



**IDAHO CATTLE**  
ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Idaho Cattle Association**

*As Approved at Annual Membership Meeting on November 24, 2020*

*NOTE –Interim resolutions (or amendments to the existing resolutions) may be considered at any meeting of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, ICA Council or at the Mid-Year Conference.*

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## ICA 2020-21 RESOLUTIONS

### CATTLEWOMEN COUNCIL

#### (1) IDAHO CATTLEWOMEN COUNCIL AND ANCW (NEW 02; RE-AFFIRMED 13; AMENDED 18)

*WHEREAS:* The Idaho Cattlewomen Council (ICWC) recognizes the need for cooperation, coordination, and consolidation within the industry;

*WHEREAS:* The ICWC recognizes women's changing role in the beef industry;

*WHEREAS:* The ICWC believes their role within the ICA is as a promotional and educational leg;

*WHEREAS:* The ICWC strongly supports increased efforts to work towards one industry, one voice;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The ICWC supports both the American National Cattlewomen and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, as well as a merger of the two organizations.

### COW/CALF PRODUCERS COUNCIL

#### (1) EMERGENCY HAYING & GRAZING OF CRP LAND (RE-AFFIRMED 97; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Natural disasters will occur where emergency use of CRP ground, to include haying, grazing and loose confinement of animals, would provide significant social, economic and ecological benefit;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA supports emergency use of CRP lands if appropriate reductions in CRP payments occur to avoid unfair competition with private lands that are not enrolled in the CRP program.

#### (2) TAX ISSUES (NEW 00, AMENDED 03; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Idaho's tax base is a delicate structure that has traditionally recognized the importance of production as the main component for securing jobs and providing revenues for state funded programs; and

*WHEREAS:* Services rendered in the State of Idaho are extremely important to the livestock industry as they enhance the industry's potential to produce; and

*WHEREAS:* A loss of the production exemption would render all segments of the Idaho cattle industry uncompetitive with surrounding states; and

*WHEREAS:* The burden of property taxes has become excessive on Idaho agricultural industries;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the ICA supports retention of existing production exemptions to Idaho's sales tax;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the ICA supports the current investment tax credit structure allowed Idaho citizens and businesses and the current sales tax structure where services are not subject to the sales tax;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the ICA goes on record in support of meaningful, fair and responsible property tax relief;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the ICA goes on record in opposition to a reduction in the 2/3-majority vote required for school bonds until the property tax burden is shifted.

#### (3) WESTERN WILDFIRES (NEW 00; AMENDED 03; AMENDED 14; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* Threats to human life and property are constantly present due to risk of wildfires and compounded by recent federal lands management policy; and

*WHEREAS:* These uncontrolled wildfires have caused significant damage to the natural resources especially forage availability, water quality and wildlife habitat;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the ICA supports efforts to reevaluate and improve land management to prevent catastrophic wildfires;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The ICA supports efforts such as Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPAs) to better coordinate fire suppression efforts between local, state and federal officials along with private landowners;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The ICA supports full funding of user- friendly emergency relief and rehabilitation programs;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The ICA strongly urges immediate rehabilitation measures that are based on-site specific conditions and a multiple use philosophy;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The ICA continues efforts to publicize the important role livestock grazing could play

in vegetation management to reduce fine fuel loads and to prevent the spread of uncontrolled wildfires;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The ICA continues to closely coordinate with affected members, elected officials, the Idaho Rangeland Resources Commission, NCBA, PLC, UI and any other potential ally on these important efforts;

(4) FEDERAL & STATE DISASTER PROGRAMS (NEW 01, AMENDED 02; RE-AFFIRMED 13; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* Livestock producers are subject to losses caused by flooding, wildfire, drought and many other causes beyond their control; and

*WHEREAS:* Livestock producers, agency personnel, and many others have been extremely frustrated by the complex and time-consuming disaster processes that are currently in place; and

*WHEREAS:* The current programs and processes have conflicting requirements for eligibility, approval process, payment limitations, county declarations, and many other matters that need to be simplified, more consistent and more timely;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA actively pursues any possible improvements to current Federal & State Disaster Programs;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA assist in getting additional counties that have been impacted by drought to be included in the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP).

(5) PROPERTY TAX CAP ON HOME SITES (NEW 02; RE-AFFIRMED 13; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* The economic viability of ranches in the fast-growing areas of the State is threatened by rapidly increasing property values;

*WHEREAS:* The State of Idaho and Blaine County recognize the value of intact ranches for the food and fiber they produce as well as the values of open space, wildlife habitat and the rural heritage that we all enjoy;

*WHEREAS:* Planning and zoning prohibits the separation of the home site from the farm and ranch operation for speculative sale;

*WHEREAS:* It is in the best interest of all the citizens of Idaho to encourage that farms and ranches remain as viable operating units;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA endorse the statutory change that sets a cap on the value of farm and ranch home sites that reflects the value of the home site as a part of the production of the ranch and exempts the speculative value of the home site from property taxation.

(6) ROTATIONAL GRAZING ON CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM LAND (NEW 03; RE-AFFIRMED 14; AMENDED 19)

*WHEREAS:* There is a significant amount of ground in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP);

*WHEREAS:* Rotational grazing of CRP provides resource benefits for wildlife habitat, in pest management, and in wildfire prevention;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The ICA strongly support continuous grazing rotations on CRP ground at little cost to the producer and no cost to the landowner;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The ICA work with NCBA, USDA and the congressional delegation to promote CRP rules which will allow for timely implementation to ensure the success of such a program.

(7) OPPOSITION TO HORSE/MULE/BURRO SLAUGHTER BANS (NEW 05; RE-AFFIRMED 13; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* Horses are an extremely important facet of ranching.

*WHEREAS:* All ranchers should have the ability to dispossess themselves of their private property in the way they see fit.

*WHEREAS:* Without the opportunity to sell horses destined for slaughter it is our belief that many animals will be either inhumanely disposed of or allowed to live after quality of life is gone.

*WHEREAS:* Horses that are sold for slaughter are fed extremely well, taken care of, and then dispatched in a very humane way.

*WHEREAS:* ICA supports the humane treatment of all livestock.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA stands in opposition to any and all attempts to ban or disrupt funding of the legal sale, for slaughter or exportation, of horses, burros and mules.

(8) ESTATE TAXES (NEW 10; RE-AFFIRMED 15; AMENDED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Federal estate and gift taxes are a major burden on family farms, ranches, and small businesses; and

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA supports, first and foremost, full and permanent repeal of the estate tax.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA shall support legislation that would lessen the impact of the estate tax by reducing the maximum tax rate, increasing the exemption cut-off, and/or exempting agriculture.

(9) ESTABLISHMENT OF AN IDAHO DAY OF THE COWBOY AND A NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY (NEW 13; AMENDED 18)

*WHEREAS:* The non-profit organization “The National Day of the Cowboy” seeks to preserve and celebrate the heritage of the American cowboy and has assisted in the establishment of a Day of the Cowboy by law, in perpetuity, in 6 states; and

*WHEREAS:* Such efforts are consistent with and complimentary to the public relations goals of ICA; and

*WHEREAS:* The establishment of such a day only requires an annual proclamation and does not require any other expenses by the state or any community or organization because all events would be undertaken voluntarily by local citizens or groups and under their control.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association supports the designation of the 4th Saturday in July as Idaho’s Day of the Cowboy by law in perpetuity and urges the Congress of the United States to similarly designate a National Day of the Cowboy.

**FEEDER COUNCIL**

(1) TRANSPORTATION (AMEND 99; AMENDED 00; AMENDED 06; AMENDED 19)

*WHEREAS:* Safe, efficient and cost-effective means of transportation are important to all segments of the Idaho cattle industry; and

*WHEREAS:* State and federal legislative regulations are evolving;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association supports increased truck weights and lengths with proper axle weight distribution;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association supports flexibility in legislation for livestock haulers to log hours of services in order for drivers to safely do their jobs while preserving the welfare of animals;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association supports increasing truck weights on U.S. Interstates within Idaho’s boundaries to make weight restrictions consistent with those of surrounding states;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association opposes any highway fuel tax except for highway program purposes;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association support the reconstruction and upgrading of inadequate, unsafe, and inadequately maintained sections of federal, state and county public roads;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association supports repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act which unnecessarily increases the cost of highway, and other repair work;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association supports a new exemption to allow unlimited mileage as part of the annual state registration fee for owners of agricultural trucks (above 60,000 pounds) that haul their own products.

(2) PROPOSED REGULATION OF FUGITIVE AIR EMISSIONS (NEW 02; AMENDED 03; AMENDED 04; RE-AFFIRMED 17)

*WHEREAS:* Fugitive Air Emissions that have been proposed to be regulated include dust, odor, and individual compounds;

*WHEREAS:* An ambient air standard for air emissions is an inappropriate attempt to solve nuisance issues;

*WHEREAS:* There is very little research available to provide a technical basis for what compounds are emitted from beef feedlots, and in what amounts;

*WHEREAS:* There are no technical standards to assist managers in the manipulation or mitigation of odor and dust concerns on beef feedlots;

*WHEREAS:* An ambient air standard or detection threshold for any fugitive emissions from beef feedlots will burden the industry with an additional layer of regulation that will not solve odor issues related to livestock operations, but may prove very costly to beef feedlots;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA work in cooperation with other groups with similar concerns to effectively oppose the development of arbitrary ambient air standards;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA will participate in the legislative process and rulemaking efforts related to odor and air emissions as needed to focus on the key issues and problems at hand rather than a broad-based regulation that will not resolve the underlying problem;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA recommends utilizing site specific Best Management Practices in managing odor and other fugitive air emission concerns.

(3) COOPERATION BETWEEN PACIFIC NORTHWEST FEEDER GROUPS (NEW 02; RE-AFFIRMED 13; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* There are a number of issues that equally affect feedlots in Washington, Alberta, and other states and provinces;

*WHEREAS:* Common issues include increased environmental regulation on the local, state, and federal levels, and marketing and trade issues;

*WHEREAS:* Cooperation and sharing of resources, research, and experience will assist feeders in on both sides of state and national borders to continue to operate viable, successful operations, resulting in a more stable feeding industry in the Pacific Northwest;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA work in cooperation with the Washington Cattle Feeders Association, Alberta Cattle Feeders Association, Montana Cattle Feeders, and other organizations as necessary, to share information, ideas, and resources to find solutions to environmental, marketing, and trade issues.

(4) NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLAN REQUIREMENTS FOR THIRD PARTY RECIPIENTS (AMENDED 07; RE-AFFIRMED 17)

*WHEREAS:* There are evolving state initiatives and legislative regulations that are seeking to require third party recipients of manure from Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) to have Nutrient Management Plans (NMPs) for the land application of that material for agronomic purposes;

*WHEREAS:* The federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) CAFO regulations do not require NMPs for third party recipients;

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association maintains that state regulations for CAFOs not be more restrictive than, federal CAFO regulations;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That requiring NMPs for third party recipients would put CAFO operators at a substantial disadvantage compared to vendors of other available fertilizers;

(5) CAFO SITING DEPARTMENT REFERENCES (NEW 11; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) possesses the credible knowledge and expertise to properly recommend supporting agencies for new CAFO siting.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the ICA support removing direct references in Idaho CAFO Siting code to any other agency than the ISDA.

(6) GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE DAIRY INDUSTRY (NEW 11; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Idaho's beef cattle feeding industry is a major consumer of feedstuffs also commonly fed by dairy operators; and

*WHEREAS:* True competition in an open marketplace guarantees a fair and viable market for all producers and consumers of feedstuffs; and

*WHEREAS:* Beef and dairy operations are frequently in competition for input variables and commodities; and

*WHEREAS:* Federal Dairy Farm Support programs can produce an environment of purchasing protection for dairies;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA opposes any Dairy Farm Support programs that leverage dairy operators over other livestock operators in the competitive marketplace.

(7) STATE COMMODITY AND FEED LIEN LAW (NEW 12; RE-AFFIRMED 17)

*WHEREAS:* Commodity and/or feed lien laws were established to assist commercial feedlot, commodity and feed dealers and collection of accounts receivable for said products; and

*WHEREAS:* any changes to these lien laws would affect pricing and delivery of these products; and

*WHEREAS:* financial and other entities have tried to change these laws in the past;

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA opposes any changes or amendments to state feed and/or commodity lien laws which would weaken those laws.

*THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That if ICA Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Officers choose to make subsequent decisions based on commodity and or feed laws, then a weighted member vote of the board of directors would be required to determine the course of ICA action.

**PUREBRED COUNCIL**

*(no current resolutions)*

## ALLIED INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

### (1) SUPPORT FOR BQA PROGRAM (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 99; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* The Allied Industry Committee recognizes the importance of the Beef Quality Assurance Program; and

*WHEREAS:* The Committee has a long range commitment to provide people and resources to this program;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Allied Industry Committee supports the BQA Program under the direction of the Idaho Cattle Association, and in conjunction with the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

## CATTLE HEALTH & WELL-BEING COMMITTEE OUTREACH & EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

### (1) BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (NEW 00; AMENDED 07; RE-AFFIRMED 17)

*WHEREAS:* ICA encourages Idaho beef producers to produce a safe, wholesome, consistent, high quality product for the consumer; and

*WHEREAS:* It is important for all segments of the beef industry to maintain good beef quality assurance practices; and

*WHEREAS:* It is important to sustain consumer confidence; and

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The ICA supports continued involvement in certification efforts across the state.

### (2) BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE (REVISED 98; AMENDED 00; AMENDED 09; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* The Idaho Cattle Association desires to ensure that all cattle shipped from all cattle operations are healthy, wholesome, and meet FDA and USDA standards; and

*WHEREAS:* It is important that all cattle operations maintain quality control programs for incoming feed ingredients; and

*WHEREAS:* It is important that all cattle operations use only approved additives and treatment programs;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association strongly urges all cattle operations to maintain proper controls over medication, feed additives, vaccines, treatment processes, pesticide, and to administer drug therapy in compliance with labels and/or the written direction of a veterinarian, and adhere to all label drug withdrawal times.

