



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER

11TH ANNUAL IDAHO PUBLIC POLICY SURVEY

J. E. Gonzalez, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR

Bob Narus and David Nielson
GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

May, 2000

11TH ANNUAL IDAHO PUBLIC POLICY SURVEY
May, 2000

Copyright © 2000 by the Social Science Research Center, College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, Boise State University. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transcribed, in any form by any means—electronic, mechanical, recording, photocopying, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the publisher.

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

1910 UNIVERSITY DRIVE
BOISE, ID 83725
208.426-1835

Jane C. Ollenburger, Ph.D.
DEAN, COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

J. E. Gonzalez, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR, SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER

Bob Narus and David Nielson
GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER

11TH ANNUAL IDAHO PUBLIC POLICY SURVEY

J. E. Gonzalez, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR

Bob Narus and David Nielson
GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

May, 2000

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 11th Annual Public Policy Study was conducted by the Social Science Research Center (SSRC), College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs at Boise State University (BSU). The SSRC wishes to thank Dr. Jane Ollenburger, Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs for her support of the SSRC. In recent years, this study was conducted by the Center for Public Policy and Administration. This year, the SSRC acknowledges the oversight efforts of: Dr. David Patton, Director of the Center for Public Policy and Administration, College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs; and Dr. James B. Weatherby, Chair, Public Policy and Administration Department, College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs. The SSRC also acknowledges the effort of Ms. Barbara Schnabel, Survey Manager, Social Science Research Unit (SSRU), College of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, University of Idaho. Under contract with the SSRC, the SSRU collected survey data from Idaho citizens utilizing their Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system. The SSRC also wishes to thank the Department of Parks and Recreation, the State Division of Vocational Education, and BSU's Department of Public Policy and Administration for their participation in this study and their sponsorship of questions on a cost-recovery basis.

12TH ANNUAL SURVEY

To purchase additional copies of this report, to request specialized analyses, or to obtain information on participating in the 12th Annual Public Policy Survey, please refer to the INFORMATION REQUEST FORM on the last page of this report.

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
Acknowledgements.....	
12 th Annual Survey	
Executive Summary	1
Summary of Core Questions	2
Summary Profile of Respondents	2
Introduction	3
Methodology	3
Core Questions	
Important Issues Facing Idaho	5
Quality of Life in Idaho	6
Expectations for the Future	7
Perceptions of Government and Opinions on Taxation	8
Funding Levels for Programs and Services in Idaho	10
Special Interest Questions	
Sources of Information and Influence on Policy Issues	11
Vocational Education Items	12
Regional Comparisons	13-16
Parks and Recreation Items	17
Regional Comparisons	18
Breaching the Lower Snake River Dams	19
Regional Comparisons	20
Appendix 1: Demographic Summary Tables	21-24
Appendix 2: Institutional Review Board Approval	25-26
Information Request Form	27

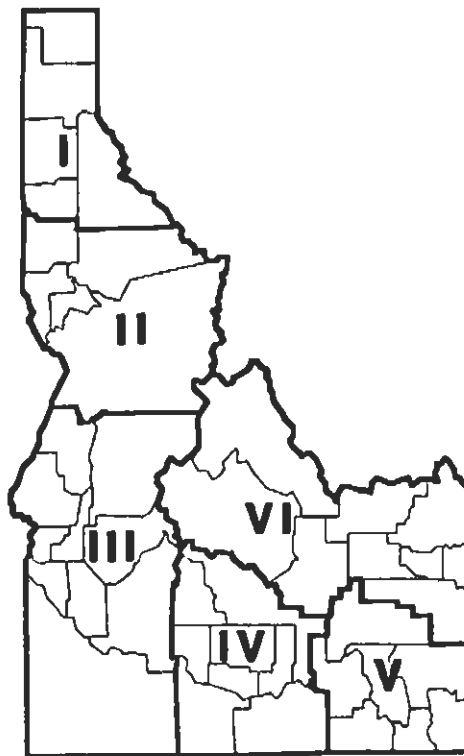
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The sample of Idahoans used in this study consisted of 1,300 households. Of these households; 1,079 were found to be viable and responses to the telephone-based survey were obtained from 720 adults over the age of eighteen. The adjusted response rate for the 11th Annual Idaho Public Policy Survey is 66.7%. The estimated standard error of measurement for this survey is: ± 3.7 percent at a 95% confidence level.

In addition to a statewide representation, valid responses were obtained from Idahoans in proportions that allow comparisons across six geographic regions of the State. The counties in the six regions are listed in Figure 1A below and are depicted in a county-level base map in Figure 1B.

Figure 1A**Geographic Region****List of Counties within Region**

1—Panhandle	Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, Shoshone
2—North Central	Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis, Idaho
3—Southwest	Adams, Valley, Washington, Payette, Gem, Boise, Canyon, Ada, Elmore, Owyhee
4—South Central	Camas, Blaine, Gooding, Lincoln, Minidoka, Jerome, Twin Falls, Cassia
5—Southeast	Bingham, Power, Bannock, Oneida, Franklin, Bear Lodge, Caribou
6—East Central	Lemhi, Custer, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bonneville

Figure 1B**County Map of Idaho with Regional Boundaries**

SUMMARY OF CORE QUESTIONS

In response to the first of the five core questions asked in this year's survey, the most important issues facing Idaho (rank-ordered by percent) included: education, politics, growth, wages, and the environment. Almost all respondents indicated a high-level of satisfaction with the quality of their life in Idaho. However, in equal percentages, just as many respondents indicated that life would get easier for them as those that indicated that they expected life would get more difficult for them. By-and-large, Idahoans have the most trust and confidence in local government; and they feel that local government best responds to their needs. In equal numbers, respondents felt that they got the most from state and local taxes; but a large percent of respondents indicated that the federal government imposed the least fair taxes. Lastly, in regards the core questions, respondents indicated that funding levels should be increased (rank-ordered by percent) for: public education, highways, senior citizen programs, health services to the uninsured, and colleges and universities.

SUMMARY PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

The majority of survey respondents (94%) were white, non-Hispanic; and respondents were approximately equally distributed by gender. The range in age for respondents was 18 to 92 years with a median age of: 48. Seventy-two percent of respondents were married; slightly more than one-half of households (53%) had an annual income less than \$40,000.

Seventy percent of respondents had received some education beyond high school; and close to one-half of respondents were employed full time (48%). Of those not employed; the majority were retired (63%), homemakers (16%), or students (7%).

Forty-three percent of respondents were lifetime Idaho residents. Of those that moved to Idaho, close to one-third of respondents (32%) indicated they moved here for employment; and an additional 22% moved here for the quality of life. Approximately one-third of respondents (31%) left Idaho for a period of time, but returned—because of the quality of life (40%) or employment (20%).

Forty-one percent of respondents identified themselves as Republican, compared to Democrats (22%) and Independents (25%). Fifty percent of respondents considered themselves to be at least somewhat conservative; while 14% described themselves to be at least somewhat liberal.

For more detail, please see Demographic Summary Tables in [Appendix 1](#).

