WCA Priorities for 2018

• **2018 Farm Bill**
  o Full funding of a *foot-and-mouth disease (FMD)* vaccine bank
  o Protect *conservation programs* – such as EQIP (environmental quality incentives program), ECP (emergency conservation program), drought and fire emergency response programs, and allow NRCS to continue to be a resource for agriculture.
  o Maintain *research funding*

• **Striving to keep Washington’s** safe and nutritious beef on dinner plates around the world
  o **2018 Farm Bill** – protect *trade promotion programs* (Market Access Program/Foreign Market Development Program)
  o Support and encourage resumption of beef exports and expansion of beef exports into new countries: Currently exports add $347/head (CattleFax)
  o Protect *beef industry and our consumers* from fake meat and misleading labels
  o Support National and State Beef Checkoff

• **Maintaining private property rights** and the ability to stay in business through opposing federal or state land grabs and reduced (or no more) regulations and taxes, including limitations on agency actions which have a negative impact on agriculture.
  o Oppose *National Heritage Areas* (Mountains to Sound NHA and Maritime Washington NHA)
  o Oppose Army Corps of Engineers attack on local land owners along the Snake River

• **Water Rights:** Replace 2015 WOTUS (*Waters of the United States*) rule
  o Litigation on several water issues both state and federal
  o Protect water rights for irrigation and stock water (Yakima Nation in Klickitat County)
  o Oppose removal or breaching of Snake River Dams

• **Endangered Species Act Modernization,** species listing and wildlife management:
  o State: Sharp-tail and Sage Grouse, Grey Wolf
  o Federal: *Grey Wolf delisting and Grizzly Bear translocation* (Support EIS Option A, WA State Morton Bill, 10J designation, NEPA, Recovery Plan)
  o Depredation by wildlife on private property: Ex. Cougars, bears, elk, geese, and *wolves*

• **Livestock Transportation:** Permanent solution to *Electronic Logging Devices and Hours-of-Service*

• **Reform Wildfire Management**
  o State and *federal-owned lands management* remain an area of focus

• **Supporting** all efforts to ensure there’s a viable livestock inspection program providing proof of ownership. Also making sure we have a robust animal disease traceability program to protect the WA cattle industry and marketing options both nationally and internationally.

• **Ensuring** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife create a post-delisting wolf management plan containing future management objectives
Other issues we are participating in or watching for 2018:

- Washington agriculture, especially beef production, is already one of the most taxed and regulated in the nation – attention paid to those issues which could make it worse.
- Department of Ecology’s Clean Water Guidance for Agriculture – participant: implementation group
- WAG (Wolf Advisory Group) – several WCA members are participants
- Wildland Fire Management – participant in Summit
- Department of Natural Resources – maintain and increase grazing on state lands; participate in discussions on permit and lease pricing / awarding
- Member of the Public Lands Council – Public land ranching is essential to independent, family businesses that contribute to the economic and social sustainability of America’s rural communities.
- Participate in Columbia River Treaty discussions
- Maintain and improve relationships with Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Stockmanship & Stewardship, Oct 12-13, 2018, Pasco, WA – planning team
- Washington State University Extension – utilize resources to aid cattlemen
  - DNR permit and lease pricing
  - Stockmanship & Stewardship; Beef Quality Assurance
  - Grazing, range, pasture utilization on private and public lands
  - Animal Disease Bio-Technology Facility (Diagnostic Lab) at WSU College of Veterinary Medicine
- Develop new and utilize committees of WCA members to address emerging and reoccurring issues impacting cattlemen throughout the state