



Policies for 2021

Adopted by the Delegates
at the 81st Annual Meeting of the
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

December 2020

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1 BASIC PRINCIPLES

2 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.

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

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

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

46 Ownership of property and property rights are
47 among the human rights essential to the

1 preservation of individual freedom. The right to own
2 property must be preserved at all costs.

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

6 We believe in government by law, impartially
7 administered, and without special privilege.

8 We support agricultural programs and
9 organizations that give equal opportunity for
10 developing skills, knowledge and leadership ability.

11 We believe in the representative form of
12 government; a republic as provided in our
13 Constitution; in limitations upon government power;
14 in maintenance of equal opportunity; in the right of
15 each individual to worship as he chooses; and in
16 freedom of speech, press, and peaceful assembly.

17 The U.S. Supreme Court imposed one man one
18 vote rule should be overturned and return the United
19 States to the republican form of government that
20 was envisioned by the framers of the Constitution.
21 Individuals have a moral responsibility to help
22 preserve freedom for future generations by
23 participating in public affairs and by helping to elect
24 candidates who share their fundamental beliefs and
25 principles.

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

31 We believe in the right of all individuals to
32 choose their own occupation; to be rewarded
33 according to their contribution to society and to save,
34 invest, spend, or convey their earnings to their heirs.

35 These rights are accompanied by the
36 responsibility that all individuals must meet the
37 financial obligations they have incurred.

38 We support a society free of drug abuse.

39 We support English as the official language of
40 Idaho and the United States.

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

43 We support public schools starting the day by
44 reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

45 **The Constitution**

46 Stable and honest government with prescribed
47 and limited powers is essential to freedom and
48 progress. The Constitution of the United States was
49

1 well designed to secure individual liberty by a
2 division of federal authority among the Legislative,
3 Executive and Judicial branches. The Tenth
4 Amendment assures that liberties are further
5 secured for the states and the people through the
6 retention of those powers not specifically delegated
7 to the federal government. The constitutional
8 prerogatives of each branch of government should
9 be preserved from encroachment.

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

22 In defense of our Constitution, and of the
23 sovereignty of the U.S.A., we oppose the
24 centralization of power worldwide into one world
25 government.
26

27 **State's Rights and Sovereignty**

28 We support the protection and defense of states'
29 rights and state sovereignty over all powers not
30 otherwise enumerated and granted to the federal
31 government as specified in the 10th amendment to
32 the constitution. The federal government must
33 respect state laws and state agencies. All lands
34 within the boundaries of Idaho, excluding those
35 lands as allowed by Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17
36 of the U.S. Constitution and ceded to the federal
37 government by the Idaho Legislature, shall be
38 subject solely to the laws and jurisdiction of the
39 state.
40

41 **Religious Life**

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

1 We support the right to have religious beliefs
2 and symbols of those beliefs presented in our
3 communities.

4 We vigorously support retention of:

- 5 1. "So Help Me God" in official oaths;
- 6 2. The phrase "In God We Trust" on our coin;
- 7 3. The fourth verse of the "Star Spangled Banner;"
- 8 and
- 9 4. The phrase "Under God" in the Pledge of
10 Allegiance.

11 **Family Values**

12 We believe God has ordained the family as the
13 foundational institution of human society.

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

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

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

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

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.

1 We also believe that no element of society has
2 more concern for, understanding of, or a greater
3 stake in, the proper husbandry of poultry, livestock,
4 fur-bearers, game animals and aquaculture than the
5 producer.
6

7 **Economy in Government**

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

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

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

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

24 We support economy at all levels of
25 government.
26

27 **Education**

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

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

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

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

45 We believe all school systems must be
46 accountable to provide opportunities for all students
47 to obtain proficiency in the basics of reading, writing
48 and mathematics. Parents and guardians must be

1 kept informed by the school system of the
2 educational progress of their children.

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

7 **Political Parties**

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

10 We recommend that Farm Bureau members
11 support the political party of their choice.

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

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

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

23 **COMMODITIES**

25 **1. Agrichemicals/Pesticides**

26 **We support:**

- 27 1. Increased research and labeling for minor-use
28 pesticide registrations;
- 29 2. The continued use of approved pesticides and/or
30 related products until conclusive scientific
31 evidence proves there is an unacceptable risk;
32 and
- 33 3. Compliance with federally approved label
34 instructions absolving farmers or commercial
35 applicators from liability claims of environmental
36 pollution.

37 **We oppose:**

- 38 1. Establishment of zones of agricultural land in
39 which any kind of legal application or storage of
40 agricultural chemicals is curtailed without sound,
41 scientifically validated evidence to warrant
42 curtailment; and
- 43 2. Fumigant buffer zone limitations proposed by the
44 EPA without research giving substantial evidence
45 that current practices are negatively affecting
46 bystanders.

2. Commodity Diseases

We support:

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

3. Commodity Commissions

We support commodity commissions having:

1. Self-governing status with no political influence;
2. Boards solely elected by the growers/producers;
3. Uniform provisions to run referendums;
4. Commissioner districts representing even areas of production;
5. The right for legal entities to cast votes in elections;
6. Nominations held for a month-long period followed by a month-long voting period so that all growers can be represented and participate; and
7. Uniform provision for refunds for all or a portion of the commodity tax.

4. Commodity Sales

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

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

1 We oppose double discounts by grain dealers.

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

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

8 We support the state having one statewide
9 licensing program to allow for the sale of meat in
10 bulk to individual people and/or their families.

11 **5. Environmental Studies**

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

19 **6. Fair Trade**

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

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.

1 **8. Food Safety/Government Accountability**

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

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

15 **9. Industrial Grade Hemp**

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

22 **10. Lien Law**

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

27 We oppose delivered feed being encumbered by
28 a blanket lien from a financial institution until the
29 grower/supplier is paid in full.

30 We support the creation of an agricultural
31 commodities lien law, which would allow for the
32 attachment of a lien in favor of an agricultural
33 producer for the contract price or reasonable value
34 of delivered agricultural commodities. Such a lien
35 should also include attachment to the proceeds
36 received.

37 **11. Seed Indemnity Fund**

38 We support aligning the financial reporting
39 requirements for the Seed Indemnity Fund and the
40 Commodity Indemnity Fund.

LIVESTOCK

12. Animal Care

We support:

1. The rights of owners and producers to raise their animals in accordance with commonly accepted animal husbandry practices;
2. The role of a licensed veterinarian in the care of animals and support current licensing standards for veterinarians;
3. The Idaho Veterinary Practice Act and oppose any efforts to weaken it or the licensing standards; and
4. Punishments for those with non-service animals who attempt to portray them as service animals.

We oppose:

1. Any legislation, regulatory action or funding, whether private or public, that interferes with commonly accepted animal husbandry practices;
2. Legislation that would give animal rights organizations the right to establish standards for the raising, marketing, handling, feeding, housing or transportation of livestock and production animals and any legislation that would pay bounties to complainants;
3. Any livestock and production animal care legislation that would impose a stricter penalty than the 2016 law;
4. The creation of an Idaho livestock care standards board;
5. Requiring a licensed veterinarian for docking, dehorning, castration, pregnancy checking and any other routine livestock healthcare management practices; and
6. Comfort animals having the same rights and privileges as service animals covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

13. Animal ID

We support:

1. Procedures and or equipment for an animal ID program that makes it possible to trace an animal back to its original location;
2. The right of the owner to choose among the acceptable methods of identification and to leave their animals unidentified prior to movement from the premises of origin;

1 3. Having the Idaho State Department of Agriculture
2 determine acceptable methods of identification,
3 including hot or cold brands, for the state.
4

5 **14. Bovine Tuberculosis**

6 We support an ISDA surveillance testing
7 program for Bovine Tuberculosis and its continued
8 funding.
9

10 **15. Brucellosis**

11 We oppose all efforts to eliminate the mandatory
12 vaccination law and require its complete
13 enforcement.

14 We insist that the National Park Service
15 eradicate brucellosis in Yellowstone and Grand
16 Teton Parks.

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

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

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

26 **16. CAFO Regulations**

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

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

34 **17. Data Confidentiality**

35 We support the confidentiality of data collected
36 on farms and feedlots. Only final reports or
37 conclusions should be made a matter of public
38 record. No data collected from individual operations
39 should be made public.
40

41 **18. Domestic Cervidae**

42 We support the right of domestic cervidae
43 owners to breed, raise, harvest, and market all
44 members of the cervidae family indigenous to Idaho
45 that can be legally acquired.
46
47
48

1 **19. Equine**

2 **We support:**

- 3 1. Construction of new slaughtering facilities and/or
4 use of existing processing facilities in Idaho to
5 slaughter equines without duress;
6 2. The right of individuals and nongovernmental
7 organizations to save horses from slaughter as
8 long as they take possession of the horses and
9 are responsible for their care and feeding;
10 3. The continued classification of equines as
11 marketable livestock and oppose any efforts to
12 classify them as pets or companion animals;
13 4. When an equine is in the custody of a government
14 agency and an adoption has not been able to
15 take place within six months, that equine should
16 be harvested or euthanized with minimal stress
17 and without delay; and
18 5. Funding for USDA food service inspectors in
19 facilities that harvest horses.

