federal fines collected
7 in the county where the infraction occurred.
8

9 **119. Elections**

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

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

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

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

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

23 We support changing the number of members of
24 the Idaho redistricting commission to 7 with the
25 majority on the commission reflecting the current
26 partisan makeup of the legislature.
27

28 **120. Emergency Response Fees**

29 We oppose the imposition of a “crash tax” to
30 cover the cost of cleaning up spills at the site of an
31 accident.

32 We favor reducing regulatory burdens which
33 prohibit low-cost clean-up solutions.
34

35 **121. Indigent Care Funding**

36 We support the use of the interest from the
37 tobacco settlement monies to reduce the indigent
38 care deductible now being paid for by the property
39 owners. The deductible should continue to decrease
40 incrementally as the settlement monies increase, not
41 to drop below \$1,000. The reduced deductible for
42 tobacco-related illnesses should be expanded to
43 include a reduced deductible for all health-related
44 situations.
45

46 **122. Public Hearings**

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

1 **123. Zoning**

2 County commissioners should control all zoning
3 in the county. Zoning should be site specific within
4 the county; we oppose the use of blanket zoning
5 ordinances, including sustainable development and
6 smart-growth initiatives.

7 We recognize and encourage the use of
8 planning tools allowed under state law to encourage
9 planned and orderly growth in or near agricultural
10 areas.

11
12 **EDUCATION**

13
14 **124. Adolescent Nutrition**

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

18
19 **125. Ag in the Classroom**

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

22 We support an increase in funding for Ag in the
23 classroom.

24
25 **126. Career Technical Education**

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

29
30 **127. Contracts for Teachers**

31 We recommend that the tenure system for
32 school teachers be eliminated and replaced with
33 contracts based on evaluation and performance.

34 We support the concept of incentive pay that will
35 improve teacher excellence.

36 School teachers should have the option of being
37 able to negotiate their own contract with the school
38 district as a private contractor.

39
40 **128. Education Funding**

41 We support that funding be made available from
42 the state endowment fund’s reserve account to be
43 used to maintain/replace existing buildings and
44 facilities in school districts throughout the state.

45 Endowment funds designated for public schools
46 should be used for school funding only.

1 **129. Education Standards and Assessments**

2 1. We support using:

3 1.1. Professionally established standards and
4 assessments that can be modified to reflect
5 locally recognized educational values, goals
6 and philosophy; and

7 1.2. Standards to ensure the progression of a
8 student that reflect a comprehension of the
9 subject.

10
11 **130. Knowledge of Constitution**

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

17
18 **131. Local Control of Education**

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

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

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

29
30 **132. Mandatory Agriculture Education Class**

31 We support state legislation requiring all high
32 school students to take Ag-Ed in order to graduate,
33 utilizing current STEM classes already available.

34
35 **133. No Increase in School Time**

36 We oppose increasing required school hours
37 beyond 990 hours per year.

38
39 **134. Parental Choice in Education**

40 We support the voucher system for education.

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

46 We support optional kindergarten.

47 We oppose public funding of pre-kindergarten.

48 We support legislation amending the Blaine
49 Amendment, Section 5, Article IX of the Constitution

1 of the state of Idaho to provide for an educational
2 system of grants or monetary assistance in which
3 the money follows the child.
4

5 **135. Veterinary Students**

6 We support an increase from eleven (11) to
7 fifteen (15) seats per year for Idaho residents in the
8 Washington-Idaho Cooperative Veterinary Medical
9 Education Program.
10

11 **STATE AFFAIRS**

12 **136. Agricultural Research and Extension**

13 1. We support:

- 14 1.1. The University of Idaho Agricultural
15 Research and Extension Service and urge
16 the Legislature to adequately fund this vital
17 program;
18
- 19 1.2. Adequate funding to the College of
20 Agricultural and Life Sciences to allow
21 research to develop new improved varieties
22 of seed that are classed as public varieties;
23
- 24 1.3. Expanded research and education in all
25 crop areas relative to Idaho. This must also
26 include new and improved plant and animal
27 varieties along with effective insect, pest,
28 disease and weed controls;
- 29 1.4. An informational exchange and cooperative
30 effort within the tri-state area in agchemical
31 registration and research as well as
32 plant/animal variety improvement research.
33 Every effort should be made by state and
34 county officials and the University of Idaho
35 to retain an agricultural extension agent in
36 each county as an extension service of our
37 land grant university. Strong pressure must
38 be exerted to revitalize and improve the
39 agricultural information and education
40 programs;
- 41 1.5. The hiring of new extension educators in
42 the College of Agricultural and Life
43 Sciences with primary training and
44 experience in commercial agriculture and
45 forestry; and
- 46 1.6. Full funding, from both federal and state
47 governments, for operations and research
48 at the current U.S. Sheep Experiment
49 Station, including continuous research on
the effects of grazing and sage grouse

1 habitat, and the relationship between
2 wildfire and grazing.

