



# *Legislative Policies*

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IDAHO WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION  
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## VISION STATEMENT

*Idaho Weed Control Association promotes responsible weed management  
stewardship through Education, Communication and Public Policy.*

Rick Waitley, Executive Director  
55 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 100  
Meridian ID 83642  
ph: 208-888-0988 fax: 208-888-4586  
rick@amgidaho.com

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# IDAHO WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION

## LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENTS

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

The Idaho Weed Control Association (IWCA) recommends sound environmental practices to ensure clean air and water. These practices should be based on scientific research with a balanced response of public opinion. Each environmental practice must be evaluated as to the fiscal and social impact on the individual and society.

#### Policy Statements:

#### **Agricultural and Natural Resource Management Chemicals**

We support the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), and their jurisdiction for regulating agricultural chemicals and herbicides used for managing vegetation on Federal and State administered lands. We support the passage of federal legislation to amend the Clean Water Act so National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for pesticide applications are not required as long as the application meets the standards and requirements of pesticide labels developed under FIFRA.

We support reasonable regulation of use and storage of agricultural chemicals, and dissemination of factual information on their need, use, hazards, and safety.

We support sound science validated evidence to warrant curtailment of legal application or storage of agricultural chemicals on agricultural land.

We recognize that, due to improved testing technologies, a negligible tolerance rather than a “zero” tolerance evaluation should be used in registering agricultural crop protection products and products used to control vegetation on Private, State and Federal Lands.

We support legislation to facilitate the registration and re-registration of minor use crop protection products.

#### **Aerial Applicators**

We recognize the importance of aerial applicators to the agricultural community and support regulations that allow latitude to operate in meeting the demands of our industry.

#### **Crop Protection Harmonization**

We support that crop protection registration and regulations be harmonized between the United States, Mexico and Canada. Idaho producers continue to be at a competitive disadvantage because of crop protection technologies available to Canadian and Mexican producers that are not available to US producers. We encourage EPA to move without delay to expedite the harmonization of crop protection regulations and registrations between US, Canada, and Mexico as provided by in North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

We further encourage United States Trade Representative (USTR) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to diligently include similar provisions in their negotiations in the current round of World Trade Organization (WTO) and other bilateral and multicultural trade agreements.

### **Noxious Weeds in Idaho**

We support funding from the General Fund and through a broad assessment of all citizens of Idaho to generate funds to control and combat noxious weeds on all Idaho lands. We support the continuation and strengthening of Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA's) in Idaho and that aggressive action should be taken by these CWMA's for the control and elimination of noxious weeds. We further support annual reporting by the ISDA, IWCA and Idaho Association of Weed County Superintendents (IAWCS) to the state legislature on the progress and costs of controlling noxious weeds in Idaho.

### **Funding Noxious Weed Control in Idaho**

We support reinstatement of the \$1.00/tire tax on all tires (except for recaps) sold in Idaho as a method of funding a Noxious Weed Control Fund. We recommend that this fund should be ongoing with annual financial reports submitted to a germane committee of the Senate and House Agriculture Affairs Committee. We support that this tire assessment be collected and administered through the Idaho State Department of Agriculture.

### **Bio-control or Natural Pest Control**

We support continued use and research for the development of alternate, crop protection and vegetation control products. We support a statewide biological control coordinator to strategically manage and coordinate biological control resources.

### **Governmental Affairs**

The IWCA supports a responsible, efficient, and fiscally-sound government for the citizens of Idaho.

### **Weed Free Forage and Other Materials on Public Lands**

We support the use of weed free forage and other materials on all lands in Idaho and encourage all land managers to adopt the guidelines similar to those established by the USDA Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. We also support the development of weed free criteria for materials used in road maintenance, road construction, and rehabilitation of State and Federal lands in Idaho.

### **Nez Perce Tribe Bio-control Center**

We support the continued funding of the Nez Perce Tribe Bio-control Center at Lapwai and recognize the potential bio-control efforts have in combating noxious weeds.

## **GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

The IWCA supports a responsible, efficient and fiscally-sound government for the citizens of Idaho.

