



Andrus Center

for Public Policy

Report

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Education critical to rural revival



Partnerships



Local Leadership



Report defines small towns' needs



Andrus Policy Center Issues Report on Rural Idaho Challenges and Opportunities

A new report on the hard-pressed economic conditions in rural Idaho, was released in February by the Andrus Center for Public Policy. It concludes that economic improvement in the state's rural areas depends on more regional cooperation, new investment in education, and refinements in tax policy. The report said that meeting the challenges confronting rural Idaho requires "new and sustained commitment by policymakers at every level—local, regional, and state—to shake off traditional ways of thinking and acting."

The report, *Rural Idaho: Challenged to Change*, is the product

of a two-day public policy conference, held last November at Albertson College of Idaho in Caldwell. The conference was organized by the Andrus Center for Public Policy and six Idaho newspaper and television news organizations.

The themes that emerged from the conference were that rural Idaho's challenges and opportunities are summarized in four words: leadership, education, partnerships, and stewardship.

- Leadership refers to the importance of local and regional leadership that can provide energy

Rural, continued on page 2...

Conference Co-Sponsors:

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The Spokesman-Review
Lewiston Morning Tribune
Idaho Public Television
KTVB Channel 7

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Cecil D. Andrus was elected four times by the citizens of Idaho to serve as Governor. In addition, he served four years as Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior under President Carter. He elected not to run again in 1994 and subsequently established the Andrus Center for Public Policy where he donates his service as chairman.

From the Chairman:

The big news for us this year was the receipt of a \$200,000 grant in January from the Hewlett Foundation. It will allow us to operate for the next two years and to create a long-term plan for the Center.

The seven years since the founding of the Andrus Center for Public Policy have been busy, challenging, often rewarding, and sometimes frustrating. Among the satisfactions were the impact of the bull trout conference, the increased public awareness that resulted from the symposium on the Snake River, and the incorporation of the recommendations from the 2000 wildfire conference into the National Fire Plan.

The chief frustration arose during the two conferences on public land management policies. Despite the participation, in two successive years, of the national directors of the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the National Park Service, there appeared to be little discernible progress from the first year to the second on resolving the problems of regulatory gridlock in the public land agencies.

In these days of increasingly strident and polarizing public discourse, our chief satisfaction has come from seeing the Center earn a reputation for creating respectful, knowledgeable, non-partisan forums in which reasonable people can discuss contentious issues and search for solutions without rancor. We hope to make those forums a permanent part of the public policy decision-making landscape and to utilize the Hewlett grant toward that end.

My thanks to all the speakers, panelists, and conferees, who have contributed their time and talents so generously.

Sincerely,

Cecil D. Andrus

Rural, continued from page 1...

- Education reflects the continuing importance of first-class educational opportunities in rural Idaho.
- Partnerships stress a recognition that when communities and economic interests cooperate on a regional basis, they often have more influence and success in shaping approaches that improve the economy.

- Stewardship addresses the conference consensus that environmental protection and resource utilization

are best done by those who know the land, and this knowledge can be economic capital for rural communities.

The Andrus Center report also notes that these recommendations closely parallel the efforts of the Idaho

Governor's Task Force on Rural Development and efforts led by the Idaho Department of Commerce.

RURAL IDAHO:



Challenged to change

► The complete transcript of the *Rural Idaho: Challenged to Change* conference and the conference report are both available on our web site, www.andruscenter.org, and may be downloaded without charge. Copies are also available from the Andrus Center at 208-426-4218.



News Brief



Forest Service Chief Bosworth

On December 7, 2001, the new Chief of the Forest Service, Dale N. Bosworth, accepted the Andrus Center's invitation to make his first official public appearance in Idaho. Chief Bosworth described the major obstacle facing the Forest Service: regulatory gridlock. The decision-making process has become so complex, protracted, and litigious that expeditious collaboration on land management decision is almost impossible. The situation is not

hopeless, however, and the Chief believes that many roadblocks can be removed by agency action without Congressional action.

The complete text of his address and the questions that followed are available online at our web site, www.andruscenter.org.