### (3) NEW VANDAL BRAND MEATS BUILDING (NEW 20)

*WHEREAS:* The beef packing industry continues to expand in Idaho and the Pacific Northwest; and

*WHEREAS:* Trained professionals are needed to ensure quality products that are critical to enhancing consumer demand; and

*WHEREAS:* The University of Idaho has a top meat science program in the Northwest.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association supports the construction of the new Agri Beef Meat Science and Innovation Center Honoring Ron Richard; and,

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association encourages the College of Agriculture and Life Science to continue to invest in the meat science program

## CATTLE HEALTH & WELL-BEING COMMITTEE REGULATORY ISSUES SUB-COMMITTEE

### (1) TRICHOMONIASIS PROGRAM (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 00; AMENDED 09; AMENDED 13; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* The Trichomoniasis program has been successful in reducing the incidence of trichomoniasis in Idaho cattle herds; and

*WHEREAS:* Many Idaho cattle herds and grazing associations and some counties are now free of trichomoniasis; and

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA support the mandatory Trichomoniasis testing of all breeding bulls one-year-and-older entering the State of Idaho.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA supports the mandatory Trichomoniasis test-eligible breeding bulls in the state annually.

(2) JOHNE’S (NEW 98; AMENDED 00; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* Johne’s disease (*Mycobacterium paratuberculosis*) is a chronic infectious intestinal disease of cattle and other ruminants that is difficult to diagnose until clinical disease is expressed later in life; and

*WHEREAS:* There is no successful treatment for Johne’s disease; and

*WHEREAS:* NCBA has urged all states to form a working advisory committee to develop a proactive voluntary Johne’s disease prevention management program that encourages producer participation and preserves and enhances the marketability of test negative cattle;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association supports the Idaho Johne’s Working Group, composed of representatives from all ruminant industries, veterinarians, USDA, University Extension and Research, and others to 1) implement an awareness program, 2) develop guidelines for prevention management, and 3) develop a voluntary certification program as producers desire one.

(3) WILDLIFE BRUCELLOSIS (NEW 00; AMENDED 01; AMENDED 07; AMENDED 09; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* Wild Bison and Elk in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) have a high sero-positive prevalence of and represent the only foci of brucellosis in the U.S.;

*WHEREAS:* The United States can now be considered brucellosis free internationally and management can be more closely focused on bison and elk within the GYA; and

*WHEREAS:* Existing federal regulations have become outdated and unfairly restrictive to Idaho cattle producers and the State of Idaho;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA support the Brucellosis Management Concept Paper as developed by Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana and adopted by USDA/APHIS allowing more flexible state management of brucellosis within Idaho’s boundaries

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA supports APHIS research, monitoring and assistance to state and federal agencies in an effort to eradication of brucellosis from the bison and elk populations in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

(4) ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION (NEW 00; AMENDED 07; AMENDED 12; AMENDED 16)

*WHEREAS:* ICA recognizes that APHIS is moving forward with Animal Disease Traceability (ADT); and

*WHEREAS:* It is understood that participation in this program is required by USDA APHIS to move cattle and bison interstate; and

*WHEREAS:* Animals would be required to be “officially identified” and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection (ICVI) or other movement document; and

*WHEREAS:* Utilization of multiple forms of individual identification are accepted industry practices and, as long as they meet tamper evident and unique numbering requirements, will be eligible for use in the program.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA leadership and staff shall do the following:

- Work with the state veterinarian to make the identification system as least burdensome in the form of cost and production practices on the industry as possible, yet assuring that the program is credible and accountable;
- Ensure that the identification program does not hurt the viability of any sector of the industry by imposing unreasonable cost or market disruption;
- Work with state partners including the state veterinarian, brand board, and allied industry representatives to create an efficient system that is favorable for the industry;
- Maintain compatibility with other market opportunities;
- Work to ensure the confidentiality of the data both inside and outside of the industry.

(5) ANIMAL HEALTH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NEW 01; RE-AFFIRMED 17)

*WHEREAS:* Current authority is inadequate to allow the state to effectively address animal health emergency diseases; and

*WHEREAS:* The current international environment continues to increase, with more and more instances of highly contagious animal disease; and

*WHEREAS:* Intentional introduction of these agents could have catastrophic impacts on the animal population of Idaho and the economic impact would be very large;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association support amendments to title 25 chapter 2 Idaho Code to provide the ability to release vaccines, conduct preventive slaughter, restrict entry of animal, people, vehicles, or other possible carriers of disease into the state or into or out of the quarantine area. Also, to provide authority to declare an emergency if such disease is present in the United States or North America.

(6) PROPOSED ANIMAL CRUELTY LEGISLATION (NEW 08; AMENDED 09; AMENDED 10; AMENDED 11; AMENDED 16)

*WHEREAS:* As beef producers, we are committed to abiding by Beef Quality Assurance Proper Care and Handling Guidelines of all animals under our care; and

*WHEREAS:* Animal rights groups are attempting to alter Idaho's animal cruelty laws and make standard animal production practices a form of cruelty and torture punishable by felony conviction; and

*WHEREAS:* ICA recognizes that under current code, third time repeat offenders may now be found guilty of a felony.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA adamantly opposes additional legislation that attempts to make common livestock production practices a form of cruelty and torture, and/or attempts to make anyone employing these standard production practices a felon; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA supports legislation that seeks to proactively secure Idaho's cattle industry practices and separate production animals from companion animals.

(7) LIVESTOCK TRADER LOTS (NEW 14; AMENDED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Livestock markets require a release form or Certificate of Veterinarian Inspection (CVI) before removal of livestock; and

*WHEREAS:* Currently the only requirement of a CVI for cattle leaving a livestock trader lot applies to brucellosis test-eligible cattle; and

*WHEREAS:* Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) supports cattle health inspections necessary to actively protect the state herd health;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA shall support a state requirement that cattle not destined for livestock markets or slaughter shall be governed by state trichomoniasis testing requirements if not destined for a market or slaughter, which may not require a CVI.

(8) TRANSPORTATION OF LIVESTOCK (NEW 18)

*WHEREAS:* Livestock producers are interested in the well-being of their animals during transportation.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA opposes any policy on enforcement of extended layovers of livestock on trailers due to transportation regulations, and;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA supports an hours-of-service extension to allow for cattle to be transported to a facility where they may receive proper care, feed, and water.

**CATTLE HEALTH & WELL-BEING COMMITTEE**  
**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY SUB-COMMITTEE**

(1) U OF I STEER-A-YEAR PROGRAM (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 11; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* The University of Idaho has established a fundraising program by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) and the Athletic Department to work with the beef producers of Idaho; and

*WHEREAS:* The three objectives of the program shall be: (1) to assist the University of Idaho to maintain beef programs that provide education to the future beef producers of Idaho, (2) to provide the U of I CALs with an expanded source of funds for scholarships and research to support the beef cattle industry, and (3) to provide an expanded source of funds in support of the Athletic programs of the University of Idaho, Idaho State University or the Agricultural Programs of the College of Southern Idaho; and

*WHEREAS:* The program will be administered by a committee of seven members including four industry representatives, the Director of Athletics, the Head of the Department of Animal and Veterinary Science, and the Dean of CALs who will serve as chair and select the industry representatives from current contributors to the Idaho Steer A Year Program;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association endorses and encourages participation in this program.

(2) U OF I COLLEGE OF AG AND LIFE SCIENCES (CALs) BUDGET (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 11; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* The University of Idaho CALs is responsible to provide the Idaho Agricultural industry and rural

communities with new technology and educational programs to assist with problem solving so that the industries and communities can remain competitive and viable;

*WHEREAS:* The State of Idaho, as well as the private sector, has faced serious budget shortfalls, therefore it is important to balance the State budget including the UI CALS in as fair and as equitable a manner as possible;

*WHEREAS:* Animal agriculture and the beef industry are the leading component of the State's agricultural economy and provide numerous benefits to rural communities and the environment; and

*WHEREAS:* The Idaho Cattle Association recognizes the difficult situation that UI and many others are in and have identified priority issues for the beef industry through UI Advisory Committees, an ICA Task Force, a Beef Quality Assurance Advisory Committee, and the ICA Councils;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association supports the UI CALS Budget and urges the Idaho Legislature to expand the Idaho Agriculture Research and Extension appropriation to enhance programs for beef industry stakeholders;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association continues efforts to communicate beef industry priorities for CALS to UI administration, elected officials, and other interested parties; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That proceeds from all future sales of Idaho Agriculture Experiment Station or Idaho Land Endowment assets that supported beef cattle-related programs, including but not limited to the former beef research facility at Caldwell, be reinvested into research, Extension and teaching programs at the UI CALS that will directly serve Idaho's beef cattle industry.

### (3) ANIMAL AGRICULTURE YOUTH EDUCATION (AMENDED 98; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* The increased urbanization of the Idaho population has prevented many people from becoming well-acquainted with animal agriculture; and

*WHEREAS:* The general public is not closely attuned to the origin and nutrient value of their food; and

*WHEREAS:* The gap of knowledge and understanding between the producers and consumers of food and fiber become wider on a daily basis. The care and use of animals in society has come under more and more scrutiny by the public; and

*WHEREAS:* The general public is not closely attuned to the environmental benefits of grazing animals; and

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association supports increased effort in education of youth at the elementary level, 4-H and FFA members, and the general public in regard to the benefits of animals to man, including the positive nutritional values of red meat in the diet and of other animal products such as medicine, gelatin, and leather;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association encourages the Idaho Food Producers and Idaho Beef Council continue to pursue this area of education as part of its role.

### (4) GMO FEEDS (NEW 14; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* Advances in molecular genetic techniques to produce so called "genetically modified organisms" (GMO's) have greatly improved environmental and economic aspects of feed grain, namely corn, production in the US; and

*WHEREAS:* Prevalence of GMO corn hybrids in the US has never resulted in GMO traits transferred to other plant species, nor has GMO corn ever had detrimental effects on people or animals consuming the grain; and

*WHEREAS:* Some states have attempted legislation that would regulate or hamper the production of GMO crops; and

*WHEREAS:* The beef industry in the US depends on a competitive economic advantage of dietary energy derived from feed grains, and

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA supports the development and production of GMO corn and other crops which may be incorporated in beef production systems, and opposes any legislation which may negatively impact production of GMO corn or other crops.

## **FEDERAL & STATE LANDS COMMITTEE**

### (1) ICA'S ROLE IN IDAHO RANGELAND ISSUES (NEW 18)

*WHEREAS:* The Idaho Cattle Association is committed to protecting grazing rights on Idaho's public lands while promoting sustainable stewardship of our natural resources; and

*WHEREAS:* There are various entities within the state of Idaho that work on rangeland and grazing issues and it is important that ICA's efforts are clearly understood.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA's role in rangeland issues is focused on the following:

1. Influence laws, policies, and regulations at the local, state, and national level to preserve, promote and protect grazing use within the state of Idaho
2. Establish and maintain working relationships with key individuals and government officials who oversee or can affect grazing policy.
3. Participate in agency document and policy review at the programmatic level. Provide comment as directed by policy, provide outreach to potentially impacted members, and provide sample comments to those individuals.
4. Educate members on potential impacts of government actions and policies.
5. On specific issues or concerns (I.E. individual permit renewals) facilitate communication and cooperation with appropriate agencies and individual members in order to assist permittees in effectively moving through process.
6. Engage in precedent setting litigation.
7. Participate in collaboratives that have a state-wide impact.
8. Assist members that are actively participating in local meetings by providing relevant policy information.
9. Educate the media or public on current policy issues and actions.
10. Facilitate scientific research to guide ICA policy.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The Idaho Public Lands Council (IPLC) serves as ICA's arm which enables the association to focus efforts on these issues related public lands grazing.

(2) ECONOMIC VALUE OF PUBLIC LANDS (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 00; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* There is increasing pressure from many groups to increase grazing fees to levels that will make it economically unfeasible to continue grazing on many Western rangelands; and

*WHEREAS:* The Federal land planning process which started with NEPA and the settlement of the NRDC suit has identified many areas of public lands in the Western United States that have real or perceived conflicts concerning uses of such lands; and

*WHEREAS:* The pressure of these uses on livestock grazing has made livestock operations on public lands increasingly more difficult to manage economically not only for the permittee but also for the land manager and the taxpayer; and

*WHEREAS:* Livestock operators in the Western United States have been dependent upon public lands as an integral part of their operations for many decades and have established a tenure on public lands that has been recognized by financial institutions and the Federal government for years; and

*WHEREAS:* It has been established by the Federal Government and precedents have been set that use permits have realistic values and have been purchased by the Federal Government; and

*WHEREAS:* Grazing rights add a substantial value to base property;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association request that our congressional delegation initiate legislation that compensates permittees for losses associated with alternative uses of currently permitted land;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association recognizes a grazing permit as private property that cannot be separated from the base property without loss of value.

(3) FEDERAL GRAZING FEE FORMULA (RE-AFFIRMED 97; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* The economy of Idaho could be adversely affected by an unjustified increase in Federal grazing fees;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association go on record supporting action that will preserve the integrity of an equitable grazing fee formula to maintain the viability of the western livestock industry, such as the Free Market Formula Proposal.

(4) RANGE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 16)

*WHEREAS:* The stewardship program as originated by Section 12 of the Public Rangeland Improvement Act of 1978 has proven an effective method of bringing diverse and often opposing groups together in one organization in a spirit of cooperation and coordination to work out the plans at the local level for the management of our public lands;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association strongly supports and encourages the continuation and expansion of the range stewardship program.

(5) PUBLIC LANDS PERMIT VIOLATIONS (RE-AFFIRMED 97; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Livestock grazing on public lands is under attack; and

*WHEREAS:* In many instances actions are perpetrated to create a conflict between the permittee and the agency;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* Permit violations resulting from other resource users shall not be used to penalize the permittee.

