2019-2020 Policies
2019-2020 Resolutions
Adopted by the WCA Membership during the 201 WCA Annual Membership Meeting
Friday Nov 15, 2019 at Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, WA

Mission Statement

Provide a unified voice for beef producers, promote innovative rangeland and livestock management, protect and preserve the cattle industry in the State of Washington.

WCA Resolutions

Contained herein are the policy statements of the Washington Cattlemen’s Association, Inc. (WCA) currently in force. The resolutions are separated by committee.

The policy development procedure of the WCA follows the traditional committee process while input comes from WCA member affiliates and individual members.

Each resolution approved by the committee is presented to the membership body during the annual business meeting of the WCA for review and final determination as to its disposition.

The policies and work directives adopted by the membership set forth the positions of the WCA on public issues and guidelines under which the WCA operates during the ensuing year.

The Board of Directors is charged with the responsibility of carrying out the dictates of the membership.

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Animal Heath

Official Animal Identification  AH 2017-1
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports WSDA Animal Services in transitioning to Electronic Identification (EID) tags for official disease surveillance programs, such as Brucellosis. (2017)

Preparedness for Foot and Mouth Disease Response  AH 2017-2
WHEREAS, Foot and Mouth Disease Response is the greatest disease threat to our livestock industry. It affects all cloven-hooved animals.

WHEREAS, Foot and Mouth Disease virus is feared as an agent of terrorism, because of the devastating consequences that would follow purposeful introduction of the virus into a group of animals, especially if that were done at multiple sites, in multiple states at the same time.

WHEREAS, the greatest threat of Foot and Mouth Disease is not the individual animals affected, but the domestic and international markets for the livestock and their associated products such as milk or meat.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Washington State needs to be prepared by having a response plan in place. We support Bovine Issues Working Group that is comprised of industry and regulatory representatives, and that WCA hold a place at that table, that said group is working to improve communication plans and public outreach for FMD awareness. Rapid response will be vital in the wake of a reported suspicious case in Washington.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, WCA request that USDA place a high priority on the development of improved and validated FMD vaccines, including funding for production of the vaccines and storage of vaccine bank long term.

Large Food Animal Veterinarian Support  AH 2017-3
WHEREAS, the need for large food animal veterinarians in Washington State is great; and

WHEREAS, the need for Veterinary support for large food animal agriculture is crucial to the economic health of the industry and thus the economic health of the State; and

WHEREAS, the cost of a veterinarian’s education is often greater than the income supported by many large food animal practices,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the WCA support measures to help large food animal veterinarians defray part of their educational costs,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the WCA, in conjunction with the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine, annually request funding from the Washington State Legislature to accomplish this goal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA asks the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine to recruit and provide scholarships for large animal food veterinarians.

The Need for Confidentiality of Information Obtained by the State Veterinarians Office Concerning Animal Movement and Laboratory Reports  AH 2018-1
WHEREAS, Total information for premises identification, animal identification, and animal movement will not be shared by the industry if they do not feel it is secure. After 9/11, the information obtained in Afghanistan showed terrorists were targeting US agriculture by planning to introduce foreign animal diseases that would spread rapidly causing serious economic hardship to the industry and endangering animal and human health; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of Homeland Security, Agricultural Business Security, Washington’s economic security, and animal and human health, to have animal identification and movement information available at the time of disease outbreak
for control purposes. Because of the high levels of terrorist activities that have occurred within the State of Washington, industry is extremely reluctant to provide information that would aid terrorism. Without assurance of confidentiality, this information will be incomplete and less likely to be available in a time of need; and

WHEREAS, animal identification information is needed to be secure to combat agroterrorism. Industry also does not want information on numbers or disease status in their herds available to persons without the “need to know”. Information, that if shared, could endanger animal or human health and Washington’s economic well-being should be protected; and

WHEREAS, if the information is not accurate or not complete, the ability to contain an outbreak of disease or respond to any event will be compromised. This could allow disease to spread causing increased economic hardship and endangering the food supply and animal and human health; and

WHEREAS, Private business information should not be shared with competitors,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, In order to provide for disease control and increase the traceability of infected or exposed animals, the State Veterinarian’s Office is authorized to collect information for the identification of livestock, poultry, or fish and the registration of premises where such animals, poultry, or fish are held and laboratory results of specified disease programs and the Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) Program. All data and information collected by the State Veterinarian’s Office under these specifications shall not be considered a public record and shall be exempt from public disclosure requirements.

**Eradication of Brucellosis from Bison, Elk and Antelope**

WHEREAS, Bison, elk and antelope are major reservoirs of brucellosis; and

WHEREAS, these animals are a definite threat to cattle herds, especially around the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA support the eradication of the disease in park herds of bison, elk and antelope.

**Mature Vaccination for Brucellosis**

WHEREAS, Brucellosis is an infectious disease caused by bacteria in the genus Brucella and is associated with abortion and reduced production in cattle and bison; and

WHEREAS, Brucella Abortus is also a zoonotic disease, meaning it is transmissible from animal to human; and

WHEREAS, Washington state gained its status as a class Free State in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Washington cattle are at risk due to recent events in the states surrounding the Greater Yellowstone National Park and cattle herds in Wyoming and Idaho have been identified as Brucellosis infected,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Washington State continue to require that all cattle and bison entering the state of Washington to enter a breeding herd, shall be officially calfhood brucellosis vaccinated and identified according to the standards in the Uniform Methods and Rules as set forth by USDA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Washington continue to require that all dairy cattle over 20 months of age and all beef cattle and bison over 24 months of age that enter a breeding herd shall test negative for brucellosis prior to entering the state according to standards in the Uniform Methods and Rules as set forth by USDA. Testing requirements are exempted from states designated by the State Veterinarian; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Washington will only allow mature vaccinations of resident Washington state cattle and bison.

**Best Management Practices for Control of West Nile Virus**  
AH 2018-4

WHEREAS, West Nile Virus is a foreign virus invading our area that poses a real threat to the life and health of the citizens of Washington State and certain classes of livestock; and

WHEREAS, mosquitoes are a vital link for the perpetuation of the spread of West Nile Virus; and

WHEREAS, there are certain agencies and individuals within Washington State who are developing areas of stagnant water; and

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that it is possible to reduce the mosquito populations through proper water management,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA support the elimination of these mosquito breeding areas and petition the Washington State Department of Agriculture to use its authority to ensure that no new mosquito breeding areas are developed.

**Animal Welfare for Research Animals**  
AH 2018-5

WHEREAS, the USDA Animal Welfare Act monitors and protects certain animal species, i.e. dogs, cats, rabbits, monkeys, guinea pigs, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Health has standards/guidelines that describe programs of husbandry, veterinary care and physical plant requirements; and

WHEREAS, each research university has an Animal Care and Protection Committee that reviews and approves all projects using animals before they are funded. These committees also inspect all animal facilities twice a year;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA opposes any additional regulation of research animals on the state level.

**Pathogen Research**  
AH 2018-6

WHEREAS, as an example the organism E.coli 0157:H7 is a very serious pathogen which can cause serious illness among consumers in Washington state,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA support and encourage the Washington State Beef Commission to continue to invest Checkoff dollars in food safety research and consumer education in an effort to reduce the pathogen in all facets of beef production, processing, preparation and in imported beef.

**Antibiotic Resistance**  
AH 2018-7

WHEREAS, the WCA is concerned with the global problem of emergence of bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics; and

WHEREAS, this emergence can occur associated with the use of antibiotics in any species, including man; and

WHEREAS, the presence of antibiotic-resistant organisms in a group of animals can occur due to factors not associated with antibiotic use in those animals; and

WHEREAS, there are proposals nationally to restrict the availability of antibiotics for use in livestock based on trends in the development of antibiotic resistance in isolates from livestock,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA and the NCBA will actively monitor national decisions to ensure they are based on sound science.

**Change of Ownership Testing**

WHEREAS, Brucellosis is still a potential threat to the livestock industry in the State of Washington,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA Animal Health and Executive Committees will recommend that change of ownership testing be reinstated if the disease situation warrants resumption of the testing.

**Diagnostic Laboratory**

WHEREAS, when a health problem arises in a herd, swift diagnosis is essential,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the diagnostic laboratory at Pullman exert maximum swift effort at determining the problem; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the WCA supports adequate funding for the diagnostic lab to function in a professional manner.

**Diagnostic Laboratory – II**

WHEREAS, the Animal Disease Bio-Technology Facility on the Washington State University (WSU) campus is integrated for research on food safety and many important human and animal diseases,

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that the WCA will continue to support funding in the WSU budget to maintain, staff, and equip for this facility.

**Voluntary Market Driven BSE Testing**

WHEREAS, the cattle industry in the United States has suffered massive economic losses and has been shut out of key export countries after one Canadian cow tested positive for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE); and

WHEREAS, the United States was built on the model of capitalism, free markets, and the idea that the customer’s opinion is a priority; and

WHEREAS, private companies have been told by the USDA that they can not perform the service of private individual BSE testing to gain entry into export markets; and

WHEREAS, the WCA should support Voluntary market driven BSE testing by companies that wish to meet the needs and requirements of their customers,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA does not believe there are any problems or shortcomings with the existing BSE testing protocol, or that it is necessary for animal or human health or food safety reasons to do so,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA support the free market place, capitalism, and support private companies right to individually test cattle for BSE to achieve market access.

**Support of a Wildlife Disease Surveillance Program in Washington State**

WHEREAS, Brucellosis is an infectious disease caused by bacteria in the genus Brucella and is associated with abortion and reduced production in cattle and bison; and

WHEREAS, Brucella Abortus is also a zoonotic disease, meaning it is transmissible from animal to human; and
WHEREAS, Washington state gained its status as a class Free State in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Washington cattle are at risk due to recent events in the states surrounding the Greater Yellowstone National Park and cattle herds in Wyoming and Idaho have been identified as Brucellosis infected,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the WCA work collaboratively with the WDFW and WSDA to develop a wildlife brucellosis and tuberculosis survey program to assess the prevalence of these diseases in the wildlife populations,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the WSDA continue to require that all cattle and bison entering the state of Washington to enter a breeding herd, shall be officially calfhood brucellosis vaccinated and identified according to the standards in the Uniform Methods and Rules as set forth by USDA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Washington continue to require that all dairy cattle over 20 months of age and all beef cattle and bison over 24 months of age that enter a breeding herd shall test negative for brucellosis prior to entering the state according to standards in the Uniform Methods and Rules as set forth by USDA. Testing requirements are exempted from states designated by the State Veterinarian; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Washington will allow mature vaccinations of resident Washington state cattle and bison and non-resident cattle on a case-by-case basis.

International Livestock Importation

WHEREAS, the state of Washington has an excellent health record when it comes to major livestock diseases; and

WHEREAS, there is an increase of imported livestock as a result of NAFTA and World Trade Organization (WTO) agreements; and

WHEREAS, the possibility of increased exposure of the livestock industry to threatening diseases has increased substantially from the increased number of imported livestock,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA ask that USDA APHIS amend CFR9 to protect livestock industries from all foreign animal diseases, including BSE, FMD, Rinderpest, and tuberculosis for example, when considering importations of animals from foreign countries; animal health authorities in the affected states should be notified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no imports occur until countries can meet all OIE standards.

Right of Entry

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports the State Veterinarian’s authority to enter properties to ensure that the State’s animal health and importation regulations are being followed.

Funding for the WSDA Animal Services Division

WHEREAS, the ability to perform timely Animal Disease investigations is essential for identifying the cause of an animal disease outbreak, and

WHEREAS, identification of a foreign animal disease or other infectious disease at the earliest point in time can dramatically limit the spread, and economic and health impact on the livestock industry,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA lobby for increased annual state funding through the WSDA Animal Health Program for animal disease investigation and response for animal traceability, field activities and laboratory diagnosis, including but not limited to support of a fee for service on every entry permit.

Support for New WADDL Facility and funding of Existing WADDL Facility

WHEREAS, the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory is the only fully accredited laboratory in Washington state; and

WHEREAS, WADDL provides critical diagnostic services that protect the health of livestock in Washington state; and

WHEREAS, WADDL is a National Animal Health Laboratory Network approved laboratory authorized to and capable of providing rapid diagnosis of, and response to foreign animal disease outbreaks; and

WHEREAS, WADDL accreditation and service is threatened by deficiencies in space and biocontainment in the current facility,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA supports future appropriations in the biennial state budget for the construction of the Washington Animal Diagnostic and Research Building and appropriations from the state budget for operation and maintenance of WADDL.
Genetically Modified Organisms
WHEREAS, populations have dramatically increased, and
WHEREAS, increased pressures have been placed on food production in Washington State and throughout the Country, and
WHEREAS, the use of science has allowed for food production to be more efficient and environmentally sustainable, and
WHEREAS, the USDA and FSIS have determined genetically modified organisms safe, and
WHEREAS, the marketplace is a very effective means of dictating labeling requirements,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA oppose mandatory labeling of genetically modified organisms.

Horse Slaughter Resolution
WHEREAS, horses are an integral part of the cattle industry; and
WHEREAS, it is important that ranchers can salvage horses when they can no longer be used,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA supports a humane domestic horse slaughter industry, with support of a food grade inspection.

National Affiliations
WHEREAS, the WCA recognizes the need for representation of its' industry interests on a national scale and
WHEREAS, the WCA recognizes national organizations exist that can represent those interests
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, every year the WCA board of directors, by the third quarterly BOD meeting preceding the annual membership meeting, make recommendations so at the annual membership meeting the membership can determine which national organization(s) will represent the WCA.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
WHEREAS, the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is designed to make all governments and their respective agencies accountable to their decisions and,
WHEREAS, WCA believes FOIA can be a valuable tool in government transparency, it recognizes that various environmental groups appear to abuse the use of FOIA and add great costs to government and therefore the public,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that WCA works with State legislators to evaluate the FOIA process and resulting costs to make sure public resources (government time and costs) are not spent frivolously resulting in less effective government management of our resources.

