



**Policies
for
2020**

Adopted by the Delegates
at the 80th Annual Meeting of the
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
December 2019

IDAHO FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Officers

Bryan Searle, President

538 E 1250 N
Shelley, ID 83274
(208) 521-5636

Richard Durrant, Vice President

7592 S Ten Mile Rd
Meridian, ID 83642
(208) 941-3241

Rick D. Keller, Executive Vice President & CEO

PO Box 4848 Pocatello, ID 83205
(208) 239-4200

Board of Directors

Fred Burmester (Dist. I)

19321 S Olson Rd
Downey, ID 83234
(208) 681-4499

Austin Tubbs (Dist. I)

5830 W 2500 N
Malad City, ID 83252
(208) 851-8889

Dan Garner (Dist. I)

3579 N Westside Hwy
Clifton, ID 83228
(208) 201-1796

Scott Steele (Dist. II)

6130 1st Street
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
(208) 390-5717

Stephanie Mickelsen (Dist. II)

9088 N River Rd
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
(208) 524-1295

Travis McAfee (Dist. II)

1293 W 3700 N
Howe, ID 83244
(208) 241-4542

Rick Pearson (Dist. III)

964 E 4300 N
Buhl, ID 83316
(208) 731-6233

Rick Brune (Dist. III)

3602 E 3880 N
Kimberly, ID 83341
(208) 829-5369

Gerald Marchant (Dist. III)

24 E 1975 S
Oakley, ID 83346
(208) 862-3811

Cody Chandler (Dist. IV)

1151 Devils Elbow Rd
Weiser, ID 83672
(208) 549-0091

Galen Lee (Dist. IV)

2770 SW 1st Ave
New Plymouth, ID 83655
(208) 573-3408

Matt Dorsey (Dist. IV)

21755 Hoskins Rd
Caldwell, ID 83607
(208) 573-2045

Tom Daniel (Dist. V)

1142 Deer Park Rd
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
(208) 267-5274

Marjorie French (Dist. V)

1071 O'Reilly Rd
Princeton, ID 83857
(208) 875-1086

Tom Mosman (Dist. V)

3099 Central Ridge Rd
Craigmont, ID 83523
(208) 937-2307

Jason Fellows (YF&R Com)

2592 W 800 S
Weston, ID 83286
(208) 680-0737

Judy Woody (Women's Com. Chair)

4251 N 2300 E
Filer, ID 83328
(208) 326-5686



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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; and

30 1.3. Compliance with federally approved label
31 instructions absolving farmers or
32 commercial applicators from liability claims
33 of environmental pollution.
34

35 2. We oppose:

36 2.1. Establishment of zones of agricultural land
37 in which any kind of legal application or
38 storage of agricultural chemicals is curtailed
39 without sound, scientifically validated
40 evidence to warrant curtailment; and

41 2.2. Fumigant buffer zone limitations proposed
42 by the EPA without research giving
43 substantial evidence that current practices
44 are negatively affecting bystanders.
45

1 **2. Commodity Diseases**

- 2 1. We support:
- 3 1.1. The quarantine of all sources of the potato
- 4 wart virus;
- 5 1.2. Active research and the dissemination of
- 6 information to all interested parties related
- 7 to rhizomania and urge that any imposed
- 8 restrictions be based on scientific data;
- 9 1.3. Any phytosanitary action taken by the Idaho
- 10 Department of Agriculture to protect the
- 11 Idaho potato industry from the threat of the
- 12 “Pratylenchus Neglectus” nematode;
- 13 1.4. The rewrite of the Idaho Plant Pest Act to
- 14 include language to protect growers from
- 15 being subject to unnecessary search and
- 16 seizure without probable cause, and
- 17 advanced warning to enter a premises; and
- 18 1.5. A federal and state PCN (Pale Cyst
- 19 Nematode) program that is based on good
- 20 science, stakeholder participation, and
- 21 minimal impact to grower operations.
- 22 2. We urge the Idaho State Department of
- 23 Agriculture to do all within its power to prohibit
- 24 the importation of Anthracnose virus into Idaho.
- 25

26 **3. Commodity Commissions**

- 27 1. We support commodity commissions having:
- 28 1.1. Self-governing status with no political
- 29 influence;
- 30 1.2. Boards solely elected by the
- 31 growers/producers;
- 32 1.3. Uniform provisions to run referendums;
- 33 1.4. Commissioner districts representing even
- 34 areas of production;
- 35 1.5. The right for legal entities to cast votes in
- 36 elections; and
- 37 1.6. Nominations held for a month-long period
- 38 followed by a month-long voting period so
- 39 that all growers can be represented and
- 40 participate.
- 41

42 **4. Commodity Sales**

43 We support expansion of Idaho agricultural

44 markets, domestic and foreign. We also support

45 trade missions abroad to better inform our producers

46 and the hosting of foreign delegations to our state in

47 efforts to increase our market share.

48 We support changes to crop insurance that truly

49 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 We oppose delivered feed being encumbered by
24 a blanket lien from a financial institution until the
25 grower/supplier is paid in full.

26 **11. Seed Indemnity Fund**

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

30 **LIVESTOCK**

31 **12. Animal Care**

- 32
- 33 1. We support:
 - 34 1.1. The rights of owners and producers to raise
35 their animals in accordance with commonly
36 accepted animal husbandry practices;
 - 37 1.2. The role of a licensed veterinarian in the
38 care of animals and support current
39 licensing standards for veterinarians;
 - 40 1.3. The Idaho Veterinary Practice Act and
41 oppose any efforts to weaken it or the
42 licensing standards; and
 - 43 1.4. Punishments for those with non-service
44 animals who attempt to portray them as
45 service animals.
- 46
47
48

1 2. We oppose:

- 2 2.1. Any legislation, regulatory action or funding,
3 whether private or public, that interferes
4 with commonly accepted animal husbandry
5 practices;
- 6 2.2. Legislation that would give animal rights
7 organizations the right to establish
8 standards for the raising, marketing,
9 handling, feeding, housing or transportation
10 of livestock and production animals and any
11 legislation that would pay bounties to
12 complainants;
- 13 2.3. Any livestock and production animal care
14 legislation that would impose a stricter
15 penalty than the 2016 law;
- 16 2.4. The creation of an Idaho livestock care
17 standards board;
- 18 2.5. Requiring a licensed veterinarian for
19 docking, dehorning, castration, pregnancy
20 checking and any other routine livestock
21 healthcare management practices; and
- 22 2.6. Comfort animals having the same rights
23 and privileges as service animals covered
24 by the Americans with Disabilities Act.
25

26 **13. Animal ID**

27 1. We support:

- 28 1.1. Procedures and or equipment for an animal
29 ID program that makes it possible to trace
30 an animal back to its original location;
- 31 1.2. The right of the owner to choose among the
32 acceptable methods of identification and to
33 leave their animals unidentified prior to
34 movement from the premises of origin;
- 35 1.3. Having the Idaho State Department of
36 Agriculture determine acceptable methods
37 of identification, including hot or cold
38 brands, for the state; and
- 39 1.4. Eliminating the mandatory brand inspection
40 for equine in Idaho.

41 **14. Bovine Tuberculosis**

42 We support an ISDA surveillance testing
43 program for Bovine Tuberculosis and its continued
44 funding.
45
46

1 **15. Brucellosis**

2 We oppose all efforts to eliminate the mandatory
3 vaccination law and require its complete
4 enforcement.

5 We insist that the National Park Service
6 eradicate brucellosis in Yellowstone and Grand
7 Teton Parks.

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

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

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

16
17 **16. CAFO Regulations**

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

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

24
25 **17. Data Confidentiality**

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

31
32 **18. Domestic Cervidae**

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

37
38 **19. Equine**

39 1. We support:

40 1.1. Construction of new slaughtering facilities
41 and/or use of existing processing facilities
42 in Idaho to slaughter equines without
43 duress;

44 1.2. The right of individuals and
45 nongovernmental organizations to save
46 horses from slaughter as long as they take
47 possession of the horses and are
48 responsible for their care and feeding;

- 1.3. The continued classification of equines as marketable livestock and oppose any efforts to classify them as pets or companion animals;
 - 1.4. When an equine is in the custody of a government agency and an adoption has not been able to take place within six months, that equine should be harvested or euthanized with minimal stress and without delay; and
 - 1.5. Funding for USDA food service inspectors in facilities that harvest horses.
2. We oppose:
 - 2.1. Any attempt to eliminate the right of the equine owner or BLM to the minimal stress slaughter of their equine for consumption or any other purpose.

