

WHAT IS THE IDAHO CAFE

The Idaho Café was selected to provide an opportunity for all participants to have time to talk about what matters to them with old friends and with new people. We hoped the technique would help all discover how much they shared with other Summit participants.

This technique featured small conversations among four people per table about compelling questions. After each question, participants were invited to move to a new table, allowing all to talk with folks from new and different perspectives.

Participants were invited to record on butcher paper what they shared in responding to each question before moving on. This portion of the report shares those responses to the five questions discussed during the Idaho Café.

1. What did you want to talk about when you decided to attend this summit?
2. What wildlife legacy do you want to leave for future generations?
3. In order to leave the wildlife legacy that you think is appropriate for the future, who needs to be included in the conversation?
4. How can we engage that diversity of perspectives in conversations that matter?
5. What can all of us do, individually and collectively, to benefit wildlife conservation in Idaho?

The Idaho Café produced a feast of insights – more than 1,000 statements per question. To capture these conversations and understand them, Fish and Game:

- Recorded every statement verbatim into a database. The database is available on the Fish and Game website.
- Had each statement read line-by-line by

a team of Fish and Game staff members to ensure each was understood.

- Summarized the statements in this report by themes or categories and their relative frequency in the conversation, allowing the results to shape our next steps.

To represent this statewide conversation by question, summaries are presented three ways: a “Wordle,” a bubble graphic and written summaries.

For each question we chose one or more of these mechanisms to represent what Idaho Café participants talked about. We combined visual and narrative approaches for presenting this information so those who read this report can, as much as possible, “see” and “hear” what was said during the Idaho Café.

Wordle

A Wordle (www.wordle.net) is a computer program that creates a unique visual representation, or “word cloud,” from text. We used the conversations by participants in response to each question. Every statement was entered into Wordle. The resulting image captures the conversation – the outpouring of words from every table across the state. The size of the words displayed in the Wordle is determined based on the relative frequency each was used. The larger and bolder the words, the more frequently they were mentioned. The Wordle shows visually what the conversations sounded like.

“I’m a grandpa who is concerned about youth being involved in conservation and outdoor things. They are being babysat by school sports and electronics, without parental involvement.”

Idaho Café

“Open our mouths; speak to others. Let our leaders hear our concerns.”

Bubble Graphic

Because of the diversity and complexity of responses for questions 4 and 5, we felt a Wordle alone was not enough to depict the conversations. To help capture all that was said, we grouped the responses into themes or categories for each question. We used a bubble graphic to show the relative frequency of major topics. The larger the bubbles, the more frequently the theme or category arose in the conversation. That doesn't imply certain categories are more heavily weighted or more important than others. Rather, this is simply a method of summing the thousands of statements and depicting the information in a manageable and meaningful way.

Written Summaries

The written narratives provided for each question summarize what was said during the Idaho Café conversations. The first three questions were goal-oriented, while questions 4 and 5 focus on what is needed to achieve these goals. Our narrative tries to summarize what we heard from participants in response to each question. Finally, we felt it important to share specific statements recorded during the Idaho Café. They represent the values, the ideas, and the diversity of voices of Idaho Café participants.