INTRODUCTION

The Social Science Research Center (SSRC) is housed in the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs. The Idaho State Board of Education has designated public affairs as a primary emphasis area for Boise State University. The SSRC contributes to this aspect of the mission of the university and of the college, by conducting the Policy Survey on an annual basis.

The Policy Survey attempts to identify public policy issues that are of concern to Idaho citizens. This report is the primary vehicle for dissemination of public policy concerns to the State Legislature, state agencies, and to the public at large.

Since its inception in 1990, a set of questions referred to as “core questions” have been asked each year. Responses to these core questions on the: quality of life in Idaho; problems facing Idaho; perceptions, trust and confidence in government and taxing entities; and perceptions on funding-levels for programs and services—are important indicators of changes in attitudes and opinions of the citizens of Idaho.

This year the State Department of Parks and Recreation, the State Division of Vocational Education, and BSU’s Department of Public Policy and Administration sponsored questions that were of interest to each respective organization. Also this year, two additional questions asked Idaho citizens their source of information and influence on their opinions on public policy concerns.

METHODOLOGY

The SSRC developed the technical specifications, research protocols, and the questionnaire for the use in this policy study. Please see Appendix 2, for Institutional Review Board approval for use of human subjects in research. Under contract with Boise State University, the Social Science Research Unit (SSRU), College of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, at the University of Idaho conducted the data collection activity on this project. The SSRU utilized their Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) system to collect survey data from a sample of Idahoans, over the age of eighteen.

The SSRU obtained a random sample of 1,300 Idaho households from Survey Sampling, Inc. a research center in Connecticut. A pre-survey postcard was sent by the SSRU to each household announcing that they would soon be contacted by telephone and asked to participate in the Policy Survey.

Two hundred and twenty-one (221) households were removed from the sample due to: non-deliverable addresses (no forwarding addresses) and disconnected telephones (no new listings). Also, individuals that were non-Idaho residents, or those individuals that were developmentally disabled and unable to respond to the survey via telephone were eliminated from the sample. Of the remaining 1,079 households, usable surveys were obtained from 720 households.

The survey was conducted in the early months of 2000. Telephone interviewing began January 19th and continued through February 29th.

The SSRU used 1990 U.S. Census data to weight survey responses by the corresponding population in each region. A comparison of weighted and non-weighted responses to each survey question was conducted, and the resulting variation for each question was within one percentage point. Although it can be argued that U.S. Census figures are dated and that perhaps Current Population Studies (CPS) estimates would be more appropriate; in either case a certain degree of error is introduced into calculations using such data. The SSRC concurs with the methods and preliminary estimates that were produced by the SSRU. The SSRC conducted its own analyses and findings presented in this report are based non-weighted responses.

CORE QUESTIONS

- Important Issues Facing Idaho
- Quality of Life in Idaho
- Expectations for the Future
- Perceptions of Government and Opinions on Taxation
- Funding Levels for Programs and Services in Idaho

SPECIAL INTEREST QUESTIONS

- Sources of Information and Influence on Policy Issues
- Vocational Education Issues
- Parks and Recreation Issues
- Breaching the Lower Snake River Dams

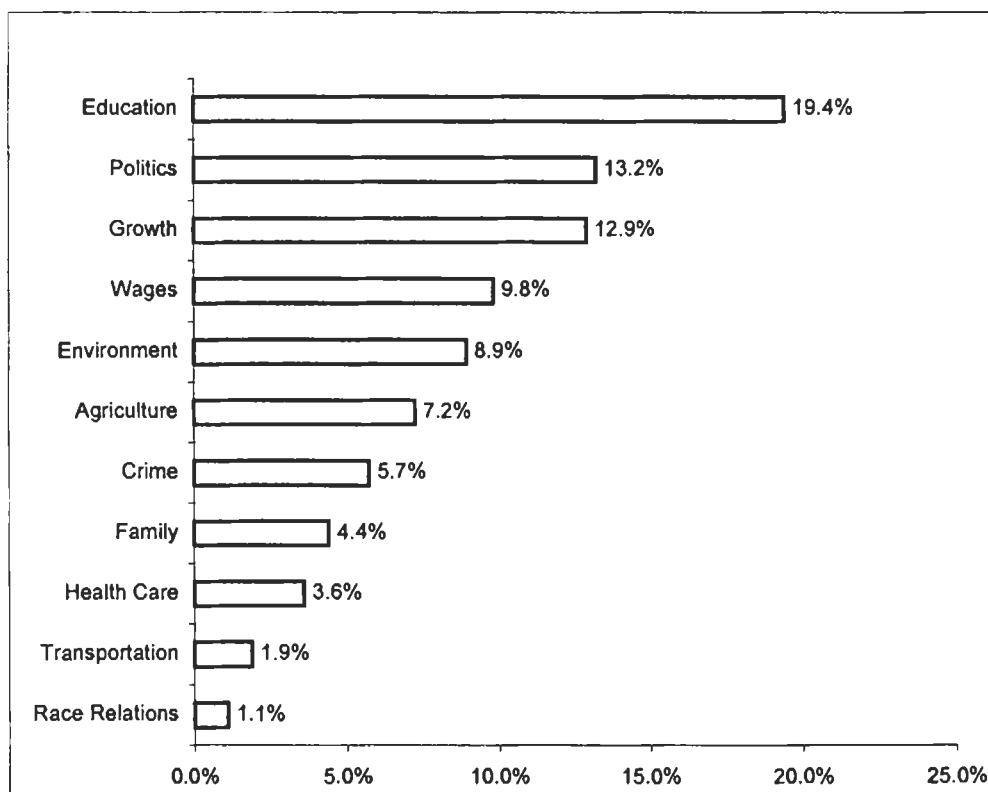
CORE QUESTIONS

IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING IDAHO

One of the core questions asked in each of the previous years of the Policy Survey is simply: “What is the most important issue facing Idaho?”

In the present study, open-ended responses to this question, easily fell into eleven discrete categories which are presented in Figure 2A in rank-order by percentage¹. The top five issues include: education, politics, growth, wages, and the environment. For each of the top five issues; randomly selected responses follow. Education: “our schools are falling apart and teachers and underpaid;” or “not enough money from the lottery goes to education.” Politics: “one party government;” or “lack of representation.” Growth: “uncontrolled growth and development;” or “growth and air quality.” Wages: “low wages are a big problem;” or “minimum wage for everyone.” Environment: “air quality;” “water quality;” or “environmental degradation.”

Figure 2A
The Most Important Issues Facing Idaho



¹Verbatim responses are available upon request.

In 1990, the first year of the Policy Survey, education and the economy were ranked as the most important problems facing the state; followed by the environment, drugs, and taxes. The nature of the question does not lend itself to year-by-year comparisons; however, the identified categories of important issues facing Idaho seem to remain consistent over time.

Except for 1990 when drugs were mentioned; 1996 and 1998 when crime was mentioned; and 1999 when politics were mentioned; over time, the themes that repeat over time are as follows: education, growth, the economy, the environment, and taxes. Figure 2B, outlines the most important issues facing Idaho from 1990 to the present.