20 **We oppose:**

- 21 1. Any attempt to eliminate the right of the equine
22 owner or BLM to the minimal stress slaughter of
23 their equine for consumption or any other
24 purpose.
25

26 **20. Foot and Mouth/BSE Disease**

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

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

33 We support allowing entities to voluntarily test all
34 slaughtered animals for BSE in order to ship
35 products to countries that require individual tests.
36

37 **21. Law Enforcement Training**

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

43 We support immediate notification by law
44 enforcement or emergency personnel to landowners
45 when fences or property sustain damage due to
46 accidents, or by entrance of emergency personnel.
47

1 **22. Livestock Brands**

2 We support the concept that livestock may be
3 left unbranded at the discretion of the owner except
4 for those livestock grazing on federal/state managed
5 lands.
6

7 **23. Manure Management**

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

10 **We support:**

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

20 **We oppose:**

- 21 1. Manure being classified as industrial, solid, or
22 hazardous waste or as raw sewage.
23

24 **24. State Meat Inspectors**

25 We support state certified meat inspectors for
26 small meat processing plants.

27 We support a state meat inspection program in
28 Idaho which would allow for the intrastate
29 commercial sale of meat.

30 We support more kill facilities in our rural areas
31 of the state.

32 We support having large animal veterinarians
33 and other interested individuals in rural areas
34 becoming certified meat inspectors under a state
35 meat inspection program.

36 We support all mobile butchers and processors
37 to require a trip permit brand inspection slip or bill of
38 sale on all bovine animals they receive and retain
39 those records for a 3-year period to help monitor
40 theft and illegal taking and processing of animals.
41

42 **25. State Veterinarian**

43 We believe the Animal Health Division of the
44 Idaho Department of Agriculture should be
45 administered by a licensed veterinarian.
46
47
48

1 WATER

2
3 **26. Aquifer Recharge**

4 We support the beneficial use of managed
5 basin-wide aquifer recharge with the state being
6 involved with both financial support and
7 implementation.
8

9 **27. Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs**

10 Release of water in power head space in Bureau
11 of Reclamation reservoirs shall be controlled solely
12 by state water law.
13

14 **28. Cloud Seeding**

15 We support cloud seeding and encourage
16 continued investment in its application and research.

17 We support the Legislature and the Idaho Water
18 Resource Board continuing to study and fund cloud
19 seeding efforts.
20

21 **29. Comprehensive State Water Plan**

22 **We support:**

- 23 1. The Governor appointing individuals to the Idaho
24 Water Resource Board who will protect the water
25 resources of the State;
26 2. Requiring legislative approval before establishing
27 minimum stream flow, instream flow, reconnect
28 permits, river basin plans and state water plans;
29 3. Amending the Idaho Constitution, Article XV
30 Water Rights Section 7, State Water Resource
31 Agency to read, "That any change shall become
32 effective only by approval of the legislature."; and
33 4. Legislative approval for water agreements made
34 between the state and federal government.

35 **We oppose:**

- 36 1. Minimum stream flows until sufficient storage
37 facilities are built to supply priority needs first.
38

39 **30. Dams**

40 We support the Northwest Power Planning
41 Council focusing its efforts on issues that will provide
42 the region with its current and future power needs.

43 We support the construction, improvement and
44 increased size of storage facilities that provide
45 beneficial multiple uses of Idaho's water.

46 We support municipalities, federal agencies and
47 tribes advocating for and funding additional storage
48 projects to help meet the increasing demand for

1 water, and avoid taking irrigation water from
2 agricultural purposes.

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

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

10 **31. Effluent Trading**

11 We support the concept of effluent trading.

13 **32. Flood Control**

14 We support additional storage facilities,
15 increased recharge, and federal land transfers to
16 state ownership to control future flooding.

18 **33. Ground Water Districts**

19 We support changing the boundaries of local
20 groundwater districts that are directly connected to
21 the underground aquifer to include those who are
22 not currently participating but are of a common
23 ground water source.

24 We oppose any diminishment of authority of
25 local water districts or groundwater districts through
26 creation of a Groundwater Management Area.

28 **34. Mid-Snake Data Collection**

29 We support the Legislature appropriating
30 additional funding to enable the U.S. Geological
31 Survey (USGS) to conduct data collection and
32 analysis to complete the water quality report of the
33 Upper Snake/Rock Sub-basin in support of Idaho's
34 Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) Total
35 Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development.

37 **35. Moratorium**

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

42 **36. Outstanding Resource Waters**

43 We support the Basin Advisory Groups (BAGs)
44 and Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) process as
45 it pertains to Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs).

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

1 **37. State Purchase of Water Rights for**
2 **Mitigation**

3 We support the state purchasing and holding
4 water rights for the purpose of mitigation, so water
5 trade may benefit aquifer recharge and groundwater
6 conservation.
7

8 **38. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)**

9 We support mandating Idaho's Department of
10 Environmental Quality to conduct an Economic
11 Impact Analysis of an area's businesses (including
12 the agri-business and agricultural operations of that
13 area) before initiating a TMDL process for that
14 geographic area. The analysis shall be provided to
15 the Watershed Advisory Group before consideration
16 is given to develop and implement a TMDL. A copy
17 of the analysis shall also be provided to the germane
18 committees of the Idaho Legislature.
19

20 **39. Transfer of Water Rights**

21 We believe all water in Idaho should be used
22 beneficially. In the event the BOR or IDWR desires
23 use of water they would have to negotiate on a
24 yearly basis for rental-pool water in accordance with
25 state water law.

26 **We support:**

- 27 1. Re-evaluation of the need for flow augmentation
28 on the grounds that the science does not support
29 any biological benefit.
30 2. IDWR automatically transferring stock water rights
31 from any federal agency to the allotment
32 permittee.

33 **We oppose:**

- 34 1. The transfer of water rights to the Bureau of
35 Reclamation (BOR);
36 2. The taking of water for fish flushing. Water held by
37 the Idaho Water Resource Board will be held and
38 used for purposes intended and in accordance
39 with state law; and
40 3. Out-of-basin transfers of irrigation water from
41 lands enrolled in the federal cropland set-aside
42 program for use on lands that have not
43 historically been used for agricultural
44 development.
45

46 **40. Waste Management**

47 We oppose mandatory waste management
48 facility construction without scientific proof of
49 environmental pollution on an individual basis.

1 **41. Water Development on New Non-Ag**
2 **Development**

3 We support legislation that would require
4 developers to supply water and water-delivery
5 systems using existing water rights or gray water to
6 new developments.
7

8 **42. Water Quality**

9 **We support:**

- 10 1. The continued management of water quality, both
11 underground and surface, by utilizing “Best
12 Management Practices” (BMPs) as contained in
13 USDA’s “Natural Resource Conservation
14 Services Field Office Technical Guide” and
15 Idaho’s “Forest Practices Act.” Changes in these
16 BMPs should be based only on scientifically
17 monitored data rather than “best professional
18 judgement”;
19 2. The development of BMPs for recreational uses;
20 and
21 3. The efforts of canal and irrigation districts to halt
22 unwanted drainage into their water systems.

