

## VI. ENVIRONMENT

### **General Environment Statement 6.005**

1 The state environmental laws and rules must be built on a sound  
2 basis that recognizes the general benefit to agriculture and encourages  
3 individual enterprise. (07)

### **Economic Impact 6.010**

1 An economic impact statement should be required as part of every  
2 environmental impact statement and each should be given equal weight.  
3 The statements must allow for protection of the customs and culture of  
4 local communities. (05)

### **Resource Management 6.020**

1 No one agency should be allowed to override the evidence regarding  
2 resource management projects such as river bank revetments, channel  
3 maintenance, animal grazing, etc.

### **Environmental Program Funding 6.025**

1 The responsibility for declining populations of flora and fauna  
2 demands a broad-based public commitment and understanding that the  
3 burdens of restoration are being shared by all of society. We oppose in  
4 principal and in policy any private-sector tax used to fund environmental  
5 programs benefiting the "public good." The conservation and restoration  
6 of all species requires action and sacrifice across the entire economic  
7 and geographic spectrum of Oregon.

### **Government Accountability 6.030**

1 A state agency or local government should not refuse to issue a  
2 permit to a person applying for a permit in order to protect their property,  
3 both personal and real. Property, including, but not limited to, natural  
4 resources and irrigation access should be protected from flood, fire and  
5 other natural hazards unless denial of the permit is necessary to protect  
6 public health and safety.

7 A state agency or local government that fails to issue such a permit  
8 should be liable for damages resulting from the denial. A written  
9 explanation for the denial should be provided to the applicant within two  
10 weeks of the denial. The explanation should include specific reasons for  
11 denial.

12 Any person(s) damaged by reason of the denial of the permit should  
13 be allowed at their discretion, to bring an action in the circuit court having  
14 jurisdiction over the damaged property.

15 All approved permits should be issued within two weeks of being  
16 received. Conditions on such permits should be limited to only those that

17 are required to protect public health and safety from legitimate, science-  
18 based risks. Fees associated with approved permits, as they relate to  
19 agriculture and private property, should not be used as a revenue  
20 generation source. (05)

**Department of State Lands** **6.100**

1 OFBF appreciates the efforts of the Division of State Lands to work  
2 cooperatively with the agriculture industry on “fill and removal”.

3 OFBF favor the repeal or amendment of state laws, rules or  
4 regulations that allow the Department of State Lands to have any  
5 regulatory authority over any private property used for agricultural  
6 purposes including stream beds and banks or other lands. We oppose  
7 any new fees or fee increases on agriculture by the Division of State  
8 Lands. (03), (05), (06), (09)

**Multiple Use** **6.200**

1 We favor the multiple uses of public lands and publicly controlled or  
2 managed natural resources.

**Criminalization of Environmental Law** **6.315**

1 Environmental laws should exempt persons who conduct farming,  
2 ranching, mining, and logging activities from criminal liability. Any  
3 violation of environmental laws that do not result in demonstrated harm  
4 to public health and safety should be subject to civil liability only.

**Subsurface Property Rights** **6.320**

1 All lending institutions should discontinue the policy, during  
2 foreclosure, of retaining geothermal and other rights which were acquired  
3 lawfully by the previous landowner (title owner). Such rights should  
4 remain with, and not be severed from, the land.

**Public Lands** **6.350**

1 We support the concept of allowing private access to public lands for  
2 economic purposes. Such access should be managed by appropriate  
3 public entities to permit private interests to pursue their economic goals  
4 with only those rules and regulations absolutely required to protect the  
5 resources, as determined by a competent scientific determination. (02)

**Natural Resources Revenues** **6.400**

1 Revenues received from all natural resources on federal lands within  
2 Oregon should have a minimum of 50% returned to the county from  
3 which it was derived.

**Recreation** **6.410**

1 More attention should be given to provisions for family type  
2 recreation in undeveloped areas of federal land.

3 Fees for the use of recreation facilities should be charged where  
4 services are provided but should not be charged merely for access to  
5 undeveloped areas.

**Recreation Cooperation** **6.415**

1 We will cooperate with local, state or federal agencies and with  
2 recreation and wildlife groups to develop plans and procedures for better  
3 outdoor recreation opportunities, better utilization thereof and education  
4 in sportsman-like conduct.