Figure 2B
The Most Important Issues Facing Idaho: 1990-present

Rank	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
1	Educ	Educ	Environ	Econ	Growth	Growth	Growth	Growth	Growth	Educ
2	Econ	Environ	Econ	Educ	Econ	Educ	Educ	Educ	Educ	Politics
3	Environ	Econ	Educ	Environ	Educ	Econ	Econ	Taxes	Environ	Growth
4	Drugs	Taxes	Taxes	Growth	Environ	Taxes	Crime	Econ	Taxes	Econ
5	Taxes			Taxes	Taxes	Environ	Taxes	Environ	Crime	Environ

QUALITY OF LIFE IN IDAHO

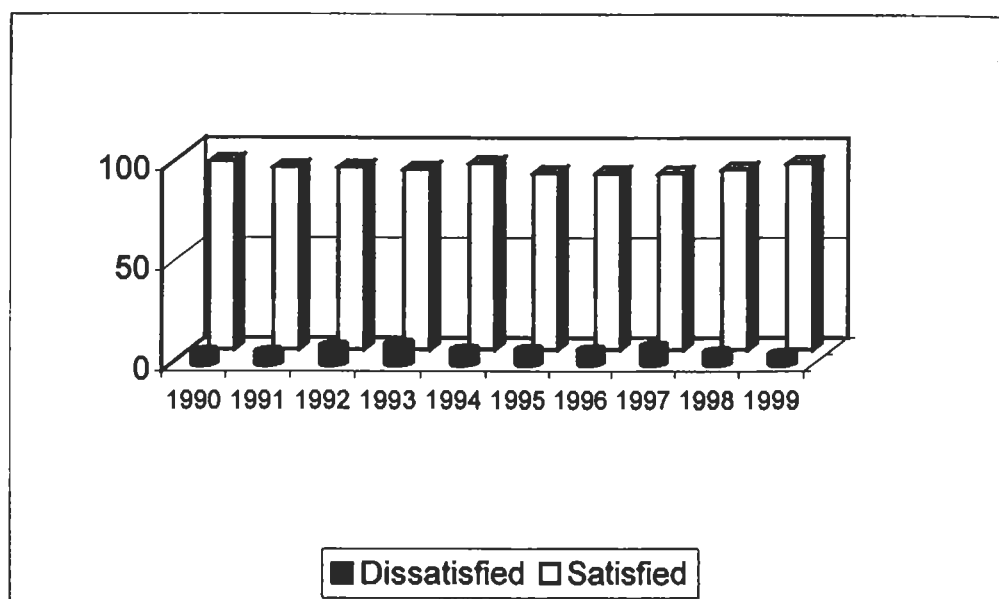
Respondents indicated a high-level of satisfaction with the quality of their life in Idaho. Figure 3A shows that close to all respondents (93%) indicated that they were at least somewhat or highly satisfied with the quality of life in Idaho.

Figure 3A
Level of Satisfaction with Quality of Life in Idaho

	N	Pct.
Highly Satisfied		
Somewhat Satisfied		
Neither		
Somewhat Dissatisfied		
Highly Dissatisfied		
Total		

Similarly, in 1990, 94% of respondents indicated that they were at least somewhat satisfied or highly satisfied with the quality of their life in Idaho. A high degree of satisfaction with the quality of life in Idaho seems to be consistent over time. Figure 3B shows a ten-year trend in satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the quality of life in Idaho for the previous ten years of the Policy Survey.

Figure 3B
Comparison of Satisfaction and Dissatisfaction with the Quality of Life: 1990-present



EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

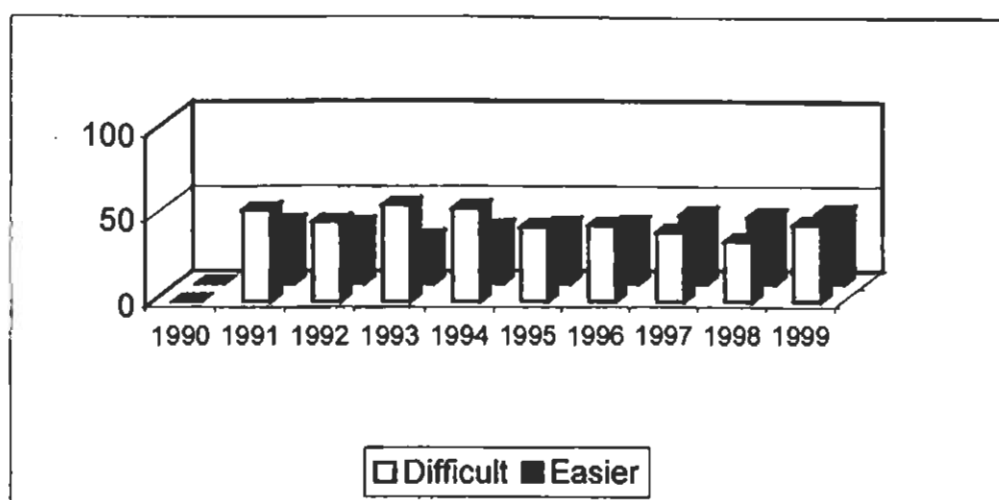
Respondents indicated a high-level of expectation that life in Idaho would get easier for them in the future. Figure 4A shows that more than one-third of respondents (43%) indicated that life would be at least somewhat or much easier for them in the future. However, 42% of respondents also indicated that life would be at least somewhat or much more difficult for them in the future.

Figure 4A
Expectations that Life will get Easier or More Difficult in the Future

	N	Pct.
Much Easier	69	9.6
Somewhat Easier	242	33.7
Neither	106	14.7
Somewhat More Difficult	254	35.3
Much More Difficult	48	6.7
Total	719	100.0

In 1991, the first year that this question was asked in the Policy Survey, 36% of respondents indicated that life would at least be somewhat easier for them; while 54% of respondents indicated that life would be at least somewhat difficult for them. Figure 4B shows a nine-year trend in expectations for the degree of difficulty in respondent's lives.

Figure 4B
Comparison of Life being Easier or Harder: 1990-present



**PERCEPTIONS OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT; INCLUDING
 OPINIONS ON TAXATION**

Respondents indicated that they had the most trust and confidence in local government (48%); that local government responded best to their needs (47%); that they got the most from state (37%) and local tax money (34%); and that federal income taxes were found to be the least fair (60%). Figure 5A shows responses to these items.