23 **We oppose:**

- 24 1. The DEQ having the authority to arbitrarily impose
25 penalties on landowners without first identifying
26 the problem and giving the landowner an
27 opportunity to correct the problem. If there is a
28 difference of opinion concerning the extent of the
29 problem, a reasonable and cost-effective appeal
30 process of the DEQ decision should be available
31 to the landowner; and
32 2. Levying fees associated with State NPDES
33 programs implementation, operation and permit
34 issuance on agriculture and aquaculture
35 producers.
36

37 **43. Water Quality Standards**

38 Water quality standards must be site specific
39 and realistically achievable for each water body.
40 These standards must at least partially support
41 designated beneficial uses.
42

43 **44. Water Rights**

44 **We support:**

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

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

44 **We oppose:**

- 45 1. The Idaho Department of Water Resources
- 46 accepting any further applications for water rights
- 47 on surface stream water of the state that has
- 48 been over-decreed and adjudicated. Adequate
- 49 water for domestic and agricultural purposes

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

31 **45. Water Spreading**

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

40 We support legislation and rulemaking that will
41 protect the full use of an irrigation water right.
42

43 **46. Water Use - International Water** 44 **Agreements**

45 We support the renewal of the Columbia River
46 Treaty with Canada in such a manner as to maintain
47 its original focus upon flood control and power
48 generation.
49

1 LAND USE

2 3 **47. Government Land Transactions**

4 **We support:**

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

43 **We oppose:**

- 44 1. Any land exchanges involving publicly owned land
45 unless there is strong local support; and
- 46 2. The State purchasing private property for
47 investment purposes.

48. Government-Managed Lands

We support:

1. Multiple-use management of federal and state lands with protection of the traditional rights of use;
2. A study of the Payment In Lieu of Taxes formula to determine if it is meeting its purpose and is equitable in its distribution of funds;
3. The equal-footing doctrine and insist on the passage of legislation to establish a deadline for complete transfer of public land back to state jurisdiction and management;
4. The Idaho Legislature joining with other states in the West, in an interstate compact, with respect to the transfer of public lands;
5. The timely salvage of trees in burn areas within our state;
6. Legislation that would promote harvest of trees and forage on federal and state land to help prevent and control wildfire;
7. The use of land-use management plans by county governments to encourage state and federal agencies to coordinate and protect the land within their tax base;
8. The legislature and the governor asserting their authority and taking all necessary measures to protect the citizens and counties of the State of Idaho from federal agency overreach;
9. The release of federal, state and local government held lands for development or private use; and
10. Proactively utilizing Good Neighbor Authority, or similar programs to more productively manage federal lands in Idaho.

49. Grazing

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

We support:

1. The protection of grazing on public lands as a viable economic solution for managing agencies of rangeland by reducing forage minimizing costs for fighting catastrophic wildfires;
2. "Best Management Practices" by all State and Federal agencies, land grant colleges and

- 1 research facilities on how grazing affects habitat
2 for all wildlife including sage grouse leks;
- 3 **3.** “Rangeland Management Plans” that use current
4 science-based information developed by the
5 Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, Forest Service,
6 and NRCS including the development of a
7 certification process recognized by these
8 agencies which would allow grazing permit
9 holders to submit voluntary forage monitoring
10 data to be used in the creation and development
11 of said plans;
- 12 **4.** Range management plans should be developed
13 in careful and considered consultation,
14 cooperation, and coordination with local
15 government, permittees, lessees and landowners
16 involved;
- 17 **5.** The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, the
18 Experimental Stewardship Program, and the
19 Coordinated Resource Management Program
20 encouraging producer control and supporting
21 fees;
- 22 **6.** Our local NRCS “Grazing Land Conservation
23 Initiative” (GLCI) and the “Conservation Reserve
24 Program” (CRP) and its programs of intermittent
25 grazing which pay producers to set aside
26 marginal ground to enhance soil health;
- 27 **7.** Grazing fee formulas for AUM’s currently used by
28 Idaho Department of Lands, BLM, Forest Service,
29 and (PRIA) which are based upon forage
30 monitoring by agencies and permittees under the
31 “Federal Land Policy and Management Act” of
32 1976 (FLPMA);
- 33 **8.** The current grazing permit holder to have first
34 right of refusal when land is sold and when there
35 is no permit holder, the adjacent landowner
36 should be given the first right of refusal based on
37 appraised value;
- 38 **9.** All holders of grazing preference be fairly
39 compensated when federal land is sold, traded,
40 or exchanged and any entity acquiring property
41 from the federal government to compensate
42 grazing preference holders;
- 43 **10.** Requiring any entity which acquires property
44 from the federal government to compensate
45 grazing preference holders for loss of their
46 property rights if that entity does not continue to
47 maintain and protect those rights;

- 1 **11.** Funding from both federal and state
- 2 governments for the operation and research of
- 3 the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station in Dubois;
- 4 **12.** A grazing preference right being transferred from
- 5 one base property to another base property, if the
- 6 transferor shall own or control the base property
- 7 from which the grazing preference right is being
- 8 transferred and file with the authorized officer a
- 9 properly completed transfer application for
- 10 approval to the respective agency;
- 11 **13.** Selling of a permit by a holder to another
- 12 interested party that will continue using the permit
- 13 for its original intended purpose;
- 14 **14.** The new “Outcome Based Grazing
- 15 Authorizations” of 2017, which is designed to
- 16 offer a more coordinated approach to resolve
- 17 disputes between the BLM and its partners within
- 18 the livestock grazing community when issuing
- 19 trading authorizations; and
- 20 **15.** All stakeholders being a part of the vetting
- 21 process when curtailment, termination, or fee
- 22 increases of any existing grazing permits or
- 23 allotments are proposed.

24 **We oppose:**

- 25 1. The reduction or curtailment of any grazing
- 26 activity for the creation or recognition of wildlife
- 27 corridors;
- 28 2. The U.S. Forest Service ruling that will prevent
- 29 transferring grazing permits for 25 head or less;
- 30 3. The termination of grazing permits for
- 31 administrative errors or omissions of the land
- 32 managing agency;
- 33 4. Mandatory forage monitoring by livestock
- 34 permittees on federal lands as proposed by the
- 35 Federal Land Management Policy Act;
- 36 5. The termination or curtailment of permittees
- 37 because of livestock proximity to bighorn sheep,
- 38 bison, and sage grouse; and
- 39 6. The purchase or retirement of grazing permits or
- 40 allotments by any State or Federal agency,
- 41 group, or individual whose sole purpose is to not
- 42 allow any further grazing.

43
44 **50. Idaho Forest Practices Act**

45 We support the Idaho Forest Practices Act

46 except where it infringes on private property rights.

47 We oppose The Forest Practices Act

48 Streamside Retention Rule (Shade Rule) unless

49 accompanied by fair market appraised value

1 compensation to landowners for loss of property
2 rights.
3

4 **51. Landfills on BLM Lands**

5 We encourage the development of new, and the
6 continued use of existing, county landfills on BLM
7 lands.
8

9 **52. Local, State or National Land** 10 **Designation**

11 We oppose any infringement upon private
12 property rights through any designation of land by
13 any government entity, including highway scenic
14 byways/corridors, National Heritage Areas, National
15 Monuments and National Parks. We oppose any
16 change to federal or state land designation when
17 there is the potential to harm agriculture.

18 We oppose Craters of the Moon becoming a
19 national park.
20

21 **53. Mineral Rights**

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

27 We support requiring that property deeds state
28 the name and address of the person or entity who
29 owns the mineral rights for each property. If mineral
30 rights are sold or transferred, the deed should be
31 updated. The surface owner should be notified and
32 offered first right of refusal.
33

34 **54. Mining**

35 We support the continuation of mineral
36 extraction in Idaho as long as the appropriate mine
37 reclamation and environmental protections are in
38 place and followed.
39

40 **55. Open Range**

41 We oppose any changes to Idaho open range
42 laws.
43

44 **56. Pest Control**

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

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

5 We support legislation that requires local, state
6 and federal governments to manage lands to
7 prevent spread of noxious weeds and pests from
8 their lands to adjoining lands, crops and animals.
9

10 **57. Regulation of Agricultural Practices**

11 **We support:**

- 12 1. Long-standing sound agricultural practices such
13 as field burning, including grass seed, straw,
14 residue burning, timber slash burning and animal-
15 waste disposal, cultivation and harvest practices;
- 16 2. Farmer participation in voluntary airshed quality
17 programs; and
- 18 3. The farmer's right to farm by being able to carry
19 on sound farming and forestry practices and to be
20 free from environmental regulations that are not
21 proportionately beneficial to the implementation
22 cost.