(6) WILD HORSES AND BURROS (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 00; AMENDED 06; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* The Wild and Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act provides that a determination of overpopulation and appropriate management levels (numbers) be based on specific available data gained from research as provided for in this act and in the absence of this information on the basis of such information as is currently available; and

*WHEREAS:* The purpose of Appropriate Management Levels and removal of "excess animals" is to preserve and maintain a thriving ecological balance and multiple use relationship of that area; and

*WHEREAS:* The Interior Board of Land Appeals in its decision dated June 7, 1989 effectively eliminated multiple use management of Wild Horse Areas and shifted use exclusively to wild horses, in effect re-writing the statutes;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA requests that the BLM, U. S. Department of Interior, and Idaho Congressional Delegation make every effort necessary to restore management of wild horses to the full letter and intent of the Wild and Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act, as amended;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA requests that the federal agencies be required to manage wild horses under the same terms and conditions that are applied to livestock for stubble height, water quality and riparian area control;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the ICA strongly supports the sale and disposal of wild horses.

(7) WILDERNESS, WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS, AND OTHER SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 00; AMENDED 03; AMENDED 05; AMENDED 06; AMENDED 16)

*BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association opposes unilateral designation of any additional land as a national monument, additional wilderness, or other special designation on either Forest Service or BLM Lands;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The ICA pursues the declaration of the roadless/wilderness study areas void so that multiple use management can continue for the benefit of the land resources and all users of these lands;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The ICA will assist affected members and their local communities in efforts to move beyond the status quo and define solutions to these roadless/wilderness issues; especially when these proposed solutions provide for the continued viability of ranching operations.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* As proposed solutions to these issues are developed, ICA will review them on a site-specific basis.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* If livestock grazing is reduced as a result of a wilderness or other land use designation proposal, or by agreement by the affected permittees, those permittees must be compensated in such a manner so that their ranching operations remain viable. All compensation and associated funding shall be made at the same time that any such reduction or agreement is implemented.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* In accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964, the designation of wilderness does not require, in fact precludes, the automatic retirement of grazing permits. The option to use grazing as a management tool, and to maintain the viability of ranching operations, should always be left open.

(8) NON-WILLFUL TRESPASS (RE-AFFIRMED 97; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Non-willful trespass may cause a permittee to be subject to civil penalties or criminal sanction (43CFR4150.1) and result in the authorized officer withholding issuance of a grazing permit or lease, or suspension in whole or in part of a grazing permit or lease, or in cancellation of a grazing permit or lease and grazing preference (43CFR4170.1-1(a)); and

*WHEREAS:* Circumstances beyond the control of the permittee, for example, unfenced range boundaries, fences/gates opened by persons other than the permittee, and fences damaged by large game animals, often hamper timely control of livestock and result in non-willful trespass; and

*WHEREAS:* When changing pastures in a grazing system, common sense and reason needs to be used by all parties before a trespass is issued;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA supports amending federal and state lands regulations to establish a procedure for informal resolution of non-willful trespass violations at the local level without prejudice.

(9) NOXIOUS WEEDS, POISONOUS PLANTS, AND PESTS (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 02; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* Noxious weeds, poisonous plants, and pests present an ever-increasing problem on private and public lands; and

*WHEREAS:* Weeds, poisonous plants, and pests on federal lands are spreading and contaminating private lands;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association requests that all federal and state land management agencies instigate a more effective weed, poisonous plants, and pest control program.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA shall seek to develop or participate in coalitions of resource users and interest groups that can advance these goals.

(10) RIPARIAN AREA MANAGEMENT (RE-AFFIRMED 97; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Specific utilization levels are being applied as standards in riparian areas to remove domestic livestock from entire pastures and allotments, regardless of whether management systems are in place; and

*WHEREAS:* There is apparently not enough effort by agency personnel to work with permittees to identify alternatives that would distribute domestic livestock grazing to manage riparian areas without closure of entire pastures and allotments to grazing; and

*WHEREAS:* A short period of heavy grazing during unusual circumstances such as drought would not do irreparable damage to riparian areas;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That in the implementation of the Riparian Area Management Policy, management actions should be tailored to each specific site to be managed. Arbitrary application of specific utilization levels should not be generally applied to riparian areas where management systems are in place or can be implemented. Alternatives to redistribute livestock grazing should be developed wherever possible;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That monitoring programs be established based on trend and utilization mapping of the entire pasture, rather than specific stubble height on key areas;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That closure to livestock grazing should be the last resort and only when necessary to prevent irreparable damage to the resource and protect the welfare of the livestock.

(11) SUB-LEASING (RE-AFFIRMED 97; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* The betterment of federal lands is undeniably tied to long term stewardship of federal permits; and

*WHEREAS:* Subleasing as a way of illegally profiteering on BLM grounds is not condoned by ICA;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA supports lease agreements only where the long-term management is controlled by the permittee.

(12) IDAHO DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE'S ROLE IN NATURAL RESOURCE DECISIONS AND ESA ACTIONS (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 03; AMENDED 06; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* The economy and environment of Idaho and the property and jobs of Idaho's citizens are endangered by the ever-increasing regulatory actions of various state and federal agencies; and

*WHEREAS:* Idaho citizens and communities, in their efforts to defend their property and economy from unnecessary, unreasonable or unproductive regulation, are often inadequately prepared to make the required technical, legal, economic, and scientific comments; and

*WHEREAS:* The economy and environment of all Idahoans would benefit from an increase in the scientific validity and common sense of natural resource regulation;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association supports general fund appropriations for at least three range/natural resource staff at the State Department of Agriculture to fully participate in all decision-making processes with other state agencies and those federal agencies involved in regulating Idaho's natural resources on private, state, and federal lands.

(13) NATIONAL RECREATIONAL AREAS (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 00; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* Livestock grazing has been a cultural, historic, and economic use in Hells Canyon and other newly-created National Recreation Areas for over 100 years; and

*WHEREAS:* Currently, efforts are being put forth to remove several multiple use activities from the National Recreation Areas, including livestock grazing;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association supports the retention of grazing in National Recreation Areas.

(14) IDAHO RANGELAND RESOURCE COMMISSION (RE-AFFIRMED 97; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* The sale of livestock is the largest contributor to the Idaho economy; and

*WHEREAS:* Rangeland accounts for 41% of Idaho's land mass; and

*WHEREAS:* There is a need for the public to understand the use and stewardship of Idaho's rangelands; and

*WHEREAS:* The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission was created to address these concerns and promote public awareness;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA encourages its members to pay the assessments due the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission.

(15) STATE LANDS GRAZING PROGRAM (NEW 98; AMENDED 14; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* State lands play an integral part in many Idaho range livestock operations; and

*WHEREAS:* The highest long-term net return to the endowment requires a stable, viable cattle industry; and

*WHEREAS:* A properly managed program is in the best interest of both the livestock industry and the beneficiaries of the endowment.

*WHEREAS:* The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is undergoing a process to review the grazing program and consider changes to the grazing lease rate.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* Any changes to the current grazing fee must be based on a formula that ties it to market conditions and any increase in the fee must be sufficiently researched and explained.

*BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA shall not support a change to the rate structure, or the development of a tiered grazing rate, unless IDL can be adequately justify the change through sound financial information and an comprehensive review of such a change on the grazing leases in the state.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA continue to work with legislators, IDL, the State Land Board, and the livestock industry through a work group process to strengthen tenure and, where needed, modify state land lease renewal procedure so that the process is streamlined and that these leases better meet the needs of the industry;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA shall work with IDL and the Land Board to ensure that they understand the need for the grazing program to remain a valuable component of the endowment asset portfolio because it provides a predictable, stable and low risk cash flow to the endowment.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA shall pursue the passage of a constitutional amendment which would give the Idaho Land Board greater discretion in awarding grazing leases by allowing the impact on Idaho's economy to be taken into consideration, along with the expenses that would be incurred if competing uses were given a lease.

(16) RESOURCE MONITORING (NEW 99; RE-AFFIRM 08; AMENDED 12; AMENDED 17)

*WHEREAS:* Voluntary data collection may be beneficial to the permittee and federal agencies alike; and

*WHEREAS:* Non-consensual permit compliance reporting required by federal agencies could be detrimental to the permittees' ability to graze their allotments.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the ICA encourages voluntary participation in monitoring as agreed upon by permittees and opposes agency mandatory compliance reporting by the permittee.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA shall support a permittee or third-party monitoring program, such as the Public Lands Council Monitoring MOU, that is legitimized and accepted by the federal agencies.

(17) OPEN RANGE (NEW 00; RE-AFFIRMED 14; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* Idaho's current open range law states that it is the duty of the landowner to fence out unwanted livestock on the open range; and

*WHEREAS:* The law also makes clear that on open range, livestock can legally be on the highway and it is the obligation of the driver to avoid them; and

*WHEREAS:* As more people move into Idaho's rural areas, there is increasing pressure to change the current open range laws;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association stands in strong support for Idaho's open range laws and strongly opposes any efforts to weaken them.

(18) RS 2477 RIGHTS OF WAYS (NEW 01; AMENDED 03; AMENDED 14; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* Assertion of RS 2477 rights-of-ways across federal, state, and private lands may be made by appropriate local governments in accordance with state law; and

*WHEREAS:* Assertion of RS 2477 rights-of-ways, in all situations, may or may not be in the best interest of the Idaho Livestock Industry and Private Property Owners; and

*WHEREAS:* Assertion of RS 2477 rights-of-ways is an issue of critical importance that needs further study, discussion and understanding;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association will support no RS2477 legislation that infringes on the rights of private property owners in any manner whatsoever.

(19) PROPOSED BUYOUT OF FEDERAL GRAZING PERMITS (NEW 02; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*BE IT RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association is opposed to any programmatic removal of livestock grazing from

public rangelands;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA recognizes the right of individual grazing permittees to sell their federal grazing permits.

(20) EXPERIMENTAL SCIENTIFIC REVIEW OF BLM AND FOREST SERVICE RANGE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS (NEW 02; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* All resource users, regardless of specific interest, benefit from the best scientific information available being utilized in resource decisions; and

*WHEREAS:* Agreement between the various natural resource interest groups as to a manner in which the best scientific information can be brought to decisions would help stabilize the direction of resource management and reduce related litigation;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA will seek development of an independent experimental scientific review, using some local range scientists among other range scientists, to become an official and required part of the BLM and Forest Service administrative appeals process for decisions affecting range management; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That this review process should be developed to not only improve the scientific basis of decisions, but should also be designed to gain acceptance by all reasonable natural resource interests.

(21) BLM REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE PRIORITIES (NEW 02; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* The current administration's available time and resources will limit the effort to make regulatory and administrative changes in the BLM; and

*WHEREAS:* Those items that would gain a true and proper scientific process, gain security and stability for permittees and lessees and assure that arbitrary authority is diminished by access to due process would provide the greatest relief to the greatest number of ranchers.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That when participating in the process of reforming BLM grazing regulations, the ICA shall place a high priority on the following regulatory and administrative changes and shall seek to have the PLC and NCBA do the same;

- Interested public and affected interests should only participate in allotment management at the resource management planning level, unless the permittee seeks to participate in a collaborative management effort.

-The concepts of rangeland health assessments and standards and guidelines should be eliminated and decisions should be based on quantitative monitoring data measuring progress towards functionally defined goals such as proper functioning riparian or uplands condition.

-NEPA analysis should not be required for the renewal of grazing permits unless significant modification of the permit is occurring, nor for activities that implement the goals of a Resource Management Plan that has met existing NEPA requirements.

-Rangeland Studies is defined as *any nationally or regionally approved study method that is described by Technical Reference and/or approved by a State level or higher BLM science advisory team that is accepted by the authorized officer.*

-Changes in permitted use must be supported by *quantitative monitoring data*, field observations, rangeland studies, and ecological site inventory *data*, not just whatever data is acceptable to the authorized officer.

- A scientific review process, using some local range scientists among other range scientists, should be developed to become an official and required part of the BLM protest or appeals process for decisions affecting range management.

-Staying of a decision when appealed should be automatic and not require a petition or the granting of that petition for stay when the appeal is of an agency action or decision to renew, transfer or modify a grazing permit. The permittee or lessee may continue ongoing use under the existing permit until the appeal is resolved. The burden of proof to show that their action is appropriate remains with the agency initiating the action.

(22) TEMPORARY NON RENEWABLE (TNR) PERMITS (NEW 03; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* Many range improvements have permanently increased carrying capacity of allotments throughout the state; and

*WHEREAS:* Range managers need flexibility to properly manage the resource;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA will work to assist permittees in making permanent improvements equate to permanent preference; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* Range managers should be given the flexibility they need to issue TNR when excess forage is available; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* Decisions authorizing TNR should not be subject to public or judicial review.

(23) BLM & FOREST SERVICE BUDGETS (NEW 03; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* The range programs of both the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service have suffered due to lack of funding and budget cuts; and

*WHEREAS:* It is important that the land management agencies maintain a strong range program so that decisions are made on the ground based on sound range science.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA works with NCBA and PLC to ensure that federal funds are adequately allocated to the range budgets of the BLM and the Forest Service.

(24) REQUIRING AGENCY USE OF BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE (NEW 03; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* Environmental groups have frequently initiated legal actions against land management agencies based on their failure to comply with statutory, regulatory and agency policy. Such legal actions frequently result in improper court ordered remedies. The legal actions result in gridlock due to the agency time spent in defending their actions, court orders that delay or deny appropriate and effective land management, and agency hesitation to implement modern grazing management practices under threat of legal actions, and

*WHEREAS:* Radical environmental groups have admittedly used court actions to inflict economic harm on ranchers by increasing operating costs through the expense of defending legal actions, increasing costs to comply with agency measures imposed by the courts and the inability to cooperatively implementing new grazing management programs. The admitted purpose of increasing costs is to ultimately destroy the economic viability of ranches dependent upon grazing use of Federal and state lands,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the ICA calls for the land management agencies to accomplish the purpose and intent of the Data Quality Act by initiating programs to ensure that agency actions comply with statutory, regulatory, and agency policy, and that the agencies employ the best available and applicable science in the conduct of studies, interpretation of data, and cooperative implementation of modern grazing practices.