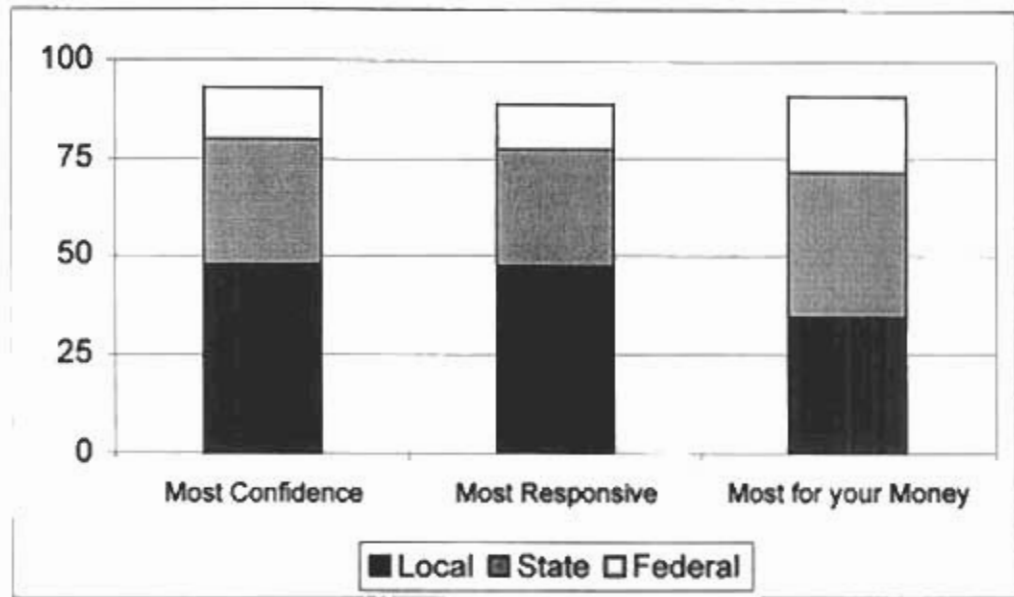
Figure 5A
Perceptions of Trust and Confidence in Government and Opinions on Taxation

	Federal	State*	Local	All	None	Total
Level of government in which you have the most trust and confidence						
Level of government which best responds to your needs	77 11.5	203 30.2	318 47.3	51 7.6	23 3.4	672 100.0
Level of government that you get the most for your tax money	127 19.5	242 37.2	224 34.4	37 5.7	21 3.2	651 100.0
Level of government of which taxes are least fair?	419 59.7	155* 22.1*	52 7.4	49 7.0	27 3.8	702 100.0

On this item: state income tax (N=75; 10.7%), and state sales tax (N=80; 11.4%) were combined for presentation purposes only.

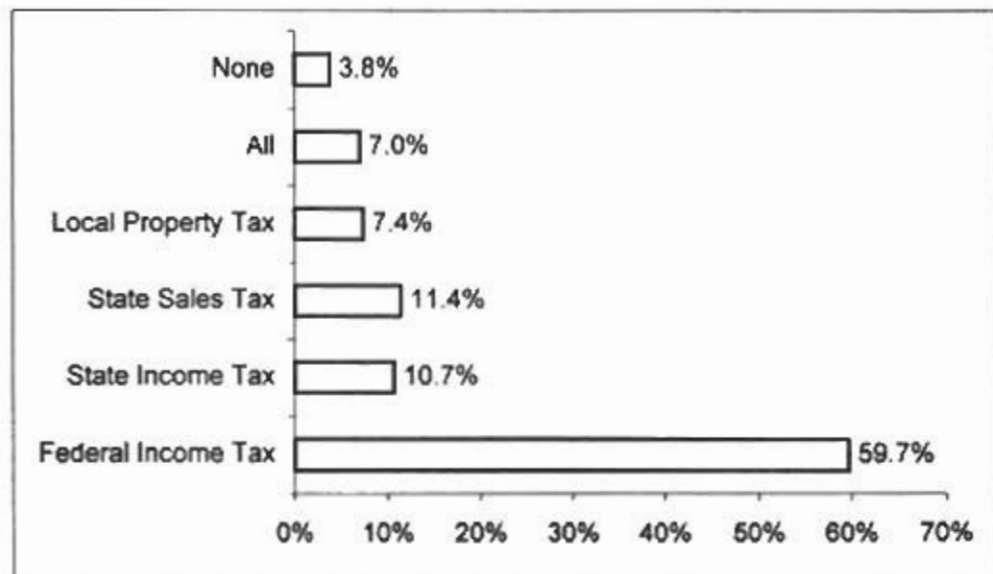
Figure 5B below, is a poignant representation of responses on level of confidence and responsiveness, by level of government.

Figure 5B
Perceptions of Confidence and Responsiveness by Level of Government



In order to differentiate respondent's opinions on the level of government taxation that is least fair, this question is presented separately in [Figure 5C](#) below.

Figure 5C
Perceptions of Level of Government Taxation that is the Least Fair



FUNDING LEVELS FOR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Respondents were asked to indicate whether the level of funding for programs and services in Idaho should be increased (Incr.), decreased (Decr.), or left at the same level. A large number of respondents ($\approx 50\%$) indicated that funding should be increased for public education; highways, roads, and bridges; senior citizen programs; health services to the uninsured; and colleges and universities. See Figure 6A for rank-ordered responses to funding levels for programs and services.

Figure 6A
Funding Levels for Programs and Services in Idaho

	Incr.	Same	Decr.	D/K	Total
Public Education (K-12)	536 74.4	150 20.8	13 1.8	21 2.9	720 100.
Highways, Roads, and Bridges	385 53.5	305 42.4	16 2.2	14 1.9	720 100.0
Senior Citizen Programs	382 53.1	258 35.8	14 1.9	66 9.2	720 100.0
Health Services to the Uninsured	360 50.0	267 37.1	30 4.2	63 8.8	720 100.0
Colleges and Universities	342 47.5	279 38.8	31 4.3	68 9.4	720 100.0
Jails and Prisons	169 23.5	383 53.2	116 16.1	52 7.2	720 100.0
Economic Development	228 31.7	356 49.4	77 10.7	59 8.2	720 100.0
Law Enforcement	314 43.6	348 48.3	32 4.4	26 3.6	720 100.0
Aid to Low Income Families	244 33.9	337 46.8	75 10.4	64 8.9	720 100.0
Environmental Protection	213 29.6	330 45.8	142 19.7	35 4.9	720 100.0

In relative terms, approximately one-half of respondents also indicated that funding levels should stay the same for jails and prisons; economic development; law enforcement; aid to low income families; and environmental protection. These responses are reflected in the second column of Figure 6A above, marked "Same."

When compared to last year's Policy Survey, Figure 6B below, shows percent differences in responses to funding-levels for programs and services.

Figure 6B
Comparison of Funding Levels for Programs and Services: 1999-present

	1999	Present	Pct. Change
Senior Citizen Programs	47.0	53.1	+ 6.1
Health Services to the Uninsured	47.4	50.0	+ 2.6
Economic Development	30.0	31.7	+ 1.7
Public Education (K-12)	73.0	74.4	+ 1.4
Law Enforcement	43.0	43.6	+ 0.6
Aid to Low Income Families	33.5	33.9	+ 0.4
Colleges and Universities	52.0	47.5	- 4.5
Environmental Protection	33.3	29.6	- 3.7
Highways, Roads, and Bridges	55.8	53.5	- 2.3
Jails and Prisons	24.5	23.5	- 1.0

SPECIAL INTEREST QUESTIONS

SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND INFLUENCE ON POLICY ISSUES

Respondents indicated that the single source of information that influenced their opinions on the most important problems facing Idaho today was the news media (80%). To a lesser degree friends (14%) and family (8%) were also sources of information that influenced opinions on policy issues.

Respondents also indicated that the sources of influence on their opinions included; the news media (29%), family (15%), and friends (12%).

Figure 7A below compares sources of information and influence on opinions.