23 **We oppose:**

- 24 1. Any legislation or regulations that would
25 segregate any agricultural industry, agricultural
26 crop, cropping practice or geographical area and
27 would impose a higher air quality, water quality or
28 environmental standard than is required of any
29 other person, entity, industry or geographical area
30 within the state;
- 31 2. Regulations on agricultural practices that are not
32 validated by sound peer reviewed scientific
33 process and supported by scientific fact;
- 34 3. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture having
35 the authority to impose sanctions on livestock
36 operators without first identifying specific problems
37 and giving the operators an opportunity to correct
38 said problems; and
- 39 4. Efforts to regulate logging slash burning on
40 private timberlands by the Idaho Department of
41 Environmental Quality (DEQ).
42

43 **58. Right to Farm**

44 We support the right-to-farm law, and the
45 concept behind it, and encourage legislative
46 changes to strengthen the law so it can be enforced
47 at the local governmental levels through conditional
48 use permits or other permitting processes.

1 We support local, state, and federal agriculture
2 exemptions from dust rules.
3

4 **59. Riparian Management**

5 Proper multiple-use management of riparian
6 areas is essential.

7 We believe these highly productive areas can be
8 properly harvested with modern forest or livestock
9 Best Management Practices (BMPs) and still
10 improve riparian habitat for all uses.

11 We believe these areas should be properly used
12 but not abused. However, management of the entire
13 allotment should not be governed by forage
14 utilization of riparian areas.

15 We support the concept that all existing roads
16 along streams be given grandfather rights approval.
17

18 **60. State and County Noxious Weed Control**

19 **We support:**

- 20 1. Strong enforcement of Idaho's noxious weed law
21 by the state and counties, together with
22 appropriate use of special management-zone
23 provisions;
- 24 2. Idaho Transportation Department weed control
25 policies at both state and district levels be required
26 to be in compliance with the Idaho Noxious Weed
27 Law each year by controlling all infestations of
28 noxious weeds in a timely and effective manner
29 and by controlling noxious weeds on the full width
30 of all rights of way;
- 31 3. Enforcement of timely and effective noxious weed
32 control by all railroads on their rights of ways
33 within the state; and
- 34 4. Adding dog rose (*Rosa canina*) and sweet briar
35 (*Rosa eglanteria*) to the Idaho noxious weed list.
36

37 **61. Timber Management**

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

41 We oppose actions by the Land Board or
42 Department of Lands that would inhibit or further
43 restrict these processes, including, but not limited to,
44 habitat conservation plans and conservation
45 easements.
46
47
48

62. Wilderness and Restrictive Zones

We support:

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
2. Adding adequate fire breaks in existing wilderness areas.

We oppose:

1. All dedication of land in Idaho for wilderness and roadless areas and support the release of lands currently held in Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) back to multiple-use management. All lands designated as non-suitable for wilderness must be immediately released from WSA status;
2. Designation of lands in Idaho as biosphere reserves, corridors or buffer zones, using the Lands Legacy Initiative, the Antiquities Act or National Monument Declarations by the executive branch of the government;
3. Any expansion of the boundaries of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA);
4. Any reinterpretation of the mandates of the SNRA which would impose further use restrictions; and
5. The reduction or curtailment of any grazing or farming activity for the creation or recognition of wildlife corridors.

63. Wildfire Control

We support:

1. Fire-control policy to put out any fire upon arrival or as soon as safely possible. Local entities (such as counties, fire districts, and forest or rangeland protective associations) and private landowners and individuals being allowed to act as first responders. When the protection of the health, safety, and property of the citizens are in jeopardy, the local protective associations being allowed to act beyond the first response and initial attack phase of a fire. Local landowners must be allowed to protect private property including livestock on federal and state lands;
2. Changing state and federal wildfire policy to require that state and federal fire managers and incident commanders coordinate with county and local fire departments and landowners;
3. A provision that state and federal agencies will allow forest or rangeland protective associations in neighboring states, that meet the requirements of

1 their home state, to enter into mutual aid
2 agreements with forest and rangeland protective
3 associations across state lines;

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

8 **5.** A provision that state and federal agencies
9 maintain a fire break strategically located to
10 protect private property and to control large
11 wildfires; and

12 **6.** An aggressive initial attack and suppression on all
13 forest and rangeland wildfires on public land and
14 firefighting suppression activities in addition to fire
15 management, in order to protect our water basins
16 and watersheds.

17 **We oppose:**

18 **1.** Landowners being held accountable for fire
19 suppression costs except in cases of gross
20 negligence.

21
22 **FISH AND WILDLIFE**

23
24 **64. Animal Damage Control**

25 We support animal damage control programs to
26 control and manage predators, rodents and
27 destructive wildlife.

28
29 **65. Animal Threat and Public Safety**

30 It shall be the responsibility of U.S. Fish and
31 Wildlife Services and any state agencies, that
32 manage predatory or proven problem animals, to
33 notify all residences within a five-mile radius using a
34 9-1-1 reverse calling system of potential conflict in
35 their area.

36
37 **66. Endangered Species Act**

38 We believe that modern society cannot continue
39 to operate on the premise that all species must be
40 preserved at any cost.

41 We believe basic requirements of human life
42 have priority over protection of other species,
43 including threatened or endangered (T/E) species. A
44 thorough consideration of all potential adverse
45 impacts to human economic and social welfare
46 should be an integral part of any consideration to list
47 and T/E species.

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

7 **We support:**

- 8 1. A revision of the ESA to include a more thorough
9 consideration of agriculture, mining, logging and
10 tree farming in such a manner that these activities
11 will be sustained and made part of any recovery
12 plan. Recovery of T/E species should not receive
13 higher priority than human uses or rights;
- 14 2. Anadromous hatchery fish and wild fish being
15 treated equally under the ESA. Hatchery fish
16 should be counted toward recovery of the species;
- 17 3. Eliminating the marking of hatchery fish.
- 18 4. The right of landowners to protect themselves,
19 their families, livestock and properties from all
20 predators including grizzly bears and wolves
21 without legal retaliation;
- 22 5. Congress providing depredation funding for
23 losses or damage resulting from endangered
24 species and to mandate responsibility to deal with
25 such losses; and
- 26 6. Livestock grazing as an effective tool to reduce
27 wildfires and enhance plant and wildlife habitat.

28 **We oppose:**

- 29 1. Any effort to create a State Endangered Species
30 Act (ESA);
- 31 2. Road closures and restrictions imposed on land
32 and water in the name of critical habitat;
- 33 3. Implementation of the endangered species
34 pesticide labeling program, other than in critical
35 habitat;
- 36 4. The listing of the Giant Palouse Earthworm
37 (*Driloleirus americanus*) and the Greater Sage
38 Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and Slick
39 Spot Peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) as an
40 endangered species;
- 41 5. Listing any species before its critical habitat is
42 identified within its scientifically established
43 historical range. Habitat site specific assessments
44 and recovery plans must include comprehensive
45 protection of private property rights; and
- 46 6. Any critical-habitat designation until it has been
47 established beyond scientific doubt that the
48 species in question is actually present and that
49 endangered or threatened status is actually

1 warranted. The data to satisfy the scientific criteria
2 should meet the guidelines of the Data Quality Act
3 under federal statutes sections 3504(d)(1) and
4 3516 of title 44, United States Code. The agency,
5 organization or individual requesting the critical-
6 habitat designation must bear the cost of proving
7 presence of the species and this must be done
8 through the use of the best available peer
9 reviewed science.

11 **67. Fish and Game Department**

12 **We support:**

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

1 depredation shall be free of conditions that
2 landowners must allow hunting on their land.
3 Landowners should be allowed to determine who
4 hunts and they should be allowed to receive
5 compensation for allowing hunts on their private
6 property;

7 **10.** Creating depredation areas for landowners who
8 are annually affected by depredating animals and
9 support mechanisms for quicker response in
10 those areas;

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

16 **12.** Investigating transactions between the Idaho
17 Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Idaho
18 Department of Fish and Game to determine if
19 there is a conflict of interest.