### *Policy Statements:*

#### **State Director of Agriculture**

We support the appointment of a director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture who possesses the skills to provide quality leadership, vision, and direction for the agricultural industry. We support the appointment of an individual possessing competence in communication, working with people and understanding the challenges of agriculture in Idaho. We support the appointment of a director who can be endorsed by the commodity and agricultural organizations in Idaho.

## **Initiatives**

We support the initiative process in Idaho as a method for citizens to express themselves on issues. We support a legislative review of the initiative process in Idaho and strict adherence to the rules governing the process.

## **ISDA Noxious Weed Advisory Committee**

We support the appointment of an Idaho State Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Advisory Committee by the Director of Agriculture as a way to maintain an open communication between agencies, commodity groups, individuals, and government on issues and programs related to weed control in Idaho.

## **State Noxious Weed Coordinator**

We support the appointment and employment of a State Noxious Weed Coordinator within the framework of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and recognize the important role that individual plays in executing the State Noxious Weed laws.

## **County Weed Superintendents**

We support each county in Idaho establishing a fulltime, dedicated position for coordination, education and implementation of weed control efforts. We further support adequate funding for the position to provide continuing education and for implementing a coordinated weed control program in each county.

## **Invasive Species Council**

We support the Invasive Species Council and recommend continued legislative support, funding, and oversight for the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and the Council to protect Idaho's environment from threatening invasive species. We recommend that the Idaho Weed Coordinating Committee and the Idaho Weed Control Association be represented on the Council

## **Invasive Species Check Station**

We support the continual operation of check stations at designated points throughout Idaho for the prevention or establishment of new invasive species. Furthermore, we support the continued implementation of the "Invasive Species Sticker Fee" to support program implementation.

## **ISDA Noxious Weed Cost Share Program**

We support the continued funding of the ISDA noxious weed cost share program including funding from State legislative appropriations, gift, grant, contract, other funds, grants in aid from the federal government, or other entities.

# **INDUSTRY RELATIONS**

The IWCA supports and encourages involvement in activities and organizations that enhance our industry and the members we represent.

## *Policy Statements:*

### **Food Producers of Idaho**

We support annual voting membership with Food Producers of Idaho. We further support activities sponsored by Food Producers as a way of collaborating with other Ag organizations and commodity groups to showcase the Ag Industry.

## **Agriculture Natural Resource Industry Political Action Committee – ANRI-PAC**

We support the ANRI-PAC for Idaho agriculture and recommend that the IWCA maintain a position on the board of directors of ANRI-PAC to represent Idaho weed organizations in determining support of state political candidates who endorse the needs of the agriculture, natural resource industry.

## **Crop Protection/Vegetation Management Labels and Licensing**

We support the proper use of labeled crop protection/vegetation management products. We encourage all members to work cooperatively with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture in the implementation of its chemical and educational programs related to labels and licensing. We further support this education as a method of protecting the public and ensuring safe, effective use and application of crop protection/vegetation management products in our state.

## **Storage of Crop Protection/Vegetation Management Products**

We support peer reviewed science for approved applications or storage of agriculture crop protection/vegetation management products.

## **Idaho Weed Coordinating Committee**

We support the continuing of the Idaho Weed Coordinating Committee (IWCC) as a way of bringing together local, state and federal agencies and organizations to work on common issues related to weed control in Idaho. We support IWCA maintaining representation on the IWCC.

# **INDUSTRY RESEARCH/EDUCATION**

The IWCA believes in research and educational programs. We encourage legislative funding and support of these essential programs in Idaho.

## *Policy Statements:*

### **Agriculture's Image and Future**

We support activities and events that work to create an awareness of the importance of America's agriculture. We believe the cooperation, collaboration and networking between agricultural organizations, commodity commissions, and agricultural agencies of local, state and federal government are vitally important to our industry's future. The IWCA is dedicated to being a leader in this area of industry communication and cooperation for the strengthening of agriculture's future in the minds of every man, woman and child.

### **Interstate Research**

We support and encourage interstate cooperation between neighboring land grant universities to avoid costly duplication of research.

### **Cooperative Extension System**

We support funding at a federal, state and local level for the Cooperative Extension System and support further services and methods of communication which will enable land managers to receive the latest in technology and education including weed management.

### **Agricultural Science and Technology**

We support and encourage agricultural programs at the secondary and post-secondary level. We encourage the teaching of vegetation management, including management of invasive weeds in agricultural classes.