Figure 7A
Information and Sources that Influence your Opinions on the Most Important Problems Facing Idaho Today

	Information Sources		Sources of Influence	
	N	Pct. Within Response	N	Pct. Within Response
News Media	579	80.4	212	29.4
Friends	102	14.2	87	12.1
Family	58	8.1	110	15.3
Internet	46	6.4	11	1.5
School (Teachers)	40	5.6	22	3.1
Elected officials	28	3.9	32	4.4
Church	21	2.9	18	2.5
Other	110	15.3	224	31.1

OPINIONS ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION ISSUES
SPONSORED BY THE STATE DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

The large majority of respondents ($\geq 75\%$) indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed with six questions relating to increased opportunities and access to vocational education programs in Idaho. Perhaps surprisingly, 52% of respondents also indicated that they would be interested in accessing an education over the Internet. Please see [Figure 8A](#) for responses to these seven questions. [Figure 8B](#) shows that one-third of respondents will need training to maintain and/or obtain new employment within the next twelve months.

Figure 8A
Statewide Responses to Seven Vocational Education Items on Opportunities and Access

Statewide Totals	SA	A	N	D	SD	TOT
Idahoans need more one and two year technical college programs designed to prepare people for an occupation	198 28.3	368 52.6	57 8.2	68 9.7	8 1.1	699 100.0
Idahoans need more access to one and two year technical college programs offered during evenings and weekends	209 30.0	386 55.4	55 7.9	45 6.5	2 .3	697 100.0
More career exploration opportunities should be made available to students in middle and junior high schools	211 30.1	242 48.8	45 6.4	93 13.3	10 1.4	701 100.0
Idaho leaders of business and industry should be actively involved in identifying programs and curriculum for technical colleges	187 26.8	430 61.5	39 5.6	40 5.7	3 .4	699 100.0
The cost of a technical education is reasonable	59 10.3	340 59.3	75 13.1	87 15.2	12 2.1	573 100.0
More opportunities should be provided to Idaho high school students to obtain career-specific courses while in high school	264 37.4	327 46.4	39 5.5	69 9.8	6 .9	705 100.0
Interested in accessing an education over the Internet	98 14.3	259 37.8	40 5.8	234 34.1	55 8.0	686 100.0

Figure 8B
Need for Vocational Education Training in the Next Twelve Months

	N	Pct.
To maintain current employment	106	15.0
To obtain new employment	41	5.8
To maintain current and obtain new	90	12.7
Do not need	469	66.4
Total	706	100.0

Regional comparisons for these eight Vocational Education questions follow.

Figure 8.1

Idahoans need more one and two year technical college programs designed to prepare people for an occupation

Regional Comparison	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tot.
Strongly Agree	20 32.2%	13 32.3%	91 30.5%	22 25.9%	23 22.8%	29 30.5%	198 28.3%
Somewhat Agree	32 51.6%	31 53.4%	153 51.3%	51 60.0%	58 57.4%	43 45.3%	368 52.6%
Neutral	4 6.5%	5 8.6%	22 7.4%	5 5.9%	9 8.9%	12 12.6%	57 8.2%
Somewhat Disagree	6 9.7%	5 8.6%	31 10.4%	6 7.1%	10 9.9%	10 10.5%	68 9.7%
Strongly Disagree	0 0.0%	4 6.9%	0 0.3%	1 1.2%	1 .0%	1 1.1%	8 1.1%
Totals	62 100.0	58 100.0	298 100.0	85 100.0	101 100.0	95 100.0	699 100.0

In Figure 8.1 above, when compared to statewide responses, there is a slight variation in Region 4 where 86% of respondents agreed with this statement compared to 81% for the State. When compared to statewide responses on this question, the least amount of agreement was found in Region 6 with 76%. In Figure 8.2 below, when compared to statewide responses, there is a slight variation in Region 1 where 90% of respondents agreed with this statement compared to 85% for the State. When compared to statewide responses on this question, the least amount of agreement was found in Region 6 with 80%.

Figure 8.2

Idahoans need more access to one and two year technical college programs offered during evenings and weekends

Regional Comparison	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tot.
Strongly Agree	23 37.1%	13 22.4%	99 33.1%	18 21.7%	28 28.0%	28 29.5%	209 30.0%
Somewhat Agree	33 53.2%	36 62.1%	157 52.5%	52 62.7%	60 60.0%	48 50.5%	386 55.4%
Neutral	1 1.6%	6 10.3%	26 8.7%	6 7.2%	7 7.0%	9 9.5%	55 7.9%
Somewhat Disagree	4 6.5%	2 3.4%	17 5.7%	7 8.4%	5 5.0%	10 10.5%	45 6.5%
Strongly Disagree	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	2 0.3%
Totals	62 100.0	58 100.0	299 100.0	83 100.0	100 100.0	95 100.0	697 100.0

Figure 8.3
More career exploration opportunities should be made available to students in middle and junior high schools

Regional Comparison	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tot.
Strongly Agree	25 41.7%	12 20.7%	104 34.3%	18 21.4%	25 24.8%	27 28.4%	211 30.1%
Somewhat Agree	27 45.0%	35 60.3%	127 41.9%	48 57.1%	51 50.5%	54 56.8%	342 48.8%
Neutral	1 .7%	1 .7%	24 7.9%	5 6.0%	7 6.9%	7 7.4%	45 6.4%
Somewhat Disagree	7 11.7%	7 12.1%	43 14.2%	11 13.1%	18 17.8%	7 7.4%	93 13.3%
Strongly Disagree	0 0.0%	3 5.2%	5 1.7%	2 2.4%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	10 1.4%
	60 100.0	58 100.0	303 100.0	84 100.0	101 100.0	95 100.0	701 100.0

In Figure 8.3 above, when compared to statewide responses, there is a slight variation in Region 1 where 87% of respondents agreed with this statement compared to 79% for the State. When compared to statewide responses on this question, the least amount of agreement in Region 5 with 75%. In Figure 8.4 below, when compared to statewide responses, there is a slight variation in Regions 4 and 5 where 92% of respondents agreed with this statement compared to 88% for the State. When compared to statewide responses on this question, the least amount of agreement was found in Region 2 with 83%.