20 **We oppose:**

21 1. The acquisition of additional land by the Fish and
22 Game Department;

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

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

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

33 5. Idaho Fish and Game utilizing animal depredation
34 claims to count against actual production history
35 (APH).
36

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

38 The Idaho Department of Fish and Game must
39 have permission from the landowner before entering
40 private property.
41

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

44 Fish and Game Department shall pay private
45 reservoir companies for the use of that reservoir for
46 fish habitat. The Department should also pay
47 upkeep assessments on reservoirs in which they
48 own water.
49

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

3 **We support:**

- 4 1. Reform of the Idaho Department of Fish and
5 Game to create local management of the wildlife
6 of Idaho. This program should be site specific to
7 control damage caused from overpopulated
8 species of both game and non-game animals;
9 2. Requiring state or federal wildlife personnel to file
10 an environmental and economic impact statement
11 before they can release non-native insects or
12 plants in Idaho or make regulations that affect the
13 counties and/or the state;
14 3. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture's ban
15 on the release of deleterious exotic animals into
16 the State of Idaho; and
17 4. Requiring all state and federal agency personnel
18 going through the elected county sheriff for all law
19 enforcement.

20 **We oppose:**

- 21 1. The relocation of wild game and non-game
22 species without proper notice being given to
23 residents and property owners in the area where
24 they are released. Local county officials must
25 receive official notice at least 30 days prior to any
26 relocation or release, into the wild, of any species
27 raised in captivity;
28 2. Relocation or release into the wild of wolves or
29 grizzlies that have been raised in captivity; and
30 3. The Idaho Fish and Game Department engaging
31 in activities that encourage only non-consumptive
32 uses of fish and wildlife species in Idaho.

34 **71. Fish Species Population Management**

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

41 **72. Grizzly Bear**

42 **We support:**

- 43 1. Delisting the grizzly bear from endangered
44 species status;
45 2. A hunting season on the grizzly;
46 3. Requiring the costs associated with grizzlies,
47 including triple damages for depredation costs, to

- 1 be borne by the federal government, and its
2 agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services;
- 3 **4.** Paying compensation to state and local agencies
4 when any assistance in the management, control,
5 or defense of the public is needed from such
6 agencies. Compensation to state and local
7 agencies should be paid regardless of whether a
8 request has been made by a federal agency for
9 assistance until such time as the current grizzly
10 bear policy can be changed to allow less conflict
11 with humans and livestock; namely the delisting of
12 the grizzly bear and transfer of management to
13 individual states' authority; and
- 14 **5.** Requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to
15 coordinate all grizzly bear related activities with
16 the Idaho Fish and Game and local county
17 officials.

18 **We oppose:**

- 19 **1.** The reintroduction of grizzly bear into any area of
20 the State of Idaho; and
- 21 **2.** The relocation of any known problem bear that
22 has threatened human safety outside a recovery
23 zone regardless of the number of strikes against it.
24

25 **73. Introduction of Salmon**

26 We oppose the introduction of salmon above the
27 Brownlee Dam.
28

29 **74. Invasive Species**

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

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

37 **75. Sage Grouse**

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

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

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

1 **76. Salmon Recovery**

2 **We support the following salmon-recovery**
3 **alternatives:**

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

14
15 **77. Snake River Basin Snails**

16 We support the delisting of snail species in the
17 Snake River Basin and the grouping of snail species
18 based on taxonomic/biological similarities.

19 We oppose the future listing of new snail
20 species.

21
22 **78. Wolves**

23 **We support**

- 24 1. All methods of year-round wolf control and
25 population management statewide;
26 2. Funding for government agencies tasked with wolf
27 management and support appropriate
28 compensation for damages incurred by producers;
29 3. Adding wolves to the IDF&G depredation list so
30 that depredation on livestock can be paid by the
31 IDF&G Big Game Depredation and Prevention
32 Fund; and
33 4. Requiring when possible, all wolf carcasses to be
34 presented for testing for communicable diseases,
35 especially the tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus*
36 which causes Hydatid Disease in livestock, elk,
37 deer, and humans.

38
39 **EASEMENTS**

40
41 **79. Conservation Easements and Scenic**
42 **Easements**

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

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

1 ENERGY

2
3 **80. Affordable Energy**

4 **We support:**

- 5 1. Transparency in how energy monopolies plan to
- 6 incur expenses and make investments that are
- 7 passed on to ratepayers;
- 8 2. Thorough, fair and publicly involved process for
- 9 evaluating rate requests and setting rates; and
- 10 3. Increased focus on removing barriers to widely
- 11 available and affordable sources of energy.

12
13 **81. Alternative Energy**

14 We support the development of alternative

15 energy.

16 We oppose a broad moratorium on alternative

17 energy projects.

18 We support county control in the siting of these

19 projects.

20 We support sales tax incentives to assist in the

21 development of alternative energy projects of less

22 than one megawatt constructed on or by existing

23 agriculture operations.

24 We support that alternative energy should not

25 receive subsidies beyond the bulk market rate. Any

26 such contracts shall be allowed to expire.

27

28 **82. Bonneville Power Administration Credit**

29 We support some type of BPA credit that allows

30 all citizens of Idaho to benefit from the BPA's use of

31 Idaho water for power generation.

32
33 **83. Electrical Energy**

34 **1. Hydroelectric Dams:**

35 **We support**

36 **1.1.** The continued careful use of water as one of

37 our renewable natural resources through

38 existing and the construction of new hydro

39 projects, as future demands for electrical energy

40 increase;

41 **1.2.** The adaptation of hydro projects to generate

42 power for sale; and

43 **1.3.** The relicensing of dams, including Hells Canyon

44 Complex, using a least cost mitigation plan

45 reflecting the desire for the customers to have a

46 reliable power source at reasonable rates.

47

48

1 **2. Renewables:**

2 **We Support:**

3 **2.1.** Utilities operating in Idaho developing
4 economically feasible renewable energy
5 portfolios;

6 **2.2.** The construction of economically feasible power
7 generation facilities in Idaho, including those that
8 use plant and/or animal residue or logging slash;
9 and

10 **2.3.** An annual true-up for net metering rather than a
11 monthly true-up.

12 **3. Regulations:**

13 **We support:**

14 **3.1.** State agencies removing barriers that prevent
15 utilities from increasing Idaho's power
16 generation capacity; and

17 **3.2.** Current laws that require coal fired plants be
18 held to strict standards in the construction,
19 operation and retirement of the facility.

20 **We oppose:**

21 **3.1.** Any deregulation, reorganization, merger or
22 consolidation of power generation or
23 transmission which could result in loss of water
24 rights, less service or increased rates; and

25 **3.2.** The sale of any public utility company operating
26 in the State of Idaho to an entity either partially
27 or wholly owned by a foreign government.

28 **4. Transmission:**

29 **We support:**

30 **4.1.** Upgrades in transmission and distribution.
31 Routing of utility corridors should be placed on
32 public land first and then to the areas of least
33 impact to private property owners; and

34 **4.2.** The initiation of on and off ramps in
35 transmission lines within the State of Idaho.

36 **5. PUC Rates:**

37 **We oppose:**

38 **5.1.** Any action by the PUC to move in the direction
39 of inverted block rates or in any major rate
40 design revision that would be detrimental to
41 agriculture.
42
43
44
45

1 **84. Fossil Fuels**

2 We support the mining and drilling of fossil fuels.

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

7 If a local government entity bans the
8 development of mineral rights in its jurisdiction, it
9 should be considered a property rights "taking" and
10 compensation should be provided to the property
11 owner.

12
13 **85. Nuclear Energy**

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

19 We support research and development of further
20 usage of radioactive waste materials and safer ways
21 of storage.

22 We support development of the fast burn sector
23 of nuclear technology which massively reduces or
24 eliminates the need for nuclear waste disposal.

25 We support the Idaho National Laboratory
26 providing the lead role in advancing the
27 development of this technology.

28
29 **86. Power Demand Control Program**

30 We support demand control programs as long
31 as current water rights and power usage contracts
32 are protected. These programs must remain on a
33 voluntary basis.

34
35 **87. Renewable Fuels**

36 We support the promotion and use of alternative
37 fuels made from agricultural products, as long as
38 they are driven by open markets and not
39 economically supported by mandates and
40 government subsidies.

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

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

1 **88. Utility Companies**

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

5 We support utility companies retaining the
6 liability when underground utility lines are not at the
7 required depths.

