



WYOMING BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICIAL POLICY BOOK

UPDATED: April 14, 2009

* Policies will expire two years after adoption unless they were reviewed/retained unless renewed by majority vote of Board of Agriculture members.

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ADMINISTRATION

MARKETING

The BOA supports a collaborative effort between the WDA and WBC to create an aggressive and accountable agriculture marketing effort for Wyoming.

Adopted: April 14, 2008
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

YOUNG FARMERS-YOUNG RANCHERS

The BOA supports the on-going efforts to keep young agriculturists in agriculture.

Adopted: April 11, 2006
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

CONSUMER HEALTH SERVICES

LICENSING

- The BOA supports the policy of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture NOT to offer the refund(s) of any license fee to any individual/establishment, after said fee has been submitted for any type of establishment license.
- Any exception to this policy must have the approval of the Director of Agriculture.

Adopted: August 19, 1994
 Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
 Rescinded:

FOOD SAFETY

The BOA supports the WDA request for an additional position in Fremont County.

Adopted: April 14, 2009
 Reviewed/Retained:
 Rescinded:

NATURAL RESOURCES

AIR QUALITY

The BOA believes that agriculture operations including the burning of weeds, stubble, irrigation ditches, seed production fields, and other horticulture operations shall be exempt from current and future burning laws and regulations.

Adopted: November 6, 2004
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

The BOA agrees that animal identification using livestock brands, ear tags and tattoo's help ensure both animal and human safety through trace back. Producers' confidentiality must be held in the utmost regard.

Adopted: November 6, 2004
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

BRUCELLOSIS

The BOA supports the eradication of brucellosis in domestic animals and wildlife and support the efforts of the Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Team (GBCT).

Adopted: November 6, 2004
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The BOA support local natural resource management through conservation districts. The Board supports the development of additional responsibilities for renewable natural resources and the development of the necessary tools to carry out these responsibilities.

Adopted: November 6, 2004
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

EMINENT DOMAIN

The BOA supports Wyoming State Statue W.S. 1-26-509; Negotiations; scope of efforts to purchase which states a condemner shall make reasonable and diligent efforts to acquire property by good fail negotiations and payment for surface disturbance or other activities on private lands in accordance with this eminent domain law, effective July 1, 2007. The law itself refers to the use of lawyers, and mediators to help achieve fairness in the negations.

EXPORTATION OF WATER

The BOA, recognizing the scarcity of and value of water for agricultural use, strongly opposes the permanent exportation of Wyoming's most precious commodity for outside of the state use.

Adopted: November 6, 2004
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

FEDERAL/ STATE LAND MANAGEMENT

Access

Private property rights are supreme in Wyoming. BOA maintains that we oppose any effort to provide access across private property to state or federal lands without permission of the landowner.

Communication With Agencies

The BOA supports the continued communication with federal, state, and local agencies.

Cooperating Agency Status

The BOA supports the Department of Agriculture being actively involved in the NEPA process.

Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) - Local Participation

BOA supports the CRM process as defined by WDA guidelines.

Drought and Disaster Monitoring

Monitoring is crucial for development of information needed to coordinate with state and federal drought programs; therefore, the BOA supports a strong drought monitoring program.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

- The BOA strongly supports the rewriting of the ESA by raising the standards for listing basing those applications on sound scientific fact and peer review. The BOA expects that initial delisting criteria will be followed through the entire process.
- The BOA recognizes the contributions of the Wyoming State Attorney Generals office in addressing ESA litigation and encourages its continued support.

Mediation

- The BOA supports the mediation process and the Ag and Natural Resource Mediation Board.
- The BOA understands that conflict frequently occurs between different interests. By using mediation and TRTs, the best and most economical viable solutions can be reached. The BOA strongly endorses the use of TRTs and informal mediation to resolve natural resource conflicts.

Minerals

Recognizing that mineral development of federal, state, and private lands will occur, the BOA supports environmentally responsible policies and development.

Multiple Use and Sustained Yield

To maintain healthy ecosystems, the BOA supports multiple use and sustained yield of all federal and state lands.

Noxious and Invasive Weeds & Pests

The BOA supports an aggressive coordinated state-wide noxious weed management program through local weed and pest districts.

- The BOA supports all efforts to encourage federal agencies to increase the priority/funding of weed management.
- Recognizing the increasing problem of noxious invasive weeds and pests spread in disturbed sites administered by federal, state, local and private regulations/agreements, the BOA requests the aggressive monitoring and enforcement of those regulations/agreements.
- The BOA supports ear-marked funds meeting transparency standards to meet the resource needs of the State of Wyoming.

Open Spaces

The BOA supports the promotion of open spaces by preserving family farms and ranches. Realizing that most private open space is in production agriculture, the landowners should benefit from providing a community good. Those benefits may include freedom to continue existing ag practices or payments to maintain continuing open spaces. However, ag producers should not need to sacrifice their values in perpetuity.

Range Monitoring

Monitoring is crucial for development of information needed to coordinate with state and federal programs; there, the BOA supports a strong range monitoring program.