Washington State University
WHEREAS, the WCA has had a long and productive partnership with Washington State University; and
WHEREAS, the WCA would like to recognize this partnership in a constant, significant manner; and
WHEREAS, the WCA would like to direct this support to the Animal Sciences Department at Washington State University,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA make an annual contribution to the Animal Science Department.
Empowering County Commissioners  

WHEREAS, governmental and environmental attacks on natural resource-based industries threaten our way of life and our communities; and

WHEREAS, government entities have the responsibility of composing and adopting the regulations necessary for the protection of advancement of our natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the federal Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, Soil and Resources Conservation Act, Presidential Executive Order 12866, Washington State’s Administrative Codes (WACs), and Revised Code of Washington (RCWs), specifically state that local governments are to be included in the decision-making processes,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the WCA ask that County Commissioners from each county formally request, in writing, that the federal government and state agencies direct their employees to do the following:

1. Consult with their county prior to implementing any laws, statutes, U.S. Code, Washington Administrative Code (WACs), and/or the Revised Code of Washington (RCWs) which would affect the economy, customs and culture of their county.
2. Follow and adhere to the laws, statutes, USCs, WACs, and/or RCWs.

Ethanol subsidies  

WHEREAS, ethanol subsidies cause non-economic distortions in resource allocations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports the elimination of ethanol subsidies.

Predatory Acquisition of Land  

WHEREAS, cattlemen and land owners face challenges from developers entities both public and private every day and,

WHEREAS, these developers entities both public and private often times want to purchase land and,

WHEREAS, many times the efforts and advances of entities both public and private are unwanted by landowners,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA opposes all predatory efforts aimed at land owners by entities both public and private to obtain their property,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the WCA support all efforts to protect and enhance the Right to Farm Law in Washington State.

Promote Healthy and Safe Food  

WHEREAS, the importation of harmful foreign food additives has put at risk the health and safety of the American people and,

WHEREAS, the United States and Washington use strict health and quality controls of livestock and products and,

WHEREAS, Washington has superior resources of grass, forage, water and climate used for food production for the American people,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA vigorously call attention to the superior quality and safety of beef produced in Washington and immediately and vigorously oppose any attempt to curtail the use of resources, both public and private, for its production and call upon governments to do likewise,
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the WCA calls upon Federal, state and local governments to immediately and vigorously increase the availability of Washington natural resources, both public and private to be used for food production and vigorously act to prevent the importation of any harmful foreign food stuff or additives.

**National Beef Checkoff**

WHEREAS, the National Beef Checkoff is a beef industry funded and administered promotional program that is very critical to the success of the beef industry,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA support the National Beef Checkoff.

**Local Control on Timing Emergency Use & Emergency Grazing**

WHEREAS, fires and other natural disasters have caused ranchers throughout the west to lose valuable forage, and

WHEREAS, lands enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are intended to provide wildlife habitat and environmental benefits, and

WHEREAS, timing of grazing CRP lands is limited by nesting periods and the Federal Fiscal Year, and

WHEREAS, flexibility at the local level to make decisions on timing would be best for producers, the land and wildlife

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA Board of Directors authorize the WCA to work with other western states in an effort to change the time when emergency use and emergency grazing may occur on CRP and SAFE acres.
Land Planning

Range Area Designation  LP 2016-1
WHEREAS, Counties in the State of Washington have the option of designating areas within the county as range or stock restricted areas by action of the County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, as per RCW Title 16, the range laws require land owners to fence unwanted livestock out; and

WHEREAS, the range area law provides important liability protection for stock owners; and

WHEREAS, loss of the designated range areas would bring about huge economic costs for fencing, gates and cattle guards; and

WHEREAS, population trends in our state have changed with new residents moving into rural areas;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA will encourage stock owners to manage their livestock in a responsible and conscientious manner so as not to endanger the future of the range area laws, and that the WCA will vigorously support the continuation of range area laws in the State of Washington.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA supports requiring all state, local, federal and tribal land management agencies that acquire land to follow the same process that private landowners must follow to modify range area designations under RCW 16.24.

Shorelines Management Act  LP 2016-2
WHEREAS, since the passage of the Shorelines Management Act in 1972, the Department of Ecology has repeatedly attempted to expand its statutory authority through regulations and policies, and not by legislation; and

WHEREAS, when successful, these efforts by the Department of Ecology create additional and illegal regulatory burdens upon agricultural and its ability to exercise fully land and water rights,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA shall continue to aggressively oppose any effort by the Department of Ecology to expand its statutory authority either through the legislature or by regulation or policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA aggressively oppose any effort by the Department of Ecology expansion outside of the Shorelines Jurisdiction through approval of local governmental Shoreline Master Program Updates.

Rights-Of-Way Abandonment  LP 2016-3
WHEREAS, the economy is forcing an increasing number of private utility and transportation companies to abandon portions of their rights-of-way and other holdings which prove to be unprofitable; and

WHEREAS, portions of these rights-of-way and other holdings were acquired from the adjoining private landowners through the use of eminent domain and similar methods only for transportation or utility uses; and

WHEREAS, state and federal governments are under increasing pressure by recreation interests to acquire these abandoned rights-of-way and develop them for public recreation use; and

WHEREAS, this public use will devalue privately owned adjoining agricultural land, without compensation to the owners, and seriously endanger their livelihood,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA oppose any further public acquisition of abandoned private rights-of-way, which border privately held land, for any purpose other than that specific use for which the right-of-way was originally obtained.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the adjoining landowner be notified and given first right of refusal to acquire any right-of-way abandoned.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the State Parks assume the same responsibility of care, maintenance, and building of fences in the same manner that land obtained from railroads had been cared for in the past.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that when railroad rights-of-way are taken over by county, state or federal agencies, such agencies assume responsibility for proper maintenance of fencing and weed control and payment of all taxes.

Logging Restrictions Adjacent to Wetlands

WHEREAS, current laws and regulations prohibit logging for various widths along or adjacent to wetlands on private deeded property; and

WHEREAS, the deed holder pays taxes on this property and timber and provides the management for said land and timber; and

WHEREAS, there is no financial compensation for this taking of timber,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports legislation that would require any government agency that prohibits or restricts the harvesting of timber on any lands be required to compensate the deed holder, at fair market value, for any timber which they may prohibit or restrict from being harvested.

Anadromous Fish

WHEREAS, the propagation of anadromous fish should be done on a completely voluntary basis between any agency and the land and water owner,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA objects to the introduction or reintroduction of anadromous fish in any waters of the State of Washington where such introduction conflicts with historical water and property rights.

Tide Gates

WHEREAS, tide gates serve an essential function for coastal landowners to protect private lands from tide waters,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA work to protect tide gates.

Rights to Own Property

WHEREAS, various levels of government and agencies are adopting policies for confiscation and control of land and water; and

WHEREAS, these policies tend to ignore the state and federal constitutions,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA policy of constitutional protection of property rights be called to the attention of all levels of government, particularly the rights of an individual to own property that are protected by the state and federal constitutions and these rights shall be vigorously defended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any loss of private lands or water rights or denial of use by regulatory action, including but not limited to water arising or claimed on public lands without specific procedures of due process of law and just
compensation shall be opposed; agreements involving private land and water rights shall be solely a decision and right of individual property owners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that rights to use surface and ground water established under state law are private property rights protected by the constitution; government policy should enhance the individual right of free choice in the use of these waters.

Wild & Scenic Rivers
WHEREAS, there currently exists designated Wild & Scenic Rivers, such as the Skagit River, and plans to so designate other rivers, where the purpose of the federal act directly conflicts with the existing agricultural uses of the area; and

WHEREAS, as a result of these conflicts, the proposed regulations specific to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act will infringe upon the legitimate land and water rights of farmers and ranchers along the impacted river basins; and

WHEREAS, the infringements of this and other acts will further impede the ability of those impacted to continue economically viable agricultural operations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA oppose any legislation or regulation, such as the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, that could jeopardize the use and enjoyment of one’s land, infringe on the property rights on land and water of landowners, place any private property under bureaucratic management, or take any action that would otherwise diminish existing water rights and land use practices historical to the involved areas.

Privacy Rights for Livestock Producers
WHEREAS, privacy rights for livestock producers covered by the Animal Feeding Operations/Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (AFO/CAFO) permitting process is a major concern of these individuals; and

WHEREAS, the livestock producing industries are constantly faced with regulations and barriers that stand between producers and profits. It is essential that Farm Plans and Confidential Business Information (CBI) remain private to allow producers to maintain their competitive advantage as well as their privacy; and

WHEREAS, farm plans and CBI contain information that is not intended to be viewed by the public, information which includes herd sizes as well as facility capacities. By maintaining the privacy of Farm Plans and CBI, it will be much easier to get the livestock producer’s support and active participation in the AFO/CAFO permitting process.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA shall support legislative action to ensure livestock producer confidentiality in their farm planning efforts and to oppose any effort to undermine the privacy of our members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA supports legislative and regulatory clarification that farm plans, producer confidential information, and member case files be kept confidential.

Small Forest Landowner Exemption for Logging
WHEREAS, the Fish & Forest Permanent Rules of 1999 removed the right to harvest timber belonging to private landowners in the attempt to protect endangered species without credible science; and

WHEREAS, any compensation offered comes either in the form of fifty year easements to the state government or results in such management complexity to the landowner that it is unsatisfactory; and,

WHEREAS, the Fish & Forest Permanent Rules have devastated rural, natural resource based county economies; and
WHEREAS, small forest landowners have been far more financially burdened by the Rules than was intended; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Practices Act of 1992 provided ample protection for both the environment and species,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA is in favor of aggressively supporting legislation exempting “Small Forest Landowners”, those who harvest less than two million board feet of timber per year, from the Fish & Forest Permanent Rules.

**Legislative Language Protection**

WHEREAS, the Federal and State Governments are continually working on legislation affecting land, water or other property rights; and

WHEREAS, these laws sometimes do not take into account the adverse impact they have on property rights,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA both through itself and through the NCBA and PLC request that the following language be included in any future bill pertaining to any land, water, or other property rights:

“Nothing in this act shall adversely affect any existing land, water or other property rights.”

**Accountability Resolution**

WHEREAS, government entities have the responsibility of composing, interpreting, and adopting the regulations necessary for the protection and advancement of our natural resources; and

WHEREAS, decisions must be based on both established scientific evidence and the peoples’ rights as guaranteed by the constitutions of the State of Washington and the United States,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA requests that every individual, organization or governmental entity clearly address and answer the following questions in writing before proposing, passing, or implementing any policies, rules, regulations or laws:

1. What is the scientific background or reasoning for the proposed regulation or restriction?
2. What is the precise policy, rule, regulation, or law which authorizes the governmental action?
3. What is the precise recognition of the property right in land, water, timber, or mineral or any other owned property estate that is affected?
4. What, or which, governmental entities or levels intend to enforce the policy, rule, regulation, or law?
5. What exactly is the desired result and how will it be measured?
6. Where and by what method have the vested owners of the resources been consulted, notified, and asked for comment?
7. What is the cumulative effect of all policies, rules, regulations, and laws affecting peoples’ rights and the natural resources under consideration?
8. Have all available natural resource management tools been considered?

**GMA-CAO-VSP**

WHEREAS, the Growth Management Act (GMA) provides that the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) for each county must be updated periodically; and

WHEREAS, the GMA has led to many unfunded mandates on local jurisdictions,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports the language in the GMA that instructs the counties to protect and sustain agriculture, currently existing agriculture and future agricultural practices when crafting or revising their CAO; and
BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA supports the addition of provisions which allow opting out of the GMA planning if full funding is not provided by the legislation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the WCA supports the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the WCA supports VSP remaining voluntary and any information gathered within the VSP process remain confidential as well as continue to allow landowners to retain any stewardship plans and not file said plans within the VSP program. (2017)

**Opposition to State and National Heritage Areas**

WHEREAS, the WCA already has a Land Use Policy that states, in part, that the WCA is against state and federal land planning schemes and supports local land planning, and

WHEREAS, the WCA is concerned that State and National Heritage Areas will negatively impact private property owners rights and abilities to manage their private property through government regulations that limit agricultural activities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA shall vigorously oppose both State and National Heritage Areas.

**Water Pollution Act**

WHEREAS, the Constitution provides that citizens shall not be subject to search and seizure; and

WHEREAS, the State Water Pollution Control Act does not specifically include this provision,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA support a change in the Water Pollution Control Act to read: “no one shall enter upon any private property without permission or probable cause and a duly issued warrant.”

**Land Use Policy**

WHEREAS, the WCA wants to ensure that land use regulations do not reduce its members private property rights, restrict the use of that property or create encumbrances on properties,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA should:

1. Actively resist State and Federal land planning schemes. If a policy is developed the policy should state that if land planning does take place, it should be at a local level only. Participation and support of local plans should be as set forth in this Policy Recommendation Paper.

2. Recognize that land planning is now authorized by enabling legislation and is an ongoing program. The WCA should not accept that it is an answer to the issue of agricultural land preservation or the solution to social and economic problems.

3. Not support zoning ordinances that result in a devaluation of land or support ordinances that do not meet the standards of the attached zoning ordinance evaluation criteria.

4. Maintain that any zoning ordinance, land, water or wetland preservation act or law, or any comprehensive plan that results in the devaluation of property or the loss of property rights shall not exist without provisions for just compensation to the owner.