Figure 8.4
Idaho leaders of business and industry should be actively involved in identifying programs and curriculum for technical colleges

Regional Comparison	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tot.
Strongly Agree	15 23.4%	12 20.7%	91 30.0%	18 20.9%	25 26.0%	26 28.3%	187 26.8%
Somewhat Agree	39 60.9%	36 62.1%	175 57.8%	61 70.9%	63 65.6%	56 60.9%	430 61.5%
Neutral	4 6.3%	5 8.6%	19 6.3%	2 2.3%	6 6.3%	3 3.3%	39 5.6%
Somewhat Disagree	6 9.4%	5 8.6%	16 5.3%	5 5.8%	2 2.1%	6 6.5%	40 5.7%
Strongly Disagree	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	2 0.7%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 .1%	3 0.4%
	64 100.0	58 100.0	303 100.0	86 100.0	96 100.0	92 100.0	699 100.0

Figure 8.5
The cost of a technical education is reasonable

Regional Comparison	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tot.
Strongly Agree	7 14.6%	4 8.7%	24 9.9%	6 9.0%	8 8.9%	10 12.5%	59 10.3%
Somewhat Agree	26 54.2%	28 60.9%	132 54.5%	41 61.2%	57 63.3%	56 70.0%	340 59.3%
Neutral	8 16.7%	4 8.7%	36 14.9%	6 9.0%	13 14.4%	8 10.0%	75 13.1%
Somewhat Disagree	7 14.6%	9 19.6%	43 17.8%	12 17.9%	10 11.1%	6 7.5%	87 15.2%
Strongly Disagree	0 0.0%	0 2.2%	7 2.9%	2 3.0%	2 2.2%	0 0.0%	12 2.1%
Totals	48 100.0	46 100.0	242 100.0	67 100.0	90 100.0	80 100.0	573 100.0

In [Figure 8.5](#) above, when compared to statewide responses, there is a slight variation in Region 6 where 83% of respondents agreed with this statement compared to 70% for the State. When compared to statewide responses on this question, the least amount of agreement was in Region 3 with 64%. In [Figure 8.6](#) below, when compared to statewide responses, there is a slight variation in Region 2 where 91% of respondents agreed with this statement compared to 84% for the State. When compared to statewide responses on this question, the least amount of agreement was found in Regions 3 and 6 with 81%.

Figure 8.6
More opportunities should be provided to Idaho high school students to obtain career-specific courses while in high school

Regional Comparison	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tot.
Strongly Agree	27 42.9	19 33.3	118 38.6	26 31.0	39 38.6	33 37.2	264 37.4
Somewhat Agree	28 44.4	33 57.9	129 42.2	48 57.1	48 47.5	41 43.6	327 46.4
Neutral	4 6.3	3 5.3	16 5.2	3 3.6	6 5.9	7 7.4	39 5.5
Somewhat Disagree	4 6.3	2 3.5	41 13.4	5 6.0	7 6.9	10 10.6	69 9.8
Strongly Disagree	0 0.0	0 0.0	2 0.7	2 2.4	1 .0	1 1.1	6 0.9
Totals	63 100.0	57 100.0	306 100.0	84 100.0	101 100.0	94 100.0	705 100.0

Figure 8.7
Interested in accessing an education over the Internet

Regional Comparison	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tot.
Strongly Agree	10 16.4	4 7.0	83 78.0	7 8.4	12 12.2	12 13.0	98 14.3
Somewhat Agree	24 39.3	18 31.6	104 35.3	33 39.8	39 39.8	41 44.6	259 37.8
Neutral	1.6	4 7.0	20 6.8	7 8.4	4 4.1	4 4.3	40 5.8
Somewhat Disagree	22 36.1	28 49.1	93 31.5	28 33.7	34 34.7	29 31.5	234 34.1
Strongly Disagree	4 6.6	3 5.3	25 8.5	8 9.6	9 9.2	6 6.5	55 8.0
Totals	61 100.0	57 100.0	295 100.0	83 100.0	98 100.0	92 100.0	686 100.0

In Figure 8.7 above, when compared to statewide responses, there is a slight variation in Region 3 where 73% of respondents agreed with this statement compared to 52% for the State. When compared to statewide responses on this question, the least amount of agreement was in Region 2 with 39%.

In Figure 8.8 below, variations (highest and lowest scores) in regional opinions compared to statewide responses are highlighted.

Figure 8.8
Need for Vocational Education training in the next twelve months

Regional Comparison	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tot.
To Maintain Current Employment	7 11.3	7 11.9	50 16.4	12 14.1	14 14.0	16 16.7	106 15.0
To Obtain New Employment	3 4.8	4 6.8	18 5.9	5 5.9	4 4.0	7 7.3	41 5.8
To Maintain Current Employment and Obtain New Employment	6 9.7	3 5.1	39 12.8	14 16.5	14 14.0	14 14.6	90 12.7
Do Not Need	46 74.2	45 76.3	197 64.8	54 63.5	68 68.0	59 61.5	469 66.4
Totals	62 100.0	59 100.0	304 100.0	85 100.0	100 100.0	96 100.0	706 100.0

OPINIONS ON PARKS AND RECREATION ISSUES
SPONSORED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

The majority of respondents (89.9%) indicated that learning about Idaho's resources is best done hands-on and outdoors. Two-thirds of respondents (66.8%) indicated that park fees should be based on usage. See [Figure 9A](#).

Figure 9A
Statewide Responses to Parks and Recreation Items

Statewide Totals	SA	A	N	D	SD	TOT
Learning about Idaho's resources is best done in a natural setting where students can participate in hands-on projects	196 27.6	62.3				
People who use state parks should pay fees based on how much they use the parks	114 16.1	360 50.7	41 5.8	140 19.7	55 7.7	710 100.0

A regional comparison of the first question on "learning" showed no significant regional differences; however, there was some regional variation in responses to the second question on "use-based fees." That information is presented graphically in [Figure 9B](#). Regional comparisons on these two items are found in numerical form in [Figure 9.1](#) and [Figure 9.2](#) on the next page.

Figure 9B
Regional Comparison on Agreement/Disagreement on Use-Based Fees for State Parks

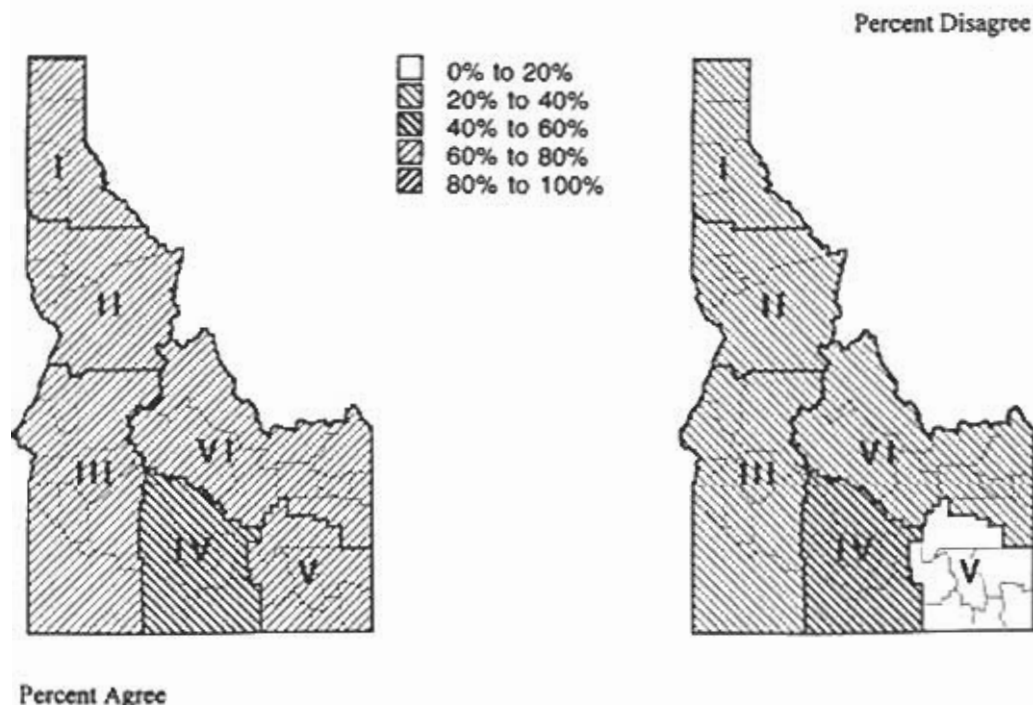


Figure 9.1

Learning about Idaho's resources is best done in a natural setting where students can participate in hands-on projects