20. Foot and Mouth/BSE Disease

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

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

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

21. Law Enforcement Training

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

22. Livestock Brands

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

23. Manure Management

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

1. We support:
 - 1.1. Research on manure management including such areas as odor reduction and waste and nutrient management; and

- 1 1.2. Programs that educate livestock operators
2 on techniques regarding properly managed
3 organic nutrient systems, especially if
4 implemented with consistent Best
5 Management Practices (BMPs) developed
6 by extension, university and the livestock
7 industry.
- 8 2. We oppose:
9 2.1. Manure being classified as industrial, solid,
10 or hazardous waste or as raw sewage.
11

12 **24. State Meat Inspectors**

13 We support state certified meat inspectors for
14 small meat processing plants.
15

16 **25. State Veterinarian**

17 We believe the Animal Health Division of the
18 Idaho Department of Agriculture should be
19 administered by a licensed veterinarian.
20

21 **WATER**

22 **26. Aquifer Recharge**

23 We support the beneficial use of managed
24 basin-wide aquifer recharge with the state being
25 involved with both financial support and
26 implementation.
27
28

29 **27. Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs**

30 Release of water in power head space in Bureau
31 of Reclamation reservoirs shall be controlled solely
32 by state water law.
33

34 **28. Cloud Seeding**

35 We support cloud seeding and encourage
36 continued investment in its application and research.

37 We support the Legislature and the Idaho Water
38 Resource Board continuing to study and fund cloud
39 seeding efforts.
40

41 **29. Comprehensive State Water Plan**

- 42 1. We support:
43 1.1. The Governor appointing individuals to the
44 Idaho Water Resource Board who will
45 protect the water resources of the State;
46 1.2. Requiring legislative approval before
47 establishing minimum stream flow, instream
48 flow, reconnect permits, river basin plans
49 and state water plans;

- 1 1.3. Amending the Idaho Constitution, Article
2 XV Water Rights Section 7, State Water
3 Resource Agency to read, "That any
4 change shall become effective only by
5 approval of the legislature."; and
6 1.4. Legislative approval for water agreements
7 made between the state and federal
8 government.
- 9 2. We oppose:
10 2.1. Minimum stream flows until sufficient
11 storage facilities are built to supply priority
12 needs first.

13 14 **30. Dams**

15 We support the Northwest Power Planning
16 Council focusing its efforts on issues that will provide
17 the region with its current and future power needs.

18 We support the construction, improvement and
19 increased size of storage facilities that provide
20 beneficial multiple uses of Idaho's water.

21 We support municipalities, federal agencies and
22 tribes advocating for and funding additional storage
23 projects to help meet the increasing demand for
24 water, and avoid taking irrigation water from
25 agricultural purposes.

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

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

32 33 **31. Effluent Trading**

34 We support the concept of effluent trading.

35 36 **32. Flood Control**

37 We support additional storage facilities,
38 increased recharge, and federal land transfers to
39 state ownership to control future flooding.

40 41 **33. Ground Water Districts**

42 We support changing the boundaries of local
43 groundwater districts that are directly connected to
44 the underground aquifer to include those who are
45 not currently participating but are of a common
46 ground water source.

47 We oppose any diminishment of authority of
48 local water districts or groundwater districts through
49 creation of a Groundwater Management Area.

1
2 **34. Mid-Snake Data Collection**

3 We support the Legislature appropriating
4 additional funding to enable the U.S. Geological
5 Survey (USGS) to conduct data collection and
6 analysis to complete the water quality report of the
7 Upper Snake/Rock Subbasin in support of Idaho's
8 Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) Total
9 Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development.

10
11 **35. Moratorium**

12 We support the current Idaho Department of
13 Water Resources moratoriums on critical
14 groundwater development.

15
16 **36. Outstanding Resource Waters**

17 We support the Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs)
18 and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) process as
19 it pertains to Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs).

20 We oppose nominations of ORWs by parties
21 other than BAGs and WAGs.

22
23 **37. State Purchase of Water Rights for
24 Mitigation**

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

29
30 **38. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)**

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

41
42 **39. Transfer of Water Rights**

43 We believe all water in Idaho should be used
44 beneficially. In the event the BOR or IDWR desires
45 use of water they would have to negotiate on a
46 yearly basis for rental-pool water in accordance with
47 state water law.

48 1. We support:

1 1.1. Re-evaluation of the need for flow
2 augmentation on the grounds that the
3 science does not support any biological
4 benefit.

5 1. We oppose:

6 2.1. The transfer of water rights to the Bureau of
7 Reclamation (BOR);

8 2.2. The taking of water for fish flushing. Water
9 held by the Idaho Water Resource Board
10 will be held and used for purposes intended
11 and in accordance with state law; and

12 2.3. Out-of-basin transfers of irrigation water
13 from lands enrolled in the federal cropland
14 set-aside program for use on lands that
15 have not historically been used for
16 agricultural development.
17

18 **40. Waste Management**

19 We oppose mandatory waste management
20 facility construction without scientific proof of
21 environmental pollution on an individual basis.
22

23 **41. Water Development on New Non-Ag 24 Development**

25 We support legislation that would require
26 developers to supply water and water-delivery
27 systems using existing water rights or gray water to
28 new developments.
29

30 **42. Water Quality**

31 1. We support:

32 1.1. The continued management of water
33 quality, both underground and surface, by
34 utilizing "Best Management Practices"
35 (BMPs) as contained in USDA's "Natural
36 Resource Conservation Services Field
37 Office Technical Guide" and Idaho's "Forest
38 Practices Act." Changes in these BMPs
39 should be based only on scientifically
40 monitored data rather than "best
41 professional judgement";

42 1.2. The development of BMPs for recreational
43 uses; and

44 1.3. The efforts of canal and irrigation districts to
45 halt unwanted drainage into their water
46 systems.

47 2. We oppose:

48 2.1. The DEQ having the authority to arbitrarily
49 impose penalties on landowners without

1 first identifying the problem and giving the
2 landowner an opportunity to correct the
3 problem. If there is a difference of opinion
4 concerning the extent of the problem, a
5 reasonable and cost-effective appeal
6 process of the DEQ decision should be
7 available to the landowner; and

- 8 2.2. Levying fees associated with State NPDES
9 programs implementation, operation and
10 permit issuance on agriculture and
11 aquaculture producers.
12

13 **43. Water Quality Standards**

14 Water quality standards must be site specific
15 and realistically achievable for each water body.
16 These standards must at least partially support
17 designated beneficial uses.
18

19 **44. Water Rights**

20 1. We support:

- 21 1.1. State ownership and control of Idaho water
22 held in trust for the residents of the State of
23 Idaho, and will oppose any policy, program
24 or regulation, including Federal Energy
25 Regulatory Commission (FERC)
26 relicensing, which would infringe on this
27 right;
- 28 1.2. Defining local public interest, under water
29 right law, to give priority to beneficial uses
30 and agricultural viability, with local vested
31 interest and use, a priority;
- 32 1.3. Sanctions upon any party making frivolous
33 claims against water right applications.
34 Frivolous claims are not reasonably
35 grounded in fact or law causing
36 unnecessary delay, increased cost, or
37 harassment;
- 38 1.4. Permittees on federal land being
39 recognized and acknowledged as the
40 owners of stock water rights in their
41 allotments as their livestock provide
42 beneficial use under state law and the
43 water rights are an appurtenance of the
44 private base property;
- 45 1.5. Requiring that minimum stream flows not
46 jeopardize water rights and are being
47 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;
 - 1.11. Efforts by local groundwater districts to provide supplemental or water bank water to senior surface water users to prevent curtailment of junior water rights. Irrigation districts shall have no net loss of irrigated acres due to growth and development; and
 - 1.12. Idaho water law that denies considering flood control releases as a beneficial use.
2. We oppose:
- 2.1. The Idaho Department of Water Resources accepting any further applications for water rights on surface stream water of the state that has been over-decreed and adjudicated. Adequate water for domestic and agricultural purposes should have priority over other uses when the waters of any natural stream is insufficient, as per Article 15, Section 3 of the Idaho Constitution;
 - 2.2. Changing the historical beneficial use of water rights when that change will have a negative impact on other water right holders;
 - 2.3. The federal government changing the historic priorities and uses of water storage reservoirs;
 - 2.4. Any diminishment of storage fill rights due to flood control or other discharge prior to season use including efforts by any entity that would count flood control releases against the storage rights of water right holders;

- 1 2.5. Any federal agencies' use of priority dates,
2 in regard to water rights, that are not in
3 accordance with Idaho Water Law;
- 4 2.6. The adoption of source water protection
5 plans/ordinances by local government that
6 create land use policies prohibiting
7 generally accepted farming and animal
8 agriculture practices/activities;
- 9 2.7. Indian tribes requiring/requesting water
10 right encroachment permits on state
11 waters;
- 12 2.8. Agreements between water groups that
13 neglect the first in time, first in right and
14 treat senior, junior, trust and expansion
15 rights near-equal; and
- 16 2.9. The 5-year averages that were used to
17 determine the quantity of water that is
18 allowed to be pumped by a user in the
19 future.
20

