

PERSONAL REFLECTION FORMS

Participants in the Idaho Café had an opportunity to provide additional comments after the session using “Personal Reflections” forms. Thirty-seven people submitted these forms throughout the state. This section presents excerpts from the forms illustrating issues and sentiments not necessarily reflected in the responses on the flip chart papers.

Question 1: “What did you want to talk about when you decided to attend this summit?”

- “Apex predators should not be managed as equal wildlife under Fish and Game policies.”
- “Ecosystem connectivity allowing migration of wildlife between Yellowstone and Washington and Oregon, etc., including bison, wolverine, and grizzly.”
- “One thought I was not able to convey during the Idaho Café was the need for sportsmen to be more supportive of the work accomplished by Fish and Game. Stop griping about Fish and Game having new pickups. Providing good equipment for personnel to do their work is not a waste of money.”
- “Take the questions asked on Friday regarding the importance of wildlife, hunting and fishing to randomly selected high schools across the state and ask them of 17- and 18-year-olds. I believe their answers will be different. Also add the question: ‘Do you hunt or fish, and why not.’ We need to understand why we are not retaining the younger generation.”
- “Fish and Game needs to centralize their efforts on consumptive use and turn nongame species over to another agency.”
- “(Constitutional amendment) HJR2 is necessary as the right to hunt, trap and fish is constantly under attack.”
- “I would be happy to eliminate trapping in Idaho.”
- “Please continue efforts to promote civil discussion and solutions for wolves.”
- “Wildlife management plans should be developed in coordination between Idaho Fish and Game and the counties and adopted by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Implementation programs should be cooperatively carried out. Agency budgets should earmark funding to carry out the programs.”
- “My group wanted decisions to be made by ‘Idahoans’ even on federal land. But my perspective is that those federal lands are supported by dollars from taxpayers nationwide. They should have a say in how their lands, which they rarely see benefit, are managed.”
- “There are egregious hunting violations committed every day of big game seasons. I want our conservation officers to concentrate on catching those real wrong-doers rather than ticketing a hunter for riding an ATV on an open trail on public lands.”
- “A fish and wildlife habitat trust fund should be established in each region. I believe many older people would contribute a percentage of their estate to an ongoing trust fund dedicated to habitat. Local regional staff should determine how funds should be spent.”
- “I came to learn about and discuss funding on public lands. Would have appreciated more

“Share science-based (not politically-based) education and public information.”

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details about current funding and information on current plans for future funding.”

- “Restore genetically native fish populations in their original waters. Modify stocking programs to enhance native fish recovery throughout the state.”
- “To express my concern about the illegal shooting of wildlife – some of which happens in conjunction of legal shooting of ground squirrels (whistle pigs) when people shoot others species. My hope is that we can gradually foster more respect for nongame species.”
- “Our hunting population is aging yet motorized access is even more restricted.”

to enter into the conservation business rather than to manage the resource by utilizing (unreadable section) as outlawed by Fish and Game’s Mission and funding sources. Somehow I have the feeling that Fish and Game doesn’t really want to listen to sportsmen but would rather play politics.”

- “Funding alternatives to perpetuate proper management of natural resources.”
- “We need to do much better in our management of reservoirs for fishing. Drastic water level changes are killers – especially for spawning.
- “Game access for handicap. (Handicapped hunters should be) able to use mechanical to retrieve.”

“How can we get the nonhunting and fishing public, especially birders and photographers, to pay to support wildlife conservation?”

Let’s examine ways to increase access for handicapped hunters and fishermen.”

- “F&G should advocate and deploy every possible strategy to see to it that every power dam and every irrigation diversion dam on the Snake River and its tributaries is equipped with a well-designed, functional fish ladder.”
- “Enforcement efforts by Fish and Game officers should be focused on preventing violations, not catching violators. I am especially offended by the presence of enforcement officers along the river posing as fishermen. Current enforcement strategy generates ill will. Officers should not carry side arms. Officers should almost always wear uniforms.”

Question 2: “What wildlife legacy do you want to leave for future generations?”

- “This whole Summit seems to be designed to lead participants towards approving Fish and Game

Question 3: “In order to leave the wildlife legacy that you think is appropriate for the future, who needs to be included in the conversation?”

- “Even though politics is involved for budgets, the Legislature should stay out of the science based management of wildlife ecosystems. The whole ecosystem is related. You can’t favor one sector over another.”
- “We need to get our K-12 students and college students better educated regarding their responsibilities as citizens to be good stewards for our land and all wild animals. Only when we have a fully informed citizenry will we truly have everyone on board.”
- “Input should come only from citizens of Idaho in regard to decisions on wildlife.”

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Question 4: “How can we engage that diversity of perspectives in conversations that matter?”

- “We must insist that our legislators show interest in and sensitivity to wildlife issues. Politics generates a great public forum and gets stuff out in the open. However, I am not advocating for more legislative micro-management of Fish and Game.”

Question 5: “What can all of us do, individually and collectively, to benefit wildlife conservation in Idaho?”

- “In the midst of a recession, what better time for an anti-tax government and an anti-tax legislature to step forward (backed by the 96 percent of Idahoans who say they support wildlife) and say ‘We are going to follow the example of the “Show-Me” state of Missouri and advocate a fractional sales tax to put wildlife management in

Idaho on a sustainable financial status. It’s time for a “Profiles in Courage” moment. Be bold!”

- “Make political candidates state their positions on wildlife conservation before elections.”
- “I had hoped we would do more brainstorming about new alternatives for funding the agency. Nor did we talk enough – or realistically enough – this weekend about balancing our wildlife legacy with human needs and desires for economic growth. People may support conservation of wildlife habitat in the abstract – until they find out that means they shouldn’t build a house/ranchette/subdivision/natural gas well, etc. wherever they want to.”
- “I am disappointed that though you want to know (per a Fish Poll question ‘How important is the preservation of threatened and endangered species?’) and thus make a show of concern for the issue. Not once during the entire session did I hear anyone specifically mention Chinook and sockeye salmon, and no one mentioned the real and obvious reason for the decline in their numbers (dams).”