### **Agriculture in the Classroom – AITC**

We support the program “Idaho Ag in the Classroom” in Idaho schools. We recommend an approach to the citizens of Idaho in supporting the AITC program by purchasing the agriculture license plate. AITC receives a portion of the funds from each plate purchased or renewed. We further support legislative funding for the Idaho Ag in the Classroom Program. We support the maintenance of AITC in the structure of USDA to offer leadership and coordination of this program across the U.S.

### **Leadership Idaho Agriculture – LIA**

We support the Leadership Idaho Agriculture Foundation and the programs it provides. We encourage weed control organizations to sponsor individuals to participate annually in this valuable leadership training.

### **FFA in Idaho**

We support the high school programs and activities offered by the FFA organization. We encourage young men and women to participate in these programs for personal, leadership, and career development opportunities. We encourage IWCA members to support FFA activities at the local, state, and national levels. We encourage IWCA members to explore work experience opportunities for FFA members in the local communities that will enable them to learn more about the weed control industry and agribusiness. We support every high school in Idaho offering an FFA experience to students in their school.

### **4-H in Idaho**

We support the 4-H program in Idaho and support state funding that provides adequate funds for staff and programming to support volunteer leaders in the 4-H program.

### **Funding for R & E Centers in Idaho**

We support ongoing allocation of General Fund money for the Research and Extension (R & E) Centers in Idaho. We recognize the importance of quality equipment and necessary repairs to these centers in order to facilitate the research and education they provide. We further encourage strong cooperation between agriculture organizations and commodity groups to increase legislative awareness and participation in the funding of these improvements.

### **Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign**

We support the Idaho Weed Awareness Campaign (IWAC) and their commitment to public awareness related to weed control in Idaho. We support continued funding of the IWAC by all agencies that have involvement related to weed control in Idaho and the establishment of a stable funding base for IWAC future.

### **U of I Extension Regional Weed Specialists**

We support the continued funding and placement of individuals with Research/Extension weed responsibilities in each of the three U of I Extension Districts in Idaho. Idaho is a very diverse state geographically. Idaho also has a very diverse agriculture and population in each region. We support an Extension Weed Specialist in all three regions to meet the needs of Idaho’s citizens.

### **Non Governmental Organizations (NGO’s)**

We encourage land managers to continue to work with NGO’s with similar interests to coordinate weed control efforts for national resource protection from invasive weeds and to utilize their funding effectively.

## **LABOR**

The IWCA recognizes the value of an adequate labor force for agriculture and supports programs and policies that treat both employees and employers fairly.

### Policy Statements:

#### **Worker Protection Standards**

We support the regulations and provisions of the Worker Protection Standards as administered by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture for providing education and safety information for farm field workers exposed to crop protection/vegetation management products.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES/ENERGY**

The IWCA recognizes the need to preserve and protect our state and country's natural beauty and resources. We also recognize the importance of an adequate energy supply to our industry. We encourage programs to protect our natural resources while still meeting the needs of our industry.

### Policy Statements:

#### **Idaho's Water**

Idaho's water is a valuable resource to the state. We support a water plan that protects Idaho's water for industry (agribusiness/transportation), environment, and recreation and that alterations to this plan must come only after adequate scientific research and fiscal impact studies of proposed changes. We endorse state and individual water rights.

#### **Water Quality**

We recognize the need to maintain the quality of Idaho's water resources.

#### **Clean Water Act**

We support the agriculture industry's commitment to reducing non-point source pollution. We support volunteer nutrient/pesticide management. We encourage all agriculture interests and land managers to use Best Management Practices as guidelines for protecting our water. We support re-authorization of the Clean Water Act and encourage the Idaho congressional delegation to work to ensure that the Act recognizes agriculture's progressive history of pollution abatement. We support the passage of federal legislation to amend the Clean Water Act so NPDES permits for pesticide applications are not required as long as the applications meets the standards and requirements of pesticide labels developed under FIFRA.

#### **Public Lands**

We support multiple-use management of public lands within Idaho with due regard for the privileges extended to traditional users. We further support that effective weed control policies, regulations, guidelines, and funding be established and maintained by specific agencies of government on all public lands.