- 3 2. We request the legislature examine the role of
4 the University of Idaho as the land grant college
5 and take steps to ensure the university honors
6 its commitment as our agricultural research
7 facility. The university should be on the same
8 budgeting system as the State of Idaho.
- 9 3. We recommend that extension activities assist
10 farm programs on a first-priority basis, including
11 the integrated Farm Management Program.
- 12 4. We also believe that county agents should be
13 first and foremost county agricultural agents.
14

15 **137. ATV Safety**

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

19 We oppose efforts to require the transporting of
20 firefighting equipment that would present a hazard to
21 the safe and effective operation of ATV and other
22 OHV recreational equipment.
23

24 **138. Ballot Initiative**

25 We support requiring all ballot initiatives to
26 collect signatures from 6% of registered voters in
27 each of the 35 legislative districts.
28

29 **139. Bicycle Safety**

30 We support bicyclists using public roadways be
31 subject to the same laws that motorists must obey.
32

33 **140. Cell Phone Use**

34 We oppose any legislation that would ban cell
35 phone use in vehicles for voice communication.
36

37 **141. Commercial Auction Company 38 Bonding**

39 We support legislation that would require
40 licensing and bonding of commercial auction
41 companies.
42

43 **142. Constitutional Defense Fund**

44 We support adding another leadership position
45 to the existing four-member council when voting on
46 the distribution of Constitutional Defense Funds.
47

1 **143. County Fairs**

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

8 **144. Cross Deputization of Law**
9 **Enforcement Officers**

10 We believe that cross deputization of county
11 sheriffs and any tribal law enforcement officers
12 should be voluntary.
13

14 **145. Definition of Agricultural Buildings**

15 1. We support changes to Idaho Code to define
16 agricultural buildings as follows:

- 17 1.1. They are buildings where agricultural
18 products are stored, housed or grown;
19 1.2. They are buildings where agricultural
20 equipment, including licensed vehicles that
21 are used in the production of agriculture
22 can be fixed, repaired or stored;
23 1.3. They are buildings that are used for the
24 normal servicing of an agricultural
25 business; and
26 1.4. They can be used by employees as a place
27 of employment as well as a place to have
28 meals and take bathroom breaks as
29 required by GAP (Good Agricultural
30 Practices).
31

32 **146. Executive Branch MOU/MOA**

33 We oppose actions by the governor entering into
34 Memorandums of Understanding or Memorandums
35 of Agreement without legislative oversight and
36 approval.

37 We support granting the legislature the ability to
38 override a governor's veto after the session is
39 adjourned.
40

41 **147. Falsifying Reports**

42 Knowingly filing a false report and/or complaint
43 to any agency shall be considered a misdemeanor
44 and the perpetrator should be required to pay
45 damages and/or expenses to the individual that was
46 falsely accused as well as the investigating agency.
47

1 **148. Hazardous Waste**

2 We believe that each state should, to the extent
3 possible, take the responsibility for treatment and
4 disposal of hazardous waste generated in its state
5 and that these waste products be disposed of in the
6 most feasible manner that will not endanger life or
7 resources.

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

10 We support a statewide hazardous materials
11 clean-up day.
12

13 **149. Health Insurance**

14 1. We support:

15 1.1. Private optional health insurance;

16 1.2. Legislation that permits, promotes, and/or
17 assists:

18 1.2.1. In individual health savings
19 accounts with tax free withdrawals
20 for all health insurance premiums;

21 1.2.2. In free market solutions to health
22 care costs and access;

23 1.2.3. In the establishment of defined
24 contribution programs as opposed
25 to defined benefit programs;

26 1.2.4. In free clinics funded by local
27 community/faith-based
28 organizations; and

29 1.2.5. In development of Direct Primary
30 Care in Idaho supporting the
31 offering of wraparound health
32 insurance policies.

33 1.3. We support health insurance as a risk
34 management tool by reducing and/or
35 eliminating the number of mandated
36 services.