5. Consider supporting only those planning ordinances that protect property owners, adjacent landowners, or the public from obvious and/or material harm.
WHEREAS, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) has recently attempted to expand its authority along the Snake River through regulations and polices, and not by legislation; and

WHEREAS, when successful, these efforts by the ACE create additional regulatory burdens upon agricultural producers and their abilities to exercise fully the use of the land; and

WHEREAS, the ACE has historically, to date, done nothing to fence, maintain land nor control noxious weeds;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA shall aggressively oppose any effort of the ACE to expand its statutory authority either through the legislature or by regulation and/or policy. (2018)

WHEREAS, the federal government's current policy of “no net loss” of wetlands affects the use, value, and private property rights on millions of acres of privately owned agricultural land; and

WHEREAS, the 1989 Federal Manual on Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands is gravely flawed and leads to wetlands delineation of millions of acres of ranch and farm land which should not realistically be considered wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the major instruments of this federal policy are not authorized by federal law and have not been subject to public review through the formal rule-making process required by the Administrative Procedures Act (APA); and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, through Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, now has the authority to regulate or outright prevent the normal, established use of ranch and farm land; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeks to acquire thousands of acres of wetlands, many of which are on ranch and farm land; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2011 amendment to state rules, WAC 173-22-035, wetland delineations should be done using the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual (as updated), and

WHEREAS, cattle grazing is a beneficial maintenance use of wet areas and thereby protects natural wetland values,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA concurs with the following wetland identification criteria:

(1) wetlands are identified through the confirmation of three diagnostic factors:
   (i) A predominance of hydric soil
   (ii) The presence of hydrophytic vegetation
   (iii) surface-inundation for a significant portion of the growing season of every year under normal precipitation and that excludes all man-made, created wet areas from any governmental authority

(2) Wetlands must meet the definition of all three wetland factors (soils, plants, hydrology)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that revisions in the Federal Manual that reflect this definition be subject to the full rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act with hearings and a public comment period.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that EPA and the Corps of Engineers issue in writing a formal specification by the EPA and the Corps of Engineers of the “normal agricultural activity exemption” from Section 404 of the Clean Water Act as it pertains to pasture, range, and hay lands and such that it clearly exempts all normal, usual, established maintenance practices.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all jurisdictional wetlands that are delineated include a scientific documentation of the exact environmental function and value of each wetland with a ranking of the relative importance, to include a minimal value category which is fully exempt from all governmental jurisdiction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal agencies fully comply with Executive Order 12630 on Takings in all wetland policy, programs, and action by government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all federal policies, action and laws on wetlands be subject to state water laws and private water rights and all private property rights.

**Pesticide Regulation**

WHEREAS, there is much concern regarding chemical and pesticide regulation; and

WHEREAS, other government entities have attempted to regulate agriculture pesticides and chemicals,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA favors the continuation of the Washington State Department of Agriculture as the agency for regulating agricultural pesticides & chemicals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, WCA support effective ways of correcting erroneous and misleading allegations associated with the legal and proper use of pesticides.
Livestock ID

Support for Funding Disease Traceability  
WHEREAS, animal diseases both foreign and domestic pose great threats to the health, viability and future of the cattle industry in Washington State, and

WHEREAS, the USDA has announced its plans to implement the Animal Disease Traceability (ADT) program and has not provided a funding mechanism, and

WHEREAS, the cattle industry in Washington State understands the importance of disease traceability

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports an equitable per head fee that is strictly designated to fund disease traceability in Washington State. The per head fee would be collected at the same time as a Brand Inspection fees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA will also work diligently to pursue all other funding possibilities.

Certified Terminal Inspection
WHEREAS, the Washington Department of Agriculture certifies veterinarians to be brand inspectors, and

WHEREAS, there exists a certified feedlot program in Washington State, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA support a brand agent certification process that would be available to harvest facilities for terminal inspection at those facilities by the certified agents.

Vehicle Inspection
WHEREAS, livestock being transported within Washington State and across our state borders are currently not being routinely stopped and checked for compliance with animal health and brand inspection laws and regulations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA support more involvement of the Washington State Patrol and other law enforcement agencies in the enforcement of animal health and animal identification laws and regulations.

ID Participation
WHEREAS, livestock identification is a deterrent to theft, is necessary for interstate and intrastate movement of cattle and provides proof of ownership,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA support 100 percent participation in the Livestock ID Program from all dairy producers, beef producers, feeders, horse owners, livestock markets, bison and slaughter facilities and all other terminal points.

Designated Funds
WHEREAS, the cattle and equine industries of the State of Washington have taken it upon themselves to support a livestock inspection service, namely the Livestock I.D. Program; and

WHEREAS, funds generated within the Livestock I.D. Program through the inspection of cattle and horses, registration of brands, sale of literature, etc., are considered "dedicated funds" for use within the Livestock I.D. Program,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA oppose any dispersal of these funds by the Livestock I.D. Program for anything other than expenses necessary to the operation of the Livestock I.D. Program.
Livestock Identification (LID) Program Funding

WHEREAS, livestock identification (brand and/or 840 RFID tags) is a deterrent to theft, is necessary for interstate and intrastate movement of cattle, and provides proof of ownership, and

WHEREAS, livestock identification (brand and/or 840 RFID tags) is a necessary component of animal disease traceability and food safety,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports an efficient and equitably funded Washington State livestock identification program. Any newly proposed fees, or any increases to current fees to maintain a viable LID program must have the support of the WCA Executive Committee. (2018)

Definition of Identification

WHEREAS, industry is asking for an avenue to provide proof of ownership other than a hot iron brand,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports using officially issued electronic technology (840 RFID tags) accepted by industry, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, hot iron brand will always supersede any other form of identification. (2018)
Marketing & Trade

**Free Trade Agreements**

WHEREAS, negotiations are underway to create a Free Trade Areas whereby countries would be able to ship all products and commodities without quotas or import duties; and

WHEREAS, the WCA supports the concept of fair trade; and

WHEREAS, livestock transportation from outside the US could pose a health hazard; and

WHEREAS, beef is a perishable and cyclical agricultural product; and

WHEREAS, a free trade agreement could negatively impact US cattle markets,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA shall review all proposed Free Trade agreements and comment on any potential negative impacts that might harm the US cattle industry.

**Export Market Support**

WHEREAS, the United States and its Beef Industry have benefited greatly from healthy export markets and the loss of these markets has been very costly; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance and expansion of these markets is of crucial importance to our industry,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA support and encourage resumption of beef exports and expansion of beef exports into new countries.

**Fair Trade**

WHEREAS, The WCA supports the concept of fair trade; and

WHEREAS, beef is a perishable and cyclical agricultural product,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA does not support the expansion and/or elimination of the current Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ's) on imported beef and beef products.

**International Live Cattle Trade**

WHEREAS, our other international trading partners adhere to established protocols and WTO (OIE) policy,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that no trading with other countries shall take place in exception to the O.I.E. standards.

THEREFORE FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that no trading should resume until trade barriers such as the health issues of bluetongue, anaplasmosis, brucellosis and TB are fairly resolved.

**Free Trade Language Agreement**

WHEREAS, The United States is negotiating numerous free trade agreements (FTA’s), including FTA’s with the world’s major beef and cattle producing nations; and

WHEREAS, The United States live cattle industry is an important sensitive industry given that live cattle and beef and beef producers prices are highly sensitive to increased supplies of both beef and cattle; and
WHEREAS, The United States live cattle industry produces a perishable product, in that cattle must be processed into beef within a relatively narrow window of time once cattle reach their optimal weight, making the fed cattle market highly susceptible to sudden changes in supply such as import surges.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA shall pursue language in Free Trade Agreements involving cattle and live cattle, beef, and beef products ensure that meaningful safeguards are established to address the perishable nature and import sensitivity of the United States cattle industry.

**Labeling Of Beef Products**

MT 2017-1

WHEREAS, WCA recognizes some consumers want to know where and how beef is raised and produced and,

WHEREAS, Washington State beef producers want to be recognized for their efforts to produce quality beef and beef products.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that WCA works with industry partners on labeling programs that support the Washington cattle industry. (2017)

**Support for 1985 Beef Checkoff**

MT 2017-2

WHEREAS, the WCA supports the Beef Promotion and Research Act of 1985 which established the Beef Checkoff as the cattle industry knows today, and

WHEREAS, the WCA supports the 1985 Beef Checkoff because it is producer led, directed and controlled, and

WHEREAS, the WCA supports only cattle producers being appointed to the Cattlemen’s Beef Board, and

WHEREAS, the WCA supports the Federation of State Beef Councils and the role the Washington State Beef Commission plays in the promotion of beef.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA opposes any Beef Checkoff established under the 1996 Generic Commodities Promotion Act or any future act which is duplicative to the 1985 Act.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA opposes any Beef Checkoff program that takes control away from producers, the Federation of State Beef Councils and individual State Beef Councils.

**Enforcement of Packers and Stockyards Act**

MT 2017-3

WHEREAS, the WCA believes the Packers & Stockyards Act needs to be properly enforced to prevent packers from using captive supplies to exert undue influence over the price of live cattle.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA support granting the Packers & Stockyards Administration the authority to appoint outside counsel for claims arising from the Packers & Stockyards Act and a provision for the recovery of attorney fees to enforce the Packers & Stockyards Act.

**Imitation and Substitute Products**

MT 2018-1

BE IT RESOLVED, in the interest of not misleading consumers, WCA takes the position that manufacturers and distributors of non-beef products or other products designed to imitate or substitute for beef and beef products should be prohibited in product promotion, advertising, or labeling from using pictures or pictorial facsimiles of beef and beef products, and from using names of natural beef and beef products or terms directly associated by the consumer with natural beef products. (2018)

**Beef Checkoff Assessment**

MT 2018-2

WHEREAS, the National Beef Checkoff is an industry funded and administered promotional program that has been critical to the success of the Beef Industry; and

WHEREAS, the National Beef Checkoff started over 30 years ago in 1985; and
WHEREAS, Beef faces enormous challenges from other competing protein sources; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain the strength of the National Beef Checkoff and counter the effects of inflation, and

WHEREAS, the cattle industry worked in unison in 2000 to implement RCW 16.67.120 which authorizes for the collection of an additional 50 cents per head in Washington State, and

WHEREAS, inflation, reductions in the State’s cattle inventories and increasing costs have caused the additional 50 cents to fall short of the cattle industry’s needs in regards to fully and adequately funding the Washington State Beef Commission through the Washington State additional assessment,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports increasing the State and or National Beef Checkoff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA supports increasing the State assessment authorized by RCW 16.67.120 by $1 to make the total collection of Beef Checkoff $2.50 per head,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the entirety of this increase of the State’s assessment under RCW 16.67.120 will be invested at the discretion of the Washington State Beef Commission Board of Directors.
Membership

WHEREAS, the WCA is a membership organization which operates on membership dues,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, membership should be the WCA’s first priority. Strong county support is imperative.

DIRECTIVE OF MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: The Committee will examine all possibilities and utilize the most cost-effective means. (2016)
**Poisonous Plant Research**

WHEREAS, the livestock industry is a principle user of the grazing lands of the Western United States, and;

WHEREAS, this use provides important economic values to these states, and;

WHEREAS, poisonous plants are a hindrance to the proper use of the forage produced by these ranges and pasture lands and are a principle cause of economic loss to livestock and associated industries, and;

WHEREAS, lupines, larkspurs, death camas, milkvetches and other poisonous plants are of concern to the livestock industry of the state of Washington, and;

WHEREAS, the incidence of poisoning and lupine-induced "crooked calf syndrome" has increased on degraded rangelands dominated by cheatgrass, medusa head rye and ventenata due to lack of desirable forage, and;

WHEREAS, the incidence of wildfires has increased on rangelands dominated by cheatgrass further degrading range conditions, eliminating native forage species, increasing undesirable forbs and increasing potential for poisonous plant problems.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the WCA urge the USDA/ARS Poisonous Plant Research Laboratory, located at Logan, Utah to continue conducting research on these problems.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the WCA request that the Congress of the United States provide additional financial resources to support research to improve degraded rangelands, to enhance their ecological condition, provide adequate forage for livestock and wildlife and thereby reduce the incidence of poisoning, and reduce the cycles and destruction of wildfires.

**Noxious Weed Control**

WHEREAS, noxious weed control has, for several years, been inadequate on some public lands, including state, federal and county lands; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Noxious Weed law (RCW 17.10.140) states that "every owner shall perform, or cause to be performed such acts as may be necessary to control and to prevent the spread of noxious weeds from his property"; and

WHEREAS, the law further states in (RCW 17.10.154) that the owner shall eradicate all Class A noxious weeds, and shall control and prevent the spread of Class B noxious weeds designated for control within the region in which such lands lie: noxious weeds fall into Classes A and B in several regions in which public lands lie.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA request that the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board and the Washington State Department of Agriculture require that all state, federal and county agencies owning or controlling lands in the State of Washington take immediate and adequate measures to conform to the State Noxious Weed Law (RCW 17.10).

**Noxious Weed Corridors**

WHEREAS, many weeds are spread by vehicles, and these vehicles travel on public corridors such as roads, ditch banks, powerlines, railroads, public parking areas, etc., and

WHEREAS, the spread of weeds along rights-of-way infests neighboring land,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that public or private agencies be required to keep all rights-of-ways free from noxious weeds.