21 **45. Water Spreading**

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

30 We support legislation and rulemaking that will
31 protect the full use of an irrigation water right.
32

33 **46. Water Use - International Water** 34 **Agreements**

35 We support the renewal of the Columbia River
36 Treaty with Canada in such a manner as to maintain
37 its original focus upon flood control and power
38 generation.
39

40 **LAND USE**

41 **47. Government Land Transactions**

- 42 1. We support:
 - 43 1.1. No net loss of private property;
 - 44 1.2. Enactment of legislation to require prior
45 legislative approval for any state land
46 acquisition on a parcel-by-parcel basis;
47

- 1 1.3. Prohibiting the sale of state land to the
2 federal government or agencies of the
3 federal government, except for the purpose
4 of building federal facilities or structures;
- 5 1.4. When land is to be sold, the current grazing
6 permit holder must have the first right of
7 refusal. If there is no permit holder, the
8 adjacent landowner should be given the
9 first right of refusal based on appraised
10 value. When federal land is sold, traded, or
11 exchanged, all holders of grazing
12 preference must be fairly compensated;
- 13 1.5. Requiring any entity which acquires
14 property from the federal government, to
15 compensate grazing preference holders on
16 the former federally administered lands for
17 the loss of their property rights if that entity
18 does not continue to maintain and protect
19 those rights;
- 20 1.6. The enactment of legislation to ensure that
21 none of the valid existing private rights are
22 lost in any land exchange between Idaho
23 and the federal government or in the
24 transfer of federal lands to Idaho;
- 25 1.7. Amending the Idaho Constitution to
26 mandate that any federal land conveyed to
27 the state in any manner from the date of the
28 passage will be managed from multiple use
29 and sustained yield; that all valid existing
30 rights will be honored; and allow for the
31 sale of the isolated, landlocked, and
32 uneconomical parcels with the first right of
33 refusal going to the adjoining landowner(s)
34 at fair appraised value; and
- 35 1.8. No net loss of tax base with all land
36 exchanges and sales. Tax obligations must
37 stay with the property.
- 38 2. We oppose:
 - 39 2.1. Any land exchanges involving publicly
40 owned land unless there is strong local
41 support.

43 **48. Government-Managed Lands**

- 44 1. We support:
 - 45 1.1. Multiple-use management of federal and
46 state lands with protection of the traditional
47 rights of use;
 - 48 1.2. A study of the Payment In Lieu of Taxes
49 formula to determine if it is meeting its

- 1 purpose and is equitable in its distribution
2 of funds;
- 3 1.3. The equal-footing doctrine and insist on the
4 passage of legislation to establish a
5 deadline for complete transfer of public land
6 back to state jurisdiction and management;
- 7 1.4. The Idaho Legislature joining with other
8 states in the West, in an interstate compact,
9 with respect to the transfer of public lands;
- 10 1.5. The timely salvage of trees in burn areas
11 within our state;
- 12 1.6. Legislation that would promote harvest of
13 trees and forage on federal and state land
14 to help prevent and control wildfire;
- 15 1.7. The use of land-use management plans by
16 county governments to encourage state
17 and federal agencies to coordinate and
18 protect the land within their tax base;
- 19 1.8. The legislature and the governor asserting
20 their authority and taking all necessary
21 measures to protect the citizens and
22 counties of the state of Idaho from federal
23 agency overreach;
- 24 1.9. The release of federal, state and local
25 government held lands for development or
26 private use; and
- 27 1.10. Proactively utilizing Good Neighbor
28 Authority, or similar programs to more
29 productively manage federal lands in Idaho.
30

31 **49. Grazing**

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

37 1. We support:

- 38 1.1. The protection of grazing on public lands as
39 a viable economic solution for managing
40 agencies of rangeland by reducing forage
41 minimizing costs for fighting catastrophic
42 wildfires;
- 43 1.2. "Best Management Practices" by all State
44 and Federal agencies, land grant colleges
45 and research facilities on how grazing
46 affects habitat for all wildlife including sage
47 grouse leks;

- 1 1.3. "Rangeland Management Plans" that use
2 current science-based information
3 developed by the Idaho Department of
4 Lands, BLM, Forest Service, and NRCS
5 including the development of a certification
6 process recognized by these agencies
7 which would allow grazing permit holders to
8 submit voluntary forage monitoring data to
9 be used in the creation and development of
10 said plans;
- 11 1.4. Range management plans should be
12 developed in careful and considered
13 consultation, cooperation, and coordination
14 with local government, permittees, lessees
15 and landowners involved;
- 16 1.5. The Idaho Rangeland Resource
17 Commission, the Experimental Stewardship
18 Program, and the Coordinated Resource
19 Management Program encouraging
20 producer control and supporting fees;
- 21 1.6. Our local NRCS "Grazing Land
22 Conservation Initiative" (GLCI) and the
23 "Conservation Reserve Program" (CRP)
24 and its programs of intermittent grazing
25 which pay producers to set aside marginal
26 ground to enhance soil health;
- 27 1.7. Grazing fee formulas for AUM's currently
28 used by Idaho Department of Lands, BLM,
29 Forest Service, and (PRIA) which are
30 based upon forage monitoring by agencies
31 and permittees under the "Federal Land
32 Policy and Management Act" of 1976
33 (FLPMA);
- 34 1.8. The current grazing permit holder to have
35 first right of refusal when land is sold and
36 when there is no permit holder, the
37 adjacent landowner should be given the
38 first right of refusal based on appraised
39 value;
- 40 1.9. All holders of grazing preference be fairly
41 compensated when federal land is sold,
42 traded, or exchanged and any entity
43 acquiring property from the federal
44 government to compensate grazing
45 preference holders;
- 46 1.10. Requiring any entity which acquires
47 property from the federal government to
48 compensate grazing preference holders for
49 loss of their property rights if that entity

- 1 does not continue to maintain and protect
2 those rights;
- 3 1.11. Funding from both federal and state
4 governments for the operation and
5 research of the U.S. Sheep Experiment
6 Station in Dubois;
- 7 1.12. A grazing preference right being transferred
8 from one base property to another base
9 property, if the transferor shall own or
10 control the base property from which the
11 grazing preference right is being
12 transferred and file with the authorized
13 officer a properly completed transfer
14 application for approval to the respective
15 agency;
- 16 1.13. Selling of a permit by a holder to another
17 interested party that will continue using the
18 permit for its original intended purpose;
- 19 1.14. The new "Outcome Based Grazing
20 Authorizations" of 2017, which is designed
21 to offer a more coordinated approach to
22 resolve disputes between the BLM and its
23 partners within the livestock grazing
24 community when issuing trading
25 authorizations; and
- 26 1.15. All stakeholders being a part of the vetting
27 process when curtailment, termination, or
28 fee increases of any existing grazing
29 permits or allotments are proposed.
- 30 2. We oppose:
- 31 2.1. The reduction or curtailment of any grazing
32 activity for the creation or recognition of
33 wildlife corridors;
- 34 2.2. The U.S. Forest Service ruling that will
35 prevent transferring grazing permits for 25
36 head or less;
- 37 2.3. The termination of grazing permits for
38 administrative errors or omissions of the
39 land managing agency;
- 40 2.4. Mandatory forage monitoring by livestock
41 permittees on federal lands as proposed by
42 the Federal Land Management Policy Act;
- 43 2.5. The termination or curtailment of permittees
44 because of livestock proximity to bighorn
45 sheep, bison, and sage grouse; and
- 46 2.6. The purchase or retirement of grazing
47 permits or allotments by any State or
48 Federal agency, group, or individual whose

1 sole purpose is to not allow any further
2 grazing.
3

4 **50. Idaho Forest Practices Act**

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

7 We oppose The Forest Practices Act
8 Streamside Retention Rule (Shade Rule) unless
9 accompanied by fair market appraised value
10 compensation to landowners for loss of property
11 rights.
12

13 **51. Landfills on BLM Lands**

14 We encourage the development of new, and the
15 continued use of existing, county landfills on BLM
16 lands.
17

18 **52. Local, State or National Land 19 Designation**

20 We oppose any infringement upon private
21 property rights through any designation of land by
22 any government entity, including highway scenic
23 byways/corridors, National Heritage Areas, National
24 Monuments and National Parks. We oppose any
25 change to federal or state land designation when
26 there is the potential to harm agriculture.