37 2. We oppose:

38 2.1. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care
39 Act and fines for individuals and employers
40 who refuse to carry health insurance; and

41 2.2. Any legislation to require employers to
42 carry health insurance on their employees
43 whether they are seasonal or full-time.
44

45 **150. Judicial Confirmation**

46 We support the repeal of the “Judicial
47 Confirmation,” Title 7, Chapter 13, Idaho Code, for
48 ordinary and necessary expenses.
49

1 **151. Legislative Testimony**

2 We support accepting testimony at legislative
3 hearings via remote audio/visual technology to be
4 managed by the sponsorship of a legislator.
5

6 **152. Liability and Tort Claims**

7 We support current Idaho Statutes dealing with
8 liability and tort claims and will resist any effort to
9 weaken or erode them.
10

11 **153. Medicaid**

- 12 1. We oppose Medicaid expansion.
13 2. If Medicaid expansion is deemed constitutional,
14 we would encourage significant side boards
15 such as:
16 2.1. Inclusion of language enabling the state to
17 repeal the expansion if federal matching
18 dollars are significantly reduced or if the
19 federal government changes the
20 percentage of the poverty level as tied to
21 social security;
22 2.2. Copay requirements for medical visits;
23 2.3. Work requirements for able adults;
24 2.4. Partial premium payments being paid by
25 participants based on a sliding scale;
26 2.5. Language that encourages participants to
27 access correct portals for healthcare; and
28 2.6. Options for \$500 Medical Savings Accounts
29 to be used for primary healthcare and
30 Medicaid only to be used for catastrophic
31 coverage.
32

33 **154. One Senator Per County**

34 We support an amendment to change the Idaho
35 Constitution to allow one senator per county.
36

37 **155. PERSI**

38 We support changing the formula for retirement
39 benefits to reflect total contribution in a fiscally
40 responsible way that protects the taxpayers of Idaho
41 and is fair to public employees who have contributed
42 to the fund.
43

44 **156. Private Property Rights/Eminent
45 Domain**

- 46 1. We support:
47 1.1. Defining private property to include, but not
48 be limited to, all land, crops, timber, water

1 rights, mineral rights, all other
2 appurtenances and any other consideration
3 associated with land ownership;

4 1.2. An Idaho Constitutional Amendment
5 defining public use as found in the eminent
6 domain doctrine to prohibit the
7 condemnation of private property for
8 economic development or any use by
9 private parties. If private property is taken,
10 compensation must be prompt, just and
11 adequate; and

12 1.3. Compensating landowners in the cases of
13 partial taking of real property, when
14 government-imposed regulations cause a
15 loss in value of private property.
16 Landowners or tenants shall not be held
17 liable for any damages incurred as a result
18 of the condemnation. Entities condemning
19 property shall assume liability for any
20 damages incurred by landowners.

21 2. We oppose:

22 2.1. Landowners having lands adjacent to
23 federal and or state lands should not be
24 forced through coercion or fear of
25 imprisonment to allow new easements
26 across their land for public access to
27 federal and state lands. The taking of
28 property or easements should be permitted
29 only when there is eminent domain; and

30 2.2. The use of eminent domain for recreational
31 purposes, for private economic
32 development or to expand the land holding
33 of wildlife agencies.
34

35 **157. Proof of Citizenship**

36 We support the identification of U.S. citizenship
37 on Idaho driver's licenses.
38

39 **158. Proprietary Information**

40 We oppose laws requiring insurance companies
41 or other private business entities to provide
42 proprietary information to state or federal agencies.
43

44 **159. PUC Rates**

45 We oppose any action by the PUC to move in
46 the direction of inverted block rates or in any major
47 rate design revision that would be detrimental to
48 agriculture.
49

1 **160. Public Employees Bargaining**

2 We believe that public employees, when
3 negotiating contracts, should be separate entities in
4 themselves, and by statute not allowed to delegate
5 or reassign their negotiating rights to professional
6 negotiating forces.
7

8 **161. Re-Establish Congressional**
9 **Lawmaking Responsibility**

10 We support the state legislature in its efforts to
11 encourage Congress to reclaim its constitutional
12 responsibility of making law.
13

14 **162. Refugees in the United States**

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

18 We oppose any refugee program that adds
19 increased stress to local services. We support any
20 county that chooses to refuse or remove refugee
21 programs in their county.
22