Stewardship Practices

BOA encourages incentives for good stewardship and monitoring practices including livestock grazing as a management tool.

Timber

BOA supports ongoing management of federal, state and private timber lands for sustainable forests and rangeland to support grazing for livestock and wildlife.

Wild Horses

The BOA strongly supports no net-loss of AUMs on state and federal lands and does not support the increase of wild horse AMLs or the expansion of Herd Management Areas.

Wildlife/Predator Management

Recognizing that wildlife is important to the recreation and tourism industry, the BOA

supports the healthy management of wildlife including predators, in the best interest of the state and the ag community.

Adopted: September 23, 2004
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

GRAZING

Encourage Federal Agencies to make unused grazing permits available for use.

Five to ten year Management Plans Written by Ranchers

The BOA supports the encouragement of agriculture producers to develop a 5-10 year management plan for future partnerships and the enhancement of sound natural resource practices through effective stewardship.

Game & Fish Managing Herd Management Unit

- The BOA supports managing of herd units based on multiple use and habitat availability.
- The BOA supports Game and Fish cooperating with landowners on setting initial population targets and hunting seasons.
- The BOA wants the objectives to change before resource damage occurs and not be based on only public comments.
- The BOA does not support the reduction of livestock numbers in support of maintaining or increasing her unit objectives.

Improvements

Stewardship conservation practices i.e. fences, water development, etc. are critical to the management of Wyoming rangelands. The BOA believes the improvements should be owned by the lessee to protect their investment.

No Net Loss of Animal Unit Month (AUMs)

Grazing is a tool to enhance natural resources to meet desired goals. Therefore, the BOA desires grazing land management to protect the no net loss of AUMs. No net loss includes, but not limited to drought, the ability to sell permits, and historical sites.

IN-STREAM FLOW

The BOA supports sustainable agriculture and first-in-time, first-in-right doctrine of prior appropriation. The BOA supports in-stream flow only when new storage is developed to provide for that in-stream flow as long as there is no injury to any appropriators.

Adopted: November 6, 2004
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

RENEWABLE STANDARDS

- The BOA supports Renewable Energy Standards for the State of Wyoming.

- The BOA supports continuing research for renewable energy.

Adopted: April 14, 2008
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

STATE TRUST LANDS

Access

Private property rights are supreme in Wyoming. BOA maintains that we oppose any effort to provide access across private property to state lands.

Competitive Bidding Process

- The BOA feels that if the State Land Board proposes a sale of state land, all social and economic impacts must be evaluated.
- Competitive bidding is not supported by BOA. However, the lessee must retain the right to meet the final bid both on lease and sale.

Improvements

The BOA states all improvements made on state trust lands should be reimbursed fairly to lease holder with the change of lease such as sale, loss of lease, etc.

Land Exchange

State land exchange should be reviewed on a case by case basis by the State Land Board. The BOA believes that the initiation of any exchange should be done by the existing lessee.

Lease Term

State Land Board has the authority to set lease fees. However, the BOA supports a set lease fee for the term of the lease.

Negotiations

Given that lessees have greater knowledge of state land issues in their area, it's in the best interest of the State of Wyoming that the lessee negotiate land use agreements and receive compensation from the State.

Adopted: November 6, 2004
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

NEW WATER STORAGE PROJECTS

Since Wyoming is a headwater state, the BOA supports Wyoming in its need to be proactive in the development of new water storage projects. The BOA supports the Wyoming Water Development Commission's need to facilitate the storage and utilization of Wyoming's water by its citizens.

Adopted: November 6, 2004
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

SAGE GROUSE

The BOA does not support the listing of the sage grouse as an endangered species. We support private landowner's inventory of sage grouse and other sage species. The BOA does support actions of the local working groups and their projects as a benefit to Sage Grouse management. Grazing can be beneficial to sage grouse habitat. Continued grazing should be allowed in historic grazing areas. Grazing and other ag activities have always coexisted with sage grouse and should be continued, the BOA supports this practice. All management tools should be available to include biological, chemical, and mechanical (such as: fire, grazing management techniques, and mowing) as means to enhance sage brush plant communities. The BOA supports on-going sage grouse enhancement projects between energy developers and agriculture. These projects should address all aspects that impact the sage grouse and be a cooperative effort.

Adopted: November 6, 2004
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

PORE SPACE FOR CARBON SEQUESTRATION ACTIVITIES

Pore space is a controversial issue and the BOA supports a fair and equitable solution. It is imperative that private property rights are supreme. The private surface landowner should have fair and equitable compensation for all justifiable damage including loss of value.

Adopted: April 14, 2008
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

SPLIT ESTATE

Split estate is a controversial issue and the BOA supports a fair and equitable solution and compensation for all justifiable damage including loss of value. It is imperative that private property rights are supreme

Adopted: November 6, 2004
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

REVISION OF THE FOREST SERVICE PLANS AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS

The BOA **does not** support the following:

- Increase of wild horse AMLs.
- Increase acreage of preservation areas
- Net loss of AUMs.
- Single use.

The BOA **does** support the following:

- Multiple use.