8 We oppose requiring farmers to call dig line in
9 order to work their fields for planting, cultivation and
10 harvesting activities, where underground utility lines
11 exist.

12 If dig line is required to be used in normal
13 farming cultivation practices, we support the 21-day
14 time constraint being extended as long as flags and
15 or markings for underground utilities are left
16 untouched.

17
18 **LABOR**

19
20 **89. Legal Aid**

21 We oppose state funding of Idaho Legal Aid
22 Services.

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

25
26 **90. Minimum Wage**

27 We oppose any minimum wage within the state
28 that is higher than the federal minimum wage.

29
30 **91. New Hire Reporting**

31 We support changes in the Idaho New Hire
32 Reporting Law to extend the reporting date to 60
33 days.

34 We support not having to report seasonal
35 temporary workers that work less than 45 days in a
36 year.

37
38 **92. Unemployment Insurance**

39 Eligibility requirements should be made realistic
40 to reflect agriculture's seasonal employment
41 practices.

42
43 **93. Workers Compensation**

44 Workers compensation for agricultural
45 employers should provide:

- 46 1. Cost control measures and fair base rates;
47 2. Mediation for agricultural concerns;
48 3. Protection from third party lawsuits; and

1 4. Employer protection from worker caused injuries
2 (i.e. drug & alcohol).

3 We support changes in the existing Workers'
4 Compensation Law that would take into
5 consideration the employee's responsibility when an
6 accident occurs.

7 We support having the settlement reduced by
8 the percentage that was determined that the worker
9 was responsible.

11 TAX

13 **94. Agricultural Property Tax Shifts**

14 We are opposed to shifting property tax to
15 agricultural real estate.

17 **95. Assessed Value of Ag Production Land**

18 We support ag land being assessed at its actual
19 use value for taxation purposes.

20 **We support:**

- 21 1. Assessed values being capped at a 5% increase
22 in any given year;
- 23 2. The retention of five-acre minimum productivity
24 option and the Bare Land & Yield Option for forest
25 lands; and
- 26 3. Legislation that allows county commissioners to
27 appeal an assessment change by the Idaho State
28 Tax Commission for a category of property.

29 **We oppose:**

- 30 1. The State Tax Commission having power to
31 equalize county property tax assessments.

33 **96. Budget Caps**

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

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

44 **97. Fuel Tax**

45 We support the refund of tax paid on fuel used
46 off-road.

47 We support having non-taxed dyed-fuel
48 available for off-road use.

1 **98. Impact Fees**

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

5 We support simplification of current impact fee
6 rules and procedures.
7

8 **99. Investment Tax Credit**

9 We support retention of the current three
10 percent investment tax credit provisions, or an
11 increase in the credit.
12

13 **100. Local Option Taxation**

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

18 **101. Maximum Levy Rates**

19 We oppose raising the maximum statutory levy
20 rates for any taxing authority.
21

22 **102. Personal Tax Privacy Rights**

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

27 **103. Property Tax**

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

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

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

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

41 We support efforts to amend the Idaho Forest
42 Tax Law to allow forest landowners to designate and
43 maintain multiple timberland parcels under
44 respective Bare Land and Yield (Category 6) or
45 Productivity (Category 7) classifications.
46

1 **104. Property Tax-Funding Local**
2 **Government and Schools**

3 **We support:**

- 4 1. Gradually reducing the property tax burden to
5 fund public schools and local government;
6 2. Legislation mandating that plant facilities levy
7 monies can be used only for capital expenditures
8 related to school operation and maintenance;
9 3. The creation of standardized mandatory full
10 disclosure of the school district's revenues and
11 expenditures that are related to extracurricular
12 activities; separated into curriculum and athletics,
13 and budgeted in standard categories of salaries,
14 transportation, supplies, and capital expenditures;
15 and
16 4. Removing the school budget stabilization levy that
17 was authorized in the 2006 Special Legislative
18 Session, unless it is supported by a local vote.

19 **We oppose:**

- 20 1. Judges being allowed to levy taxes;
21 2. Indefinite or permanent supplemental school
22 levies on taxpayers, regardless of the number of
23 consecutive levies passed; and
24 3. School districts carrying over plant facilities levy
25 funds to finance the construction of new buildings
26 or the acquisition of additional property.
27

28 **105. Sales Tax**

29 We oppose removing the sales tax exemption
30 on production items.

31 We support legislation that would exempt
32 nonprofit organizational fund-raising from paying
33 sales tax on those receipts.
34

35 **106. Services Tax**

36 We oppose all tax on services.
37

38 **107. Special Taxing Districts**

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

42 We support legislation allowing special taxing
43 districts to be funded by a household fee. All taxing
44 districts that charge fees should be under the same
45 three percent cap that applies to counties and
46 municipalities.

47 We support giving library districts the option to
48 be funded by a household fee rather than through an

1 ad valorem tax. If the library district chooses the
2 household fee option, any bonds they pass must
3 also be paid through household fees.

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

8 **108. State Budget**

9 We support zero-based budgeting.

10 We support a constitutional amendment limiting
11 state spending to a calculation determined by
12 population growth and economic growth of the state.

13 We oppose balancing budget shortfalls by any
14 tax increase.

15 We oppose any state funding of Planned
16 Parenthood.

18 **109. Super Majority**

19 We support retaining the 66-2/3% majority vote
20 as required in the Idaho State Constitution for bond
21 levies.

22 We oppose circumventing the required two-
23 thirds majority by creative financing options.

25 **110. Tax Compensation for Federal and State 26 Managed Lands**

27 We recommend that a fee in lieu of taxes be
28 assessed on all lands removed from tax rolls by
29 state or federal agency management. We favor an
30 annual fee equivalent to local private property tax on
31 land.

33 **111. Tax Liens**

34 We oppose the recording of federal tax liens
35 (IRS) by the county recorder without due process of
36 law.

38 **112. Tax Refund Extension**

39 We support income tax assessments and
40 income tax refunds having the same statute of
41 limitations.

43 **113. Taxing Districts Sharing Administrators**

44 We encourage similar taxing districts to share
45 administrators and secretaries on a county-wide or
46 multi-district basis to help ease the tax burden of
47 administration.

1 **114. Urban Renewal Districts**

2 We support the repeal of urban renewal laws.

3
4 **LOCAL AFFAIRS**

5
6 **115. Annexation**

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

12
13 **116. County Commissioners**

14 We encourage county commissioners to develop
15 a Natural Resource Plan per NEPA guidelines that
16 clearly states the objectives and policies of the
17 county in regard to management of the natural
18 resources located on public lands in their county.

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

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

28
29 **117. Distribution of Federal Fines**

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

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

36
37 **118. Elections**

38 **We support:**

- 39 1. Allowing Idaho residents who own real property
40 in a taxing district to vote on any tax proposal in
41 that district;
- 42 2. Consolidation of all elections, including school
43 bonds/levies to the May and November elections;
- 44 3. Requiring a minimum of 30% voter turnout if a
45 school bond/levy election occurs on March or
46 August dates;
- 47 4. A Mandatory pre-registration requirement to be
48 eligible to vote in all local bond elections;

- 1 **5.** Requiring photo identification, proof of residency
2 and proof of U.S. citizenship for new voter
3 registration;
4 **6.** Pay raises for elected officials only taking effect
5 after the official stands again for election; and
6 **7.** Changing the number of members of the Idaho
7 redistricting commission to 7 with the majority on
8 the commission reflecting the current partisan
9 makeup of the legislature; and
10 **8.** Absentee ballots with verification of identity and
11 signatures.

12 **We oppose:**

- 13 **1.** Unsolicited mail-in voting and vote harvesting
14 practices.

15
16 **119. Emergency Response Fees**

17 We oppose the imposition of a “crash tax” to
18 cover the cost of cleaning up spills at the site of an
19 accident.

20 We favor reducing regulatory burdens which
21 prohibit low-cost clean-up solutions.

22
23 **120. Public Hearings**

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

27
28 **121. Zoning**

29 County commissioners should control all zoning
30 in the county. Zoning should be site specific within
31 the county.

32 We oppose the use of blanket zoning
33 ordinances, including sustainable development and
34 smart-growth initiatives.

35 We recognize and encourage the use of
36 planning tools allowed under state law to encourage
37 planned and orderly growth in or near agricultural
38 areas.