(25) BOULDER/WHITE CLOUDS AREA (NEW 05; AMENDED 06; AMENDED 15; RE-AFFIRMED 20)

*WHEREAS:* Congress has passed a reduced version of the Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act (CIEDRA), now known as SNRA+. This legislation, among other things, creates three new wilderness areas within the Boulder/White Clouds area and establishes a voluntary grazing permit buyout for permittees in the SNRA area; and

*WHEREAS:* Current ICA policy states general opposition to the creation of wilderness and to programmatic permit buyouts, while recognizing the need to support locally-affected members, if those members deem such measures are appropriate at the local level; and

*WHEREAS:* Due to the stringent standards and reductions that have been placed on their permits, ICA members in the permit buyout area are in support of this effort and perceive this bill as their only alternative left to keep them from going out of business.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA will work with locally affected members to ensure that all wilderness study areas, proposed wilderness areas, and roadless areas not designated as wilderness by SNRA+ will be released and managed under the principles of multiple use within the management area as designated by SNRA+.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The ICA supports the locally-affected members and their efforts to be compensated for the unjust takings of their permits that have taken place in recent years.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* Because of ICA's concerns regarding the precedents that this bill sets, we will continue to work with members of Congress to protect the continuance of grazing rights west-wide and to recognize that the loss of ability to continue to graze under permitted preference is a takings.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA will support the local ranchers in a reduced wilderness designation, as provided for in SNRA+ legislation.

(26) EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS (NEW 05; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* The U.S. Supreme Court stated in *Darby v. Cisneros*, 509 U.S. 137, 154 (1993), that "an appeal to 'superior agency authority' is a prerequisite to judicial review only when expressly required by statute or when an agency rule requires appeal before review and the administrative action is made inoperative pending that review"; and

*WHEREAS:* The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management does not have a statute which expressly requires exhaustion of administrative remedies in the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, as a prerequisite to judicial review.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association, the Public Lands Council, and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association request the Idaho Congressional Delegation support/adopt legislation which would enact a statute requiring any appellant to exhaust their administrative remedies before seeking judicial review under the

Administrative Procedure Act.

(27) OWYHEE INITIATIVE (NEW 06; AMENDED 09; AMENDED 12; AMENDED 17)

*WHEREAS:* The goal of the Owyhee Initiative reads: "*To develop and implement a landscape-scale program that preserves the natural processes that create and maintain a functioning, unfragmented landscape supporting and sustaining a flourishing community of human, plant, and animal life, that provides for economic stability by preserving livestock grazing as an economically viable use, and that provides for protection of cultural resource;*"

*WHEREAS:* After years of negotiations amongst the Owyhee Initiative Work Group, legislation has passed in the Congress; and,

*WHEREAS:* The Owyhee Initiative was developed under collaborative effort with representation from local land owners, ranchers, environmental organizations, county government, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, recreation groups, and others; and,

*WHEREAS:* This legislation designates about 500,000 acres of new wilderness in Owyhee county and release about 250,000 acres of Wilderness Study Area to multiple-use management; and,

*WHEREAS:* This legislation provides ranchers with compensation and/ or land exchanges which they have deemed necessary to maintain viable ranching operations;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA is supportive of the locally affected ranchers in their efforts to obtain resolution to years of conflict over range management and to prevent a unilateral wilderness or other land use designation.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* Because of ICA's concern regarding precedents that this bill could set, ICA will continue to work with members of Congress and the Owyhee Initiative Work Group to ensure that this bill does not impair the continuance of grazing rights throughout the West.

(28) ABUSE OF THE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT (New 09; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* The Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) passed in 1980 was enacted to restrain overzealous regulators and reimburse parties subjected to unreasonable government action by providing equal access to court; and

*WHEREAS:* The statute was designed to reimburse attorneys' fees so that a party that otherwise would not be able to afford litigation against the government could have an opportunity to justify its position in court and recover attorneys' fees' afterwards; and

*WHEREAS:* Environmental groups have greatly abused the original intent of this Act so that they are able to find procedural flaws in agency actions, sue the government, and receive billions of federal taxpayer dollars in attorney fees for settling or winning these cases which in turn, allows them to continue litigating the government; and

*WHEREAS:* Ranchers must pay their own attorneys' fees in order to attempt to participate in the litigation as intervenors.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA shall seek for the following changes to EAJA and its implementation: 1) There should be better oversight in how EAJA fees are distributed; 2) There should be complete transparency and reporting on the government's expenditures of taxpayer dollars when EAJA fees are awarded; 3) Any other amendments which would level the playing field and prohibit the abuse and overuse of this law.

(29) GRAZING AS A MITIGATION TOOL FOR OTHER PUBLIC LANDS USES (NEW 10; RE-AFFIRMED 20)

*WHEREAS:* With the increasing demand for and prevalence of energy sources across rangelands, there is a developing trend by energy companies to attempt to mitigate their environmental impacts by reducing or eliminating grazing on those shared rangelands; and

*WHEREAS:* Livestock grazing plays an integral role in the ecosystem of western rangelands in benefiting the land and wildlife and its removal or reduction should not be considered an acceptable mitigation option.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA is opposed to the removal or reduction of livestock from rangelands as an option to mitigate for the detrimental impacts of other uses.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA will work to educate energy companies and other public lands users of the positive role managed grazing can play in reducing the effects of other impacts.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* In the event that a buyout of grazing permits is offered by energy companies or other entities, ICA actions will remain consistent with its existing policy regarding grazing and permit buyouts.

(30) IDAHO AGRICULTURAL & NATURAL RESOURCES LEGAL CENTER (NEW 10; RE-AFFIRMED 20)

*WHEREAS:* The Western Resources Legal Center (WRLC), based out of Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, is the nation's first clinical internship program and only hands-on training program specializing in legal advocacy for natural resource users, and;

*WHEREAS:* WRLC offers natural resource users a low-cost alternative for legal representation, in a similar manner as entities like Pacific Legal Foundation of Mountain States Legal Foundation, and;

*WHEREAS:* Idaho ranchers are greatly underrepresented in cases that directly affect their livelihoods, primarily due to the high costs of entering into litigation.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA shall seek for the development of an agricultural and natural resource legal center within the University of Idaho law school, to be created using the WRLC model.

(31) LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FIXES FOR GRAZING PERMIT ADMINISTRATION (NEW 10; AMENDED 20)

*WHEREAS:* Current federal laws and regulations, and the judiciary’s interpretation thereof, regarding federal grazing permit administration have created a malfunctioning system whereby radical environmental groups are able to stymie on-the-ground management and use through an aggressive litigation strategy; and

*WHEREAS:* These issues of concern include: 1) Ease for activists to gain interested public status; 2) The burden of proof is borne by the grazing permittee in the administrative appeals process; 3) The Office of Hearing and Appeals does not follow the Administrative Procedures Act’s (APA) standard of proof as it relates to resource decisions; 4) The elimination of an automatic stay of a BLM decision when it is appealed, and; 5) The APA does not currently apply to Forest Service permittees.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA shall seek for the following changes to federal laws and regulations:

1. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) should be amended to require that participants in the grazing permit decision making process have constitutional or Article III standing.
2. The burden of proof should comply with the burden set by the APA in requiring that the federal agencies bear the burden of showing that their decisions are correct in law and in fact.
3. The standard of proof should be changed so that the BLM has to prove its case by a preponderance of the evidence.
4. The BLM’s grazing regulations should be amended to return to pre-Rangeland Reform language so that:
  - a. Decisions are automatically stayed if appealed, unless fact specific circumstances support a decision in “full force and effect”;
  - b. The regulations allow for greater flexibility in grazing permits, both in AUM numbers and seasons of use, to enable more nimble management based on seasonal conditions, fuels buildup, and forage availability;
  - c. If permitted use is not changed by more than 10%, that renewal is a categorical exclusion;
  - d. Once an allotment management plan is approved, range improvement projects that are implementing that plan should not be considered new decisions and should not be subject to administrative appeals or require further NEPA analysis;
  - e. BLM should determine carrying capacity before reducing permitted AUMS;
  - f. When making rangeland health determinations, BLM should be required to make a causal connection before reducing AUMs, BLM should only apply any adverse determination to the specific piece of land impacted, and permittee should be given a more sufficient amount of time to implement management changes to the permit;
  - g. The definition of interested public should not be written in a way that allows every member of the public to appeal every action implementing an allotment management plan or other grazing management prescriptions.
5. The NFMA should be amended so that Forest Service permittees can challenge agency decisions “on the record” under the APA

(32) UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO RANGELAND CENTER (NEW 11; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* University of Idaho (UI) researchers and educators from seven departments, three colleges, and UI Extension have come together to implement an interdisciplinary research, education and outreach program, the UI Rangeland Center; and

*WHEREAS:* The UI Rangeland Center will build on existing partnerships and create opportunities for new collaborations to advance the study and management of rangelands in Idaho and the region; and

*WHEREAS:* The intent of the new Center is to produce solutions that are responsive and relevant to current, existing rangeland issues.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA supports actions which will keep the UI Range program autonomous, adequately funded, able to recruit students with Idaho background and interests, and able to accommodate with the increasing needs sound range science and management in Idaho; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA supports the UI Rangeland Center as a pertinent and useful tool to provide students with a practical education and to provide real-world solutions to current rangeland issues.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA shall support legislation to statutorily define the UI Rangeland Center so that as University leadership changes, it won’t be deemphasized and to ensure its long-term standing and success.

(33) FEDERAL AND STATE LANDS CATASTROPHIC FIRE PREVENTION (NEW 12; RE-AFFIRMED 17)

*WHEREAS:* The overly frequent fire cycle in most of the Great Basin is both a cause and a result of the continuing spread and increasing dominance of invasive annual grasses; and

*WHEREAS:* BLM and USFS policies continue to allow, and in some instances, encourage the accumulation of ever greater fuel loads of dead grass, forbs and trees that directly contribute to the frequency, intensity, destructiveness, and suppression costs of fires and threaten the lives, property, and resource values of their neighbors; and

*WHEREAS:* Fuel reduction by prescriptive, monitored, and adaptive livestock grazing is the only feasible means of reducing fuel loads and gaining fire security until other fuel breaks may be established and may be the only feasible fuel reduction means in some areas; and

*WHEREAS:* The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has a legal responsibility to protect sensitive and listed species and their habitat, such as slickspot peppergrass and sage grouse from their most significant threats, such as overly frequent and catastrophic fire; and

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA shall actively support legislation which would allow the Governors of states where excessive fuel loads exist to take action to reduce those fuel loads

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA shall consult with the Governor and Idaho's congressional delegation to determine if the State Sage Grouse Plan or other measures, to include, litigation, could be used to influence the BLM, USFS, and FWS to require that grazing allotment management plans and resource management plans take an aggressive approach to fuel reduction to protect Idaho's range resources and citizens.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA shall cooperate with other state cattle associations, PLC, and NCBA in a effort to mount a public education effort over the failure of the federal agencies to protect range resource values despite the expenditure of many millions of tax dollars and the failure to act on the major threat to many sensitive and listed species in the Great Basin in an effort to stimulate significant reform of how our range resources are managed.

(34) SAWTOOTH NATIONAL RECREATION AREA (NEW 02; AMENDED 13; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA will continue all possible efforts to assure that grazing is both a historical and pastoral value equivalent to recreational and wildlife values to SNRA.

(35) LAND EXCHANGES (NEW 14; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* Land exchanges are proposed involving Idaho state lands and federally managed lands; and

*WHEREAS:* Numerous valid existing private rights exist on the federally managed land; and

*WHEREAS:* These rights were established under local law, custom, and decisions of the courts, are recognized and acknowledged by acts of Congress, and have been upheld by State and Federal courts; and

*WHEREAS:* These rights, including water rights and grazing preference rights, are recognized as property rights under Idaho law.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA supports efforts to ensure that none of the valid existing private rights are lost in any land exchange with the federal government.

(36) RESTORING A BALANCE OF POWER TO FEDERAL LAND MANAGEMENT (NEW 14; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* The U.S. Constitution gives Congress the obligation and responsibility of establishing the policy regarding management of the Federal lands; and

*WHEREAS:* Often, unelected and unaccountable bureaucracies are able to contravene congressional policy and set their own agendas.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA requests the Idaho congressional delegation to take steps to bring these bureaucracies under control, including oversight hearings and use of the appropriations process to provide specific corrective direction, in addition to developing clearly stated legislation to set the boundaries of agency authority.

(37) MANAGEMENT OF FEDERAL LANDS (NEW 16)

*WHEREAS:* In recent years, well-intended federal laws have been manipulated by the legal maneuverings of anti-use activists and extremist organizations; and

*WHEREAS:* The result of these efforts is a land management system that is mired in bureaucracy and over-regulation which, in many instances, prevents sound stewardship, sustainable use, and beneficial on-the-ground management actions; and

*WHEREAS:* Because of these concerns, litigation and legislation are being proposed in various jurisdictions relating to the rights of the federal government to hold title and/or control over lands within the boundaries of the separate states; and

*WHEREAS:* Unless meaningful reform of federal laws, such as the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, is first undertaken, the regulatory framework that prohibits proactive land management will remain in place regardless of land control; and

*WHEREAS:* There remains many unanswered questions regarding state control of federal lands including the adequacy of state funds to take over management and the security of federal grazing preference rights.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) supports and promotes changes to state and federal laws, regulations, and actions that will reinforce localized management of federal lands.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA encourages due diligence by state and federal lawmakers to thoroughly and impartially consider state ownership or control of federal lands proposals before undertaking actions that could bring about negative unintended consequences to the ability of Idaho ranchers to graze livestock on these lands.

#### (38) OUTCOME-BASED GRAZING (NEW 17; AMENDED 18)

*WHEREAS:* There is a great need for increased flexibility for grazing permittees in management of grazing on public lands; and

*WHEREAS:* The BLM has developed an “outcome-based grazing” initiative which emphasizes ecological outcomes while allowing grazing permittees more flexibility to make adjustments in response to changing conditions such as drought or wildland fire.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) supports the outcome-based grazing initiative.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA will work to promote this idea to congressional and agency leaders and will seek for improvements to laws or regulations which impede flexible management of grazing on federal lands while protecting existing preference rights.