**Funding Program for Enhancing Biological Agents Use on Invasive Weeds**

WHEREAS, all members of the WCA desire healthy rangelands which produce grass and forages for livestock grazing and wildlife habitat, and
WHEREAS, invasive non-native weeds threaten the health and productivity of these rangelands and have a detrimental effect on cattle production and profitability, as well as wildlife populations, and

WHEREAS, a Washington State University Extension led enhancement program has been initiated, with partial year to year funding from the United States Forest Service, Colville Confederated Tribes, Ferry County, WSU, and others, to enhance bioagent use on invasive weeds, and

WHEREAS, this program is already showing dramatic results in reducing invasive weed populations along with decreasing herbicide treatment cost, for cattlemen and other land managers in Northeastern and North central Washington, and

WHEREAS, a WSU Statewide Bioagent Enhancement Project has the potential to be a tremendous economic and ecological benefit to cattlemen across the state as well as the general public, and

WHEREAS, this program is working to expand and enhance its impact across the state through securing of funding to allow maximum statewide benefit,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports the WSU Statewide Bioagent Enhancement Project program and supports efforts by elected or appointed decision makers to further secure or provide funding for this program that is helping to solve problems faced by our industry as well as the general public.

Biological Weed Control

WHEREAS, landowners are finding it economically difficult to increase their chemical control program,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA actively support increased research in biological control in addition to chemical control for noxious weeds.

Department of Transportation, Kittitas county weed assessment

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT) has declined to pay on their Kittitas county property and,

WHEREAS, the courts upheld the DOT right to refuse to pay the assessment, and

WHEREAS, Kittitas county has appealed the court ruling,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA will join in an Amicus Curiae Brief in support of Kittitas county in the matter of the appeal of DOT’s refusal to pay the county weed assessment. (2018)
Public Lands

Grazing Fee Formula

WHEREAS, the current grazing formula on federal lands, which is based on cattle prices, cost of production, and private versus public land lease rates has been satisfactory,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA evaluate any new grazing fee formula proposed by Congress which would increase the lease rate per AUM on federal grazing lands to a level above that of the current formula.

Qualifications for Grazing Permit Ownership

WHEREAS, federal law establishes the commensurability requirement to qualify for ownership of a federal grazing lease; and

WHEREAS, commensurability means both ownership of enough base property to sustain a logical ranching unit and the ability to feed livestock year-round; and

WHEREAS, the commensurability of dependent base properties was a major factor in the granting of original preference grazing permits on the national forests; and

WHEREAS, commensurability recognized prior use in the areas withdrawn as forest reserves of the national forests; and

WHEREAS, commensurability recognized the economic dependence of base properties in respect to the adjacent rangelands; and

WHEREAS, commensurability may be tied to the ownership of water rights on federal lands, accrued under the prior appropriation doctrine of the states; and

WHEREAS, these historic agreements can not be changed without due process; and

WHEREAS, these laws continue to be in FULL FORCE AND EFFECT, and Forest Service compliance with these laws is mandatory; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service also has strict procedural guidelines it must follow regarding the consultation with, and the agreement of the livestock industry to any change in the qualifications for a federal grazing permit; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service has failed to comply with these laws and procedures in adopting the new base property requirements for receiving a federal lands grazing permit,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the permittees and participants of the WCA demand that the Forest Service follow the Congressional mandates outlined above and reverse the decision to change the requirements to qualify for, use, and maintain a federal grazing permit.

Forest Health

WHEREAS, the Forest Health Strategy Working Group has proposed legislation on forest health; and

WHEREAS, forest health is a legitimate concern to landowners and managers in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, the working group's proposed legislation consists of a three tiered system of information, funding, technical assistance, warnings, required action and increased liability; and
WHEREAS, Federal and State agencies control the majority of forest land in the state with a majority of the forest health problems, but lawsuits, appeals and court settlements have restricted beneficial management practices on that land in the past; and

WHEREAS, private land owners have concerns about meeting the expenses of required forest management activities and fire suppression costs which could result in a lien on the land and ultimately state ownership of even more private land;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the WCA support changes to the proposed forest health legislation whereby the legislation would apply only to public forest land so that they may lead by example in resolving forest health issues.

**Inheritable Rights on Government Lands**

WHEREAS, the courts have established private individuals can hold inheritable rights on Federally Administered Lands, and

WHEREAS, these inheritable rights are defined as an individual’s rights to hold title to fee land, and

WHEREAS, these inheritable rights may include, but are not limited to water, grazing, access, and maintenance rights,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports and endorses an individual right to hold title to the inheritable rights on Federally Administered Lands.

**Timber Harvest and Livestock Grazing**

WHEREAS, forest products are a renewable resource; and

WHEREAS, timber production and transitory range are important to the economy of many rural counties and contribute directly to local county government for schools and roads; and

WHEREAS, unmanaged forests create extreme fire hazards,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA oppose any federal or state legislation to curtail timber harvest and livestock grazing on national and State managed public lands.

**Resource Management Plans**

WHEREAS, many of Washington’s grazable ranges are under ownership by more than one entity, either public or private; and

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that it is possible to mold together the diverse interests of the various ownerships to form thriving units of resource utilization having not only livestock grazing but other uses as well,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA endorse the concept of Coordinated Resource Management on Washington’s grazable ranges and contribute to its enhancement.

**Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Annual Land Management Plan**

WHEREAS, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) owns or controls vast amounts of land in the state; and

WHEREAS, the agency’s management of these lands can have direct impacts to nearby private lands as well as economic impacts to the county through the spread of noxious weeds, wildfire, game damage, recreation, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the WCA believes that the WDFW does not have an adequate land management plan that properly addresses these important issues,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA recommend the legislature to require the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop and maintain current land management plans that will be filed with Local County Governments for their review, consultation and approval.

**Multiple Use of Lands**
PL 2017-2
WHEREAS, county, state and national public lands shall be managed under a balanced multiple use concept; and

WHEREAS, both state and national public lands have recently been withdrawn from multiple use and used as specific preserves,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA opposes withdrawal of public lands, county, state or national, for the purpose of being set aside for wilderness areas, buffer zones, parks, Dept. of Wildlife use, Natural Resources Conservation areas, natural area preserves, heritage preservation areas, and/or any other plan that removes this land from multiple use by the general public.

**Accelerated Allotment Management Planning Process**
PL 2017-3
WHEREAS, many allotments in the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service either do not have an approved allotment management plan, or the existing allotment management is not in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and/or is not consistent with new Forest Plan direction; and

WHEREAS, the authority to reissue grazing permits on these allotments (due to expiration or waiver) is in jeopardy because of their non-consistency and/or noncompliance; and

WHEREAS, many existing permits which are not consistent and/or in compliance are vulnerable to litigation and administrative appeals; and

WHEREAS, multiple use, including forage use by individual ranchers is important to a balanced management program and sustainable agriculture in the State of Washington,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA support the funding and staffing needs of the Pacific Northwest Regions - U.S. Forest Service, for an accelerated program of development and implementation of new Allotment Management Plans which would make them consistent with local or current Forest Plan direction and in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

**Priority Grazing on Government Lands**
PL 2017-4
WHEREAS, the federal, state, and local governments own over one-half of the land in the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, expanding urban areas have decreased the amount of grazing lands for livestock and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, proper livestock grazing is necessary and beneficial to fire control, weed control, and wildlife habitat, local and national economies, and

WHEREAS, non-use of government lands tends to increase wildlife pressure on private lands,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that managed livestock grazing be considered a primary use on all lands managed by governmental agencies.

**Calculating AUM's**
PL 2017-5
WHEREAS, the agricultural industries are subject to numerous rules and regulations on public and/or trust lands,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA oppose the use of any range formula as a regulatory tool, recommend that range formulas be used as a range improvement guide only, and work to ensure that historical grazing rights are left intact.

**DNR Grass Seeding**

WHEREAS, the DNR, WDFW and US Forest Service have recently cut back on grass seeding of logged DNR and Forest Service lands; and

WHEREAS, the failure to reseed with grass seed on logged, burned, and restored lands constitutes serious damage, allowing noxious and poisonous weeds to establish, depleting the natural water storage of the soil, causing rapid erosion during water run-off periods and generally impeding grass and tree regrowth,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA oppose such DNR and US Forest Service regulations which have discontinued some grass seeding on logged DNR and US Forest Service land.

**Grazing on Department of Wildlife Lands**

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife owns large acreages within the state; and

WHEREAS, most of the forage on these ranges is not utilized to the fullest extent,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA actively support multiple use on Department of Fish and Wildlife lands and, that these multiple use opportunities include economically viable grazing opportunities to local ranchers and communities.
WHEREAS, the opportunity is before the stockmen to produce more red meat through the use of forage; and

WHEREAS, well managed range lands provide a healthy sustainable environment; and

WHEREAS, more Land Grant Universities are dropping a major in Forage or Rangeland Management,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA requests that Washington State University's Board of Regents and the Dean of the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences to expand upon or at least maintain rangeland and forage acres and rangeland research programs at Washington State University. This will encompass the Department of Animal Sciences, Department of Natural Resource Sciences, the Agriculture Research Centers and extension and natural resources.

WHEREAS, Washington State University Extension livestock agents have a long history and tradition of providing a critical link in the transfer of technology to the livestock industries; and

WHEREAS, continued transfer of technology is critical to future profitability; and competitiveness in a world market for all livestock commodity groups in Washington; and

WHEREAS, there has been a continuing and serious decline in the number of Extension personnel devoted to livestock production in Washington,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA urges the Director of Extension and the Dean of the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences, Washington State University, to provide an increase of skilled Extension Specialists in regional livestock positions strategically placed throughout Washington State.

WHEREAS, local and county fair beef cattle shows through 4-H and FFA programs are important in acquainting youth with the kind and quality of market animals required to fulfill the needs of processors and consumers; and

WHEREAS, making the youth who participate in these programs more aware of how sound production practices lead to the safety, quality and yield of meat products,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA encourage, where achievable, the various county cattlemen's associations to continue working with the county fair, youth programs, and county extension service to incorporate and emphasize that live shows make use of the Youth Quality Assurance and Animal Care Program such as YQCA (Youth for Quality Care of Animals), and to more fully educate the youth involved of the importance of producing animals that will yield safe high quality food products.

WHEREAS, Washington State University is 'the' designated Land Grant University for the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, the mission of land grant universities is research, teaching and outreach and this mission is vital to the economic sustainability of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is Washington State’s number one industry; and

WHEREAS, Washington State University is the only university in the state providing research, teaching and outreach for agricultural production and animal health; and
WHEREAS, many departments in the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences and the College of Veterinary Medicine have been given substantial budget reductions in the recent past which have negatively impacted the established mission of our Washington State Land Grant University; and

WHEREAS, property and assets that were given and developed for/by the Department of Animal Sciences and College of Veterinary Medicine and that support the mission of the Land Grant University have been sold and the proceeds from the sale of this real property has been deposited in the University’s general capital endowment fund,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA request that the proceeds from the sales of any property that was given and/or developed for the Animal Sciences Department or the College of Veterinary Medicine be deposited in a separate specifically designated capital endowment fund to be only used by the Animal Science Department or the College of Veterinary Medicine.

**Microbiological Food Safety**

WHEREAS, the WCA strongly supports the identification and implementation of HACCP methodologies in order to maximize the biological safety of beef; and

WHEREAS, the WCA encourages Washington State University to continue their leadership in these areas; especially in application research and dissemination of information, and HACCP Training for smaller processors,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports and acknowledges the importance of food science and food safety programs.

**Grazing**

WHEREAS, there tends to be a negative public perception of cattle grazing on public or private lands, especially those lands that contain environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands and riparian areas; and

WHEREAS, the public’s negative attitude is due to an erroneous belief that overgrazing is the result of too many cattle and that the alleged negative impacts from grazing on the environment can be reduced or eliminated by reducing the numbers of grazing cattle or by eliminating cattle grazing altogether.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA, in cooperation with WSU, initiate an educational program to inform and demonstrate to the public the beneficial effects of properly planned grazing on the environment and that overgrazing is not due to too many grazing animals, but due to the inadequate control of duration, season, and intensity of use.

**Crooked Calf Disorder**

WHEREAS, Crooked Calf Disorder is a serious economic problem confronting ranchers in the areas of eastern and central Washington State; and

WHEREAS, Crooked Calf Disorder exists in other range areas of the western United States; and

WHEREAS, the resolution of Crooked Calf Disorder requires research efforts involving many scientific disciplines as well as the cooperation and collaboration of individual ranchers; and

WHEREAS, a multi-disciplinary approach has been established between the USDA ARS Poisonous Plant Research Laboratory in Logan, Utah, the Field Disease Investigation Unit at Washington State University, and impacted ranchers in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, research is currently being conducted by the aforementioned team focusing on the risk factors associated with Crooked Calf Disorder and the development of strategies for its prevention,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA requests that this research continue until Crooked Calf Disorder is ultimately resolved.

**Agricultural Representation on the WSU Board of Regents**

WHEREAS, agriculture is Washington State’s number one industry and Washington State University is the designated Land Grant University for the state of Washington,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA supports the concept that at least two members of the Washington State University Board of Regents be production agriculturists or research agriculture scientists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the WCA submit this request to the Governor of Washington State.

**Field Disease Investigative Unit**

WHEREAS, an Animal Health Field Disease Investigative Unit is sponsored by the Colleges of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences and the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University; and

WHEREAS, this investigation unit has provided an invaluable service through its ability to respond to both emergency and indigenous disease and health problems in dairy and beef cattle in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, the continuing contribution of this unit enhances the economic environment not only for commercial livestock commodities, but for the entire State of Washington,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA, in recognition of the contribution being made by the investigative unit, continue its efforts in educating the legislature about the influence this unit has towards enhancing the state’s economy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA endorse continued support of the WSU Field Disease Investigation Unit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a current history be maintained that records the need, effectiveness and capability of the unit so that appropriate testimony will be available for seeking future funding.
Support of Current Use Taxation Program

WHEREAS, in some counties the County Assessor has denied the Current Use Agricultural Taxation program to pasture lands used for grazing or boarding and or pleasure horses, and

WHEREAS, the Current Use Agricultural Taxing program appears to have appropriate language but has been misinterpreted to restrict the program from including pasture forage harvested by livestock and horses,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA support the intent of the Current Use Taxation program to include pasture forage harvested by any method grazing or mechanical.