39
40 **EDUCATION**

41
42 **122. Adolescent Nutrition**

43 We support school districts offering dairy
44 products, healthy nutritional snacks and fruit juices
45 in vending machines on school premises.
46

1 **123. Ag in the Classroom**

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

4 We support an increase in funding for Ag in the
5 classroom.
6

7 **124. Career Technical Education**

8 We support enhanced funding for Idaho’s
9 Career & Technical Education, Agricultural Science
10 and Technology courses and programs.
11

12 **125. Contracts for Teachers**

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

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

18 School teachers should have the option of being
19 able to negotiate their own contract with the school
20 district as a private contractor.
21

22 **126. Education Funding**

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

27 Endowment funds designated for public schools
28 should be used for school funding only.
29

30 **127. Education Standards and Assessments**

31 **We support using:**

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

39 **128. Knowledge of Constitution**

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

46 **129. Local Control of Education**

47 We encourage the State Board of Education

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

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

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

11 **130. Mandatory Agriculture Education Class**

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

16 **131. No Increase in School Time**

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

20 **132. Parental Choice in Education**

21 We support the voucher system for education.

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

27 We support optional kindergarten.

28 We oppose public funding of pre-kindergarten.

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

35 **133. Veterinary Students**

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

41 **STATE AFFAIRS**

43 **134. Agricultural Research and Extension**

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

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

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

6 **We support:**

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

39
40 **135. ATV Safety**

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

44
45 **136. Ballot Initiative**

46 We support requiring all ballot initiatives to
47 collect signatures from 6% of registered voters in
48 each of the 35 legislative districts.

1 We oppose taxes being levied through the
2 initiative process.

3
4 **137. Bicycle Safety**

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

7
8 **138. Cell Phone Use**

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

11
12 **139. Commercial Auction Company
13 Bonding**

14 We support legislation that would require
15 licensing and bonding of commercial auction
16 companies.

17
18 **140. Constitutional Defense Fund**

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

22
23 **141. County Fairs**

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

29
30 **142. Cross Deputization of Law
31 Enforcement Officers**

32 We believe that cross deputization of county
33 sheriffs and any tribal law enforcement officers
34 should be voluntary.

35
36 **143. Definition of Agricultural Buildings**

37 We support changes to Idaho Code to define
38 agricultural buildings as follows:

- 39 1. They are buildings where agricultural products are
40 stored, housed or grown;
41 2. They are buildings where agricultural equipment,
42 including licensed vehicles that are used in the
43 production of agriculture can be fixed, repaired or
44 stored;
45 3. They are buildings that are used for the normal
46 servicing of an agricultural business; and
47 4. They can be used by employees as a place of
48 employment as well as a place to have meals and

1 take bathroom breaks as required by GAP (Good
2 Agricultural Practices).
3

4 **144. Executive Branch MOU/MOA**

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

9 We support granting the legislature the ability to
10 override a governor's veto after the session is
11 adjourned.
12

13 **145. Falsifying Reports**

14 Knowingly filing a false report and/or complaint
15 to any agency shall be considered a misdemeanor
16 and the perpetrator should be required to pay
17 damages and/or expenses to the individual that was
18 falsely accused as well as the investigating agency.
19

20 **146. Hazardous Waste**

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

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

29 We support a statewide hazardous materials
30 clean-up day.
31

32 **147. Health Insurance**

33 **We support:**

- 34 1. Private optional health insurance;
- 35 2. Legislation that permits, promotes, and/or assists:
 - 36 2.1. In individual health savings accounts with tax
37 free withdrawals for all health insurance
38 premiums;
 - 39 2.2. In free market solutions to health care costs
40 and access;
 - 41 2.3. In free clinics funded by local
42 community/faith-based organizations; and
 - 43 2.4. In development of Direct Primary Care in
44 Idaho supporting the offering of wraparound
45 health insurance policies.
- 46 3. Health insurance as a risk management tool by
47 reducing and/or eliminating the number of
48 mandated services.
49

1 **We oppose:**

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

9 **148. 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 **149. 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 **150. 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 **151. Marijuana**

25 We support marijuana staying on the class 1 list
26 of banned controlled substances in the State of
27 Idaho.
28

29 **152. Medicaid**

30 **We support:**

- 31 1. Repeal of Medicaid Expansion;
32 2. Informing the taxpayers each year of the cost of
33 Medicaid expansion and the effect on state
34 budgets;
35 3. Elimination of the Idaho State CAT Fund; and
36 4. Medicaid expansion being paid for with State of
37 Idaho general funds.

38 **We oppose:**

- 39 1. County property taxes paying any portion of
40 Medicaid expansion.
41

42 **153. Mental and Behavioral Health**

43 We support programs and initiatives that
44 address mental and behavioral health issues that
45 affect veterans, agricultural and rural communities
46 statewide.
47

1 **154. One Senator Per County**

2 We support an amendment to change the Idaho
3 Constitution to allow one senator per county.
4

5 **155. Private Property Rights/Eminent**
6 **Domain**

7 **We support:**

- 8 1. Defining private property to include, but not be
9 limited to, all land, crops, timber, water rights,
10 mineral rights, all other appurtenances and any
11 other consideration associated with land
12 ownership;
- 13 2. An Idaho Constitutional Amendment defining
14 public use as found in the eminent domain
15 doctrine to prohibit the condemnation of private
16 property for economic development or any use by
17 private parties. If private property is taken,
18 compensation must be prompt, just and adequate;
- 19 3. Compensating landowners in the cases of partial
20 taking of real property, when government-imposed
21 regulations cause a loss in value of private
22 property. Landowners or tenants shall not be held
23 liable for any damages incurred as a result of the
24 condemnation. Entities condemning property shall
25 assume liability for any damages incurred by
26 landowners.
- 27 4. The federal and state "takings" law in support of
28 the U.S. Constitution, Article V; and
- 29 5. Amending the State Building Code to prevent
30 infringement on private property rights through
31 excessive permit requirements.

32 **We oppose:**

- 33 1. Landowners having lands adjacent to federal and
34 or state lands should not be forced through
35 coercion or fear of imprisonment to allow new
36 easements across their land for public access to
37 federal and state lands. The taking of property or
38 easements should be permitted only when there is
39 eminent domain;
- 40 2. The use of eminent domain for recreational
41 purposes, for private economic development or to
42 expand the land holding of wildlife agencies;
- 43 3. Any infringement of private property rights caused
44 by regulations of rivers and dams for endangered
45 species;
- 46 4. Infringement on private property rights caused by
47 highway districts and transportation departments;
48 and

1 **5. Governmental taking of private property rights by**
2 restriction of use without just and due
3 compensation.
4

5 **156. Proprietary Information**

6 We oppose laws requiring insurance companies
7 or other private business entities to provide
8 proprietary information to state or federal agencies.
9

10 **157. Public Employees Bargaining**

11 We believe that public employees, when
12 negotiating contracts, should be separate entities in
13 themselves, and by statute not allowed to delegate
14 or reassign their negotiating rights to professional
15 negotiating forces.
16

17 **158. Re-Establish Congressional** 18 **Lawmaking Responsibility**

19 We support the state legislature in its efforts to
20 encourage Congress to reclaim its constitutional
21 responsibility of making law.
22

23 **159. Refugees in the United States**

24 We oppose sheltering refugees who do not
25 agree to uphold American constitutional government
26 and values.

27 We oppose any refugee program that adds
28 increased stress to local services. We support any
29 county that chooses to refuse or remove refugee
30 programs in their county.
31

32 **160. Regulation Reform**

33 **We support:**

- 34 1. Complete review of existing regulations to
35 determine their effectiveness and appropriateness
36 prior to assigning more restrictive regulations; and
- 37 2. Peer review of the existing regulations to
38 determine their potential to mitigate the problems
39 they address.
40

41 **161. Regulatory Fines**

42 The remedy for any violation of federal and
43 state agency rules should be to fix the problem
44 rather than to pay fines unless the violation rises to
45 the level of a felony.
46
47
48

162. Rights-of-Way

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

We Support:

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

We oppose:

1. Committing easement rights-of-way obtained by public or private sectors to any new or additional purpose, either during their original usage or after abandonment, without consent of the owner of the land underlying the easement. Upon abandonment of railway or utility rights-of-way or leases, all property and rights associated with such rights-of-way or leases should revert to the current owner of the original tract; and
2. The use of RS2477 as a tool for the taking of private property without just compensation as prescribed in the Constitution.