27 We oppose Craters of the Moon becoming a
28 national park.
29

30 **53. Mineral Rights**

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

36 We support requiring that property deeds state
37 the name and address of the person or entity who
38 owns the mineral rights for each property. If mineral
39 rights are sold or transferred, the deed should be
40 updated. The surface owner should be notified and
41 offered first right of refusal.
42

43 **54. Mining**

44 We support the continuation of mineral
45 extraction in Idaho as long as the appropriate mine
46 reclamation and environmental protections are in
47 place and followed.
48

1 **55. Notification of Property Damage**

2 We support notification to landowners when
3 fences or property sustain damage due to accidents.
4

5 **56. Open Range**

6 We oppose any changes to Idaho open range
7 and fence laws.
8

9 **57. Pest Control**

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

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

19 We support legislation that requires local, state
20 and federal governments to manage lands to
21 prevent spread of noxious weeds and pests from
22 their lands to adjoining lands, crops and animals.
23

24 **58. Protecting Farm Land**

25 There should be no governmental taking of
26 private property rights by restriction of use without
27 just and due compensation.

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

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

33 We oppose infringement on private property
34 rights caused by highway districts and transportation
35 departments.
36

37 **59. Regulation of Agricultural Practices**

38 1. We support:

39 1.1. Long-standing sound agricultural practices
40 such as field burning, including grass seed,
41 straw, residue burning, timber slash burning
42 and animal-waste disposal, cultivation and
43 harvest practices;

44 1.2. Farmer participation in voluntary airshed
45 quality programs; and

46 1.3. The farmer’s right to farm by being able to
47 carry on sound farming and forestry
48 practices and to be free from environmental

- 1 regulations that are not proportionately
2 beneficial to the implementation cost.
- 3 2. We oppose:
- 4 2.1. Any legislation or regulations that would
5 segregate any agricultural industry,
6 agricultural crop, cropping practice or
7 geographical area and would impose a
8 higher air quality, water quality or
9 environmental standard than is required of
10 any other person, entity, industry or
11 geographical area within the state;
- 12 2.2. Regulations on agricultural practices that
13 are not validated by sound peer reviewed
14 scientific process and supported by
15 scientific fact;
- 16 2.3. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture
17 having the authority to impose sanctions on
18 livestock operators without first identifying
19 specific problems and giving the operators
20 an opportunity to correct said problems;
21 and
- 22 2.4. Efforts to regulate logging slash burning on
23 private timberlands by the Idaho State
24 Department of Environmental Quality
25 (DEQ).
26

27 **60. Right to Farm**

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

33 We support local, state, and federal agriculture
34 exemptions from dust rules.
35

36 **61. Riparian Management**

37 Proper multiple-use management of riparian
38 areas is essential.

39 We believe these highly productive areas can be
40 properly harvested with modern forest or livestock
41 Best Management Practices (BMPs) and still
42 improve riparian habitat for all uses.

43 We believe these areas should be properly used
44 but not abused. However, management of the entire
45 allotment should not be governed by forage
46 utilization of riparian areas.

47 We support the concept that all existing roads
48 along streams be given grandfather rights approval.
49

62. State and County Noxious Weed Control

1. We support:

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

63. Timber Management

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

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

64. Wilderness and Restrictive Zones

1. We support:

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

2. We oppose:

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

- 1 2.2. Designation of lands in Idaho as biosphere
2 reserves, corridors or buffer zones, using
3 the Lands Legacy Initiative, the Antiquities
4 Act or National Monument Declarations by
5 the executive branch of the government;
- 6 2.3. Any expansion of the boundaries of the
7 Sawtooth National Recreation Area
8 (SNRA);
- 9 2.4. Any reinterpretation of the mandates of the
10 SNRA which would impose further use
11 restrictions; and
- 12 2.5. The reduction or curtailment of any grazing
13 or farming activity for the creation or
14 recognition of wildlife corridors.
15

16 **65. Wildfire Control**

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

- 1 protect private property and to control large
2 wildfires; and
3 1.6. An aggressive initial attack and
4 suppression on all forest and rangeland
5 wildfires on public land and firefighting
6 suppression activities in addition to fire
7 management, in order to protect our water
8 basins and watersheds.
9 2. We oppose:
10 2.1. Landowners being held accountable for fire
11 suppression costs except in cases of gross
12 negligence.
13

14 FISH AND WILDLIFE

15 **66. Animal Damage Control**

16 We support animal damage control programs to
17 control and manage predators, rodents and
18 destructive wildlife.
19

20 **67. Animal Threat and Public Safety**

21 It shall be the responsibility of U.S. Fish and
22 Wildlife Services and any state agencies, that
23 manage predatory or proven problem animals, to
24 notify all residences within a five-mile radius using a
25 9-1-1 reverse calling system of potential conflict in
26 their area.
27

28 **68. Endangered Species Act**

29 We believe that modern society cannot continue
30 to operate on the premise that all species must be
31 preserved at any cost.
32

33 We believe basic requirements of human life
34 have priority over protection of other species,
35 including threatened or endangered (T/E) species. A
36 thorough consideration of all potential adverse
37 impacts to human economic and social welfare
38 should be an integral part of any consideration to list
39 and T/E species.

40 1. We support:

- 41 1.1. A revision of the ESA to include a more
42 thorough consideration of agriculture,
43 mining, logging and tree farming in such a
44 manner that these activities will be
45 sustained and made part of any recovery
46 plan. Recovery of T/E species should not
47 receive higher priority than human uses or
48 rights;

- 1.2. Anadromous hatchery fish and wild fish being treated equally under the ESA. Hatchery fish should be counted toward recovery of the species;
 - 1.3. Eliminating the marking of hatchery fish.
 - 1.4. The right of landowners to protect themselves, their families, livestock and properties from all predators including grizzly bears and wolves without legal retaliation;
 - 1.5. Congress providing depredation funding for losses or damage resulting from endangered species and to mandate responsibility to deal with such losses; and
 - 1.6. Livestock grazing as an effective tool to reduce wildfires and enhance plant and wildlife habitat.
2. We oppose:
- 2.1. Any effort to create a State Endangered Species Act (ESA);
 - 2.2. Road closures and restrictions imposed on land and water in the name of critical habitat;
 - 2.3. Implementation of the endangered species pesticide labeling program, other than in critical habitat;
 - 2.4. The listing of the Giant Palouse Earthworm (*Driloleirus americanus*) and the Greater Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and Slick Spot Peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) as an endangered species;
 - 2.5. Listing any species before its critical habitat is identified within its scientifically established historical range. Habitat site specific assessments and recovery plans must include comprehensive protection of private property rights; and
 - 2.6. Any critical-habitat designation until it has been established beyond scientific doubt that the species in question is actually present and that endangered or threatened status is actually warranted. The data to satisfy the scientific criteria should meet the guidelines of the Data Quality Act under federal statutes sections 3504(d)(1) and 3516 of title 44, United States Code. The agency, organization or individual requesting the critical-habitat designation must bear the cost of proving presence of

- 1 the species and this must be done through
2 the use of the best available peer reviewed
3 science.
- 4 3. If lethal action is taken against any threatened or
5 endangered species for the preservation of
6 public safety, all investigations should be
7 conducted by the local officials of the county
8 involved. All applicable state and government
9 agencies are to be notified so as to provide
10 assistance when called upon.
11

12 **69. Fish and Game Department**

- 13 1. We support:
- 14 1.1. The department using good-neighbor
15 management practices on the land they
16 now own, including fences, pests, noxious
17 weeds, and providing sportsmen with
18 guidance and marked boundaries;
- 19 1.2. The Fish and Game Department controlling
20 the concentration of wildlife numbers on all
21 lands and being prohibited from entering
22 into agreements to limit access to any area,
23 without approval of the local governing
24 authority;
- 25 1.3. Retaining the December 2016 composition
26 and selection method of the Idaho Fish and
27 Game Commission;
- 28 1.4. Implementing a requirement for non-
29 resident mentored youth hunts where both
30 the non-resident mentor and the mentored
31 youth must purchase matching species
32 tags. Non-resident tags should cost more
33 than resident tags;
- 34 1.5. A Habitat Improvement Program and
35 request Idaho Fish and Game Commission
36 to reflect strong emphasis on multiple use;
- 37 1.6. Reducing the depredation deductible.
38 Compensation by IDFG for crop loss due to
39 depredation shall be for actual loss minus
40 the one-time deductible and should be
41 expediently paid with no pro-rating;
- 42 1.7. Oversight of the depredation account by the
43 Idaho Department of Agriculture with
44 technical support provided by Idaho Fish
45 and Game;
- 46 1.8. Fish and Game being responsible and pay
47 for damages caused by management
48 decisions;