#### (39) APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES (NEW 18)

*WHEREAS:* In June 2018, the United States Supreme Court issued a decision, *Lucia et al. v. Securities and Exchange Commission*, which held that administrative law judges which have not been appointed as per Article II., Section 2, clause 2, of the U.S. Constitution do not have authority to issue decisions absence conformity with such provision; and

*WHEREAS:* While the *Lucia* Decision directly applied to the *Security and Exchange Commission*, it has been discovered that the same apparent constitutional violation may apply to many, if not all, of the Administrative Judges and Administrative Law Judges employed by the *Office of Hearings and Appeals of the U.S. Department of the Interior* (“OHA”), that review and adjudicate appeals of grazing and other decisions issued by *Bureau of Land Management* (“BLM”); and

*WHEREAS:* More than several Orders have been issued by Administrative Law Judges employed by OHA staying the processing of appeals currently pending before OHA “pending the Department’s review of the *Lucia* decision and the implications of the decision”; and

*WHEREAS:* The further delay of processing of these appeals can have serious, adverse impacts and implications upon the timely administration of justice for grazing permittees that have appeals of grazing decisions issued by BLM pending before OHA; and

*WHEREAS:* President Trump issued an *Executive Order* in July 2018, designed to administratively fix the *Lucia* issue, though the fix intends in part to resolve the *Lucia* issue via adopting regulations which will likely take some time; and

*WHEREAS:* Article II., Section 2, clause 2, of the U.S. Constitution authorizes Congress to fix the *Lucia* issue via legislation, stating that “the Congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments”.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA urges Congress to seek a legislative fix to the *Lucia* issue clouding the administration of justice before Office of Hearings and Appeals of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

#### (40) COLLABORATIVE FOREST AND RANGELAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS (NEW 19)

*WHEREAS:* The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 established the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CLFRP) to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes; and

*WHEREAS:* There are several other efforts aimed at fostering collaborative management of federal lands including the Good Neighbor Authority and Shared Stewardship agreements; and

*WHEREAS:* These efforts have potential to allow for more common-sense, site-specific management of federal lands but they have been primarily focused on timber projects; and

*WHEREAS:* Livestock grazing provides multiple benefits to federal lands, including fuels management, but

grazing as a beneficial treatment in Forest Service and BLM projects has been largely overlooked as implementation of these collaborative approaches have occurred.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* As CLFRP comes up for reauthorization, ICA shall seek for the inclusion of additional language which specifically acknowledges grazing and recognizes the contribution of grazing to fuels management and fire risk reduction, forest health, and the sustainability of local economies.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA shall also promote the inclusion of livestock grazing in other collaborative programs and the coordination of other planned treatment methods with grazing to result in more effective and complete restoration efforts and other projects.

(41) IDAHO PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL (NEW 20)

*WHEREAS:* The Idaho Public Lands Council (IPLC) exists under the umbrella of the Idaho Cattle Association (ICA) and Idaho Woolgrower's Association (IWGA) to protect continued livestock grazing on Idaho's federal and state lands and to support the national Public Lands Council (PLC); and

*WHEREAS:* IPLC works to affect state and federal laws, regulations, and policies that impact Idaho ranchers' abilities to graze livestock on public lands; and

*WHEREAS:* Annually, IPLC sends a voluntary contribution request to federal grazing permittees and state grazing lessees to assist in accomplishing its purpose and collect Idaho's share of the annual PLC dues.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA supports the functions of IPLC as outlined in its guidance document which shall be housed within ICA's operating procedures.

(42) IDAHO GRAZING IMPROVEMENT FUND (NEW 20)

*WHEREAS:* Livestock grazing is an important use of Idaho's federal, state, and private lands; and

*WHEREAS:* There are many regulatory requirements placed on the management of grazing which limits coordination, site-specific decision-making, and potential improvements.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA supports the development of state legislation which would establish a Grazing Improvement Fund to be used to coordinate across land ownership types to facilitate range improvement projects and provide for continued grazing use of Idaho's lands.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* To achieve its purposes, the act would create state and regional grazing advisory boards which would be overseen by the state to provide advice and recommendations for fund disbursements.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The fund would enable the state and permittees to better leverage available government dollars and private grants to achieve its purposes.

## MARKETING COMMITTEE

(1) LIVESTOCK DEALER TRUST (NEW 98; RE-AFFIRMED 12; RE-AFFIRMED 17)

*WHEREAS:* There is state and national interest in creating a statutory "Dealer Trust" similar to the existing "Packer Trust"; and

*WHEREAS:* A "Dealer Trust" would grant unpaid sellers of livestock payment from the dealer prior to settlement of any other debts;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association supports establishment through legislation of a Dealer Trust provision in the Packers and Stockyards Administration Act to assure prompt and full payment of livestock sellers.

(2) GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN LIVESTOCK MARKETS (NEW 99, AMENDED 02; AMENDED 03; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Market dynamics for beef, lamb, and pork producers are becoming more volatile; and

*WHEREAS:* History has shown that marketplace forces of supply and demand have eventually resolved economic imbalances; and

*WHEREAS:* Past government intervention such as the Dairy Buyout have negatively affected beef cattle prices and producers by artificially increasing the supply of meat;

*WHEREAS:* ICA supports a fair and competitive market place;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA will continue to oppose any artificial intervention measures that interfere with the supply/demand dynamics of the marketplace such as a possible buyouts or direct payments to producers;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That if emergency government measures are deemed appropriate for other livestock species then those measures should be fair and equitable for all species and applied uniformly;

(3) U.S. – CANADIAN CATTLE TRADE (NEW 00, AMENDED 03; AMENDED 11; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* It is of the utmost importance that any discussion of Canadian trade be fair and equitable among all segments of the cattle industry; and

*WHEREAS:* In the northwest we must maintain viable and competitive cow/calf, feedlot and packing industries; and

*WHEREAS:* There has been a concerted effort to increase the exports of Idaho feeder cattle to Canada by resolving animal health discrepancies; and

*WHEREAS:* The cross-border availability of feed grains is a necessity to ensure fair trade (including removal of feed grains or elimination of the Canadian Wheat Board); and

*WHEREAS:* A thorough review of the regulatory burden in both countries must be initiated and transparency between the two countries on all issues must continue; and

*WHEREAS:* There are numerous other items of concern including but not limited to transportation discrepancies, disease regulation, animal health product availability, labor regulations & availability, start-up & production subsidies, tax structure, exchange rates, cost of funds, equitable livestock identification & inspection programs, and improved production data;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA continue efforts to improve U.S. – Canadian trade in a manner that is fair and equitable to all segments of the industry;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA coordinate these efforts closely with NCBA, Governor, Idaho Congressional Delegation, State Department of Agriculture and any other allies;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA supports scientifically based decisions regarding food safety related trade issues and that decisions concerning these issues take into consideration economic impacts to the Idaho and US cattle industry as well as consumer perceptions of beef safety throughout the beef supply chain.

(4) BQA MARKETING PROGRAMS WITH INDUSTRY PARTNERS (NEW 03; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Beef Quality Assurance is important to marketing calves and feeder cattle in Idaho; and

*WHEREAS:* Pooling cattle offers access to better markets for calves and feeder cattle;

*WHEREAS:* That ICA supports programs that increase marketing opportunities for Idaho beef producers; and

*THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA should coordinate with industry partners that provide those marketing opportunities.

(5) VOLUNTARY SOURCE VERIFICATION PROGRAMS IN THE BEEF INDUSTRY (NEW 03; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* Food safety has become an increasingly important factor affecting the U.S. and global beef industry, and

*WHEREAS:* Global trade is important to the U.S. beef industry, and

*WHEREAS:* Major importing countries are increasingly demanding source verification, and;

*WHEREAS:* Integrated beef programs that align producers, feedlots, and packer/processors to beef consumers are becoming increasingly important to the economic success of the Idaho and U.S. beef industry, and;

*WHEREAS:* Guidelines for Beef Quality Assurance is an important step to developing integrated beef programs; and

*WHEREAS:* Source verification for U.S. as well as global consumption is becoming increasingly important to the beef industry;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA supports voluntary source verification programs in the U.S. beef for identification and traceability of cattle through the beef supply chain as an effective measure to manage the risk of food safety issues in the U.S.; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA supports voluntary source verification programs in the U.S. beef industry for identification and traceability of cattle through the beef supply chain as a means to protect the economic well being of the beef industry; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA supports voluntary source verification programs in the U.S. beef industry for identification and traceability of cattle through the beef supply chain as an effective measure to manage the risk of food safety issues in the U.S. and to protect the economic well being of the beef industry, and to develop greater and more profitable marketing opportunities for U.S. cattle producers.

(6) OPENING OF U.S. EXPORT MARKETS (NEW 05; AMENDED 08; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* Market dynamics for Northwest beef producers have become increasingly volatile; and

*WHEREAS:* The Pacific Northwest cattle industry is dependent on viable export markets; and

*WHEREAS:* ICA supports scientifically based decisions regarding food safety related trade issues;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* Trade rules comply with science based standards for BSE including all animal under

BSE including all animals under 30 months of age and meat from animals under 30 months.

(7) U.S.A. BEEF FOR U.S. TROOPS SERVING OVERSEAS (NEW 06; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* Our United States Troops are serving overseas to protect U.S. Citizens and interests domestically and worldwide; and

*WHEREAS:* The beef sourced from outside the U.S. is not subject to USDA inspection and does not meet the same quality standards as U.S. beef; and

*WHEREAS:* Contractors may not always use U.S. sourced beef for supplying troops in Iraq and other U.S. bases overseas.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA, in conjunction with NCBA and the Idaho Congressional delegation, will work to supply U.S. troops with U.S. beef.

(8) GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN BEEF CATTLE MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS AND PACKER OPERATIONS (NEW 10; RE-AFFIRMED 20)

*WHEREAS:* All participants in the beef supply chain including packers, processors, feedlots, stocker operators, and cow-calf ranching operations are integral to producing and marketing quality, safe, and affordable beef products; and

*WHEREAS:* Any new regulation imposed on any of these participants in the supply chain will increase the cost of doing business across the supply chain; and

*WHEREAS:* ICA supports all and any value-based marketing programs that result in premiums for its members; and

*WHEREAS:* ICA supports free enterprise business fundamentals including, but not limited to the right to private negotiation between a willing buyer and a willing seller; and

*WHEREAS:* The sale of cattle and beef between companies is an important element in the beef supply chain; and

*WHEREAS:* Buyers purchasing cattle for more than one packer distributes market access throughout the country and increases competition in beef markets;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA opposes any federal rule that uses “fairness” as justification to file suit against packers.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA opposes any federal rule requiring privately negotiated marketing arrangements to be reported and posted for public display.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA opposes any Federal rule restricting the sale of cattle between packers and restricting order buyers from more than one packer customer.

(9) BEEF CHECKOFF ENHANCEMENT (NEW 14; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* The beef checkoff has contributed to the positive growth in beef demand as measured by the Wholesale Beef Demand Index; and

*WHEREAS:* Independent research indicates that nearly 75% of beef producers support the beef checkoff program; and

*Whereas:* Domestic cattle supply is at very low levels while per head checkoff dollars are also at low levels; and

*WHEREAS:* There is discussion among industry organizations of enhancing the beef checkoff; and

*WHEREAS:* The current political environment in a stalemated U.S. Congress and an uncooperative executive branch is not conducive to seeking changes to the current structure.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association supports the following elements relating to enhancing the beef checkoff:

1. Enhancement policy shall not be proposed or supported until the politically correct time in which Congress and/or the executive branch will fully take into consideration the desires of the majority of US beef producers.
2. The assessment rate must be high enough to provide adequate funding for demand building programs and formula-based to keep up with natural economic progression.
3. The 1985 Beef Promotion and Research Act, or a substitute of that law, must be the vehicle for any enhancement. Further, the Commodity Promotion, Research, and Information Act of 1996 shall not be used as the vehicle for any enhancement.
4. The Cattlemen’s Beef Board should continue its important role as an administrator as established by the 1985 Act.
5. At least 50% of revenue must continue to remain with the state beef councils, unless otherwise appropriated by the individual states. ICA supports the Idaho Beef Checkoff in Title 25 Chapter 29 of Idaho code.

(10) U.S. TRADE NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREEMENTS (NEW 16)

*WHEREAS:* Expanding and opening new global markets for U.S. beef is critical to the economic viability of the Idaho beef industry and specifically, Idaho cattlemen; and

*WHEREAS:* Global trade agreements are complex and often take years of negotiation to complete; and

*WHEREAS:* In negotiations to open and expand markets for U.S. goods, free trade as well as fair trade must be advocated; and

*WHEREAS:* If the outcome of a trade negotiation is fair, the negotiations may have to follow a hard line stance toward that end.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association supports transparent U.S. trade negotiations that lead to free, but also fair, agreements.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association supports bi-lateral trade negotiations as opposed to multi-lateral agreements if these negotiations provide a faster and more transparent means to expand exports of U.S. beef as well as other U.S. export goods.

#### (11) LABELING OF PLANT-BASED PROTEIN MEAT SOURCES THAT IMITATE BEEF (NEW 19)

*WHEREAS:* The introduction of new products into the market that are produced from plant-based protein has increased significantly; and,

*WHEREAS:* Many of these new plant-based products imitate ground beef and are labeled accordingly; and,

*WHEREAS:* These plant-based products are significantly further processed; and,

*WHEREAS:* There are distinct and documented nutritional differences between these products and the beef produced by Idaho ranchers; and,

*WHEREAS:* Labeling of these products can be misleading if the label includes any reference to beef; and

*WHEREAS:* ICA recognizes that there are consumers who do not consume meat and these consumers will replace meat with plant-based protein products; and,

*WHEREAS:* ICA does understand that retailers and food service are motivated to make these products available to the non-meat consumers in the market.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* Idaho Cattle Association supports Federal legislation promoting accurate labeling that excludes any reference to beef in products produced from plant-based protein sources.