Oil and Gas Severance Tax

WHEREAS, the exploration, development, and production of energy and minerals is of great importance to the State of Washington,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA opposes adoption of a severance tax in an amount that could discourage energy exploration and production and mineral exploration in Washington State.

Death Tax

WHEREAS, the Death Tax creates an unfair and difficult burden for family farms and ranch owners,

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that the WCA actively pursue to permanently repeal the Death Tax at the State and National level.

Improved Interest Rates

BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA support and assist the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association in seeking improvement or repeal of the Federal imputed interest rate rules, which effectively set the interest rate which is charged on seller-financed transactions of homes, farms, ranches, and small business,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WCA resist all attempts by the Federal Government to set interest rates on owner contracts of real estate and business.

B & O Tax On Agriculture

WHEREAS, the State Legislature may be looking for ways to increase revenues,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA hereby reaffirm their stand against a B & O Tax on agriculture including custom farm services.

Open Space Advisory Board

WHEREAS, in many counties the open space taxation program has not been utilized to its fullest extent; and

WHEREAS, in many counties the county assessors are discouraging the open space program; and

WHEREAS, the best control the landowner has over the open space program is with a good, strong, active advisory board,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA do everything possible to make sure that each county has an active advisory board and provide them with as much help as possible and to support the continued use of open space act.
WHEREAS ranchers and farmers suffer large losses to wildfires which also results in heavy wildlife habitat damage; and,

WHEREAS management of wildfires would be much more effective under a control board operating under one Wildfire Control Agency,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA support legislation that puts all wildfire control on state and private lands under a single agency with a landowner stakeholder board of directors representing each DNR region.

WHEREAS, all highway fuel tax revenues should be dedicated to our public roads and highway system, and

WHEREAS, fuel used for agricultural production, harvest, storage, loading and transportation should be exempt from highway fuel taxes, and

WHEREAS, fuel used in the incidental use of public roads in farming and ranching operations should be exempt from all highway fuel taxes, and

WHEREAS, government regulatory agents should be required to respect the rights of private property owners and must be required to ask permission by the owner of said property or by the owner's authorized representative prior to entering a farm or ranch for the purposes of conducting an inspection, and

WHEREAS, if permission is denied, the agent shall be required to obtain a search warrant that specifies the reason for the inspection,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, legislation be adopted that allows for the following:

1. Allow farm equipment and other vehicles to use non-taxable fuel on public roadways in the course of transporting agricultural products from farm to field, field to field, field to farm, farm to market, or from supplier to farm by the operator or owner of a bona fide commercial ranching or farming operation.

2. Define engine powered farm equipment as equipment whose primary function is used in the growing, harvesting, storage, loading, or transport of agricultural products. Powered equipment shall include, but not be limited to: tractors, combines, harvesters, harobeds, pumps and any other type of equipment or vehicle used in tilling, harvest, application or transportation of products used in the normal course of business including, but not limited to, fertilizer, chemicals, feed, seed, fuel, building supplies, livestock and livestock products, crops and crop products, containers, dry goods, tools, parts, soil, gravel and non-powered equipment.

WHEREAS, Washington Department of Transportation (DOT) has adopted emergency regulations regarding movement of heavy equipment such that a regular DOT permit will be required; and

WHEREAS, valuable time will be wasted getting a permit and the machinery will be delayed getting to the disaster. These requirements are not necessary where there is no record of accidents or bridge failures. During such times trying to contact the nearest Port of Entry after the permit offices are closed creates a huge problem. These ports are Bow Hill, Vancouver, Plymouth, or Spokane; and

WHEREAS, ranches, timberland, and rangeland owned by WCA members are subject to fires and flooding. Thus, enforcing prompt mobility of heavy machinery is imperative,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that WCA strive to get the DOT to adopt the Oregon statute (803.305 paragraphs 12 and 13) which exempts motor vehicles over 8,000 pounds from registration and license, also having an exemption of 20,000 over weight to move equipment to an emergency.
Hydropower Support

WHEREAS, hydropower is clean and renewable, and

WHEREAS, hydropower has many extra benefits such as irrigation storage, flood control, transportation, recreation and wildlife habitat, and

WHEREAS, new hydropower possibilities exist to help meet our growing need for energy

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, WCA work to maintain and expand our nation's hydropower network to meet our needs to produce reliable renewable and sustainable energy.

Fire Suppression Costs

WHEREAS, when fires start on private lands and spread onto public lands the private landowner is assessed fire suppression costs on affected public lands; and

WHEREAS, when a fire starts on public land and spreads to private lands the public entity is not charged fire suppression costs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA insist that suppression costs resulting from fire spreading from public lands to private lands be fully assumed by the affected public agency or entity.

Grassland Fire Management

WHEREAS, State Fire Mobilization does not provide an effective deployment to grassland wild fires compared to the first response by local fire personnel.

WHEREAS, Local teams are more concerned about getting a fire under control as quickly as possible, while it appears State Fire Mobilization personnel are more concerned about protocol, jurisdiction and safety than containment.

WHEREAS, grassland fires do not behave the same as forest fires, and therefore require a different approach. It has been proven the best time to fight grassland fires is from dawn to late morning. State Fire Mobilization tends to hold their command meetings in the early mornings, which delays their active response time during this critical fire suppression time.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, WCA will help initiate, with proper agencies, to develop realistic protocols and procedures to assist State Fire Mobilization units to become more responsive to the needs of local fire fighters and therefore, more effective at assisting local units fighting grassland fires. (2017)

Transportation

WHEREAS, free movement of cattle within the state is an essential part of the cattle business; and

WHEREAS, some cattle movements occur at times and places where new laws would endanger the drivers and livestock; and

WHEREAS, some producers because of their geographic location must use the state ferry system for movement of their cattle; and

WHEREAS, the Washington state ferries are considered an extension of the state highway system, and

WHEREAS, Homeland Security, Agro-Terrorism, and Bio Terrorism are significant concerns to prevent the introduction of a Foreign Animal Disease or other animal disease.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that no regulations or restrictions should be imposed on truck, trailer, or other vehicles transporting livestock other than those regulations currently in force for state or interstate highways except those that are needed for animal health or animal identification reasons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA support a livestock exemption to the hours of service rule allowing for a split berth within the hours of service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA oppose any policy on enforcement of extended layovers of livestock on trailers due to transportation regulations and support hours of service extension to allow for cattle to be transported to a facility where they may receive proper care, feed and water.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA opposes mandatory use of electronic log devices as these are invasion of privacy.

Wildland Fire Protection
WHEREAS, wildfires in the state of Washington are often of a very dangerous and destructive nature; and

WHEREAS, the importance of local knowledge in fighting wildfires is an integral component in successfully limiting damage to life and property; and

WHEREAS, the protection of life and property is of the utmost importance,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA initiate and support the formation of an advisory committee, appointed by the Washington State Legislature, consisting of legislative representatives, Department of Natural Resources representatives, Emergency Management representatives, rural fire departments, and members of the local natural resource-dependent community that is charged with securing a safer and more productive fire fight and involving local landowners directly to organize resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA encourage an annual review of procedures and successes of the past firefighting season by a board composed of the above-mentioned representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that land owners shall be allowed and encouraged to protect any natural resources by any necessary means including prescribed grazing, fire protection and use of prescribed fire.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA support the use of fire suppression agreements even though the lands involved may be outside the boundaries of a recognized fire protection districts.

Escort Vehicle Requirements
WHEREAS, the Washington Department of Transportation (DOT) has changed the escort vehicle requirements and the state patrol will now enforce this statute; and

WHEREAS, these requirements are a significant hardship on farmers and ranchers; and

WHEREAS, the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) states that escort vehicles cannot carry passengers (human or animals), vehicles must have special roof-mounted signs and lights above the vehicle roof line, the driver and equipment in the vehicle must have a special certification, and equipment must include a hard hat, stop-and-go paddle, orange vest, special red flashlight, and large fire extinguisher,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA work with other agricultural and forestry groups to maintain the ag exemption on escort vehicles.
Natural Resource Management

WHEREAS, the Beef Industry and the rest of agriculture are currently facing record high prices of all inputs that are direct or indirect derivatives of crude oil, and

WHEREAS, domestic and international demands for crude oil and diesel fuel have created worldwide shortages, and

WHEREAS, the survival of the Beef industry and Agriculture depend upon positive changes occurring in both the exploration and refining capacities of crude here in the United States to increase both supply of crude oil and the refining capacity of that oil, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA:
1. Is proactive and supports domestic exploration and extraction of crude oil in any region of the United States that is found to hold crude oil reserves.
2. Brings immediate relief in the regulatory and permitting arena to expedite both new construction and renovation of existing refineries.
3. Leads to the United States energy independence.
4. Reinforces the WCA’s position as a leader in the coordination and resolution of environmental and natural resource issues.

Rural Fire Districts

WHEREAS, protection of life and property is of extreme importance; and

WHEREAS, the extreme regulations adopted by the Washington Department of Labor and Industries will eliminate small, rural fire departments, and the regulations adopted by the Washington State Disclosure Commission are eliminating many volunteer firemen,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA work with other rural organizations to get the Legislature to accept more realistic regulations for rural fire districts.

Open burning

WHEREAS, open burning is due to end soon; and

WHEREAS, open burning is very vital to the natural resource industry farmers and ranchers; and

WHEREAS, burning is the only way to date to control some weeds and insect infestations and silviculture practices; and

WHEREAS, grinding and chipping of forest and agriculture debris is not cost effective with limited markets for the residue and large amount of fuel is consumed to undertake this thereby creating more air pollution,

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, the WCA support repealing the ban on open burning by DOE and that all burning permits be issued by the Department of Natural Resources or other local authority.

Range Land Protection Districts

Whereas there are properties that are not protected by DNR or Fire Districts, we strongly support the formation of Range Land Protection Districts such as in the neighboring states of Idaho and Oregon. This has shortened the response time to attack the fire and their knowledge of the area is better than that of others from out of the local area.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVE THAT WCA supports the formation of Rangeland Protection Districts.
Department of Corrections Fire & Public Project Crews

WHEREAS the state prison system eliminated their work crews in the past due to budget cuts, we strongly support the reinstatement of the 10-person prisoner crews as a valuable manageable workforce on fires and on other public projects such as planting trees, cleaning public lands and repairing various items. The cost of these crews is considerably less than other crews and this provides an opportunity for them to acquire skills for rehabilitation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WCA supports the formation of crews of prisoners to fight wildfires and perform other tasks in order to improve themselves and the protection and preservation of our resources.
WHEREAS, agriculture is constantly exposed to external pressure questioning management procedures and resource utilization; and

WHEREAS, too frequently these questions are based upon a lack of understanding, confusion, and misinformation; and

WHEREAS, survival of Washington agriculture into the twenty-first century depends upon positive changes occurring in both the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA:

1. Is proactive rather than reactive.
2. Brings similar or different philosophies, whether public or private, together for discussion and evaluation.
3. Stresses communication and cooperation rather than confrontation without sacrificing present policy.
4. Reinforces the WCA's position as a leader in the coordination and resolution of environmental and natural resource issues.

Groundwater and Wells
WHEREAS, there are numerous wells being applied for and drilled in Washington; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington is now involved in developing a ground water quality management strategy; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington is confusing the ground water issue by conflicting policies and actions; and

WHEREAS, these problems and actions are detrimental to water right holders and landowners,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governor and Legislature require that private water rights and land uses be recognized and equitably protected from encroachment by any agency of the State of Washington or other entities.

Washington Water Quality Plan
BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA opposes mandatory fencing of riparian areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA work for the adoption of a voluntary program funded by third parties, based upon education, landowner involvement, and implementation of potential funding sources with all requirements and disclosures shared with the landowner prior to signing of contracts.

WDFW Riparian Ecosystems
WHEREAS, in 1997 the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) published a document: Management Recommendations for Washington’s Priority Habitats: Riparian Vol. 1 & 2; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the WDFW published a draft update of the document titled Riparian Ecosystems, Volume 2: Management Recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the WCA submitted comments opposed to the contents of the document,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA views this document as an attempt to remove local control of GMA, SMA and VSP and move towards a WDFW led statewide set of management practices; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA views this document as an attempt to make a significant land grab, most notably the Riparian Management Zones (buffers); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA has requested the withdrawal of the document. (2018)

**Hangman Creek**

WHEREAS, the Spokane Riverkeeper brought action pursuant to the judicial review provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act 4, U.S.C. & 702 et. seq against EPA regarding Hangman Creek Watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Ecology (DOE) and Spokane Riverkeeper entered into a settlement agreement relating to the Hangman Creek TMDL to avoid litigation; and

WHEREAS, Washington state surface water quality standards are set by law in Chapter 173-201A of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), and that as an interstate water, Hangman Creek must meet Washington water quality standards at the state line, in addition to meeting Idaho’s standards; and

WHEREAS, although there are mentions of authority to delegate and jointly develop with specific agencies as well as in the form of a joint partnership, the provision fails to mention any power that DOE has to delegate to private entities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports that the WAC requires that a settlement include two or more parties to a proceeding, that the EPA was the original defendant in the complaint, EPA was not included as a party in the settlement, and DOE being the second party in the settlement was not included in the original complaint; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA supports the premise that the vast majority of stakeholders in the Hangman Creek watershed were not represented as is required in the MOA that was entered into, this type of agreement does not provide for resolution of any legal dispute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the DOE has the duty to enforce water quality standards within the state of Washington and is not fulfilling its mandate at the Washington-Idaho state line. Water testing at the Washington-Idaho state line conducted by DOE would establish a baseline for water quality standards. (2018)

**Exempt Wells**

WHEREAS, groundwater withdrawals for livestock have historically been exempt from limitations on quantity; and

WHEREAS, County Superior Court Rulings have reaffirmed the fact RCW 90.44.050 is clearly written, unambiguous and does not have any gallon limitations, and

WHEREAS, water availability is crucial to a sustainable rural economy and culture; and

WHEREAS, livestock watering facilities enhance and expand wildlife habitat and serve as a powerful management tool for livestock and wildlife distribution,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA oppose any effort to limit groundwater withdrawals for livestock.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA support the historical legislative intent and administration of the exempt well statute that does not limit livestock watering and watering of lawns or noncommercial gardens not exceeding one-half acre to a daily quantity.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA opposes any local or state agency metering, measuring or monitoring water usage of exempt wells.

