



CAPITOL REVIEW

A WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

RICK WAITLEY | ROGER BATT | PATXI LARROCEA-PHILLIPS | CASSIDEY PLUM
55 SW 5TH AVENUE, SUITE 100 MERIDIAN, ID 83642 PH: 208-888-0988 FX: 208-888-4586

A Weekly Legislative Report

Vol. 25 No. 11

3/28/2025

PROGRESS REPORT

Each week we review the progress report on the bills moving through the Idaho Legislature. The report is a comparison for the past six years. This year, a record number of bills have been written – a total of 1240. Many of those bills are not going to become law and have been held in their respective committees.

After a bill has passed both bodies of the Legislature it is sent to the Governor's office for his consideration. Below is a list of the bills that have been signed into law and the date that they will become effective if it is established at this time. The following bills are ones that were on the radar for agriculture groups this session.

H82: LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION CLAIMS – Amends existing law to provide for the payment of depredation claims that are deemed possible. Effective date: 3/19/2025.

H83a: IMMIGRATION – Adds to existing law to provide for the Immigration Cooperation and Enforcement Act. This legislation has been passed by both bodies, but a lawsuit has been filed halting the implementation of the legislation.

H173: ALFALFA AND CLOVER SEED – Amends existing law to revise the composition of the commission and to increase assessments. Effective date: 7/1/2025.

H374: APPROPRIATIONS – AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION SERVICE – Relates to the appropriation to the Agricultural Research and Extension Service for fiscal year 2026. Effective date: 7/1/2025.

HJM4: GRIZZLY BEAR – States findings of the Legislature and calls upon the federal government to delist grizzly bears and review the Endangered Species Act.

HJM6: EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT – States findings of the Legislature and calls on Congress to amend the Equal Access to Justice Act.

S1012: IDAHO DEPREDATING WILDLIFE APPEALS BOARD – Amends and adds to existing law to establish the Idaho Depredating Wildlife Appeals Board and to exempt the board from open meeting requirements. Effective date: 7/1/2025.

S1013: FISH AND GAME – Amends existing law to provide for trapping education and licensing. Effective date: 7/1/2025.

S1016: BRANDS – Amends and adds to existing law to revise provisions regarding certain fees. Effective date: 7/1/2025.

S1033: RIGHT TO FARM ACT – Amends and adds to existing law to provide penalties for certain complaints filed against agricultural operations. Effective 7/1/2025.

S1041: **WATER** – Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding distributing laterals, ditches, or other conduits. Effective 7/1/2025.

S1053: **FENCES** – Amends existing law to provide for landowner responsibility for erecting and maintaining fences adjoining federal lands.

S1061: **WATER LAW** – Amends existing law regarding the director’s ability to issue orders regarding methodologies for determining material injury under the rules for conjunctive management. Effective date: 7/1/2025.

S1082: **WATER** – Amends existing law to provide that liens for irrigation district assessments have a first priority over other liens. Effective date: 7/1/2025.

S1083a: **DOMESTIC WATER USE** – Amends existing law related to domestic use of water and to provide for delivery, planning, and enforcement. Effective date: 7/1/2025.

S1150: **APPROPRIATIONS – DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE** – Relates to the appropriation to the Department of Agriculture and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission for fiscal years 2025 and 2026. Effective date: 3/19/2025 Section 2; 7/1/2025 all other Sections.

SJM101: **WATER** – States findings of the Legislature and recommends studies to identify and construct additional water storage in Idaho including the possible reconstruction of the Teton Dam.

NOTE: If you have questions on any of the bills listed and want more details, please contact one of the AMG team members and we will be pleased to take the opportunity to visit with you in greater detail.

U OF I CALS NAMES NEW DEAN

Leslie Edgar is the new J.R. Simplot Endowed Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs). Her candidacy demonstrated strong experience at land grant institutions, extensive understanding of research and teaching, and varied leadership roles at both department and college levels. She will begin at the University of Idaho on June 23.

Leslie comes to us from Washington State University, where she currently serves as the associate dean of research for the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences, and the director of the Agricultural Research Center. She spent over three years at New Mexico State University in a similar role, three years at the University of Georgia as a department head, and 11 years at the University of Arkansas, where she went through the faculty ranks and served as assistant dean for student programs.

Leslie holds a bachelor’s degree in animal science and a master’s degree in agricultural systems, technology and education, both from Utah State University, as well as a Ph.D. in agricultural leadership, education and communication from Texas A&M University.

Her research focuses on models for effective communication management strategies, as well as on human capital in agriculture. Leslie has published more

than 70 peer-reviewed journal articles, secured millions of dollars in grants and contracts, and earned numerous research and teaching awards, including the National New Teacher Award for Excellence in College and University Teaching from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Leslie grew up on a family-owned farm in Kuna and was educated at land grant institutions, which shaped her belief in their transformative impact on their communities. She and her husband raised their children in agriculture and are excited to return to Idaho.

Capitol Review is written to inform the clients of Association Management Group (Waitley Associates, Batt Associates, LP Associates & Agriculture, Plum Associates) about activities in the Idaho Legislature and, due to the proprietary nature of the publication, IS NOT for distribution to others **without attribution to AMG**.