### **PRIVATE LANDS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** **PRIVATE LANDS SUB-COMMITTEE**

#### (1) PROPERTY RIGHTS AND LOCAL LAND USE PLANS (RE-AFFIRMED 97; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Federal land use planning can have adverse economic impacts upon local communities by eroding private property rights which results in a loss to the local economic base; and

*WHEREAS:* Congress, the courts, and federal agency regulation all require that the agencies protect the economic stability of the local community; and

*WHEREAS:* County governments have the regulatory authority allowing them to protect the private property rights of its citizens and the stability of local economies; and

*WHEREAS:* The federal agencies are not required to consider local economic protection in the absence of active assistance from county commissions and local citizens;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association strongly encourages its members to work with and support their county governments in establishing and actively asserting local influence in federal land use decisions in order to protect private property rights and local economic bases.

#### (2) GOVERNMENT AGENCY LAND ACQUISITIONS (RE-AFFIRMED 97; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Federal and state governments are the majority landowners in Idaho; and

*WHEREAS:* Federal and state agencies continue to acquire private land; and

*WHEREAS:* Federal and state agencies are increasingly resorting to indirect means of acquisition of private lands; and

*WHEREAS:* Acquisition of private lands by governmental agencies has serious detrimental effects on local governments, local economies, and adjacent landowners;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA insists that there be no net loss of private lands and therefore opposes any private land acquisitions by the federal and state governments unless land of equal value be transferred into private ownership within the local governmental jurisdiction;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA vigorously opposes private and non-profit organizations serving as conduits of government agencies for acquisition of private land and private property rights by federal and state governments.

(3) CONTINUED DEFENSE OF PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 00; AMENDED 02; AMENDED 05; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* Such laws as the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and Clean Air Act are rapidly eroding private property rights; and

*WHEREAS:* State and federal agencies are using these laws and making their own regulations that further erode property rights; and

*WHEREAS:* The idea that property rights lie at the heart of a "Free" Society is one of the "articles of faith" that this country was built on; and

*WHEREAS:* Private property fosters certain habits or virtues including responsibility, independence, and respect for the rights of others;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association continues its support of legislation to protect private property rights on local, state, and federal levels.

(4) PRIVATE PROPERTY STREAM BANK PROTECTION (RE-AFFIRMED 97; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* The Idaho Dept of Water Resources and the U.S. Corps of Engineers by placing unreasonable response to private lands owners for permits to repair stream banks and river beds; and

*WHEREAS:* Because of the failure of IDWR and the Corps to issue permits in a timely manner and requiring these property owners to stand by and watch the destruction of their property because of bureaucratic gridlock;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association urge the IDWR and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to allow property owners to do their own preventative measures on their waterways, if a permit is not issued within 60 days of application;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA hereby requests that the IDWR and Corps consider the rights of the citizens of Idaho to protect their property.

(5) SUPPORT FOR NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL IN IDAHO (NEW 98; AMENDED 08; AMENDED 18)

*WHEREAS:* Noxious weeds are expanding across the lands of Idaho at an ever-increasing rate and affect all of Idaho citizens by damaging recreation areas, wildlife habitats, forest lands, range lands, farm lands and all of Idaho's natural resources; and

*WHEREAS:* The largest amount of funding for noxious weed control comes from the county property owners; and

*WHEREAS:* Public land managers are contributing increasing amounts to noxious weed control efforts; and

*WHEREAS:* State funding for noxious weed control in Idaho is inadequate to fully address the problem, the State is contributing less than other Idaho weed control partners, and the State funding level is significantly less than funding in surrounding states of Montana, Washington, Oregon, and Wyoming; and

*WHEREAS:* Noxious weeds are transported primarily by the activities of people; and

*WHEREAS:* Noxious weeds are causing significant economic losses to the people of Idaho and these losses are increasing annually;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association supports state funding to the Idaho State Department of Agriculture at a sufficient level for effective noxious weed control so long as it equitably proportions the cost burden to all citizens of the state.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA shall work with ISDA to ensure that counties that apply for the weed control funding are able to utilize those funds in a manner that best suits their needs. I.E. funding should not be restricted to product only, but should be able to be used for the costs associated with application of the product including staffing costs.

(6) ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (NEW 00; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was designed to offer federal support for technical and financial assistance to the agricultural community for environmental conservation; and

*WHEREAS:* The EQIP program was designed to incorporate local control and stakeholder participation; and

*WHEREAS:* The USDA's EQIP program falls short when it comes to locally led conservation and implements less local control and stakeholder involvement than the previous Agriculture Conservation Program;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA will support NCBA's efforts to work with Congress and agencies to prevent erosion of federal financial support for locally driven conservation efforts on private lands;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA maintains an active position on the Idaho State Technical Committee;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA will support NCBA's efforts toward the use of EQIP money for all sizes of operations.

(7) PAYMENT IN KIND (PIK) (NEW 01; RE-AFFIRMED 12; RE-AFFIRMED 17)

*WHEREAS:* In recent years Payment in Kind (PIK) programs have been authorized for commodities such as sugar beets and potatoes; and

*WHEREAS:* PIK program participants have not been allowed to graze livestock so the feed value of the PIK commodities have been wasted;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association supports and promotes appropriate rule changes that allow recipients of the PIK program to graze livestock on their PIK lands without any payment reduction;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The terms of the grazing agreement should be negotiated between the grazing and PIK parties involved, as they deem satisfactory.

(8) GRASSLAND RESERVE PROGRAM (NEW 01; AMENDED 07; RE-AFFIRMED 12; RE-AFFIRMED 17)

*WHEREAS:* The 2002 Farm Bill created the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association conceptually supports the Grasslands Reserve Program as long as historical, productive uses related to livestock grazing continue;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association supports voluntary, transferable GRP contracts that are a minimum of 10 years in length and that have no governmental restriction on the transfer of the contract, or with the sale or transfer of the encumbered real estate.

(9) AIR QUALITY (NEW 02; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* EPA and legal action have indicated an increasing level of scrutiny and possibly regulation for air quality issues;

*WHEREAS:* There are significant variations between animal species and even within the beef industry including type of operation, open vs. closed systems, handling, climate, vegetative cover, confinement, air releases and waste stream and

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Federal and State agencies in cooperation with ICA and NCBA member cattlemen and research institutions shall obtain and utilize data that represents local conditions as the basis for regulating feedlot particulate emissions and does not interfere with successful state regulatory and legislative efforts.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The ICA will strongly urge state and local units of government to consider the various voluntary management techniques utilized in feedlots that are practical and cost effective to reduce dust (e.g. watering feedlots, cross fencing, etc.) before determination is made whether a facility is in violation;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the ICA will work with NRCS to ensure that air quality practices such as dust control are eligible for EQIP funding and if needed, ICA will seek out additional sources for voluntary practices;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA strongly oppose implementation of any new air quality standards on production agriculture especially beef operations until science-based data is available to substantiate the need for such standards;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA will work with NCBA and other state associations to facilitate and coordinate air quality research, funding and results among land grant universities and the beef industry;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA will work to maintain the autonomy of the beef industry in all legislative, regulatory, judicial and private sector activities.

(10) PUBLIC RECORDS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (NEW 02; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* The 2002 Farm Bill included language in Section 1244(b) that does not allow the personal information received for technical and financial assistance to be considered as public information; and

*WHEREAS:* The Farm Bill further provides that information provided for the purpose of providing technical or financial assistance to an owner, operator, or producer with respect to any natural resources conservation program is proprietary to the agricultural operation or land that is a part of an agricultural operation of the owner, operator, or producer;

*WHEREAS:* The Farm Bill also provides that information may be disclosed to the public if the information has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form without naming any individual owner, operator, or specific data gathering site; and

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA encourages all state agencies – and the Legislature if needed - adopt similar policies that apply to the technical service that is provided through their agencies.

(11) RENEWABLE ENERGY SALES TAX EXEMPTION (NEW 04; RE-AFFIRMED 12; RE-AFFIRMED 17)

*WHEREAS:* Additional power is and will be needed by Idaho's growing population and commercial entities; and

*WHEREAS:* Idaho's livestock industry has the resources, such as private property, for various renewable energy projects; and

*WHEREAS:* These renewable energy projects, such as wind power, have the potential to add needed revenue to Idaho's livestock industry; and

*WHEREAS:* Tax incentives have proved essential and are needed to help these renewable energy projects to be developed and come on line;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association strongly recommends to the Idaho Legislature that tax incentives, particularly a sales tax exemption, be granted to those entities developing renewable energy projects.

(12) RENEWABLE ENERGY (NEW 05; AMENDED 08; AMENDED 13; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* Idaho imports 80% of the energy that our businesses, residents, farms and ranches use in the form of fossil fuels, and

*WHEREAS:* Idaho's great hydropower resource supplies provide just 11 % of Idaho energy demand when factoring in the total energy demand picture, including electricity, transportation fuel, space heating, and industrial uses, and

*WHEREAS:* Idaho produces no fossil fuel, but is rich in renewable resources and energy efficiency potential, and

*WHEREAS:* The development of renewable energy in Idaho will benefit Idaho agriculture as it is, in part, our ranching families that possess the land and resources that renewable energy depends on.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA supports the state of Idaho's comprehensive strategy to tackle the problem of energy imports. Specifically, ICA supports the following:

- Develop an Idaho Energy Security Plan that sets clear targets and accountability to cut state energy imports and to capitalize on in-state resources.
- Support state and federal policies to spur private investment in renewables and efficiency.
- Launch renewable energy job training programs to help Idaho workers take advantage of new job opportunities and ensure new businesses have access to skilled workers.
- Spur innovation through the establishment of Renewable Energy Enterprise Zones and scaled-up R&D initiatives at Idaho universities.

(13) EMINENT DOMAIN (NEW 05; RE-AFFIRMED 08; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* The United States Supreme Court ruled in *Kelo vs. City of New London* that local governments can condemn private property for proposed uses by other private parties if their use increases taxes or other economic benefit to the community; and

*WHEREAS:* this ruling opens the door to condemnation of private property, including farm and ranch land for almost any other purpose.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association join with other agricultural organizations and interested private property rights groups to present a bill in the Idaho Legislature to restrict the use of eminent domain to only public purposes.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* that ICA support NCBA and other groups in encouraging the US Congress to pass similar legislation on the national level.

(14) ESTABLISHMENT OF PEST ABATEMENT DISTRICTS (NEW 06; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* Pests, including but not limited to, black flies, mosquitoes, crickets, grasshoppers, etc., have been a costly problem for Idaho producers; and

*WHEREAS:* These pests potentially can cause severe crop and forage damage and pose significant threats to the health, wellbeing and productivity of livestock and other animals; and

*WHEREAS:* Recent events have shown these pests to present a serious and imminent threat to public health and safety; and

*WHEREAS:* Products and technologies are readily available to aid in controlling these pests; and

*WHEREAS:* Adequate programs and funding for the control of these pests are not always established and available at the local level;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association work with the various levels of government to ensure that adequate funding and infrastructure are available to facilitate local pest abatement districts.

(15) LANDOWNER CONSERVATION EASEMENTS, TAX INCENTIVES, AND MITIGATION EFFORTS (NEW 06; AMENDED 14; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* Idaho's private ranches, farms, and forests provide important economic and environmental benefits; and

*WHEREAS:* Owners of these working lands face many challenges from growth, regulation, and economic pressures; and

*WHEREAS:* Many working lands across Idaho are being subdivided for development purposes. This subdivision impacts the economic benefits, clean water, wildlife habitat, and custom and culture that working lands provide; and

*WHEREAS:* Financial opportunities and incentives, including conservation easements and mitigation measures, are increasingly available to enable ranchers to maintain their livelihood and plan for the future.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA will only support such programs if they ensure that participating working ranches remain in operation and viable.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* Tax credits should only be made available to landowners who receive greater than 50% of their gross income from farming and ranching.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* Participating landowners should be given the opportunity to enter into term easements.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* In order to ensure that ranches remain whole, ICA shall work to develop language to include assurances in private lands easements that if permitted public lands grazing use is reduced, the easement may be invalidated.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* As other entities develop mitigation measures for their impacts, ICA will work to leverage these efforts to the benefit of Idaho's cattle industry and affected ranchers.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA shall actively pursue discovery of, or if none suitable exist, creation of an entity to facilitate conservatory opportunities for ranchers that will ensure long term our ranching legacy.

#### (16) ROCK CREEK RANCH (NEW 15; AMENDED 20)

*WHEREAS:* In the face of increasing threats against livestock grazing on Idaho's public rangelands, a need exists for increased rangeland research and for locations where experimental studies can be conducted without the restrictive regulatory requirements of federal land; and

*WHEREAS:* The 10,400+/- acre, privately deeded Rinker Rock Creek Ranch (RRCR) was purchased by the Wood River Land Trust (WRLT) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and indefinitely leased to the University of Idaho. Working with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the ranch was protected from development by two permanent grassland conservation easements; and

*WHEREAS:* RRCR is situated in Blaine County and lies adjacent to an accessible 11,000+ additional acres of BLM and IDL grazing allotments; and

*WHEREAS:* RRCR is a unique tract of land with incredible agricultural production, wildlife habitat, riparian areas, and recreational access and can offer many opportunities for rangeland and production research, rangeland, wildlife, and recreational interface education and outreach, and collaboration/partnerships among various entities.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA supports and encourages the industry's involvement in the development and management of RRCR to operate a premier, one-of-a-kind rangeland, wildlife, and livestock research facility at Rinker Rock Creek Ranch.

### **WATER SUB-COMMITTEE**

#### (1) WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS BILLS (RE-AFFIRMED 97, AMENDED 00; AMENDED 06; AMENDED 09; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* National Wild and Scenic Rivers bills are being proposed in Idaho that will include private as well as public lands within their areas; and

*WHEREAS:* Livestock relies in some degree on public, as well as private, lands for grazing and water; and

*WHEREAS:* Some bills contain condemnation provisions for the private lands as well as condemnation of scenic, access, and other easements which may be used to jeopardize previously vested water rights and require management of adjacent lands; and

*WHEREAS:* The bills require excessive controls throughout the watershed within the National Wild and Scenic River System; and

*WHEREAS:* The bills historically contain no specific language to assure that grazing, agricultural practices, recreational uses, or other commercial uses may continue unregulated;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* Because Wild and Scenic River Bills carry with them the potential of fatal disruption

of current land use activities, and in some cases attempt to federalize water, the Idaho Cattle Association will strongly oppose them unless the designation is part of a comprehensive negotiated package and supported by membership.