- 1 1.9. Idaho Fish and Game issuing emergency
2 depredation permits to ag producers and
3 landowners to harvest animals that are
4 causing verifiable damage to crops,
5 livestock and property. The issuance of
6 these depredation permits by IDFG and
7 other actions by IDFG to relieve
8 depredation shall be free of conditions that
9 landowners must allow hunting on their
10 land. Landowners should be allowed to
11 determine who hunts and they should be
12 allowed to receive compensation for
13 allowing hunts on their private property;
- 14 1.10. Creating depredation areas for landowners
15 who are annually affected by depredating
16 animals and support mechanisms for
17 quicker response in those areas;
- 18 1.11. The Landowner Appreciation Program
19 (LAP) being made available to anyone
20 owning 320 acres or more and recipients of
21 these tags should be free to do what they
22 wish with the tags; and
- 23 1.12. Investigating transactions between the
24 Idaho Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the
25 Idaho Department of Fish and Game to
26 determine if there is a conflict of interest.
- 27 2. We oppose:
- 28 2.1. The acquisition of additional land by the
29 Fish and Game Department;
- 30 2.2. Any increase in funding for the Idaho
31 Department of Fish and Game from either
32 the general fund or license fees without
33 showing a specific need or use for the
34 funds;
- 35 2.3. The erection of either permanent or
36 temporary hunting or viewing blinds within
37 100 feet of a developed livestock watering
38 site on public lands;
- 39 2.4. Idaho Fish and Game abdicating
40 responsibility for year after year losses due
41 to depredation impacts regardless of other
42 reimbursements; and
- 43 2.5. Idaho Fish and Game utilizing animal
44 depredation claims to count against actual
45 production history (APH).
46

1 **70. Fish and Game—Prior Notification**

2 The Idaho Department of Fish and Game must
3 have permission from the landowner before entering
4 private property.
5

6 **71. Fish and Game—Private Reservoir**
7 **Companies**

8 Fish and Game Department shall pay private
9 reservoir companies for the use of that reservoir for
10 fish habitat. The Department should also pay
11 upkeep assessments on reservoirs in which they
12 own water.
13

14 **72. Fish and Game/U.S. Fish & Wildlife**
15 **Responsibility**

- 16 1. We support:
- 17 1.1 Reform of the Idaho Department of Fish and
18 Game to create local management of the
19 wildlife of Idaho. This program should be site
20 specific to control damage caused from over
21 populated species of both game and non-
22 game animals;
 - 23 1.2 Requiring state or federal wildlife personnel
24 to file an environmental and economic
25 impact statement before they can release
26 non-native insects or plants in Idaho or
27 make regulations that affect the counties
28 and/or the state;
 - 29 1.3 The Idaho State Department of Agriculture's
30 ban on the release of deleterious exotic
31 animals into the State of Idaho; and
 - 32 1.4 Requiring all state and federal agency
33 personnel going through the elected county
34 sheriff for all law enforcement.
- 35 2. We oppose:
- 36 2.1 The relocation of wild game and non-game
37 species without proper notice being given to
38 residents and property owners in the area
39 where they are released. Local county
40 officials must receive official notice at least
41 30 days prior to any relocation or release,
42 into the wild, of any species raised in
43 captivity;
 - 44 2.2 Relocation or release into the wild of wolves
45 or grizzlies that have been raised in
46 captivity; and
 - 47 2.3 The Idaho Fish and Game Department
48 engaging in activities that encourage only

1 non-consumptive uses of fish and wildlife
2 species in Idaho.
3

4 **73. Fish Species Population Management**

5 We support alternative scientific applications to
6 modify fish species population without affecting
7 contractual agreements or causing detrimental
8 effects on flood control, irrigators, recreation and
9 economies.
10

11 **74. Grizzly Bear**

12 1. We support:

13 1.1 Delisting the grizzly bear from endangered
14 species status;

15 1.2 A hunting season on the grizzly;

16 1.3 Requiring the costs associated with
17 grizzlies, including triple damages for
18 depredation costs, to be borne by the
19 federal government, and its agencies such
20 as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services;

21 1.4 Paying compensation to state and local
22 agencies when any assistance in the
23 management, control, or defense of the
24 public is needed from such agencies.
25 Compensation to state and local agencies
26 should be paid regardless of whether a
27 request has been made by a federal agency
28 for assistance until such time as the current
29 grizzly bear policy can be changed to allow
30 less conflict with humans and livestock;
31 namely the delisting of the grizzly bear and
32 transfer of management to individual states'
33 authority; and

34 1.5 Requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
35 Services to coordinate all grizzly bear
36 related activities with the Idaho Fish and
37 Game and local county officials.

38 2. We oppose:

39 2.1 The reintroduction of grizzly bear into any
40 area of the state of Idaho; and

41 2.2 The relocation of any known problem bear
42 that has threatened human safety outside a
43 recovery zone regardless of the number of
44 strikes against it.
45

46 **75. Introduction of Salmon**

47 We oppose the introduction of salmon above the
48 Brownlee Dam.
49

1 **76. Invasive Species**

2 We support efforts to remove Asian clams from
3 the waters of Idaho.

4 We support the listing of quagga mussels as an
5 invasive species.

6 We support adequate state funding for
7 inspections of all water craft and other vessels to
8 prevent the spread and infestation of quagga/zebra
9 mussels in Idaho waters.

10
11 **77. Sage Grouse**

12 We support predator control as a method to
13 increase sage grouse populations. We encourage
14 the use of bounties to control all non-protected sage
15 grouse predators.

16 We support grazing on public lands as a primary
17 method of increasing sage grouse populations by
18 controlling the amount of vegetation that fuels
19 wildfires.

20 We support private sector rearing and releasing
21 of sage grouse.

22
23 **78. Salmon Recovery**

24 1. We support the following salmon-recovery
25 alternatives:

26 1.1. Physically modifying the dams rather than
27 tearing them down or lowering the water
28 levels;

29 1.2. Improving barging such as net barge
30 transportation;

31 1.3. Privatizing salmon fisheries for stronger
32 fish;

33 1.4. Controlling predators of salmon;

34 1.5. Utilizing new hydroelectric turbine
35 technologies to achieve the goals of
36 increased power production and reduced
37 hazards to fish; and

38 1.6. Regulating harvest of off-shore and
39 instream fish.

40
41 **79. Snake River Basin Snails**

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

45 We oppose the future listing of new snail
46 species.

47
48 **80. Wolves**

49 1. We support

- 1 1.1 All methods of year-round wolf control and
- 2 population management statewide;
- 3 1.2 Funding for government agencies tasked
- 4 with wolf management and support
- 5 appropriate compensation for damages
- 6 incurred by producers;
- 7 1.3 Adding wolves to the IDF&G depredation list
- 8 so that depredation on livestock can be paid
- 9 by the IDF&G Big Game Depredation and
- 10 Prevention Fund; and
- 11 1.4 Requiring when possible, all wolf carcasses
- 12 to be presented for testing for communicable
- 13 diseases, especially the tapeworm
- 14 Echinococcus granulosus which causes
- 15 Hydatid Disease in livestock, elk, deer, and
- 16 humans.

17

18 EASEMENTS

19

20 **81. Conservation Easements and Scenic**

21 **Easements**

22 We support continuation of conservation

23 easement agreements and scenic easements or

24 agreements only if the real property involved

25 remains on the tax rolls according to use.

26 We oppose the Yellowstone to Yukon

27 Conservation Initiative (Y2Y).

28

29 ENERGY

30

31 **82. Affordable Energy**

32 1. We support:

33 1.1. Transparency in how energy monopolies

34 plan to incur expenses and make

35 investments that are passed on to

36 ratepayers;

37 1.2. Thorough, fair and publicly involved

38 process for evaluating rate requests and

39 setting rates; and

40 1.3. Increased focus on removing barriers to

41 widely available and affordable sources of

42 energy.

43

44 **83. Alternative Energy**

45 We support the development of alternative

46 energy.

47 We oppose a broad moratorium on alternative

48 energy projects.

1 We support county control in the siting of these
2 projects.

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

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

11 **84. Bonneville Power Administration Credit**

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

16 **85. Electrical Energy**

17 **1. Hydroelectric Dams:**

18 1.1. We support

19 1.1.1 The continued careful use of water
20 as one of our renewable natural
21 resources through existing and the
22 construction of new hydro projects,
23 as future demands for electrical
24 energy increase;

25 1.1.2 The adaptation of hydro projects to
26 generate power for sale; and

27 1.1.3 The relicensing of dams, including
28 Hells Canyon Complex, using a
29 least cost mitigation plan reflecting
30 the desire for the customers to have
31 a reliable power source at
32 reasonable rates.

33 **2. Renewables:**

34 2.1 We Support:

35 2.1.1 Utilities operating in Idaho
36 developing economically feasible
37 renewable energy portfolios;

38 2.1.2 The construction of economically
39 feasible power generation facilities
40 in Idaho, including those that use
41 plant and/or animal residue or
42 logging slash; and

43 2.1.3 An annual true-up for net metering
44 rather than a monthly true-up.

45 **3. Regulations:**

46 3.1 We support:

1 3.1.1. State agencies removing barriers that
2 prevent utilities from increasing
3 Idaho’s power generation capacity;
4 and

5 3.1.2. Current laws that require coal fired
6 plants be held to strict standards in the
7 construction, operation and retirement
8 of the facility.

