



November 15, 2016

RE: "Inland Pacific Northwest Wheat-Based Systems: Landscapes in Transition" project proposal

Dear Dr. Bowers,

The Idaho Wheat Commission (IWC) and the Idaho Grain Producers Association (IGPA) enthusiastically support the proposed project, "Inland Pacific Northwest Wheat-Based Systems: Landscapes in Transition," being submitted by Dr. Jodi Johnson-Maynard and others at the University of Idaho, in partnership with Washington State University and Oregon State University. This project addresses pertinent sustainability concerns of the region's rainfed wheat-based agricultural systems through the implementation of diversification and intensification mechanisms, within the context of understanding the complexities of food supply chains. This project goes beyond consideration of a single crop and will result in enhanced stability and resiliency of crop rotations.

Idaho's grain producers often have limited choices for rotation crops due to their production systems; irrigation and rainfed, conventional till and no-till, and having a market outlet for the rotation crop. Growers are captive to wide fluctuations in commodity market prices, more variable weather patterns and a less-than-sustainable financial safety net to survive catastrophic losses. Diversification is often trotted out as a way to manage the inherent risk of farming, but diversification implies one has choices. The IWC and IGPA share the investigators' interest in systems-based responses to these challenges as they relate to changing climate patterns.

As a community partner in this CAP project, IGPA and IWC can facilitate outreach to our stakeholders, including producers, processors, and others involved in the wheat supply chain. The Director of Research for the IWC can also provide guidance to graduate students working on agronomic aspects of the project as well as the climate change vulnerability assessment. As appropriate, we can help disseminate project results through our website and other outreach events and presentations.

We look forward to working with the project team on this forward-thinking program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blaine Jacobson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Blaine Jacobson
Executive Director, IWC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey Satterlee", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stacey Satterlee
Executive Director, IGPA