163. Right to Bear Arms

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

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

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

1 We declare all firearms and ammunition made
2 and retained in-state are beyond the authority of the
3 federal government.

4 We support expanding reciprocity with other
5 states for concealed carry permits.
6

7 **164. Road Closures**

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

11 We oppose the closure of any existing roads.
12

13 **165. Road Infrastructure on State 14 Endowment Lands**

15 We support the Idaho Department of Lands
16 hiring or contracting a transportation planner to
17 organize road infrastructure on endowment lands.
18

19 **166. State Agencies**

20 **We support:**

- 21 1. The Soil Conservation Commission or successor
22 entity advising and aiding local Soil Conservation
23 Districts by providing technical support and
24 funding at the statutory level;
- 25 2. Representation by an agricultural producer on the
26 Board of Regents for Idaho's land grant university
27 and on the Idaho Fish and Game Commission;
- 28 3. Legislation to require that government rules and
29 regulations, wherever applicable, be based upon
30 supportive disciplinary peer reviewed scientific
31 data and that wherever policies, rules or
32 regulations do not meet this standard the
33 responsible individual and/or individuals can be
34 held liable;
- 35 4. When a state law enforcement agency makes an
36 arrest, there should be a means provided to
37 reimburse the county for all costs associated in
38 maintaining the prisoner; and
- 39 5. The legislature reviewing agency rules. In order to
40 approve a new rule, both the House and Senate
41 must agree. A rule shall be rejected if either the
42 House or Senate does not approve.

43 **We oppose:**

- 44 1. Combining, splitting or changing government
45 agencies without the approval of users of the
46 services; and
- 47 2. Regulating any phase of farm and ranch business
48 by any state agency that does not have an

1 agricultural representative as a member of its
2 policy making board or committee.
3

4 **167. State Hatch Act**

5 We favor restoring the State Hatch Act, 67-5311
6 Limitation of Political Activity, to its original form and
7 content.
8

9 **168. State Historic Preservation Office** 10 **(SHPO)**

11 We oppose the expansion of the authority of the
12 SHPO and oppose any state funding.
13

14 **169. State Legal Reform**

15 **We Support:**

- 16 **1.** Reform of the state's civil justice system, which
17 would cure or substantially solve many of the
18 problems farmers face with hostile, harassing legal
19 services lawsuits. Any person or organization that
20 sues to prevent livestock operation siting, or the
21 use of agriculture or resource management
22 practices, should be required to post a bond in a
23 reasonable amount, which will be forfeited to the
24 defendant to help defray their costs in the event
25 that the suit is unsuccessful;
- 26 **2.** Legislation by the Idaho Legislature that would
27 require any entity bringing such lawsuits to post
28 substantial bonds based on the potential harm of
29 the lawsuit. Individuals who file complaints against
30 an agricultural operation and request an
31 investigation must pay a fee to cover administration
32 costs. Complete names, addresses and phone
33 numbers are required on each complaint;
- 34 **3.** Legislation to elect district judges when
35 appointments are made within one year of the next
36 election;
- 37 **4.** Entities from outside the jurisdiction of taxing
38 districts that file lawsuits against public entities
39 should be required to pay all legal expenses;
- 40 **5.** Legislation to amend Idaho state statutes to ensure
41 that justice and equity prevail in the awarding of
42 attorney fees;
- 43 **6.** Idaho courts using only the United States and
44 Idaho laws in the court system;
- 45 **7.** As a matter of equity, when a private party must act
46 in the place of the Attorney General to enforce and
47 protect the Idaho Constitution and statutes, the
48 Idaho Legislature must reimburse the party for all

- 1 reasonable attorney fees and costs if the courts fail
- 2 to do so; and
- 3 **8.** Requiring judges to inform jurors of the legality of
- 4 jury nullification.
- 5

6 **170. States' Rights and Sovereignty**

7 We support a law stating that Idaho and all
8 political subdivisions of the state are prohibited from
9 using any personnel or financial resources to
10 enforce, administer or cooperate with an executive
11 order issued by the President of the United States
12 that has not been affirmed by a vote of the Congress
13 of the United States and signed into law as
14 prescribed by the Constitution of the United States.
15

16 **171. Transportation**

17 **We support:**

- 18 **1.** Continuation of independent road districts without
- 19 oversight by county commissioners;
- 20 **2.** The Idaho Transportation Department utilizing
- 21 revenue sources efficiently to maintain and
- 22 construct Idaho roads;
- 23 **3.** The Idaho Transportation Department increasing
- 24 their cost saving efforts;
- 25 **4.** The sales tax collected from vehicles (vehicles,
- 26 batteries, tires and other general parts) going to
- 27 road maintenance;
- 28 **5.** Increases in gross weights with axle weights non-
- 29 changing;
- 30 **6.** The continued use of long combination vehicles
- 31 (LCVs);
- 32 **7.** The Idaho Transportation Department policy of
- 33 issuing oversize load permits for Idaho public
- 34 roads;
- 35 **8.** The continued improvement of Idaho's agricultural
- 36 roadways;
- 37 **9.** Accountability of highway transportation
- 38 department's engineers for the cost over-runs
- 39 and/or miscalculations for wrongful designs of
- 40 highway projects;
- 41 **10.** Increasing permit fees on loads exceeding
- 42 200,000 GVW to be comparable with fees in
- 43 surrounding states;
- 44 **11.** The review of current Idaho Transportation
- 45 Department policies regarding economics of
- 46 maintenance versus new construction of
- 47 roadways;
- 48 **12.** Expenses for environmental studies and the
- 49 expenses required to meet the mandated

1 environmental standards being calculated and
2 tabulated on an environmental budget and not
3 included in the Highway Construction and
4 Maintenance budget;

5 **13.** Construction and/or improvement of a North-
6 South Highway to the Canadian border;

7 **14.** Port districts in Idaho that help move agricultural
8 commodities;

9 **15.** Access of agricultural implements of husbandry
10 and vehicles to any and all local, county and state
11 roads/highways in Idaho, and oppose the
12 imposition of any minimum speed requirements;

13 **16.** Alternative solutions to wildlife overpasses.

14 **17.** The Idaho Transportation Department allowing
15 axle weight limit violations for livestock and
16 commodity haulers to be waived as long as the
17 truck's gross weight is less than or equal to the
18 maximum weight-limit;

19 **18.** 129,000 GVW limits on all highways within the
20 state that can accommodate the weight;

21 **19.** 115 feet vehicle lengths when the highways can
22 accommodate the length;

23 **20.** Universal off-track standards for highways within
24 Idaho;

25 **21.** Increases in automobile liability minimums to a
26 level to cover reasonable medical and
27 replacement costs; and

28 **22.** Stricter penalties for drivers of vehicles without
29 insurance.

30 **We oppose:**

31 **1.** A tax or fee increase on fuel;

32 **2.** A tax or fee increase on vehicles;

33 **3.** The removal of the Port of Entry system from the
34 Department of Transportation; and

35 **4.** Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) wildlife
36 overpass construction unless wildlife overpasses
37 are the most effective solution.
38

39 **172. Trespass**

40 **We support:**

41 **1.** Programs to educate the public about private
42 property rights and about trespass laws.

43 Landowners retain the right to refuse access
44 within the current law;

45 **2.** IDFG making a concerted effort to educate hunters
46 about private property rights and the location of
47 private property in their hunting regulations and
48 maps. It is the hunters' responsibility to know

- 1 where they can hunt, and not the landowners'
2 responsibility to mark or post their property;
- 3 **3.** Making it unlawful to enter any facility to use or
4 attempt to use a camera, video recorder, or any
5 other video or audio recording device without
6 permission from the owner or authorized agent;
 - 7 **4.** A law placing the burden of trespass on the
8 trespasser instead of the landowner; and
 - 9 **5.** Mandatory education regarding current trespass
10 laws and private property rights in the Hunter
11 education program.
- 12

13 **173. Tribal Jurisdiction on Reservations**

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

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

24

25 **174. Unfunded Mandates**

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

29

30 **175. Welfare Reform**

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

35

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