Regional Comparison	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tot.
Strongly Agree	11 17.5	17 29.3	98 32.2	21 23.9	22 21.8	27 27.8	196 27.6
Somewhat Agree	49 77.8	32 56.1	175 57.6	56 63.6	68 67.3	62 63.9	442 62.3
Neutral	1.6	4 7.0	14 4.6	4 4.5	5 5.0	4 4.	32 4.5
Somewhat Disagree	2 3.2	4 7.0	15 4.9	7 8.0	4 4.0	4 4.	36 5.1
Strongly Disagree	0 0.0	0 0.0	2 0.7	0 0.0	2 2.0	0 0.0	4 0.6
	63 100.0	57 100.0	304 100.0	88 100.0	101 100.0	97 100.0	710 100.0

In Figure 9.1 above, when compared to statewide responses, there is a slight variation in Region 1 where 95% of respondents agreed with this statement compared to 90% for the State. When compared to statewide responses on this question, the least amount of agreement was in Region 2 with 86%. In Figure 9.2 below, when compared to statewide responses, there is a slight variation in Region 5 where 78% of respondents agreed with this statement compared to 67% for the State. When compared to statewide responses on this question, the least amount of agreement was found in Region 4 with 47%.

Figure 9.2

People who use state parks should pay fees based on how much they use the parks

Regional Comparison	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tot.
Strongly Agree	7 11.1	8 13.8	65 21.3	6 7.0	15 14.9	13 13.5	114 16.1
Somewhat Agree	36 57.2	31 53.4	138 45.2	35 40.2	64 63.4	56 58.3	360 50.7
Neutral	0 0.0	3 5.2	18 5.9	8 9.2	6 5.9	6 6.3	41 5.8
Somewhat Disagree	13 20.6	13 22.4	64 21.0	19 21.8	14 13.9	17 17.7	140 19.7
Strongly Disagree	7 11.1	3 5.2	20 6.6	19 21.8	2 2.0	4 4.2	55 7.7
	63 100.0	58 100.0	305 100.0	87 100.0	101 100.0	96 100.0	710 100.0

BREACHING THE DAMS

SPONSORED BY BSU'S DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

In nearly equal numbers statewide, respondents support (40%) or do not support (40%) breaching the lower four Snake River dams in order to protect the salmon (See [Figure 10A](#)).

Figure 10A**Support for breaching of the lower four Snake River dams to protect salmon**

	N	Pct.
Strongly Support		
Mildly Support		
Stay Neutral		
Mildly Oppose		
Strongly Oppose		
Total		

A comparison on this question showed that there was some regional variation in supporting or not supporting dam breaching. That information is presented graphically in [Figure 10B](#). Regional comparisons on this item are found in numerical form in [Figure 10C](#).

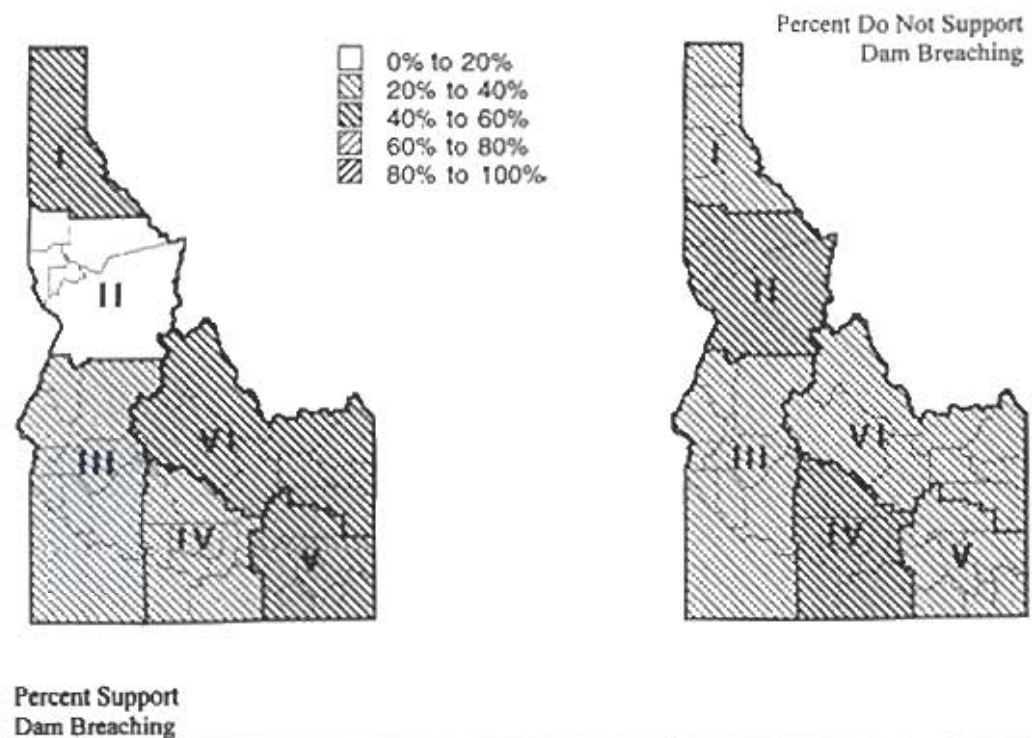
Figure 10B**Regional Comparison on Degree of Support on Dam Breaching**

Figure 10C
Support for Breaching the Lower Four Snake River Dams

Regional Comparison	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tot.
Strongly Support	13 22.8	7 12.1	60 20.4	12 13.8	17 19.1	18 19.8	127 18.8
Mildly Support	15 26.3	4 6.9	54 18.4	19 21.8	26 29.2	23 25.3	141 20.9
Stay Neutral	12 21.1	3 5.2	69 23.5	16 18.4	19 21.3	16 17.6	135 20.0
Mildly Oppose	6 10.5	10 17.2	34 11.6	15 17.2	9 10.1	8 8.8	82 12.1
Strongly Oppose	11 19.3	34 25.6	77 26.2	25 28.7	18 20.2	26 28.6	191 28.3
Totals	57 100.0	58 100.0	294 100.0	87 100.0	89 100.0	91 100.0	676 100.0

The Mildly Support and Strongly Support responses found above were combined into a “Generally Support” category; and the Mildly Oppose and Strongly Oppose responses were combined into a “Generally Oppose” category. For presentation purposes, these categories are presented in [Figure 10D](#) below.