23 **163. Regulation Reform**

24 1. We support:

25 1.1. Complete review of existing regulations to
26 determine their effectiveness and
27 appropriateness prior to assigning more
28 restrictive regulations; and

29 1.2. Peer review of the existing regulations to
30 determine their potential to mitigate the
31 problems they address.
32

33 **164. Regulatory Fines**

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

39 **165. Rights-of-Way**

40 1. We Support:

41 1.1. Access to or through federal lands using
42 RS2477;

43 1.2. Allowing county commissioners the ability
44 to determine the validity of an RS2477
45 claim, the right to move an RS2477 when it
46 occurs on private land and the ability to
47 temporarily close an RS2477 for resource
48 reasons. To prevent the misuse of RS2477

- 1 claims, we recognize the superiority of a
2 property's title over RS2477 claims; and
3 1.3. Enactment of legislation to require that
4 adjacent landowners be given priority to
5 purchase at fair market value lands that
6 have been vacated by railways, power
7 companies, roadways, etc.
8 2. We oppose:
9 2.1. Committing easement rights-of-way
10 obtained by public or private sectors to any
11 new or additional purpose, either during
12 their original usage or after abandonment,
13 without consent of the owner of the land
14 underlying the easement. Upon
15 abandonment of railway or utility rights-of-
16 way or leases, all property and rights
17 associated with such rights-of-way or
18 leases should revert to the current owner of
19 the original tract; and
20 2.2. The use of RS2477 as a tool for the taking
21 of private property without just
22 compensation as prescribed in the
23 Constitution.
24 3. Any party who controls or obtains title to a right-
25 of-way must be responsible for maintaining
26 fences, drainage systems, all field and road
27 crossings, controlling noxious weeds and any
28 other agreement that might have been in
29 existence on any such acquired rights-of-way
30 before the corridor changed management.
31

32 **166. Right to Bear Arms**

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

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

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

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

1 We support expanding reciprocity with other
2 states for concealed carry permits.
3

4 **167. Road Closures**

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

8 We oppose the closure of any existing roads.
9

10 **168. Road Infrastructure on State 11 Endowment Lands**

12 We support the Idaho Department of Lands
13 hiring or contracting a transportation planner to
14 organize road infrastructure on endowment lands.
15

16 **169. State Agencies**

17 1. We support:

- 18 1.1. The Soil Conservation Commission or
19 successor entity advising and aiding local
20 Soil Conservation Districts by providing
21 technical support and a mechanism to
22 receive financial support at no less than
23 fiscal year 2010 levels;
- 24 1.2. Representation by an agricultural producer
25 on the Board of Regents for Idaho's land
26 grant university and on the Idaho Fish and
27 Game Commission;
- 28 1.3. Legislation to require that government rules
29 and regulations, wherever applicable, be
30 based upon supportive disciplinary peer
31 reviewed scientific data and that wherever
32 policies, rules or regulations do not meet
33 this standard the responsible individual
34 and/or individuals can be held liable;
- 35 1.4. When a state law enforcement agency
36 makes an arrest, there should be a means
37 provided to reimburse the county for all
38 costs associated in maintaining the
39 prisoner; and
- 40 1.5. The legislature reviewing agency rules. In
41 order to approve a new rule, both the
42 House and Senate must agree. A rule shall
43 be rejected if either the House or Senate
44 does not approve.

45 2. We oppose:

- 46 2.1. Combining, splitting or changing
47 government agencies without the approval
48 of users of the services; and

- 1 2.2. Regulating any phase of farm and ranch
2 business by any state agency that does not
3 have an agricultural representative as a
4 member of its policy making board or
5 committee.
6

7 **170. State Building Code**

8 We support amending the State Building Code
9 to prevent infringement on private property rights
10 through excessive permit requirements.
11

12 **171. State Hatch Act**

13 We favor restoring the State Hatch Act, 67-5311
14 Limitation of Political Activity, to its original form and
15 content.
16

17 **172. State Historic Preservation Office** 18 **(SHPO)**

19 We oppose the expansion of the authority of the
20 SHPO and oppose any state funding.
21

22 **173. State Legal Reform**

23 1. We Support:

- 24 1.1. Reform of the state's civil justice system,
25 which would cure or substantially solve
26 many of the problems farmers face with
27 hostile, harassing legal services lawsuits.
28 Any person or organization that sues to
29 prevent livestock operation siting, or the
30 use of agriculture or resource management
31 practices, should be required to post a
32 bond in a reasonable amount, which will be
33 forfeited to the defendant to help defray
34 their costs in the event that the suit is
35 unsuccessful;
- 36 1.2. Legislation by the Idaho Legislature that
37 would require any entity bringing such
38 lawsuits to post substantial bonds based on
39 the potential harm of the lawsuit. Individuals
40 who file complaints against an agricultural
41 operation and request an investigation must
42 pay a fee to cover administration costs.
43 Complete names, addresses and phone
44 numbers are required on each complaint;
- 45 1.3. Legislation to elect district judges when
46 appointments are made within one year of
47 the next election;
- 48 1.4. Entities from outside the jurisdiction of
49 taxing districts that file lawsuits against

- 1 public entities should be required to pay all
2 legal expenses;
- 3 1.5. Legislation to amend Idaho state statutes to
4 ensure that justice and equity prevail in the
5 awarding of attorney fees;
- 6 1.6. Idaho courts using only the United States
7 and Idaho Laws in the court system;
- 8 1.7. As a matter of equity, we support that when
9 a private party must act in the place of the
10 Attorney General to enforce and protect the
11 Idaho Constitution and statutes, the Idaho
12 Legislature must reimburse the party for all
13 reasonable attorney fees and costs if the
14 courts fail to do so; and
- 15 1.8. Requiring judges to inform jurors of the
16 legality of jury nullification.
17

18 **174. States' Rights and Sovereignty**

19 We support a law stating that Idaho and all
20 political subdivisions of the state are prohibited from
21 using any personnel or financial resources to
22 enforce, administer or cooperate with an executive
23 order issued by the President of the United States
24 that has not been affirmed by a vote of the Congress
25 of the United States and signed into law as
26 prescribed by the Constitution of the United States.
27

28 **175. Transportation**

- 29 1. We support:
- 30 1.1. Continuation of independent road districts
31 without oversight by county
32 commissioners;
- 33 1.2. The Idaho Transportation Department
34 utilizing revenue sources efficiently to
35 maintain and construct Idaho roads;
- 36 1.3. The Idaho Transportation Department
37 increasing their cost saving efforts;
- 38 1.4. The sales tax collected from vehicles
39 (vehicles, batteries, tires and other general
40 parts) going to road maintenance;
- 41 1.5. Increases in gross weights with axle
42 weights non-changing;
- 43 1.6. The continued use of long combination
44 vehicles (LCVs);
- 45 1.7. The Idaho Transportation Department
46 policy of issuing oversize load permits for
47 Idaho public roads;
- 48 1.8. The continued improvement of Idaho's
49 agricultural roadways;

- 1.9. Accountability of highway transportation department's engineers for the cost overruns 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

1 rights and the location of private property in
2 their hunting regulations and maps. It is the
3 hunters' responsibility to know where they
4 can hunt, and not the landowners'
5 responsibility to mark or post their property;

- 6 1.3. Making it unlawful to enter any facility,
7 legally or illegally, to use or attempt to use
8 a camera, video recorder, or any other
9 video or audio recording device without
10 permission from the owner or authorized
11 agent;
- 12 1.4. A law placing the burden of trespass on the
13 trespasser instead of the landowner;
- 14 1.5. The implementation of a trespassing policy
15 that would make it necessary for a person
16 or entity accessing private property, for the
17 purpose of gathering data of any type, to
18 first get permission to enter the property in
19 written format from the property owner; and
- 20 1.6. Mandatory education regarding current
21 trespass laws and private property rights in
22 the Hunter education program.
23

24 **177. Tribal Jurisdiction on Reservations**

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

31 We oppose any act by the State of Idaho to
32 return to the federal government any jurisdiction
33 acquired over Indian tribes under Federal Public
34 Law 280.
35

36 **178. Unfunded Mandates**

37 All new laws passed by the legislature that put
38 financial burdens on the counties or cities should be
39 funded by the state.
40

41 **179. Welfare Reform**

42 Believing that all people should productively
43 engage in providing for their own sustainability, we
44 support elimination of welfare in Idaho replacing it
45 with work programs.
46

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208-745-7448

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DISTRICT III

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MINIDOKA

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Paul, ID 83347
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CASSIA

Brian Darrington
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Declo, ID 83323
208-260-0085

JEROME

Carl Montgomery
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Eden, ID 83325
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DISTRICT IV

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DISTRICT V

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