- Joint cooperative monitoring.
- Continued grazing on public land.
- Peer reviewed science.
- Best Management Practices.
- Grazing as a tool for fire suppression, weed management, and wildlife habitat improvement.

Adopted: November 6, 2004
 Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
 Rescinded:

TRANS-BASIN DIVERSIONS

The BOA supports a position that trans-basin diversions should not negatively impact agriculture. If trans-basin diversions do occur, equitable mitigation should benefit the affected parties.

Adopted: November 6, 2004
 Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
 Rescinded:

WATER DEVELOPMENT

Water is the property of the State of Wyoming. There is a need for an accelerated program to develop our water for irrigation, livestock, wildlife, and recreation. The BOA would like to see water development as our states' number one priority. The BOA recognizes that water rights are vested rights inherent to the land and the landowner.

Adopted: September 23, 2004
 Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
 Rescinded:

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Recognizing that wildlife is important to the recreation and tourism industry, the BOA supports the healthy management of wildlife in the best interest of the state and agriculture community. Private land is a benefit to wildlife in the state. The BOA is working to find more common ground with state and federal wildlife managers.

Adopted: November 6, 2004
 Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
 Rescinded:

WYOMING GREY WOLF MANAGEMENT PLAN

The BOA supports the management of the grey wolf by the State of Wyoming as a dual classified species with no net gain in the recovery area.

Adopted: April 14, 2008

Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

STATE FAIR

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The BOA endorses the State Fair Advisory Committee appointed by its members. Recommendations of the State Fair Advisory Committee shall be reviewed and approved or disapproved by the BOA.

Adopted: November 6, 2004
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2008
Rescinded:

ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE

The BOA supports the current policy of the Animal Care Committee

Adopted: January 26, 2009
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

F.A.I.R

The BOA supports the WSF support group F.A.I.R. Posse for their gracious contributions and the BOA encourages the further growth and enhancement state-wide of the posse.

Adopted: April 14, 2008
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

LIVING LEGACY PROGRAM

The BOA supports the continuance of the program as stated in the MOU between F.A.I.R., State Fair and the BOA.

Adopted: April 11, 2006
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

MASTER PLAN

The BOA strongly supports the Master Plan for State Fair Park.

Adopted: November 6, 2004
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

MISS RODEO AMERICA CONTEST

The Board approves the Department's sponsoring the Miss Rodeo America Contest at the State Fair, if the project is found to be feasible and funds are available.

Adopted: October 26, 1961
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

The BOA encourages the positions necessary to support, promote, and maintain State Fair Park facilities..

Adopted: April 14, 2008
Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
Rescinded:

TECHNICAL SERVICES

ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

- The BOA recognizes that integrated animal damage management is vital to the stability of the State of Wyoming=s agricultural, natural resources, and wildlife industries. Recognizing this, the Board declares its support for the Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) and its functions toward meeting the goals of an integrated ADMB. By statute, (W.S. 11-6-307) one member of the Board must serve on the ADMB.
- The BOA is in support of the continued development of funding programs for the ADMB.

Adopted: November 6, 2004

Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009

Rescinded:

LICENSING

- The BOA supports the policy of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture NOT to offer the refund(s) of any license fee to any individual/establishment, after said fee has been submitted for any type of establishment license.
- Any exception to this policy must have the approval of the Director of Agriculture.

Adopted: August 19, 1994

Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009

Rescinded:

NOXIOUS INVASIVE WEEDS/SEEDS

- The BOA supports an aggressive coordinated state-wide noxious invasive weed management program through local weed and pest districts.
- The BOA supports all efforts to encourage federal and state agencies to increase the priority/funding of weed management.
- Recognizing the increasing problem of noxious invasive weed spread in disturbed sites administered by federal, state, local and private regulations/agreements, the BOA requests the aggressive monitoring and enforcement of those regulations/agreements.

Adopted: November 6, 2004

Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009

Rescinded:

RODENT, RABIES AND PREDATOR CONTROL (RRP)

The BOA may support RRP control management in accordance with state/federal laws and regulations. The BOA supports current programs and methods utilized for RRP management.

- The BOA continues to support the funding of an active rabies program.

- The BOA continues to support the funding for USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services.
- The BOA supports continuing and additional research in RRP management.

Adopted: November 6, 2004
 Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
 Rescinded:

SEED AND GRAIN CLEANING ESTABLISHMENTS/CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL

11-12-114 Seed and grain cleaning establishments; certificates of approval; lists thereof.

The board shall establish standards and other requirements whereby seed and grain cleaning establishments may be issued a certificate of approval. A list of approved establishments for cleaning seeds and grain shall be maintained by the director.

The recommendations of the SLAG for establishing standards and other requirements for seed and grain cleaning establishments shall be reviewed and approved or disapproved by the BOA.

Adopted: November 6, 2004
 Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
 Rescinded:

SEED LAB

The BOA endorses the Seed Lab Advisory Group comprised of industry representatives to include one voting member or alternate of the Board. The recommendations of the Seed Lab Advisory Group shall be reviewed and approved or disapproved by the Board of Agriculture.

Adopted: September 23, 2004
 Reviewed/Retained: April 14, 2009
 Rescinded:

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