**Clean Water Restoration Act (WOTUS)**

WHEREAS, the EPA has continued to advance its Federal Clean Water agenda, and

WHEREAS, the EPA guidance document would strike the term “navigable waters of the US”, and insert the term “waters of the US” and,

WHEREAS, waters of the US (WOTUS) means all bodies of waters down to the smallest intermittent stream and ponds would be subject to the legislative power of Congress and,

WHEREAS, the WCA supports state water rights,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA strongly opposes any attempt by the EPA to implement rules or guidance documents that would impair or affect state or private water rights.

**States Water Rights**

WHEREAS, the WCA strongly supports Western and State Water Law; and

WHEREAS, waters are private property rights recognized by the state for their citizens; and

WHEREAS, Western States hold the same rights to their waters as did the 13 original colonies under the equal footing doctrine,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA request the Legislature ensure the recognition of the property right in existing water rights, the allocation in an efficient and timely manner of water for the present needs, an assessment of needs for the future for municipalities, industries, and agriculture, and consideration of environmental necessities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA as well as their western counterparts request that the Western Governors assert their sovereignty over state waters and the recognition of private water rights and request that the all Governmental Entities or Federal Agencies recognize that water rights and allocations are the provinces of the states.

**Water Policy**

WHEREAS, the WCA supports the livestock industry in the protection of vested water rights and water uses in accordance with the federal constitution, the state constitution, and state laws:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA support the following points:

1. **Water Rights**: Rights to use water established under state law are property rights constitutionally recognized and protected;

2. **Federal Reserved Water Rights**: The water rights claimed by the United States under the Federal Reserved Water Rights Winters Doctrine should be determined and administered under state laws and procedures; such water rights should be restricted to the expressed purpose for which the reservation was originally set aside as of the date of creation and in the amounts then contemplated;

3. **No Non-Reserved Water Rights**: The concept of federal non-reserved rights shall not be recognized but the United States may acquire new water right pursuant to state law;
4. **Indian Water Rights**: In connection with Federal encouragement and recognition, water rights have been acquired in accordance with state laws to which Congress has invariably deferred and substantial investments have been made in reliance on these water rights. Without prejudging the Indians water rights claims or without prejudice to their justice we believe that the trust obligation of the United States to Indians can be fairly and justly met by alternate means without divesting the owners of their established water rights;

5. **Regulation and Restraints**: No Governmental Entities or Federal Agencies shall diminish the value of a water right;

6. **Section (208) and Section (319) Federal Clean Water Act**: WCA supports actions to encourage voluntary incentive based programs to assist agriculture land owners, including land of which they have control, to come into compliance with the clean water act.

7. WCA is opposed to any attempt to remove water from Washington to any other state or region, whether for agriculture, industrial, domestic, power generation, or any other use.

**Third Party Lawsuits**

WHEREAS, some national and state legislation authorizes third party lawsuits which create private enforcement and fines of a government nature,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA opposes any language which would authorize third party lawsuits that negatively impact the livestock industry,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA actively supports legislation to lessen the impact of third party lawsuits.

**Water Resources**

WHEREAS, the Department of Ecology has conflicting roles to play as protector of the environment and manager of water resources; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the DOE has put special emphasis on the environment and has minimized the importance of complete management of water resources,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports the removal of the administration of water quantity from the Department of Ecology to a separate entity.

**WCA Water Policy**

WHEREAS, the cattlemen of our state are conscientious stewards of the resources they manage; and

WHEREAS, the ranchers understand better than anyone the value of a clean, adequate water supply; and

WHEREAS, creating a healthy, sustainable, profitable ranch provides the best opportunity for a rancher to build wealth and leave his heirs with a better life; and

WHEREAS, a private property owner, operating in his own self-interest, is the best person to decide what management strategies to utilize; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Ecology’s (DOE) attempt to apply very specific management practices to broad watersheds fails to support a landowner’s ability to fit his management to his specific resource needs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA shall oppose any application of the regulatory guidelines by the DOE for the management of livestock grazing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA encourage its members to work with their chosen technical service provider to develop site-specific, locally determined, strategies for managing their water resources.
Protection of Riparian Stockwater Rights   WE 2018-10
WHEREAS, water quality regulations and the concern of the relinquishment of water rights are of major concern to the WCA (WCA), and

WHEREAS, the WCA supports positive changes to RCW 90.14 that strengthen water right holder’s rights,

WHEREAS, the WCA supports voluntary incentives to implement water quality improvements,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports the following language to amend RCW 90.14, “A user of riparian water for livestock may discontinue any or all of the riparian use in order to (1) create one or more offsite watering locations so long as the total water usage is not greater than would have occurred with direct watering from the stream, or (2) enroll the land to which the riparian water use is appurtenant in a federal, state, local or private conservation program. Failure to exercise a riparian stock water right due to the provisions of (1) or (2) of this section does not constitute voluntary nonuse of water and the provisions of Chapter 90.14 RCW do not apply.”

Stock Water Rights   WE 2018-11
WHEREAS, water rights are a constitutionally recognized and protected property right; and

WHEREAS, stock water, including historical access to watering areas, is one of the most important private property water rights,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the historical priority of livestock water and access shall be vigorously supported by the WCA.

State to Protect its Water Management Authority   WE 2018-12
WHEREAS, there is much intervention by the federal government and court system into state water interests; and

WHEREAS, such intervention often results in the attempted preemption of the state’s right to manage its water resources,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that whenever possible and appropriate, the WCA ensure that the State of Washington vigorously represents its interests and legal and constitutional authority to manage its water resources before all federal entities, including, but not limited to: the Federal Courts, Federal Power Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Energy (Atomic Energy Commission), the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service, Tribes, and before other state and interstate agencies or authorities.

Fish Screen   WE 2018-13
WHEREAS, the WDFW requires use of a fish screen for diversions of stock and irrigation water where anadromous fish may be present; and

WHEREAS, the WDFW screen shop designs, builds and installs the fish screens to WDFW standards; and

WHEREAS, because of their highly technical and mechanical nature, the maintenance and operational costs of fish screens can be considerable;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA supports requiring the WDFW and the requiring agency to pay all maintenance and operational costs of the required fish screens, and also be required to provide all water necessary to operate these facilities.
**Water Diversion**

WHEREAS, points of diversion need to be recognized property rights,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that all points of diversion be recognized as part of a water right and a private property right.

**Regulatory Capacity of Department of Ecology**

WHEREAS, the Washington State Constitution is based on the concept of division of powers within the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Ecology in recent regulatory interpretations of the law have given themselves the authority to grant water rights, extract partial rights, relinquish whole water rights, and levy fines without benefit of the court system,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA strongly recommend that the state legislature strictly define and limit the regulatory capacity of the Department of Ecology.

**Water Relinquishment**

WHEREAS, current Washington State water law includes a five-year relinquishment statute; and

WHEREAS, State and Federal courts have long established water rights are private property rights subject to takings protection; and

WHEREAS, the WCA recognizes the cultural, environmental and economic benefits of water conservation; and

WHEREAS, water usage needs to accommodate issues such as, but not limited to, cropping patterns, commodity prices or system efficiencies; and

WHEREAS, a water right holder has the intention, as demonstrated by the facilities in place, to make beneficial use of said water right; and

WHEREAS, water right holders invest thousands of dollars in irrigation improvements each year, in spite of the fact that current relinquishment laws provide little or no incentive to make long term water system improvements for water efficiencies, when such improvement costs are often spread out over a 15 to 20 year investment schedule,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA recommends that state statute be amended so that beneficial use will be applied over the most recent 20-year period;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any water that is conserved through, but not limited to, cropping patterns, commodity prices or system efficiencies shall not be subject to relinquishment.

**Water Right Extraction or Exaction**

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature enacted Water Conservancy Boards in order to streamline the process and decrease the time necessary to transfer, amend, and/or change a water right; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Department of Ecology routinely condition water right transfers, amendments, and changes, approved by local Water Conservancy Boards, through exaction and/or extraction for purposes other than irrigation, stockwater and other beneficial uses, and
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA opposes any and all exaction and/or extraction of water rights by the Department of Ecology on water right transfers, changes, and/or amendments approved by local Water Conservancy Boards.

**Sole Source Aquifer**

WHEREAS, no scientific evidence exists to prove the existence of a sole source aquifer,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA opposes designation of a Sole Source Aquifer in Washington.

**Minimum Flows**

BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA establish as policy that no county, state, tribe or federal agency, or court, can attempt to establish a minimum flow on any stream or river in this state without first complying with existing state water laws and full recognition of existing rights and users.

**Columbia River Treaty**

WHEREAS, the Columbia River Treaty (CRT) between the United States and Canada was first established in 1964,

WHEREAS, the CRT affects our hydropower system and flood control along 1200 miles of the Columbia River and its tributaries,

WHEREAS, either country may terminate some Treaty provisions after September 16, 2024, by providing a ten-year advance notice and some provisions terminate on that date without any actions being taken.

WHEREAS, the Public Power Council asserts that the Treaty is grossly imbalanced with estimates showing Canada receiving almost ten times the benefits received by Northwest interests.

WHEREAS, the US Army Corp of Engineers and Bonneville Power Administration are the “U.S. Entity” representing the United States in Treaty discussions with Canada,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Entity sent its Final Recommendations on the Columbia River Treaty to the U.S. State Department on December 13, 2013,

WHEREAS, Canada has commenced negotiations on the Columbia River Treaty,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Washington Cattlemen’s Association supports a fair and equitable negotiation with Canada over the Columbia River Treaty. (2017)

**WCA Water Quality Directive**

WHEREAS, water quality regulations are being used by the Department of Ecology (DOE) to target individuals based on current law (RCW 90.48.080), and

WHEREAS, WCA supports positive changes to DOE protocols that articulate water quality standards as a whole based on a watershed approach, and believes the Recommended Steps are a good template, and

WHEREAS, WCA supports transparency in all levels of DOE actions,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports the DOE integrating the following ten protocols into their process of identifying Recommended Steps (transparent in all steps)

1. All science used by DOE shall be the most current available evidence-based science

2. Identify and prioritize problems using most current available evidence-based science on watershed basis using a process understood and supported with evaluation criteria (Ecology & Stakeholders)
3. Use watershed/voluntary approach including inform, educate, involve all land users/owners (Conservation district, stakeholders, technical assistance providers, funding sources)

4. Identify goals and locally specific voluntary stewardship solutions within watershed (Land owners/ producers with most current available evidence-based science based technical assistance)

5. Implementation activities (Land owners/ producers with most current available evidence-based science based technical assistance ...priority for funding)

6. Measure, monitor and report the results with respect to goals for the watershed...if effective acknowledgement from Ecology

7. If not...look back at data and science (back steps 2-6)

8. Research to pinpoint the problem

9. Offer assistance to land owners with problems based on #6

10. Regulatory Action as last resort with a transparent DOE process
Wildlife/Rancher/Sportsman/ESA

Increasing the Quality and Amount of WDFW Wildlife Habitat Enhancements

WHEREAS, WCA members consider our relationships with wildlife and the environment an important part of our way of life, and

WHEREAS, as ranchers wish to have the larger community appreciate and share our concern for the multiple use of the open spaces in our state, and

WHEREAS, the WCA opposes continued land acquisitions by WDFW except in extreme cases, and

WHEREAS, the best habit for wildlife is provided by well managed sustainable ranchers operating as a profitable enterprise,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, WCA encourage the WDFW to work cooperatively with private ranchers and sportsmen to develop and encourage wildlife enhancements projects that are compatible with the livestock industry on private property.

Landowner Right to Protect Property

WHEREAS, it is important to ensure that the landowner’s right to protect his/her property from wildlife damage is maintained.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA request that the Department of Fish and Wildlife continues its ongoing policy that ensure the Landowner’s statutory right to protect his/her property from wildlife damage as stated in RCW 77.04.012, RCW 77.12.240 and WAC 232-36-052.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA fully supports compensation for losses from both ungulates and predators.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the WCA support allowing livestock and property owners the ability to use lethal take of predators to protect livestock and animals that are being stalked, harassed, attacked, or being consumed. Lethal take shall be an accepted and allowed tool for livestock producers to protect their livestock on all properties that are controlled by the livestock producer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA shall vigorously work to ensure that the WDFW is held accountable for all actions and outcomes that result from their Predator and Game Management Plans.

