

## 2024 Pend Oreille County Republicans

### Plank #25 – Water – Agriculture & Industry

*Revised 3/24/24*

**Pend Oreille County's greatest asset thrives on the natural and renewable resources of our rivers, forest and farmlands.** Protecting tourism opportunities, including hunting, fishing, boating and other recreational opportunities in a symbiotic relationship with our agricultural production, timber harvesting and mining is essential to protecting our tax base and manageable growth to preserve the beauty and value of life in our county.

#### **We believe;**

1. Respect for all existing irrigation and water rights, including allocations of water supply from the Pend Oreille River system, or ground water tables is essential to remain untouched to sustain the future of our farms and ranch lands.
2. Our land owners are the primary stakeholders and should always be granted the majority voice with regard to legislation or regulation affecting their property rights and any surface waters passing over them.
3. The department of Fish and Wildlife answers to the land owners with regard to preserving both natural and fish hatchery production of gene stocks for indigenous fish promoting conservation and harvest.
4. Predator management must be with preference to the land owner to avoid preventable damage to crops, livestock, fences and equipment as well as human encroachment.
5. Groundwater Permit Exemption, RCW 90.040.050, should be enforced as written into state law, allowing domestic use for single family dwelling without requiring a State or County Water Right Permit.

#### **We oppose;**

1. Destruction of designated agricultural and forest lands.
2. Any and all bureaucrat rules ((WACs) that seek to change, hamper, or alter the original intent of Washington State land and water use laws (RCWs).
3. Redirecting surface flows of any year-round lake, stream, or river.
4. The designation of any water ditch created and directed by a roadway as a wet land or part of a protected river system.
5. The transfer or sale of water rights to the Native Tribes and out of state buyer by the State of Washington.

*(2024 POCR Platform Plank #25 cont.)*

**We Strongly Support;**

1. The Federal Government returning the management of our public lands to the state as promised in their Enabling Act, excluding existing National Parks, congressionally designated Wilderness Areas, tribal reservations lands, and military installations.
2. Until Federal Forest lands are transferred to the states, a majority share of the existing timber sales revenues be directed to the counties in which the forest are harvested.