Johnson Takes the Helm

The Andrus Center is pleased to announce that, effective March 1, 2002, Marc Johnson will become president of the Andrus Center, replacing Wayne Mittleider. Johnson is stepping up from his role as Senior Vice President and, in a volunteer capacity, will guide the Center as it assumes expanded activities in the coming years. He is the Boise partner of the Gallatin Group, a Pacific Northwest public affairs/issues management firm with offices in Boise, Seattle, Portland, Spokane, and Helena.

Prior to his business affiliation, Johnson served on the staff of Governor Cecil D. Andrus from 1987 to 1995, first as press secretary and later as chief of

staff. He is a native of South Dakota and received a B.S. degree in journalism from South Dakota State University. He currently serves on the boards of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, the Idaho Humanities Council, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and the Housing Company, a non-profit corporation devoted to developing low-income housing projects in Idaho.

Mittleider has served as President since the Center's founding in 1995.



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Andrus Center is dedicated to independent, non-partisan research, analysis, discussion, education, and policy formation on critical issues confronting Idaho and the western United States. The Center is non-profit, privately financed, and housed on the campus of Boise State University.

The Center's mission is to explore energy, natural resource development, conservation, education, economic development, and other significant public policy issues.

Contributions in support of the Andrus Center are tax deductible.

Publications On-line

In response to requests for our publications, the Andrus Center established its own web site (www.andruscenter.org) in order to make available to anyone interested the conference transcripts and reports. Following is a list of those publications, which may be downloaded without charge. Most are also available in printed editions and may be obtained directly from the Andrus Center.

Solving the Bull Trout Puzzle (Transcript)

Snake: The River Between Us (Transcript and Conference Report)

Securing the Future: Solutions Beyond Politics for Social Security and Medicare (Text of the speech by Senator Alan Simpson)

The Future of Our Public Lands I (Transcript and Conference Report)

The Future of Our Public Lands II (Transcript and Conference Report)

Policy After Politics: How Should the Next Administration Approach Public Land Management in the Western States? (Transcript and Conference Report)

The Fires Next Time (Transcript and Conference Report)

Rural Idaho: Challenged to Change (Transcript and Conference Report)

Sustainable Management of the National Forests (Text of the speech by Dale N. Bosworth, Chief of the Forest Service)

Report from the Senior Fellow:

It was an especially productive year for the Andrus Center. The white paper, based on our wildland fire conference, was published and played an important role in deliberations over the national fire plan. Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth praised the conference as a place where many of the ideas later placed in the National Fire Plan came together.

A second conference on rural Idaho, co-sponsored by the state's leading newspapers and the Northwest Area Foundation, provided those in attendance some important information and views on possible policy options to help rural areas of the state. It is our hope that those who care about the fate of rural Idaho will use the deliberations at this conference to help develop a rural policy for the state.

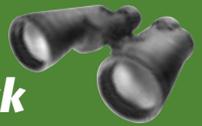


John Freemuth, Ph.D.
Senior Fellow,
Andrus Center for Public Policy

The Center also contributed to the growing movement to support and promote collaborative decision-making. We helped sponsor training for several of the Idaho Resource Advisory councils established under the Secure Rural Schools and Community

Self-Determination Act of 2000. Cyd Weiland completed her visiting fellow year at the Center by finishing her study of six collaborative efforts in Idaho, *Getting Together in Idaho*. That study has been placed on the Center's website.

The Andrus Center continued its involvement with the Coalition of Western Academic Centers (CWAC), a group of university-based centers that are involved with various issues in western North America. We look forward to the next meeting of the group in Santa Fe this May.



A Look Back

The following is a summary of two of the past events of the Andrus Center for Public Policy from its founding in 1995 to the end of the year 2000.

December 7, 2000:

The Fires Next Time.

2000 proved to be a disastrous year of wildfires for the intermountain west, and in December, the Andrus Center convened *The Fires Next Time*. Fire scientists, fire fighters, and fire victims came together to determine what might be done to ameliorate the constantly-recurring devastation. The resulting policy recommendations are currently being incorporated into the Forest Service's National Fire Plan.

November 28-29, 1995:

Snake: The River Between Us.

In partnership with the *Lewiston Tribune* and the *Idaho Falls Post Register*, the Andrus Center sponsored a conference on the many issues along the 800-mile length of Idaho's Snake River. The public examination of those problems led to the formation of several action groups along the river's length. Work is being done, but final solutions are still a long way off.



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