WDFW Conflict resolution

WHEREAS, as recognized in RCW 77.04.012, “Wildlife is property of the state….. Nothing in this title shall be construed to infringe on the right of a private property owner to control the owner’s private property.”; and

WHEREAS, wildlife are free to roam and are not bound or confined except by natural geographic boundaries; and

WHEREAS, many times said wildlife feed, graze and exist on private properties not owned or controlled by the public; and

WHEREAS, the general public desires the privilege to hunt, fish, camp, and view wildlife,

WHEREAS, all parties involved in tort claims often lose

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA request that state agencies work collaboratively with private property owners and managers to develop management strategies that address wildlife conflict issues such as depredation conflicts and/or compensation from both ungulate and predatory wildlife.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA support collaborative processes such as the WDFW Wolf Advisory Group (WAG) as a venue to address complex social challenges.

**Payment in Lue of Taxes “PILT” (State)**

WHEREAS, the WDFW is not currently fulfilling its obligation to pay all of its PILT payments thus creating a hardship on many rural Counties that did not exist when the land was in private ownership,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA is opposed to any further WDFW purchases of private property throughout the State until the WDFW and the Legislature pay their PILT in full.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA supports a legislative change that allows Counties to place liens and begin foreclosure processes on WDFW lands that are in arrears for PILT.

**Game Fencing**

WHEREAS, game roams freely through many different kinds of agricultural land; and

WHEREAS, construction of game fences would inhibit damage caused to private lands by wild game,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the WCA supports the continuation of the Department of Fish and Wildlife’s game fencing programs.

**Joint maintenance of Perimeter/Livestock Fencing**

WHEREAS, the costs associated with construction and maintenance of new and existing property boundary fences increases every year, and

WHEREAS, often times the private property owner is required to assume all costs associated with maintenance, and

WHEREAS, private landowners can often be subject to trespass penalties from estray livestock that enter WDFW owned lands,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA requests that there be joint maintenance agreements between private property and public owned lands,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that RCW title 16.60 addresses the issue of cost reimbursement on installation of a new fence but does not address the perpetual expense of fence maintenance,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA will work to educate the Legislature on the burden that is borne by private landowners neighboring public owned land regarding the responsibility to maintain boundary fencing.

**Trespass Law Change**

WHEREAS, human trespass continues to be a problem on agricultural and other property; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement and prosecution officers are hindered in their work by the vagueness in the current law; and

WHEREAS, cattlemen are subject to trespass penalties when their cattle unknowingly stray onto agency grounds, and

WHEREAS, whenever a person enters or remains on or upon premises that are not their own they are trespassing, unless that property is publicly owned or is a public place of business,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA support allowing landowners the right to post property in a conspicuous manner, in the context of criminal trespass statutes, to include posting signs or the placement of fluorescent orange paint marks on trees or posts on the property in an effort to address the issue of the word “knowingly” in RCW 9A.52.080.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA request that the penalties associated with violations of RCW 9A.52.080 be severe enough to deter the activity, such as increasing the penalty to a Gross Misdemeanor.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA support the ability of the Counties to recover the costs associated with prosecution of these crimes.

**Litter Policy**  
WHEREAS, litter and garbage disposal is recognized as a permanent problem in all aspects of our daily lives; and

WHEREAS, many constructive steps have been taken to educate our population in the proper disposal of litter and garbage; and

WHEREAS, hunters, recreationists, and visitors of wildlife areas have become more and more aware of litter and garbage disposal through the utilization of litter containers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA recommends that all State and Federal Agencies adopt a litter policy that not only addresses both education and environmental stewardship, and that all public entities that provides a public container shall dispose of litter in a timely manner during all public use periods.

**Proactive Elk Management**  
WHEREAS, current WDFW elk management plans have led to numerous problems between landowners and Washington State, and

WHEREAS, efforts have been taken in different areas of the State to proactively mitigate elk landowner conflicts, and

WHEREAS, the WCA supports broad based efforts that involve multiple stakeholders to achieve solutions to complex issues,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA will work to engage the WDFW in proactive efforts to mitigate the elk depredations in the state of Washington.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, solutions to the elk depredation issues must have support from impacted stakeholders.

**State Wolf Recovery and Management Plan**  
WHEREAS, wolf management issues are of utmost concern to the livestock industry statewide; and

WHEREAS, wolf recovery efforts in Washington have resulted in significant wolf-livestock conflicts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA support working with the WDFW Wolf Advisory Group (WAG) to develop with support from stakeholders on all sides of wolf recovery the following:

- An interim management plan that defines time sensitive protocols for lethally removing problem wolves, adequate compensation to keep livestock producers in business and to provide cost share for preventative non-lethal deterrents

- A post delisting management plan that includes a population objective and a means to maintain the identified population threshold with an overriding goal of keeping livestock producers, sportsman, prey base and rural communities whole now and into perpetuity.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA members and staff work actively to remove the State ESA listing on the entire State as quickly as possible including any necessary legislation, litigation and or work with the WDFW Commission.

State ESA Reform  WRSE 2016-11
WHEREAS, the State of Washington currently allows for Species to be listed as Threatened and/or Endangered that may not have the same listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act,

WHEREAS, natural resources, both public and private, must be protected for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the State Endangered Species Act (ESA) is spending millions of dollars every year for species recovery, and

WHEREAS, the current ESA has resulted in more regulations and less cooperation with private landowners, and

WHEREAS, the ESA has taken land out of production that will be necessary to provide food and fiber for the people of this country, and

WHEREAS, the WDFW should be required to use the best available scientific data not the preponderance of scientific data available, and

WHEREAS, WDFW should not protect species and habitat to the detriment of other species, and

WHEREAS, Candidate species are afforded the same level of protections under ESA as threatened species and when WDFW also provides species protection through RCW 77.15.130, and

WHEREAS, SEPA is required but is not being adhered to or an economic impact study measuring the impacts of regulations on private property and rural communities, and

WHEREAS, the requirement within the ESA to “remove threats” is unattainable, and

WHEREAS, the term “vulnerability” is extremely vague and unattainable,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA support a legislative reform that addresses the above mentioned concerns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, clear and distinct requirements and penalties placed upon the WDFW for not reviewing species status on required timelines

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the State ESA must protect private property and ensure the safety of the public.

Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Taxes Funds Continuance  WRSE 2017-1
WHEREAS, the federal government pays money in lieu of taxes to counties having federal lands within their borders, and

WHEREAS, this program may be eliminated, and

WHEREAS, counties with large federal acreage have become dependent on these funds,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, WCA seeks congressional support for measures to increase and sustain livestock production on federal lands such that the associated counties and communities no longer require payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILT) funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, until such solutions are found, WCA seeks Congressional support for continuing PILT payments and increasing the level at which they are paid. (2017)

Predator Control and Wildlife Services  WRSE 2017-3
WHEREAS, Livestock producers are faced with many predators that prey on livestock and inflict a severe economic impact on production costs, and

WHEREAS, predators cause more than $126 million in death loss to livestock yearly, and

WHEREAS, WCA supports a strong Wildlife Services program administered by the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports full funding of Wildlife Services damage control programs to protect economic loss and ensure public safety from predators and other harmful species, and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, WCA supports the Wildlife Services aviation program and increased funding for the program. (2017)

Sage Grouse Recovery

WHEREAS, sage grouse recovery is vital to the livestock's industry interests, and

WHEREAS, WCA tried to work with WDFW and the Service on a voluntary CCAA management plan with assurances for sage grouse, unsuccessfully due to the management restrictions and requirements;

(a) The plan included a very large perceived historic range for the species and did not fully consider how the demographics of a large part of the present day historic range has changed and is not now suitable habitat for the species.

(b) The plan had a one size fits all stubble management requirement without taking into consideration soils, aspects, rainfall, etc. The stubble height was predicated on the cover that was needed for the bird lacking any predator control, not on the historic conditions that the bird excelled in.

(c) The desired stubble height will lead to increased fuel loads which in turn leads to catastrophic fires. The number one loss of sage grouse habitat is fire, which was not addressed in the plan.

(d) The plan was a prescriptive management plan across a very large landscape both private and public with little regard for maintaining the diversity of habitat needed for other species, diversity of habitat also leads to ecosystem resilience. The plan was a single species management plan which is detrimental to the whole under management.

(e) A management plan that implied that we would have a growing sage grouse population if we removed human disturbance from the landscape and let nature manage (human free). This criterion along with reintroduction becomes a disincentive to have sage grouse on your property now or into the future. Sage grouse need humans; to provide water sources, to manage livestock grazing, to maintain or enhance diversity of habitat, to provide predator control in nesting and brooding areas along with the sire suppression needed to maintain the existing habitat, and

WHEREAS, Sage grouse in Washington are not a separate Distinct Population Segment from the Great Basin species and are on the edge of their historic range and their recovery be it a success or failure will not help or hinder the Federal listing of the species. Sage Grouse are State listed as Threatened by WDFW with an unrealistic recovery goal of 3,200 birds for 10 consecutive years in a substantial portion of their historic range (6 or more management units). This never-ending requirement is also a disincentive for property owner participations, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports the development of grazing-friendly incentive based programs for private, public range lands, including ecosystem restoration, natural resource stewardship and the economic viability of rural communities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, WCA and its members will seek active participation and assistance from Government Agencies and Conservation Districts to create workable voluntary sage grouse conservation plans, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, WCA will take an active role in conjunction with local working groups in the development and application of these plans. (2017)

Livestock/Wildlife Interactions

WHEREAS, State and Federal agencies management decisions involving bighorn sheep and elk among other species not listed under ESA adversely affect grazing decisions, and

WHEREAS, State and Federal agencies have or claim authority over management of non-ESA wildlife under there statutes and regulations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports the enactment of regulation and rule that minimizes the potential adverse impacts of State or Federal wildlife management decisions on grazing operations that do not involve species listed under their ESA and also seeks to maintain a balance of multiple uses on State and Federal lands. (2017)
Grizzly Bear Reintroduction

WHEREAS, The National Park Service (NPS) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have proposed the North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan, and

WHEREAS, the public process regarding grizzly bear reintroduction into Washington State has begun.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The WCA recommends that the NPS and the USFWS must honor the Washington State law from 1995, SB 5106, Grizzly Bear Management (RCW 77.12.035). USFWS’s own regulation specifically 24.4(i)(5)(i) requires USFWS to comply with Washington State permitting requirements prior to releasing grizzly bears which Washington State can’t give due to RCW 77.12.035 and not reintroduce grizzly bears in Washington State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The WCA recommends “NO ACTION” from NPS and USFWS or the “STATUS QUO” policy. If grizzly bears re-colonize the North Cascades it should occur without any reintroduction as stated in RCW 77.12.035.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, If the NPS and USFWS elects to override current state law (RCW 77.12.035) and appropriate permitting is allowed to go forward with the translocation of grizzly bears, by the courts. The courts should insist that the state and its citizens be provided the following requirements and assurances:

(A) The NPS and USFWS be required to have a Grizzly Bear Recovery and Management Plan with a population recovery goal and recovery zone clearly defined.
(B) Assurance that the USFWS will designate the grizzly bear as non-essential experimental (10-j) so management actions and control of problem bears can be taken quickly when needed.
(C) Assurance that the NPS or USFWS will fully fund all Washington State Agency’s for all costs associated with grizzly bear recovery both pre and post management.
(D) Assurance that NPS or USFWS will clearly outline all methods that will be implemented to ensure for the protection of human safety.
(E) Assurance that USFWS will not include any state or private land in the Recovery Zone.
(F) Assurance that adjoining state or private lands will not be subject to any new land use restrictions as a result of grizzly bears on the landscape.
(G) NPS and USFWS should be strictly liable for any and all injuries or damages to persons or property caused by or in any way arising out of the relocation or reestablishment of grizzly bears, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that WCA will lobby the Department of Interior and Congress to defund the North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Cascades Ecosystem Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan will have profound impacts on all current and future land management, wildlife management and state ESA decisions especially pertaining to timber management, livestock grazing, fire suppression, road construction, hunting and recreational activities. Therefore, as written it is in violation of the law by not conforming to NEPA and the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (requires comprehensive economic analysis of the effect on the lives and livelihoods or rural residents before Federal rules can be imposed) and by not studying or measuring these economic impacts on rural communities or economies. The WCA will litigate the NPS and USFWS if a NEPA-RFA study is not included in the preferred alternative or rule.