(2) WATER QUALITY (RE-AFFIRMED 97, AMENDED 00; AMENDED 01; RE-AFFIRMED 17)

*WHEREAS:* ICA is concerned about water quality;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA supports continued management of water quality, underground and surface, in accordance with sound, unbiased scientific investigation, subject to peer review;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA continues to monitor the progress of Basin Advisory Groups and encourages local members to be involved with Watershed Advisory Groups as they develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's);

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That all involved government agencies should make a concerted effort to work together and provide consistent information regarding water quality efforts, regulatory actions, and voluntary programs.

(3) HAZARDOUS WASTE (RE-AFFIRMED 97; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* The mismanagement and improper disposal of hazardous waste, toxic substance, and radioactive materials poses a real imminent and long lasting threat to surface and groundwater supplies throughout the nation and these water supplies are crucial to the livelihood of cattlemen and the safety of their products;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That adequate statutes and regulations be adopted and enforced at State and Federal levels to ensure the management of hazardous waste, toxic substances, and radioactive materials that conforms to the best available scientific principles and engineering practices on a site-specific basis;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That facilities for storage and disposal of these harmful materials shall not penetrate freshwater aquifers.

(4) WATER FOR SALMON RECOVERY (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 00; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Certain aquatic species have been designated as threatened and endangered under the authority granted by the Endangered Species Act; and

*WHEREAS:* We are committed to protecting threatened and endangered species and preserving and enhancing existing salmon and steelhead runs; and

*WHEREAS:* Fisheries biologists from a variety of disciplines have identified a range of causes of mortality at each stage of the salmon's and steelhead's life cycle; and

*WHEREAS:* Water is the number one natural resource of the livestock industry; and

*WHEREAS:* The Columbia/Snake River system is a natural resource of great economic importance to the Idaho state economy providing substantial economic benefits in the areas of irrigated agriculture, livestock, fisheries, energy, navigation, recreation, and flood control; and

*WHEREAS:* The economic benefits of the Columbia/Snake River system effect the economic well-being of virtually every citizen in the State of Idaho;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association does not support flow augmentation in the Lower Snake and Columbia Rivers for which use is contrary to the laws of the State of Idaho or is in breach of any contract between space holders and the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation or is an abrogation of any such contract;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association does not support dam removal or breaching of dams on the Columbia/Snake River or its tributaries.

(5) LIVESTOCK WATERING RIGHTS (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 11; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* The use of water for watering domestic livestock and particularly range livestock is of great importance to the State of Idaho; and

*WHEREAS:* The value of the right to water livestock is directly dependent on the availability to the owner of such right of the grazing use of the public range in the vicinity of his watering place; and

*WHEREAS:* Stock water rights comprise beneficial use of the volume of water consumed by livestock while legally grazing the land; and

*WHEREAS:* Stock water rights on federal lands are based on beneficial use by livestock owned or managed by the applicant; and

*WHEREAS:* Adjudicated grazing preference rights and livestock water rights within a grazing allotment on federal land are appurtenant to the base property of the permittee or lessee; and

*WHEREAS:* The priority date for a stock water right is the first date of beneficial use by predecessors in title; and

*WHEREAS:* In 2007, the Idaho Supreme Court reinforced these points in the Joyce Livestock case.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA continue to ensure that government agencies and the courts continue to

uphold the Joyce Livestock court decision which solidifies the above stated principles.

(6) CLEAN WATER ACT (NEW 00; AMENDED 09; AMENDED 13; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* The current Clean Water Act provides broad federal authority through EPA impacting all segments of the cattle business; and

*WHEREAS:* Recent efforts have focused directly on agricultural runoff and cattle production in particular as a major source of point and non-point pollution of U.S. surface waters;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the ICA strongly opposes any efforts to increase federal authority over surface water beyond what is currently authorized especially if those efforts make any connection whatsoever to ground water;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the ICA support legislation that makes any beneficial cattle industry changes to the Clean Water Act;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the ICA support efforts to pursue delegation of all NPDES authority from EPA to the State of Idaho, provided the regulatory agency for agricultural operations resides with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. If regulatory authority of agricultural operations does not reside with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, ICA opposes NPDES and Clean Water Act Primacy.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That NPDES permits for CAFOs be voluntary, unless in the event of a discharge, for support by ICA.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA opposes any efforts, regulatory or legislative, to expand the Clean Water Act to non-navigable waters or change the definition of navigable waters of the United States to anything but waters that serve as a right-of-way to documentable U.S. commercial activities.

(7) DIVERSION SCREEN POLICY (NEW 00; AMENDED 09; AMENDED 19)

*WHEREAS:* Idaho Code requires all diversions be screened to prevent fish from moving down irrigation canals; and

*WHEREAS:* These structures are very expensive; and

*WHEREAS:* The State of Idaho has screened diversions for salmon, bull trout, and steelhead; and

*WHEREAS:* Water is the lifeblood of all of agriculture;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association supports state and federal funding for a diversion screen program;

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association form coalitions with all potential water users to rectify this problem.

(8) USFS PERMANENT EASEMENT (NEW 01; RE-AFFIRMED 07; AMENDED 12; RE-AFFIRMED 17)

*WHEREAS:* The “Colorado Ditch Act” (HR 2921), an amendment to FLPMA sunsetted December 31, 1996 and many irrigators throughout the west applied for permanent irrigation or stockwater ditch easements under this act; and

*WHEREAS:* The United States Forest Service has yet to complete processing of the permanent easements; and

*WHEREAS:* The reason given for not processing the easements is that the federal attorneys are attempting to determine how to attach restrictions and conditions to the easements in direct contravention of the purposes of the act;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the directors of the Idaho Cattle Association ask the Idaho congressional delegation to work with the Administration to ensure that these applications are processed to permanent easements in a timely manner without the attempted imposition of restrictions and conditions.

(9) IRRIGATION DITCH WATERWAYS ACROSS FEDERAL LANDS (NEW 18)

*WHEREAS:* In the 1980s Congress authorized recognition of pre-1976 ditches across federal land in the Ditch Bill; and

*WHEREAS:* The U.S. Forest Service (FS) has not acted on Ditch Bill easement applications filed and received over twenty years ago, nor have they recognized RS 2339 rights asserted by water users; and

*WHEREAS:* Current and past litigation against both the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service have sought the agencies to place restrictions and conditions on irrigation ditch rights of way and permanent easements that cross federal lands.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA shall seek congressional language which clarifies that the agencies have a duty to first determine if water and ditch rights are entitled to easements under RS 2339 or the Ditch Bill prior to agreeing to consult under the ESA regarding such state granted water rights.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The language shall also clarify that the FS has no duty to consult on water and ditches that have an easement under either RS 2339 or the Ditch Bill.

## RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

### (1) UNCLAIMED LIVESTOCK FUNDS USE FOR INDUSTRY EDUCATION (NEW 11; AMENDED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Unclaimed Livestock Funds are generated from the livestock industry; and

*WHEREAS:* There is a need of funding for livestock oriented educational projects.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* ICA's charitable endowment organization, the Idaho Cattle Foundation (ICF), shall maintain responsibility for distributing the money from this fund in an equitable fashion to both the livestock industry and education.

### (2) BALLOT INITIATIVES (NEW 12; RE-AFFIRMED 17)

*WHEREAS:* Ballot initiatives are intended to reach all registered voters in the state; and

*WHEREAS:* The urbanization of the state is growing rapidly; and

*WHEREAS:* The majority of signatures claimed for ballot initiatives come from urban areas; and

*WHEREAS:* The registered voters in rural areas of the state are disenfranchised by ballot initiative signature obtainment;

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association supports a ballot initiative process requiring a wider rural representation.

## WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

### (1) YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 03; AMENDED 06; AMENDED 16)

*Whereas:* Proposals exist for a four-million-acre expansion of the existing Yellowstone National Park into a total area called the "Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem" that will triple the acres under the control of the National Park system in a three state area; and

*Whereas:* The impact of such a designation only serves to suppress or eliminate existing economic activity in this three-state area and suppresses recreational activity in the vast area; and

*Whereas:* Current regulatory agencies provide adequate management to protect the resources in the area and this new designation will put the Park Service in charge of the new ecosystem.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association is strongly opposed to expansion of this ecosystem that puts Grizzly Bear, Bison, and Wolf recovery over recreational and economic activity currently in place.

### (2) IDAHO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 03; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Representation on the Idaho Fish and Game Commission needs to continue to represent the agricultural industry of the State of Idaho, upon which the game population of Idaho so heavily relies.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association supports the Idaho Fish and Game Commission and encourages them to recognize the impact of wildlife regulations on the social and economic values of all Idahoans. ICA also encourages the Commission to recognize that maintaining an economically viable ranching community is essential to maintaining healthy wildlife habitat on private land.

### (3) DE-LISTING GRIZZLY BEAR FROM PROTECTION UNDER THE ESA (RE-AFFIRMED 97, AMENDED 00; AMENDED 02; AMENDED 08; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* Sufficiently large and stable populations of grizzlies exist in North America that these species can no longer be described as threatened; and

*WHEREAS:* The USFWS has on-going plans to expand the existing populations of bears beyond their original goals at great expense to the federal budget and to the tremendous economic detriment of the livestock and wildlife/recreation industries.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA supports de-listing as long as the state management plan:

- Doesn't allow for de facto expansion of Yellowstone National Park;
- Allows for federal funding of all grizzly bear management costs including depredation;
- Provides for representation of affected interests (especially beef producers) on the Delisting Advisory Team (or eventual oversight entity);
- Allows individuals to use lethal methods on problem bears in order to protect themselves and their property (including livestock) and;
- Does not give any new or additional powers to Fish & Game especially as it applies to private and/or federal lands.

(4) AMEND THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (RE-AFFIRMED 97, AMENDED 00; AMENDED 02; AMENDED 05; AMENDED 06; AMENDED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Under existing law the listing process of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) does not consider the impacts to human welfare, local economies, public values, and private property rights when listing a species under protection of the Act; and

*WHEREAS:* The ESA has been excessively exploited through the use of frivolous litigation and surrogate species for land use control which is not the intent of the act; and

*WHEREAS:* Proposed listing of a species under the ESA results in a de-facto listing without adequate proof of endangered or threatened status resulting in severe restrictions to multiple use and current land management objectives, uses, and practices; and

*WHEREAS:* The ESA holds the policy maker personally liable for any decision they make that could adversely affect an endangered species which greatly hinders any forward thinking or risk taking on the part of the policy maker;

*WHEREAS:* The Idaho Cattle Association has a vested interest in the “peer-reviewed”, non-biased science approach to endangered species listings; and

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Endangered Species Act be amended to require adequate public input and full consideration of economic impact and social concerns for the species under current and proposed protection of the Act.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ESA be amended to eliminate personal liability of the policy maker for specific resource decisions.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ESA should be amended to clarify that ESA protection should only apply to species, not varieties.

(5) WILDLIFE STEWARDSHIP (RE-AFFIRMED 97; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Cattlemen have a responsibility to provide food and jobs to our economy and a responsibility to practice good stewardship of natural resources; and

*WHEREAS:* Public and private lands that contribute to the agriculture economy also provide habitat for many species of wildlife for part or all of the year; and

*WHEREAS:* Many cattlemen have an understanding of and appreciation for wildlife on lands they manage that is second to none; and

*WHEREAS:* Cattlemen are in a unique position to understand and manage the complex and often misunderstood interrelationships between human society and economics, livestock production, wildlife populations and natural resources; and

*WHEREAS:* There exists a common, although not always correct, perception that the condition of wildlife populations and habitat is a reflection of the quality of our stewardship.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That it is in the best interests of individual cattlemen and ICA to be active participants in efforts to maintain and enhance wildlife populations and habitat on agricultural lands, consistent with sound economic and environmental management.

(6) IDAHO FISH AND GAME CONTROL OF STATE LAND LEASES (RE-AFFIRMED 97; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* The State Department of Fish and Game and non-profit organizations have recently acquired a significant number of State land leases that were actively used for agricultural production; and

*WHEREAS:* The use of State land leases by agriculture will generate more economic activity for the local community and state than will the use of these leases by government agencies or non-profit organizations; and

*WHEREAS:* Private enterprise agriculture will, generally, not be able to outbid government agencies or non-profit organizations for possession of state leases.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association supports legislation that will prohibit any increase in State land leases held by government agencies or non-profit organizations after January 1, 1993.

(7) IDAHO FISH AND GAME MANAGEMENT OF ELK (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 00; AMENDED 12; AMENDED 17)

*WHEREAS:* Routine feeding of wild elk herds results in artificial congregation of elk, thereby encouraging the spread of contagious diseases; and

*WHEREAS:* All Idaho elk herds are in danger of being infected with *Brucella abortus* due to the large population of infected elk in the Greater Yellowstone Park Area; and

*WHEREAS:* The Idaho Department of Fish & Game continues to allow feeding of elk on a routine basis in non-emergency situations despite Commission policy and the Idaho Wildlife Brucellosis Plan; and

*WHEREAS:* *Brucella abortus* would present a major economic risk to the cattle industry and a severe health risk to

Idaho elk and Idaho citizens in contact with the infected elk or cattle; and

*WHEREAS:* Repeated routine feeding results in depredation problems in nearby areas.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association generally opposes the feeding of wild elk except in extreme emergencies and for short periods of time and shall seek to stop F&G routine feeding by meeting with the Director, Commissioners, Governor, or introduce legislation if needed.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association go on record as favoring the development of upper limits of big game numbers based upon the amount of critical winter forage available.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That once established, Federal Land managers and Fish and Game personnel work to hold big game numbers within these upper limits while maintaining the multiple use concepts and reinstating suspended AUMs prior to increasing the upper limits or introducing new populations.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That when elk carrying brucellosis are identified, the Idaho Fish and Game should immediately dispose of them and not allow them to roam.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* Idaho Fish and Game must work with ranchers to prevent invasion of elk onto ranchers' winter feed grounds resulting in co-mingling elk with livestock.