9 3.2 We oppose:

10 3.2.1 Any deregulation, reorganization,
11 merger or consolidation of power
12 generation or transmission which
13 could result in loss of water rights,
14 less service or increased rates; and

15 3.2.2 The sale of any public utility
16 company operating in the state of
17 Idaho to an entity either partially or
18 wholly owned by a foreign
19 government.

20 **4. Transmission:**

21 4.1 We support:

22 4.1.1. Upgrades in transmission and
23 distribution. Routing of utility corridors
24 should be placed on public land first
25 and then to the areas of least impact
26 to private property owners; and

27 4.1.2. The initiation of on and off ramps in
28 transmission lines within the state of
29 Idaho.

30 **86. Farm Produced Fuel**

31 We support grants, cost share programs and
32 bio-fuel production tax credits for farm-scale bio-fuel
33 projects.
34

35 **87. Fossil Fuels**

36 We support the mining and drilling of fossil fuels.

37 We support the legislature ensuring that rules for
38 oil and natural gas production safeguard the water
39 aquifers for all citizens and protect property owners’
40 rights to use their property.
41

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

1
2 **88. Nuclear Energy**

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

8 We support research and development of further
9 usage of radioactive waste materials and safer ways
10 of storage.

11 We support development of the fast burn sector
12 of nuclear technology which massively reduces or
13 eliminates the need for nuclear waste disposal.

14 We support the Idaho National Laboratory
15 providing the lead role in advancing the
16 development of this technology.
17

18 **89. Power Demand Control Program**

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

24 **90. Renewable Fuels**

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

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

33 We support the availability of low-cost fuels,
34 including off-road bio-fuels, for the operation of
35 farms and ranches.
36

37 **91. Utility Companies**

38 Utility companies that damage public roads
39 should be responsible for restoring roadways to their
40 original state for at least a period of two years.
41

42 **LABOR**

43
44 **92. Legal Aid**

45 We oppose state funding of Idaho Legal Aid
46 Services.

47 We oppose the uninvited presence of Legal Aid
48 personnel soliciting business on private property.
49

1 **93. Minimum Wage**

2 We oppose any state minimum wage that is
3 higher than the federal minimum wage.
4

5 **94. New Hire Reporting**

6 We support changes in the Idaho New Hire
7 Reporting Law to extend the reporting date to 60
8 days.

9 We support not having to report seasonal
10 temporary workers that work less than 45 days in a
11 year.
12

13 **95. Unemployment Insurance**

14 Eligibility requirements should be made realistic
15 to reflect agriculture's seasonal employment
16 practices.
17

18 **96. Workers Compensation**

19 Workers compensation for agricultural
20 employers should provide:

- 21 1. Cost control measures and fair base rates;
- 22 2. Mediation for agricultural concerns;
- 23 3. Protection from third party lawsuits; and
- 24 4. Employer protection from worker caused
25 injuries (i.e. drug & alcohol).

26 We support changes in the existing Workers'
27 Compensation Law that would take into
28 consideration the employee's responsibility when an
29 accident occurs.

30 We support having the settlement reduced by
31 the percentage that was determined that the worker
32 was responsible.
33

34 **TAX**

35
36 **97. Agricultural Property Tax Shifts**

37 We are opposed to shifting property tax to
38 agricultural real estate.
39

40 **98. Assessed Value of Ag Production Land**

41 We believe all land being used for commercial
42 agricultural production should be appraised for tax
43 purposes according to its current use, eliminating
44 any consideration of its speculative value, using
45 realistic productivity figures, realistic cost deduction,
46 including government mandated control of noxious
47 weeds, taking into account the USDA's annual
48 report on farm real estate values in Idaho and that

1 only the landlord's net share of production be used
2 in computing value for tax purposes, as prescribed
3 by Idaho State Tax Commission rules and
4 regulations.

5 1. We support:

6 1.1 Assessed values being capped at a 5%
7 increase in any given year;

8 1.2 The retention of five-acre minimum
9 productivity option and the Bare Land &
10 Yield Option for forest lands; and

11 1.3 Legislation that allows county
12 commissioners to appeal an assessment
13 change by the Idaho State Tax
14 Commission for a category of property.
15

16 **99. Budget Caps**

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

23 We oppose the creation of additional tax entities
24 that could be exempt from such limitations and
25 restraints.
26

27 **100. Fuel Tax**

28 We support the refund of tax paid on fuel used
29 off-road.

30 We support having non-taxed dyed-fuel
31 available for off-road use.
32

33 **101. Impact Fees**

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

37 We support simplification of current impact fee
38 rules and procedures.
39

40 **102. Investment Tax Credit**

41 We support retention of the current three
42 percent investment tax credit provisions, or an
43 increase in the credit.
44

45 **103. Local Option Taxation**

46 We support local option taxation when used
47 specifically for projects that would have been paid
48 for with property tax dollars.
49

1 **104. Maximum Levy Rates**

2 We oppose raising the maximum statutory levy
3 rates for any taxing authority.
4

5 **105. Personal Tax Privacy Rights**

6 We oppose the county assessor's office
7 requiring personal tax information to establish land
8 use.
9

10 **106. Property Tax**

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

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

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

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

24 We support efforts to amend the Idaho Forest
25 Tax Law to allow forest landowners to designate and
26 maintain multiple timberland parcels under
27 respective Bare Land and Yield (Category 6) or
28 Productivity (Category 7) classifications.
29

30 **107. Property Tax-Funding Local
31 Government and Schools**

32 1. We support:

33 1.1 Gradually reducing the property tax
34 burden to fund public schools and local
35 government;

36 1.2 Legislation mandating that plant facilities
37 levy monies can be used only for capital
38 expenditures related to school operation
39 and maintenance;

40 1.3 The creation of standardized mandatory
41 full disclosure of the school district's
42 revenues and expenditures that are
43 related to extracurricular activities;
44 separated into curriculum and athletics,
45 and budgeted in standard categories of
46 salaries, transportation, supplies, and
47 capital expenditures; and

- 1 1.4 Removing the school budget stabilization
2 levy that was authorized in the 2006
3 Special Legislative Session, unless it is
4 supported by a local vote.
- 5 2. We oppose:
- 6 2.1. Judges being allowed to levy taxes;
- 7 2.2. Indefinite or permanent supplemental
8 school levies on taxpayers, regardless of
9 the number of consecutive levies passed;
10 and
- 11 2.3. School districts carrying over plant facilities
12 levy funds to finance the construction of
13 new buildings or the acquisition of
14 additional property.

16 **108. Sales Tax**

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

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

23 **109. Services Tax**

24 We oppose all tax on services.

26 **110. Special Taxing Districts**

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

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

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

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

44 **111. State Budget**

45 We support zero-based budgeting.

46 We support a constitutional amendment limiting
47 state spending to a calculation determined by
48 population growth and economic growth of the state.

1 We oppose balancing budget shortfalls by any
2 tax increase.

3 We oppose any state funding of Planned
4 Parenthood.
5

6 **112. Super Majority**

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

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

13 **113. Tax Compensation for Federal and 14 State Managed Lands**

15 We recommend that a fee in lieu of taxes be
16 assessed on all lands removed from tax rolls by
17 state or federal agency management. We favor an
18 annual fee equivalent to local private property tax on
19 land.
20

21 **114. Tax Liens**

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

26 **115. Tax Refund Extension**

27 We support income tax assessments and
28 income tax refunds having the same statute of
29 limitations.
30

31 **116. Taxing Districts Sharing 32 Administrators**

33 We encourage similar taxing districts to share
34 administrators and secretaries on a county-wide or
35 multi-district basis to help ease the tax burden of
36 administration.
37

38 **117. Urban Renewal Districts**

39 We support the repeal of urban renewal laws.
40

41 **LOCAL AFFAIRS**

42 **118. Annexation**

43 We are opposed to areas adjacent to a city
44 being annexed into the city unless a two-thirds
45 majority of those owning property in the area
46

1 proposed for annexation vote in favor of the
2 annexation.

3 We support adding forest land to the land
4 annexation statute.
5

6 **119. County Commissioners**

7 We encourage county commissioners to develop
8 a Natural Resource Plan per NEPA guidelines that
9 clearly states the objectives and policies of the
10 county in regard to management of the natural
11 resources located on public lands in their county.

