

Working Lands Coalition 2009 Strategy

IDAHO SITUATION	ACCOMPLISHMENTS	2009 OBJECTIVES	GOAL: Idaho 2030
<p>Rural Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private working lands form economic infrastructure • Rural economic sectors contribute \$6 billion/yr to Idaho's GDP from forests, farms, range, and habitat for fishing & hunting • Rural amenities attract new residents and businesses to Idaho • Growth causes market disparity in land values: real estate vs. production • Price disparity contributes to land conversion <p>Land conversion fragments private land and displaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic contribution of forests, farms and ranches • Demand for services that support private working lands • Habitat for game and non-game species • Access to public land • Water from rural to urban consumption • Property tax revenue from a net gain (\$revenue – \$cost of services) to a net loss for rural residential development • Amenities that attracted people and businesses 	<p>Idaho Working Lands Coalition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2005: Formed a partnership between landowners, sportsman groups and conservationists • Adopted a common vision for Idaho's working lands • Determined that market incentives were a tactic supported by all partners (as opposed to regulation) • Reviewed 4 categories of alternative policies • Polled voters and opinion leaders to assess support for public financing of market incentives– 2005, 2006, 2007 • Fall 2006: Announced a proposed state income tax credit at the Idaho Land Use Summit • 2007: Outreach included 3 field trips for legislators. • 2008: Committee hearing on legislation; withdrew bill • 2009: HCR 18 successful, requesting Interim Committee to gather information about working lands conversion and present findings to the legislature 	<p>Opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of land conversion impacts on rural communities and landscapes – via the Interim Committee and an outreach program to the public • Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of existing Idaho policies/programs to determine the “gap” – what is needed to retain working lands? <p>Support Interim Committee Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Committee staff to identify relevant information to assess status of working lands. • Serve as a clearinghouse for information submitted to the Interim Committee, providing access to the Committee and the public • Synthesize information sources to communicate common themes to the Committee. • Provide testimony that expresses the Coalition's case for market based financial incentives as an effective policy tool. <p>Determine feasibility of a legislative campaign for 2010.</p>	<p>The Coalition continues the collaborative effort to achieve the vision adopted by the partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural areas support forests, farms, and ranches that contribute to Idaho's economy and the vitality of local communities. • Urban areas thrive in sensible places. • Idahoans enjoy healthy wildlife populations, clean water and air, natural areas, and excellent hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation. • Good land stewardship is valued and rewarded. <p>Market based incentives are needed to achieve this vision.</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">Coalition Mission Statement</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Develop voluntary incentives to conserve and improve fish and wildlife habitat and working rural landscapes on private land. Our focus is to prevent the loss of ecologic and economic value on private land.</i></p>