Figure 10D
Percent Support for Breaching the Lower Four Snake River Dams

Regional Comparison	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tot.
Generally Support	49.1	19.0	38.8	35.6	48.3	45.1	39.7
Stay Neutral	21.1	5.2	23.5	18.4	21.3	17.6	20.0
Generally Oppose	29.8	42.8	37.8	45.9	30.3	37.4	40.4

Appendix 1
Summary Tables—Demographic Variables

Summary Tables—Demographic Variables**Regional Responses and Counties in Regions**

	N	Pct.
1—Panhandle	64	8.9
2—North Central	59	8.2
3—Southwest	311	43.2
4—South Central	88	12.2
5—Southeast	101	14.0
6—East Central	97	13.5
Total	720	100.0

1—Panhandle	Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Benewah, Shoshone
2—North Central	Latah, Clearwater, Nez Perce, Lewis, Idaho
3—Southwest	Adams, Valley, Washington, Payette, Gem, Boise, Canyon, Ada, Elmore, Owyhee
4—South Central	Camas, Blaine, Gooding, Lincoln, Minidoka, Jerome, Twin Falls, Cassia
5—Southeast	Bingham, Power, Bannock, Oneida, Franklin, Bear Lodge, Caribou
6—East Central	Lemhi, Custer, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison, Teton, Bonneville

Racial and Ethnic Background

	N	Pct.
Hispanic	14	2.0
White non-Hispanic	666	94.1
Asian non-Hispanic	6	0.8
Black non-Hispanic	1	0.1
Native American non-Hispanic	5	0.7
Other	16	2.3
Total	708	100.0

Gender

	N	Pct.
Male	341	47.4
Female	379	52.6
Total	720	100.0

Age

Range: 18 – 92	Median: 48	Mean: 50	STD: 17
----------------	------------	----------	---------

Education

	N	Pct.
Less than high school		
High school graduate (GED)		
Trade or Vocational certificate		
Some college no degree		
Associates degree		
Bachelors degree		
Graduate degree		
Other	1	
Total	716	100.0

Employment Status

	N	Pct.
Employed full-time	344	48.2
Employed part-time	51	7.1
Seasonal employment	4	.6
Self-employed	81	11.3
Not employed	195	27.3
Other	39	5.5
Total	714	100.0

Reasons for Unemployment

	N	Pct.
Student	19	
Homemaker	47	
Disabled	5	
Retired	180	
Other	36	12.5
Total	287	100.0

1999 Household Income (before taxes)

	N	Pct.
Less than 10,000	34	5.4
Ten to twenty thousand	96	15.2
Twenty to thirty	90	14.2
Thirty to forty	112	17.7
Forty to fifty	93	14.7
Fifty to sixty	63	10.0
Sixty to seventy	38	6.0
Seventy to eighty	30	4.7
Eighty to ninety	18	2.8
Ninety to one hundred	16	2.5
More than one hundred thousand	42	6.6
Total	632	100.0

Marital Status

	N	Pct.
Single, never married		
Married		
Divorced or separated		
Widowed		
Other	4	.3
Total		100.0

Geographic Area (self-described)

	N	Pct.
Rural		
Small town		
Suburb of city		
City		
Don't Know		
Total		

Political Affiliation

	N	Pct.
Democrat	153	21.9
Republican	289	41.3
Independent	173	24.7
Other	69	9.9
Do not know	16	2.3
Total	700	100.0

Political Ideology

	N	Pct.
Very conservative	54	7.6
Somewhat conservative	304	42.8
Middle-of-the-road	239	33.7
Somewhat liberal	87	12.3
Very liberal	12	1.7
Do not know	14	2.0
Total	710	100.0

Life-long Idaho Resident

	N	Pct.
Yes	311	43.2
No	409	56.8
Total	720	100.0

If not a life-long resident of Idaho, reason respondents moved to Idaho

	N	Pct.
Employment		31.
Retirement		2.
Quality of life		21.
Education		3.
Other		40.
Do not know		.
Total		

Respondent Left and Returned to Idaho

	N	Pct.
Yes	126	30.8
No	283	69.2
Total	409	100.0

If respondent moved away and returned to Idaho, reason for returning

	N	Pct.
Employment	25	19.8
Retirement	10	7.9
Quality of life	50	39.7
Education	3	2.4
Other	37	29.4
Do not know	1	.1
Total		100.0

Years in Idaho

Range: 1 – 87

Median: 20

Mean: 23

STD: 17

Appendix 2

Institutional Review Board Approval for Use of Humans in Research

Boise State University
INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW FORM (TO CLAIM EXEMPT STATUS)

J. E. Gonzalez, Ph.D.

Investigator's Name

E-716D

Mailing Address

Investigator's Signature

If Investigator is a student complete next two lines

Director, Social Science Research Center

Department

426-1835

ID Public Policy Survey

Study Title:

Date

11/15/99

Faculty Advisor

Department

Faculty Advisor Signature

Date

1. Give a brief description of this study.

This is the 11th annual ID Public Policy Survey—A statewide telephone survey that is used to help identify citizen's public policy concerns. The target audience is the Idaho State Legislature. Survey respondents include ID residents over the age of 18. (See Attachment 1: ID Public Policy Survey, No. 7)

2. Which exempt category does this research fall within # 2

(Please refer to back of this form for review categories and/or see Part III-A, Guidelines & Procedures: Research And Research Related Activities Involving Human Subjects at BSU, June, 1999 for further details and discussion.)

3. Will any subjects be contacted for purposes of the study? No Yes X

If so, describe the contact process.

The actual telephone survey will be conducted by a vendor, such as the U of Idaho.

The research protocol includes a screening contact via postcard or letter, followed by the telephone survey.

The present survey will not deviate much from the attached CATI script (See Attachment 2: CATI script).

4. Will subjects be completely anonymous? No X Yes

If not, will their identities be coded? How long and in what way will records be retained? Who will have access to the study data?

Since a screening contact via mail will be used for sample selection prior to the telephone survey; a

certain temporary name, address, telephone linkage will need to be established. After that sample has been

detailed, those linkages will be destroyed. Throughout the study, confidentiality and anonymity will be protected.

5. Will there be any data collection sheets used for study purposes? No X Yes

✓ **CERTIFICATION OF EXEMPT STATUS**

On the basis of the information presented here, this research activity qualifies as exempt from review by the Boise State University Institutional Review Board for Human Research.

DENIAL OF EXEMPT STATUS

On the basis of the information presented here, this study does not qualify for exempt status, and an application written in accordance to the IRB Guidelines should be submitted to the Office of Research Administration in B-319.

Expedited Review

Full Board Review

Chair and/or IRB Authorized Representative

Date

11-22-99

INFORMATION REQUEST FORM

I would like to purchase additional copies of the 11th Annual Public Policy Survey.

I would like the SSRC to conduct additional analysis or to prepare additional reports based on this data.

I would like to purchase the dataset used in preparation of this report.

_____ SPSS file

_____ Excel spreadsheet

I would like to participate in the 12th Annual Public Policy Survey.

Name:

Title:

Address:

Address:

City, State, ZIP:

Phone:

FAX:

E-mail:

Please return this form, phone, fax, or e-mail your request to:

J. E. Gonzalez, Ph.D.

Director

Social Science Research Center

1910 University Drive

Boise, ID 83725

208.426-1835

FAX: 208.426-4291

E-mail: JGONZAL@BOISESTATE.EDU