Non-Game Species

WHEREAS, the governor and WDFW Diversity Department are seeking 10’s of millions of annual dedicated dollars to achieve the following: To study and preserve the habitats of 268+ non-game species while updating and enforcing laws designed to protect those species and their habitats, and

WHEREAS, to find, purchase, protect, or preserve a valuable ecosystem for a specie and then let nature (human free) manage it will change that ecosystem by either releasing or depressing the spring of succession depending on prior management, leading to habitat change, and

WHEREAS, studying the preferred habitat for a single species will not maintain that species on the landscape or recover it if needed. When managing for multiple species the overriding goal should be to provide diversity of habitat which works for all species including humans and diversity of habitat leads to ecosystem resilience, and

WHEREAS, to spend 10s of millions of dollars annually studying these species and defining the desired habitat to be preserved for these species will just lead to single species management, agency empire building, more state ESA listed species and more regulation through critical areas ordinances. Washington ranchers and farmers already operate under some of the strictest
environmental land use regulation in the world. When all that is needed is to maintain the existing diversity of habitat through far less expensive voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs, and

WHEREAS, WCA agrees with the need to maintain native habitat and ecological function also to restore native habitat where needed for fish and wildlife.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, WCA opposes and will lobby against any dedicated funding for the WDFW to study non-game species and/or their habitats and/or the purchasing of these habitats from the private sector or updating and enforcing laws designed to protect those species and their habitats, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, WCA shall lobby for the development and financing of voluntary conservation incentives for rural landowners. The priority should be to finance programs in place like the Voluntary Stewardship Program to maintain existing habitat and ecological function for fish and non-game species on private lands. (2017)

Annual Review or Consultation WRSE 2017-8
WHEREAS, Section 4(b)(1) of the Federal ESA says that listings are to be made “solely on the basis of the best scientific and commercial data available.” WDFW Diversity Department (Diversity) uses the "preponderance of scientific data available" which mostly includes predictions, speculations, observation, and unsubstantiated future harm or subjective science, and

WHEREASE, a good example of Diversity's abuse of State ESA listing is their July 2016 Periodic Status Review for the American Pelican. Their continued protection of this bird, federally delisted in 1987, as state threatened "likely to become endangered" is only supported by subjective science, jobs and the ingrained culture of Diversity. This bird even has questionable historic nesting occupation in Washington State and the state is not within its main migratory route. The bird is also a ICUN species of least concern. The only real scientific data contained in the document is a study done by the Yakima Nations Fisheries biologists, which indicates that 46% of 18,237 PIT tags found on Badger Island alone belonged to salmon from the Yakima River Basin, a struggling and invaluable anadromous fish species. This data was called circumstantial evidence by Diversity while Idaho Fish & Game have a program to control Pelican populations to reduce impacts to native fish and recreation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA urges the Secretary of Interior during their Annual Review or Consultation with WDFW's Diversity Department on their ESA programs to ensure that the listings are administered consistent with “the purpose and policy” of the Federal ESA prior to releasing federal funding to Washington State programs. (2017)

Migratory Bird Act Reform WRSE 2017-9
WHEREAS, corvids are currently protected under the Migratory Bird Act, and

WHEREAS, corvids are a major source of depredations in Sage Grouse/Sharp Tailed Grouse nesting and rearing areas,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA supports and will engage in efforts to revise the Migratory Bird Act to allow management and control of Corvid populations.

Cougar Management WRSE 2017-10
WHEREAS, current cougar management efforts have led to numerous problems throughout the State, and

WHEREAS, livestock and pet depredations continue to increase,

WHEREAS, the habitat is full forcing cougars to take up residences in places that are not suitable cougar habitat,

WHEREAS, the WDFW is required to have management plans with population objectives on all big game species, and

WHEREAS, cougars are big game species without a clear management plan or population objective,

WHEREAS, the Pilot Cougar Control Program 2001-2006 reduced the number of complaints by over 200%,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA will work to engage the WDFW to adopt a cougar management plan that has a population objective with population control along with management tools that greatly reduces livestock and domestic animal depredations and human conflict while increasing public safety.
Federal Wolf ESA Status

WHEREAS, Federal delisting of wolves in the western two-thirds of Washington is of utmost concern to livestock producers, hunters, rural residents, and state wildlife managers. It is essential that delisting be finalized as soon as possible so wolves can be managed, and

WHEREAS, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) quote "there is zero need for further protection of Gray wolves in the lower 48 under the Federal ESA", and

WHEREAS, the USFWS has tried for a number of years to delist this remnant population of gray wolves but have been unable to perform ESA mandated tasks due to the overwhelming demands brought by constant ESA-related litigation and court rulings.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA will pursue the quickest path forward to a final (not subject to judicial review) federal delisting of wolves in the Western two-thirds of Washington, be it through the USFWS, Congress or litigation or a combination thereof.

County Purchases of Resource Lands

WHEREAS, if natural resource based county governments desire to purchase private resource lands from willing sellers, and

1. Who cancel existing grazing leases which increases the fuel load on the land and also reduces the county's economic productivity and economic stability, and
2. Who are not mandated to produce revenue and/or are opposed to logging thereby reducing timber tax funding to local taxing authorities, and
3. Whose non-management of timber land causes widespread disease and insect infestation, unprecedented fuel loads leading to catastrophic fires causing the loss of natural resources, wildlife habitat, homes, human lives, and
4. Who seldom conform to county weed ordinances which then spreads to private lands, and
5. Who may not pay the required state or federal Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) on their lands which affects the rates of all county property owners and creates a hardship on rural counties, and

WHEREAS, agency ownership always has a negative economic effect on rural communities and its citizens,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that WCA prefers that if these resource lands must leave private ownership they be purchased by rural county governments with state and/or grant monies, using a Community Trust Agreement (Agreement) with mandates as follows:

1. This Agreement would mandate that renewable resources are managed and maintained solely at the discretion of the purchasing county government using but not limited to existing practices including: agriculture, sustainable grazing, sustainable logging along with a forest health strategy.
2. The purchasing county government would also pay the yearly PILT assessment for the purchased property.
3. In the Sale and Trust agreement it should be documented that the ownership is in perpetuity.
4. That the purchasing county government allow outdoor recreation on the property. (2018)

Columbia Sharp-Tailed Grouse Recovery

WHEREAS, Columbia Sharp-Tailed grouse recovery is important to the livestock industry, and

WHEREAS, Columbia Sharp-Tailed grouse are one of seven species of grouse, found in seven Western states and Canada and are not listed on the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), yet they are Washington State ESA listed as endangered based on future predictions and speculations, and

WHEREAS, in the Status Review the Executive Summary quote "Habitat quantity, quality and fragmentation limit the populations" and then goes on to describe ideal and historic habitat areas "Most of these areas (historic) are now in crop lands or orchards and many areas that were not converted to cropland have shallow soils or steep slopes, factors that affect productivity for sharp-tailed grouse." These habitat areas best describe present day grazing lands, and
WHEREAS, WDFW has spent tens of millions of tax payer’s dollars purchasing over 26,000 acres of lands from the private sector, taking it out of production agriculture, applied habitat restoration and enhancement, augmented the population with over 900 birds. All of which appears to have had little or no positive effect on the bird’s population, and

WHEREAS, predation as quoted in the Status Review "Predation is an important factor affecting the population dynamics and is responsible for most mortalities, 85%" and that "the odds of a female having a successful nest were eight times greater in landscapes with fewer corvids";

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, WCA supports using the tool of managed grazing to reduce stubble height to help prevent severe and/or catastrophic fires that destroy the winter riparian habitat, crucial to the yearly food chain of the bird, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, WCA supports the use of predator control in critical nesting and brooding areas as predator control is the least costly and most cost-effective tool available, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, WCA will support work on collaborative and voluntary habitat conservation efforts needed to support a viable population of Columbia Sharp-Tailed Grouse. These efforts should include predator control and fire management; the two main causes of the present-day population dynamic. (2018)

2018 Predator Management and Loss Restitution  WRSE 2018-3
WHEREAS, the number of predator livestock kills confirmed by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is only a fraction of actual predation, and

WHEREAS, predation is an increasing problem for livestock owners, and

WHEREAS, the financial impact of predation is affecting the economic sustainability of individual owners as well livestock communities, and

WHEREAS, there has not been a definitive economic analysis of the impact of predations, and

WHEREAS, the WDFW agency is currently operating $30 million dollars in the red,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA shall lobby in the 2019 Legislature in regards to future WDFW budgets. The new budget will require that the WDFW prioritize mitigation strategies and restitution policies for predator loss on livestock,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the WCA work with the WSU CAHNRS, School of Economic Sciences, in developing an economic evaluation of actual losses incurred by the livestock industry from both direct and indirect predator loss. (2018)

Federal ESA Reform (revised)  WRSE 2018-4
WHEREAS, WCA supports the continued existence of viable populations of plants and animals but finds the current ESA to be ineffective at achieving this goal, and

WHEREAS, cattlemen own and manage most of the lands impacted by the ESA and the ESA has more potential authority to restrict or eliminate cattle production than any other federal environmental law.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, WCA urges congress to amend and revise the ESA in a manner so as to provide balance, recognizing the need for economic benefit and the importance of private property rights and incentive based solutions, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the WCA shall work to reform the Federal ESA as follows:

(1) To provide a balanced approach to the economics of the state or region affected, the ESA’s own language says policies must be “prudent” and “reasonable,” rightly interpreted, that means they should reflect a big-picture perspective, not a narrow focus that ignores larger realities.

(2) Listing requirements should consider the global population and distribution of a species as to their endangerment, focusing on overall species populations, not localized Distinct Population Segments (DPS) thus allowing for specie recovery. If used, DPS population segments should be characterized both by geographic separation and the inability to interbreed.

(3) Increase incentives and streamline procedures for federal, state, local, and private efforts to conserve species and habitats including voluntary management agreements.
Critical habitat should first be designated on public lands in areas that the present environment is conducive to successful recovery and in the event that private land is considered the USFWS should be directed to implement a collaborative approach that results in a win for both private land owners and the specie, that should also include incentive based programs that help to improve habitat on private property rather than regulations.

Require that scientific data be presented and/or studies be conducted that conclusively demonstrate what the species historic range was, how the range has changed, and if that range is still habitat for the species in question.

Should include ecosystem management and habitat diversity not prescribed management to protect species to the detriment of other species.

Require specific original achievable recovery goals including distribution and automatic delisting when goals have been met that are not subject to judicial review. Recovery should mean a realistic and attainable population goal that can be achieved under said management plan.

If USFWS elects to reintroduce any specie, it should be done as a non-essential experimental population Sec 10-j. USFWS should ensure that releases or introduction of experimental populations lead to the conservation of the species and do not result in adverse impacts on establish land uses and public welfare.

Ensure the jeopardy standard in the Section 7 consultation process is measured by the death of a threatened or endangered species, not simply the modification of critical habitat.

Require preparation of an economic impact analysis and an environmental statement that considers impacts from the time the species was listed before land uses are regulated due to the presence, movement or relocation of a threatened or endangered species.

Clear and distinct requirements and penalties placed upon USFWS for not reviewing species status on required timelines.

So that ESA bureaucrats are forced to end “tunnel vision” regulations that ignore the welfare of the broader environment by applying a balanced approach and that they be made to recognize that their responsibility extends to all species affected by their decisions, including human beings. (2017)

Any federal translocation into a state would require a state entry permit. (2018)

**WDFW Ownership of Land and Land Management**

WHEREAS, a growing percentage of the State is State, County or Federally owned; and

WHEREAS, the continued purchase of private property by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is negatively affecting our tax base and economic base in Washington; and

WHEREAS, WDFW has not adequately secured maintenance and operations money for presently owned lands or lands they intend to acquire; and

WHEREAS, there has not been an economic study done on how additional purchases by the WDFW will affect the economic stability of rural communities and counties, and

WHEREAS, the WDFW is facing financial challenges as it attempts to manage their presently owned lands; and

WHEREAS, this has resulted in strained relations between private landowners, sportsmen and WDFW,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the WCA support a zero growth policy in regard to any new land purchases or by WDFW; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the WCA will work to ensure that the WDFW establish a contingency plan to manage all of their presently owned land, and require them to comply with all County ordinances and/or State laws pertaining to management and maintenance of those lands and that the Legislature provides adequate funding. (2017)

**Wolf Predation**

WHEREAS, the number of livestock kills confirmed by WDFW is only a fraction of actual kills,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as appropriate WCA will request WDFW to develop scientifically acceptable total livestock kill projections and to consistently report not only confirmed and probably livestock kill numbers but also likely kill numbers along with confirmed attack numbers, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as appropriate WCA will request WDFW to be required to develop compensation protocol and mitigation strategies for the livestock producers indirect costs (pregnancy loss and weight loss), and to report these indirect
costs that were paid out and pending along with the livestock kill statistics. WCA also requests a yearly report on indirect costs paid by livestock producers and WDFW for wolf preventative measures, statewide. (2017)

**Pronghorn Antelope**

WHEREAS, Pronghorn antelope have been imported into Washington by entities and Tribes and released onto Tribal lands. Most of these trans-located antelope have migrated from their release sites while seeking desirable habitat and are on private agriculture and grazing lands at present, and

WHEREAS, Historically in Washington Pronghorn antelope were never numerous but occasionally occupied the Columbia Basin in the 18th century. WDFW has the statutory authority to manage these Pronghorn antelope in Washington that migrated off tribal lands and has presently classified them as a protected Big Game Species, under this classification they are not allowed to be hunted, and

WHEREAS, In Washington, State and Federal agency lands contain only small fragmented islands of Pronghorn antelope habitat surrounded by private grazing and agriculture lands, the success or failure of these antelope recolonizing in Washington State will be determined by the social and financial tolerance of the species by the affected private landowners and lessees, and

WHEREAS, A couple of Pronghorn antelope on private land is a novelty and can be tolerated but they can increase rapidly and could balloon in numbers which would create costly crop, forage and hay depredation along with severe fence damage, which would create social and financial intolerance of the species, without private landowner buy-in upfront, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The WCA does not support and is opposed to a passive approach of managing Pronghorn antelope on private land with a WDFW developed Guidance Document, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The WCA would support an active approach specifically an Antelope Advisory Group to aide in the development of a Pronghorn Antelope Management Plan with Goals, Directives and Strategies for each designated Pronghorn antelope management unit. As part of the Management Plan the funding of any special fencing needs or requirements for Pronghorn antelope should not be paid by private landowners or lessees. Social tolerance of Pronghorn antelope by landowners and lessees should become the guiding factor in setting a population objective for each management unit, not habitat carrying capacity, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The WCA will support the WDFW in developing the RCW’s and WAC’s that will be needed to pay compensation for crop, forage and hay depredation along with infrastructure damage caused by Pronghorn antelope, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The WCA is opposed to the further translocation, importation or relocation of Pronghorn antelope to Washington State.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The WCA supports the WDFW in the use of hunting and landowner vouchers and/or tags to control Pronghorn antelope numbers and supports the forming of an Antelope Advisory Group and the development of a Pronghorn Antelope Management Plan.
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