**Reclamation Law** **6.420**

1 We oppose any acreage limitation on any Bureau of Reclamation  
2 project.  
3 The Bureau of Reclamation should not negotiate to divert water from  
4 irrigation to recreation use. (05)

**Withdrawn Land Transfers** **6.430**

1 We are opposed to any jurisdictional transfer of withdrawn lands  
2 between the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Land  
3 Management unless both agencies mutually agree.

**Wilderness Areas** **6.440**

1 Multiple-use is the best utilization of our federal lands; therefore, no  
2 more Oregon land should be allocated as a wilderness designation area.  
3 Those areas already designated as wilderness areas should be  
4 periodically re evaluated.

5 We oppose the study or creation of new wilderness areas and  
6 expansion of present wilderness areas.

7 Lands designated for wilderness areas should be subject to local  
8 zoning ordinances.

9 We recommend that the Wilderness Areas Act be amended to  
10 control fire, noxious weeds, insects and diseases. Where there is a fire  
11 threat to adjacent multiple use areas, the maintenance of irrigation  
12 systems, should be continued. (05)

**Stewardship** **6.450**

1 We support and encourage use of the Bureau of Land Management  
2 Stewardship Program.

**Road Access Policy** **6.455**

1 The system followed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in  
2 establishing certain roads and rights of way for the alleged purpose of  
3 access in certain agricultural areas of Oregon is not justified when  
4 considering:

- 5 1. Private property values;
- 6 2. Destruction of ranch operations;

- 7 3. Costs in relationship to benefits received;
- 8 4. Burdens of patrol imposed on ranchers whose lands are
- 9 dissected with roads and rights of way;
- 10 5. Impacts on community economy; and
- 11 6. The erosion of tax bases.

12 We ask that such road building projects be delayed until an  
13 aggrieved landowner, the community and others concerned, have an  
14 opportunity to review and arbitrate the cost, inconvenience and  
15 mechanics of the proposed access to lands.

16 We ask that the permit holder and the BLM have control of access  
17 when there is danger of fire, particularly in summer and late fall, or from  
18 one rainy season to another.

**Sale or Lease of Public Lands 6.460**

1 When the state and/or federal government put public land up for  
2 sale, or lease agreement, we believe the following conditions should be  
3 adhered to:

- 4 1. All existing contracts should be honored;
- 5 2. The first right of refusal should be given the present user, and
- 6 then to the adjacent farmers and/or ranchers;
- 7 3. A base value should be established with the means of financing
- 8 to be determined;
- 9 4. Price modification of the sale should be given to the adjacent
- 10 farmers and/ or ranchers; and
- 11 5. Government agencies are encouraged to sell lands to the private
- 12 sector that are of limited value to the public. (05), (06)

**Public/Private Land Exchange 6.465**

1 We support the voluntary exchange of public and private lands,  
2 particularly in cases where public and private land holdings are  
3 intermingled (checker-boarded), thereby complicating the access and  
4 management of both. (09)

**Land Ownership 6.466**

1 The Oregon Farm Bureau disapproves the US Federal Government  
2 from acquiring additional natural resource land in Oregon. (13)

**Climate Change/ Cap and Trade 6.500**

1 We oppose any climate change legislation that establishes a “cap  
2 and trade” system as a solution. If such legislation is proposed, then the  
3 following criteria should be included in the legislation:

- 4 • Credits for staying in production;
- 5 • Credits designed to avoid competition among commodities; and
- 6 • Credits for solar improvements, such as irrigation systems,
- 7 lighting, heating and cooling, etc.

- 8 • Credits for the carbon that producers' sequester in their  
9 operations.

10 We oppose any cap and trade program that would:

- 11 • Have one commodity compete over production agriculture;  
12 • Penalize production agriculture or timber against another  
13 commodity; and  
14 • Encourage set-aside or wetland programs for processing the  
15 fiber, food and fuel products that are needed to be economic  
16 feasible.

17 Additionally, we oppose any climate legislation or policies that  
18 increase the production and input costs for American agriculture. Carbon  
19 dioxide should not be classified as a pollutant by the United States  
20 Environmental Protection Agency.

21 We support voluntary programs and existing practices in which  
22 farmers can sell carbon credits in a free market system. (08), (10), (11),  
23 (Referred to AFBF, 11)

24 Any cap and trade law should give land resource businesses credit  
25 for the carbon that they sequester in their operations. (16)

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