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

17 We support the formation of a formal ANRAC
18 (Agriculture & Natural Resources Advisory
19 Committee) or NRAC (Natural Resources Advisory
20 Committee) within each county.
21

22 **120. Distribution of Federal Fines**

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

26 We support legislation that would require federal
27 agencies to return a portion of federal fines collected
28 in the county where the infraction occurred.
29

30 **121. Elections**

31 1. We support:

- 32 1.1 Allowing Idaho residents who own real
33 property in a taxing district to vote on any
34 tax proposal in that district;
- 35 1.2 Consolidation of all elections, including
36 school bonds/levies to the May and
37 November elections;
- 38 1.3 A Mandatory pre-registration requirement
39 to be eligible to vote in all local bond
40 elections;
- 41 1.4 Requiring photo identification, proof of
42 residency and proof of U.S. citizenship for
43 new voter registration;
- 44 1.5 Pay raises for elected officials only taking
45 effect after the official stands again for
46 election; and
- 47 1.6 Changing the number of members of the
48 Idaho redistricting commission to 7 with
49 the majority on the commission reflecting

1 the current partisan makeup of the
2 legislature.
3

4 **122. Emergency Response Fees**

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

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

11 **123. Public Hearings**

12 Public hearings that affect a given area of the
13 state must be held in the area that is affected, at a
14 reasonable time and date for those impacted.
15

16 **124. Zoning**

17 County commissioners should control all zoning
18 in the county. Zoning should be site specific within
19 the county.

20 We oppose the use of blanket zoning
21 ordinances, including sustainable development and
22 smart-growth initiatives.

23 We recognize and encourage the use of
24 planning tools allowed under state law to encourage
25 planned and orderly growth in or near agricultural
26 areas.
27

28 **EDUCATION**

29

30 **125. Adolescent Nutrition**

31 We support school districts offering dairy
32 products, healthy nutritional snacks and fruit juices
33 in vending machines on school premises.
34

35 **126. Ag in the Classroom**

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

38 We support an increase in funding for Ag in the
39 classroom.
40

41 **127. Career Technical Education**

42 We support enhanced funding for Idaho’s
43 Career & Technical Education, Agricultural Science
44 and Technology courses and programs.
45

1 **128. Contracts for Teachers**

2 We recommend that the tenure system for
3 school teachers be eliminated and replaced with
4 contracts based on evaluation and performance.

5 We support the concept of incentive pay that will
6 improve teacher excellence.

7 School teachers should have the option of being
8 able to negotiate their own contract with the school
9 district as a private contractor.

10
11 **129. Education Funding**

12 We support that funding be made available from
13 the state endowment fund's reserve account to be
14 used to maintain/replace existing buildings and
15 facilities in school districts throughout the state.

16 Endowment funds designated for public schools
17 should be used for school funding only.

18
19 **130. Education Standards and Assessments**

20 1. We support using:

21 1.1. Professionally established standards and
22 assessments that can be modified to reflect
23 locally recognized educational values, goals
24 and philosophy; and

25 1.2. Standards to ensure the progression of a
26 student that reflect a comprehension of the
27 subject.

28
29 **131. Knowledge of Constitution**

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

35
36 **132. Local Control of Education**

37 We encourage the State Board of Education
38 and the Idaho Legislature to refuse federal funds
39 aimed at promoting control of educational programs
40 in public schools by the federal government.

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

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

1 **133. Mandatory Agriculture Education Class**

2 We support state legislation requiring all high
3 school students to take Ag-Ed in order to graduate,
4 utilizing current STEM classes already available.
5

6 **134. No Increase in School Time**

7 We oppose increasing required school hours
8 beyond 990 hours per year.
9

10 **135. Parental Choice in Education**

11 We support the voucher system for education.

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

17 We support optional kindergarten.

18 We oppose public funding of pre-kindergarten.

19 We support legislation amending the Blaine
20 Amendment, Section 5, Article IX of the Constitution
21 of the state of Idaho to provide for an educational
22 system of grants or monetary assistance in which
23 the money follows the child.
24

25 **136. Veterinary Students**

26 We support an increase from eleven (11) to
27 fifteen (15) seats per year for Idaho residents in the
28 Washington-Idaho Cooperative Veterinary Medical
29 Education Program.
30

31 **STATE AFFAIRS**

32
33 **137. Agricultural Research and Extension**

34 1. We support:

- 35 1.1. The University of Idaho Agricultural
36 Research and Extension Service and urge
37 the Legislature to adequately fund this vital
38 program;
- 39 1.2. Adequate funding to the College of
40 Agricultural and Life Sciences to allow
41 research to develop new improved varieties
42 of seed that are classed as public varieties;
- 43 1.3. Expanded research and education in all
44 crop areas relative to Idaho. This must also
45 include new and improved plant and animal
46 varieties along with effective insect, pest,
47 disease and weed controls;

- 1 1.4. An informational exchange and cooperative
2 effort within the tri-state area in agchemical
3 registration and research as well as
4 plant/animal variety improvement research.
5 Every effort should be made by state and
6 county officials and the University of Idaho
7 to retain an agricultural extension agent in
8 each county as an extension service of our
9 land grant university. Strong pressure must
10 be exerted to revitalize and improve the
11 agricultural information and education
12 programs;
- 13 1.5. The hiring of new extension educators in
14 the College of Agricultural and Life
15 Sciences with primary training and
16 experience in commercial agriculture and
17 forestry; and
- 18 1.6. Full funding, from both federal and state
19 governments, for operations and research
20 at the current U.S. Sheep Experiment
21 Station, including continuous research on
22 the effects of grazing and sage grouse
23 habitat, and the relationship between
24 wildfire and grazing.
- 25 2. We request the legislature examine the role of
26 the University of Idaho as the land grant college
27 and take steps to ensure the university honors
28 its commitment as our agricultural research
29 facility. The university should be on the same
30 budgeting system as the State of Idaho.
- 31 3. We recommend that extension activities assist
32 farm programs on a first-priority basis, including
33 the integrated Farm Management Program.
- 34 4. We believe that county agents should be first
35 and foremost county agricultural agents.

37 **138. ATV Safety**

38 We oppose the creation of a mandatory class or
39 special license for the ability to ride an ATV on
40 private or public land.

42 **139. Ballot Initiative**

43 We support requiring all ballot initiatives to
44 collect signatures from 6% of registered voters in
45 each of the 35 legislative districts.

1 **140. Bicycle Safety**

2 We support bicyclists using public roadways be
3 subject to the same laws that motorists must obey.
4

5 **141. Cell Phone Use**

6 We oppose any legislation that would ban cell
7 phone use in vehicles for voice communication.
8

9 **142. Commercial Auction Company**
10 **Bonding**

11 We support legislation that would require
12 licensing and bonding of commercial auction
13 companies.
14

15 **143. Constitutional Defense Fund**

16 We support adding another leadership position
17 to the existing four-member council when voting on
18 the distribution of Constitutional Defense Funds.
19

20 **144. County Fairs**

21 We support the review and revision of all county
22 fair related state statutes to better reflect current
23 year-round fairground operations under the
24 administration of local appointed fair boards even
25 above the 200,000-county population limit.
26

27 **145. Cross Deputization of Law**
28 **Enforcement Officers**

29 We believe that cross deputization of county
30 sheriffs and any tribal law enforcement officers
31 should be voluntary.
32

33 **146. Definition of Agricultural Buildings**

34 1. We support changes to Idaho Code to define
35 agricultural buildings as follows:

- 36 1.1. They are buildings where agricultural
37 products are stored, housed or grown;
38 1.2. They are buildings where agricultural
39 equipment, including licensed vehicles that
40 are used in the production of agriculture
41 can be fixed, repaired or stored;
42 1.3. They are buildings that are used for the
43 normal servicing of an agricultural
44 business; and
45 1.4. They can be used by employees as a place
46 of employment as well as a place to have
47 meals and take bathroom breaks as
48 required by GAP (Good Agricultural
49 Practices).

1
2 **147. Executive Branch MOU/MOA**

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

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

10
11 **148. Falsifying Reports**

12 Knowingly filing a false report and/or complaint
13 to any agency shall be considered a misdemeanor
14 and the perpetrator should be required to pay
15 damages and/or expenses to the individual that was
16 falsely accused as well as the investigating agency.
17

18 **149. Hazardous Waste**

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

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

27 We support a statewide hazardous materials
28 clean-up day.
29

30 **150. Health Insurance**

31 1. We support:

32 1.1. Private optional health insurance;

33 1.2. Legislation that permits, promotes, and/or
34 assists:

35 1.2.1. In individual health savings
36 accounts with tax free withdrawals
37 for all health insurance premiums;

38 1.2.2. In free market solutions to health
39 care costs and access;

40 1.2.3. In free clinics funded by local
41 community/faith-based
42 organizations; and

43 1.2.4. In development of Direct Primary
44 Care in Idaho supporting the
45 offering of wraparound health
46 insurance policies.

47 1.3. Health insurance as a risk management
48 tool by reducing and/or eliminating the
49 number of mandated services.