(8) U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (RE-AFFIRMED 97; AMENDED 00; AMENDED 03; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* State agencies can manage fish and wildlife more efficiently and with less influence from national political movements, and irresponsible environmental organizations; and

*WHEREAS:* There is a need to balance the federal budget and reduce the size of the federal government.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA support any effort to reduce the size, scope, and authority of the USFWS to what is legitimately necessary.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That fish and wildlife remain exclusively under the control of the states in which they are found.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That in the meantime, ICA work cooperatively with USFWS as needed to prevent listings or remove current plants or animals from the endangered species list.

(9) WOLF DEPREDAATION AND MANAGEMENT (NEW 99; AMENDED 12; AMENDED 17; AMENDED 18)

*WHEREAS:* The federal government has introduced wolves into areas of Idaho with large livestock populations; and

*WHEREAS:* The Idaho Cattle Association believes that the domestic livestock industry and wolves can co-exist if depredating wolves are managed; and

*WHEREAS:* The wolf population has expanded exponentially and livestock losses to wolf predation have increased much beyond the 16 head of cattle assumed at full recovery.

*WHEREAS:* Because of their actions in introducing wolves despite the united opposition of the residents of the affected areas, the federal government has at least a moral, if not a legal obligation to compensate livestock owners for wolf depredation-caused livestock losses; and

*WHEREAS:* Lethal removal of livestock-depredating wolves can often be accomplished more efficiently and at less cost than non-lethal capture and relocation efforts.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association supports the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board's role in conjunction with Idaho Fish and Game and Wildlife Services in controlling those wolves depredating on the private property of Idaho's ranchers.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA calls on the Idaho legislature and governor to remove the sunset provision on the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board and reauthorize it so that animal specific depredation control can continue.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That a federally funded compensation program be established in the US Fish & Wildlife Service budget to compensate livestock owners for wolf predation on livestock.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ranchers be compensated for all 1) kills confirmed or "highly probable" rated by the USDA Wildlife service; 2) all loss above "normal" death loss in herds where wolf depredation is confirmed; and 3) indirect losses such as weight loss, decreased pregnancy rates and increased management costs. Normal death loss ~~to~~ should be determined from historic USFS/BLM grazing reports on a particular allotment or individual ranch record, based on a reasonable average to be determined on a case by case basis.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* Federal and state agencies should recognize new research which shows wolves are responsible for atypical livestock deaths wherein the injuries are subcutaneous and not visible without a necropsy.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association strongly recommends that in areas of chronic wolf depredations on livestock, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game authorize prompt removal of entire wolf packs upon confirmation of wolf predation on livestock, and that this authorization provide for removal of implicated wolf packs not only during and immediately following the depredations, but also during the subsequent winter months, when remaining

wolves may be more vulnerable to removal, so as to reduce the likelihood of depredations the following year.

(10) LANDOWNER APPRECIATION PERMITS (LAP) (NEW 99; AMENDED 11; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* Landowners, especially ranchers, continue to voluntarily provide wildlife habitat; and

*WHEREAS:* Ranchers have historically provided access to sportsmen who ask permission and hunt responsibly.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association opposes the inclusion of a 'reasonable access' provision in LAP's as unnecessary and vague.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA supports increased allocation of big game permits to landowners as a true sign of appreciation.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA supports the creation of an additional category of landowner hunting tags wherein landowners can sell their tags in exchange for providing access.

(11) FISH AND GAME LAND ACQUISITIONS (NEW 99, AMENDED 02; AMENDED 06; RE-AFFIRMED 16)

*WHEREAS:* The Dep't has an abundance of land that could be sold, with conservation easements which would continue to achieve Fish & Game's goals; and

*WHEREAS:* Private lands can be more efficiently and properly managed for wildlife habitat by the private sector given the proper incentive at no cost to the taxpayer.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the ICA opposes any further acquisition of land by the Fish & Game and instead seek the Fish & Game to provide adequate monetary incentives to private landowners for wildlife habitat.

(12) WOLF DE-LISTING (NEW 00; AMENDED 12; AMENDED 17)

*WHEREAS:* Wolves in Idaho are increasing in numbers at an exponential rate and have now reached a population size which is beginning to have major depredation effects on domestic livestock and wildlife; and

*WHEREAS:* The wolf population target was exceeded in 1998 and wolves are dispersing widely outside the recovery area; and

*WHEREAS:* Wolves in Idaho were delisted in May 2009, relisted in August 2010 by federal judge's order, and then delisted in 2011 pursuant to requirements in the congressional budget rider.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association strongly insists wolves remain delisted in Idaho and will actively defend against litigation efforts that return wolves to the ESA list.

(13) USDA-APHIS WILDLIFE SERVICES (REVISED 98, AMEND 00; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* An effective animal damage control program is needed to control livestock losses on public and private lands (ie. coyote damage on the range or bird control in feedlots); and

*WHEREAS:* USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services has been an effective partner in minimizing losses from wolves and preventing the listing of sage grouse.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association unequivocally supports Wildlife Services and its national funding as essential to our industry's well being.

(14) OFFICE OF SPECIES CONSERVATION (NEW 01, AMENDED 02; AMENDED 05; AMENDED 09; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* The Office of Species Conservation (OSC) is the only state agency with the mission and the knowledge to address how the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is implemented in Idaho, and

*WHEREAS:* OSC has demonstrated it's ability to protect Idaho's ecology and economy from some of the extreme effects of the ESA regarding wolves, grizzly bears, slickspot peppergrass, sage grouse and other species, and

*WHEREAS:* OSC's ability to protect Idaho is largely dependent OSC's opportunity to act proactively before events reach crisis proportions,

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association will work with the Office of Species Conservation to encourage and assist producers in seeking out the available technical expertise, scientific knowledge and political support to prevent unnecessary listings of additional species and deal with species that are already listed.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* That ICA shall support the continued ample funding of OSC as a critical minimum and shall support any potential increases as a sound investment in protecting Idaho's economy and Idaho tax dollars.

(15) IDAHO FISH AND GAME (NEW 02; AMENDED 06; AMENDED 19)

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* In order to achieve a positive working relationship between the Idaho Fish and Game Department (IDFG) and landowners who produce a significant amount of wildlife habitat, the ICA shall continue to work with the Fish and Game Director, the Fish and Game Commission, the Office of the Governor, the Legislature, and sportsmen, as appropriate, to seek long-term resolution of problems and concerns with Fish and Game issues including:

- A. Predator control;
- B. Endangered and sensitive species activities;
- C. Federal and state resource management;
- D. Address with IDFG officials the propriety of their access to private lands.
- E. That IDFG requires their employees, when representing the Department, to give public input on issues that reflects the official IDFG stance on the issues and not that employee's personal agendas and opinions.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA shall continue to develop and maintain a positive relationship with the Idaho Department of Fish & Game by participating in the Fish & Game Advisory Committee and through periodic personal contact with the Regional staff and the Director.

(16) NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NEW 02; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* NOAA has expertise in dealing with ocean marine issues; and

*WHEREAS:* NOAA, although they have been in charge of salmon and steelhead endangered species issues on inland waters since 1992, has not developed any expertise in dealing with uplands anadromous issues; and

*WHEREAS:* This lack of expertise in uplands issues has created gridlock on both private and public lands fisheries projects; and

*WHEREAS:* US Fish & Wildlife Service has demonstrated their expertise on both fish and wildlife issues.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Idaho Cattle Association request that NOAA be relieved of their responsibilities for anadromous fish on inland waters and that the responsibility be directed to USFWS.

(17) ACCESS YES PROGRAM (New 02; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* The ICA recognizes "Access Yes" is a sportsman access program. However, in order to work, "Access Yes" must also provide landowners incentive; and

*WHEREAS:* "Access Yes" provides a better alternative than property acquisition by the Idaho Department of Fish & Game.

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:* The ICA supports the "Access Yes" program as developed by the Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

(18) BULL TROUT (NEW 03; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has prepared a draft recovery plan and draft critical habitat designation for bull trout; and

*WHEREAS:* While these plans are far-reaching and will greatly impact Idaho landowners and grazing permittees, the FWS has yet to submit an economic analysis; and

*WHEREAS:* In their current form, the plans are unattainable and unrealistic as they fail to recognize that healthy habitat on private land requires economically viable landowners.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The ICA work with the Idaho Congressional delegation, FWS, and other affected industries to require that the draft plans are significantly altered based on sound science and economic impacts; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The ICA supports the efforts of the above-mentioned groups to split up the Distinct Population Segments to make them more manageable and to make de-listing more possible; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* The ICA opposes any critical habitat designations for bull trout that are contrary to the purposes of the ESA and that do not adequately consider the economic impacts of such designations on the local economies of the State of Idaho.

(19) SLICKSPOT PEPPERGRASS (NEW 03; AMENDED 09; RE-AFFIRMED 19)

*WHEREAS:* The listing of slickspot peppergrass as threatened represents an extreme example of every fault in the implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and

*WHEREAS:* This listing will set precedents for the treatment of other sagebrush ecosystem obligates, particularly the sage grouse, and

*WHEREAS:* This listing presents a critical and irreparable threat to the rangeland resource and economy of SW Idaho.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA shall support the efforts of the affected permittees and the Office of Species Conservation to return the management of this plant to the cooperative and collaborative and successful Candidate Conservation Agreement that remains in place.

(20) NOAA FISHERIES DECISION-MAKING ON BIOLOGICAL OPINIONS (NEW 05; RE-AFFIRMED 18)

*WHEREAS:* NOAA Fisheries has recently moved decisions on some Biological Opinions (BO) from the state to the

regional office, has included a process of legal review, and is considering adding another level of judicial review and making these changes permanent; and

*WHEREAS:* ICA appreciates NOAA Fisheries goal of avoiding the loss of lawsuits and the disruption of court imposed decisions; and

*Whereas:* Extending the B.O. decision-making process will almost certainly result in a delay of BO approval.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* That ICA shall seek to influence NOAA Fisheries to avoid delaying time sensitive BOs and avoid negative consequences to the associated natural resources and economic activity.

(21) ICA AND IDFG COOPERATION IN MAINTAINING WORKING RANCHES AND WILDLIFE HABITAT (NEW 07; RE-AFFIRMED 17)

*WHEREAS:* In recent years, the population of the state of Idaho has expanded exponentially; this growth rate is not anticipated to slow in the foreseeable future; and,

*WHEREAS:* As this growth continues, Idaho's open spaces, forests, and rangelands are placed in great demand for development; and,

*WHEREAS:* Some of the most productive wildlife habitat exists on private lands owned by ranchers and faces the greatest pressure for development; and

*WHEREAS:* If the ranching industry is not viable, ranchers are left with little alternative but to sell this valuable land to the highest bidder, which in most cases, is the developer; and

*WHEREAS:* Public lands grazing is key to the viability of ranching in Idaho. Without federal and state grazing permits, ranchers could not have enough land to maintain their operations and the associated private land would be converted to small acre subdivisions resulting in fragmented habitat for wildlife; and

*WHEREAS:* Idaho's ranching industry and Idaho's wildlife are mutually dependent on keeping working lands working.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* The Idaho Cattle Association (ICA), the Idaho Fish & Game Department (IDFG), Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), and sportsmen organizations, have a great opportunity to work together in a cooperative spirit to educate the public of the value that ranchlands provide for Idaho's wildlife and Idaho's economy.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA, IDFG, ISDA, and sportsmen organizations, should undertake a coordinated effort to educate their constituents of the importance of private and public ranchlands to maintaining open spaces and preserving wildlife habitat.

(22) SAGE GROUSE (NEW 16)

*WHEREAS:* The sage grouse has been petitioned for ESA protection many times as a tool of parties interested in controlling vast natural resources; and

*WHEREAS:* ICA and Idaho cattlemen have, since the 1990's, been involved in a collaborative process to manage western rangelands to produce habitat situations conducive to the species' needs; and

*WHEREAS:* Grazing permits now contain standards and guidelines with language that identifies and quantifies what that habitat condition is, thereby making livestock grazing one of the key tools available to manipulate the range toward the desired conditions; and

*WHEREAS:* ICA participated on Governor Otter's Sage Grouse Task Force which was tasked with developing a management protocol that federal land management agencies could use to manage rangelands to maintain desired habitat conditions. This was done at the request of Department of Interior officials; and

*WHEREAS:* The Task Force developed a management plan which was accepted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as containing the best possible plan for grouse management; and

*WHEREAS:* Even though the Idaho plan was accepted by FWS, and BLM and the Forest Service included the plan as the preferred alternative in their development of new land use plans, and after a year of collaborative effort resulting in the belief that an agreement on a plan had been reached, bureaucrats from Washington adjusted the plan radically; and

*WHEREAS:* Of particular concern to cattlemen was the agencies' elevation of grazing to a primary threat when FWS had only mentioned improper grazing as a secondary threat and also, the agencies broke from the accepted three-tier management zone concept to add their sage brush focal areas which have the ability to create de facto wilderness; and

*WHEREAS:* Cattlemen have taken the lead in confronting the top threat to the species, fire, by creating the much-acclaimed Rangeland Fire Protection Associations.

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:* Since Idaho cattlemen have proven beyond question their commitment to long term productive sage grouse habitats, we call on the new Trump administration, as well as Congress, to recognize this commitment and to reciprocate by returning to the collaborative process abandoned by the Obama administration, and return agency management plans to the simple yet highly efficacious principles of the Idaho state plan.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA calls on the Trump administration to return the work of developing land

agencies' sage grouse management to the collaborative process and allow the diverse parties who served on the Task Force to sit down again with federal land managers using those guidelines already identified to create management plans that will provide favorable sage grouse habitat conditions while meeting the multiple use mandate as required by FLPMA.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA calls on the Trump administration and Congress to understand and promote the importance of strong western ranches and communities in providing the benefits of western rangelands to Americans and to maintain or revise federal laws and regulations that allow ranchers to continue their stewardship rather than allowing these laws and regulations to become a tool of activist groups to remove and control our industry.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* If these changes are unable to be done administratively or through congressional action, ICA will continue to support the state of Idaho's litigation against the overreaching federal sage grouse plans.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:* ICA calls on the state of Idaho to renew support for Local Working Groups, recognizing the importance of vast knowledge cached in the minds of those closest to the resource.