- 1 2. We oppose:
- 2 2.1. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care
- 3 Act and fines for individuals and employers
- 4 who refuse to carry health insurance; and
- 5 2.2. Any legislation to require employers to
- 6 carry health insurance on their employees
- 7 whether they are seasonal or full-time.
- 8

9 **151. Judicial Confirmation**

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

14 **152. Legislative Testimony**

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

19 **153. Liability and Tort Claims**

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

24 **154. Medicaid**

- 25 1. We support:
 - 26 1.1. Repeal of Medicaid Expansion;
 - 27 1.2. Informing the taxpayers each year of the
 - 28 cost of Medicaid expansion and the effect
 - 29 on state budgets;
 - 30 1.3. Elimination of the Idaho State CAT Fund;
 - 31 and
 - 32 1.4. Medicaid expansion being paid for with
 - 33 State of Idaho general funds.
- 34 2. We oppose:
 - 35 2.1. County property taxes paying any portion of
 - 36 Medicaid expansion.
37

38 **155. One Senator Per County**

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

42 **156. Private Property Rights/Eminent 43 Domain**

- 44 1. We support:
 - 45 1.1. Defining private property to include, but not
 - 46 be limited to, all land, crops, timber, water
 - 47 rights, mineral rights, all other

- 1 appurtenances and any other consideration
2 associated with land ownership;
- 3 1.2. An Idaho Constitutional Amendment
4 defining public use as found in the eminent
5 domain doctrine to prohibit the
6 condemnation of private property for
7 economic development or any use by
8 private parties. If private property is taken,
9 compensation must be prompt, just and
10 adequate; and
- 11 1.3. Compensating landowners in the cases of
12 partial taking of real property, when
13 government-imposed regulations cause a
14 loss in value of private property.
15 Landowners or tenants shall not be held
16 liable for any damages incurred as a result
17 of the condemnation. Entities condemning
18 property shall assume liability for any
19 damages incurred by landowners.
- 20 2. We oppose:
- 21 2.1. Landowners having lands adjacent to
22 federal and or state lands should not be
23 forced through coercion or fear of
24 imprisonment to allow new easements
25 across their land for public access to
26 federal and state lands. The taking of
27 property or easements should be permitted
28 only when there is eminent domain; and
- 29 2.2. The use of eminent domain for recreational
30 purposes, for private economic
31 development or to expand the land holding
32 of wildlife agencies.

33 34 **157. Proof of Citizenship**

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

38 **158. Proprietary Information**

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

43 **159. PUC Rates**

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

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 Endowment 11 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 funding at the
22 statutory level;

23 1.2. Representation by an agricultural producer
24 on the Board of Regents for Idaho's land
25 grant university and on the Idaho Fish and
26 Game Commission;

27 1.3. Legislation to require that government rules
28 and regulations, wherever applicable, be
29 based upon supportive disciplinary peer
30 reviewed scientific data and that wherever
31 policies, rules or regulations do not meet
32 this standard the responsible individual
33 and/or individuals can be held liable;

34 1.4. When a state law enforcement agency
35 makes an arrest, there should be a means
36 provided to reimburse the county for all
37 costs associated in maintaining the
38 prisoner; and

39 1.5. The legislature reviewing agency rules. In
40 order to approve a new rule, both the
41 House and Senate must agree. A rule shall
42 be rejected if either the House or Senate
43 does not approve.

44 2. We oppose:

45 2.1. Combining, splitting or changing
46 government agencies without the approval
47 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, when a private party
9 must act in the place of the Attorney
10 General to enforce and protect the Idaho
11 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 making a concerted effort to educate hunters about private property rights and

- 1 the location of private property in their
2 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 to
7 use or attempt to use a camera, video
8 recorder, or any other video or audio
9 recording device without permission from
10 the owner or authorized agent;
11 1.4. A law placing the burden of trespass on the
12 trespasser instead of the landowner; and
13 1.5. Mandatory education regarding current
14 trespass laws and private property rights in
15 the Hunter education program.
16

17 **177. Tribal Jurisdiction on Reservations**

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

24 We oppose any act by the State of Idaho to
25 return to the federal government any jurisdiction
26 acquired over Indian tribes under Federal Public
27 Law 280.
28

29 **178. Unfunded Mandates**

30 All new laws passed by the legislature that put
31 financial burdens on the counties or cities should be
32 funded by the state.
33

34 **179. Welfare Reform**

35 Believing that all people should productively
36 engage in providing for their own sustainability, we
37 support elimination of welfare in Idaho replacing it
38 with work programs.
39

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COUNTY FARM BUREAU Presidents

DISTRICT I

BANNOCK

Brett Casperson
8893 E Maughan Rd
Lava Hot Springs, ID 83246
208-776-5428

BINGHAM

Ralph Dalley
525 Gardner Dr
Blackfoot, ID 83221
208-604-4096

FRANKLIN

Richard Free
6843 E Highway 36
Preston, ID 83263
208-852-2993

POWER

Lamar R. Isaak
3298 Isaak Ln
American Falls, ID 83211
208-226-2618

BEAR LAKE

Albert Johnson
PO Box 335
Georgetown, ID 83239
208-847-0193

CARIBOU

Lori Anne Lau
PO Box 337
Soda Springs, ID 83276
208-547-3180

ONEIDA

David Baker
531 N 300 W
Malad City, ID 83252
435-279-6487

DISTRICT II

BONNEVILLE

Doug Barrie
12493 N 55th E
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
208-604-2417

FREMONT

Val Hammond
2050 E 600 N
Saint Anthony, ID 83445
208-624-7456

LEMHI

Paul Fisher
11 Masons Way
Salmon, ID 83467
208-756-3703

MADISON

Dwight Little
2869 E Hwy 33
Newdale, ID 83436
208-351-2592

CUSTER

David Philps
25035 Hwy 93
Challis, ID 83226
208-589-8987

JEFFERSON

Holly Hancock
3849 E 200 N
Rigby, ID 83442
208-745-7448

LOST RIVER

Kelsey Broadie
3340 W 3700 N
Darlington, ID 83255
208-313-4392

TETON

Stephen Bagley
9790 S 2000 W
Victor, ID 83455
208-787-2330

DISTRICT III

BLAINE-CAMAS

Sidnee Hill
19999 Shed Rd
Carey, ID 83320
208-852-6161

GOODING-LINCOLN

Darren Taber
474 E Hwy 26
Shoshone, ID 83352
208-886-2830

MINIDOKA

LaNae Nalder
407 N 400 E
Rupert, ID 83350
208-260-0792

CASSIA

Brian Darrington
887 E 500 S
Declo, ID 83323
208-260-0085

JEROME

Carl Montgomery
1013 S 1400 E
Eden, ID 83325
208-731-0789

TWIN FALLS

Alex Reed
4296 N 2100 E
Filer, ID 83328
208-420-3892

DISTRICT IV

ADA

Neil Durrant
4000 W Hubbard Rd
Kuna, ID 83634
208-941-3239

ELMORE

OWYHEE

Tim Lowry
PO Box 132
Jordan Valley, OR 97910
208-583-2249

VALLEY-ADAMS

Dean Dryden
PO Box 312
New Meadows, ID 83654
208-347-2445

CANYON

Dennis Lincoln
27254 Fern Ln
Parma, ID 83660
208-941-9874

GEM

Clint Rohrbacher
4000 Brooklyn Ln
Emmett, ID 83617
208-365-1740

PAYETTE

Mike Shoemaker
5250 Adams Rd
New Plymouth, ID 83655
208-869-2037

WASHINGTON

Tristan Winegar
732 Olds Ferry Rd
Weiser, ID 83672
208-550-0985

DISTRICT V

BENEWAH

Russ Lowry
270 Lowry Ln
Plummer, ID 83851
208-568-1051

BOUNDARY

John Kellogg
209 Deer Park Rd
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
208-267-2057

BONNER

Fred Omodt
488 Shingle Mill
Sandpoint, ID 83864
208-290-5520

CLEARWATER-LEWIS

Sheila Hasselstrom
PO Box 277
Winchester, ID 83555
208-924-5146

DISTRICT V Continued

IDAHO

Sheryl Nuxoll
PO Box 187
Cottonwood, ID 83522
208-451-5166

LATAH

Tom Chamberlin
4201 Highway 8
Troy, ID 83871
208-791-1932

KOOTENAI-SHOSHONE

Joe Dobson
PO Box 2139
Hayden, ID 83835
208-661-0650

NEZ PERCE

Dale Wolff
31996 Vincent Rd
Kendrick, ID 83537
208-289-3147

POCATELLO OFFICE

275 Tierra Vista Drive
PO Box 4848
Pocatello, ID 83205
(208) 232-7914
Fax: (208) 232-3616
Email: Idahofb@idahofb.org

BOISE OFFICE

500 W Washington Street
Boise, ID 83702
(208) 342-2688
Fax: (208) 342-8585
Email: ifbga@idahofb.org

WWW.IDAHOFB.ORG