



# The McCroskey Agrarian

## A Circular for the McCroskey Township

July 17, 2024 (Summer Dog Day)

Issue #5

### **“O'er the Land of the Free, And the Home of the Brave?”**

Did you know that the first verse of the National Anthem ends with that question? It's the second verse that answers it - the verse that is never sung.

They go hand-in-hand, you know. You can't be free unless you are brave first. Personal autonomy is based upon self confidence.

Historically, Americans have been a confident people. They accept risks. That's why they are free.

The covid pandemic taught us a lot about ourselves. For example, those of us who live in the country do so because we are already practicing social distancing. We weren't so inconvenienced.

When we go to town, we practice good manners because we don't think city people do. We live in the country because city people are often rude and selfish.

Sneezing or coughing on people at the grocery store is not good manners. We apologize. There might be times when wearing a mask would be good manners. But we don't want to do it because of some government mandate.

We like living in the country because it is a place where we can do stuff, build things, grow plants, etc. - in other words, make our own choices. We do not like people telling us what to do.

Building a chicken coop or greenhouse is no big deal. If it does not look pretty, nobody cares. You don't have a snoop neighbor looking over the fence and then reporting you to the Zoning Board.

### **Are You in the Zoning Board's Crosshairs?**

The Zoning Board wants you to spend a lot of money so that your place looks like a house in the suburbs. They want to deny you the right to have a shack in the woods.

Why? It drives down property values. It drives down tax valuations.

Shouldn't we have the right to live off-grid? Why do we have to live in a house with sheetrock and running water, if we don't want to?

Why should anyone have to spend \$30k so that you can have a driveway that looks like a palatial entrance? Why do you need a highway approach when you live on a gravel road where the speed limit is 35 mph?

(Some people don't want you to find their driveway anyway. There is such a thing as privacy).

They call it "growth" but what the current zoning and planning board wants is to replace the pioneers of Benewah County with wealthy vacationers. They want the County to be the place of "the second home," a satellite economy to the urban hub of Spokane and CDA.

More to come.

## The Governor's Head Fake

As I have been reporting on the implementation of the Governor's Executive Order No. 2022-04 for "All Hazards Prevention," you need to pay attention to the wording. It is not emergency **response** preparedness they are talking about. I do not think anyone has a quarrel with that course of action.

**He added the words "prevention" and "mitigation" to the order. The difference is the difference between freedom and tyranny.**

Per the customs of "command and control" of the Left Coast, Idaho's agencies are now tasked with evaluating normal living patterns of citizens and deciding which practices are "safe" or "hazardous." A cornucopia of control over your life has just been opened in Idaho. Get ready for an infestation of bureaucratic rodents.

Remember, this was a **declaration of an emergency** and the power was put in the hands of the Idaho Office of Emergency Management (OEM) which is a part of the military division of the Governor's Office. It is run by the Governor's Adjutant General. He has been tasked with the *military* enforcement of this emergency decree. We have a name for that: it's called "martial law."

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## Is Benewah County Under a "State of Emergency"?

Yes, and the Zoning Board has been tasked with preparing an "Emergency Response Plan" by the end of 2025. But it does not stop there. The County Commission has endowed the Zoning Board Chairman with administrative powers: that means enforcement powers. When finished, he will then have the "all hazards prevention and mitigation" powers described above.

### Water, Water, Everywhere . . . But

Dry farming can work here if you are growing peas, lentils, and wheat. But if you want to grow vegetables and fruits, you have to irrigate . . . a lot. But a thing called "water adjudication" might stand in your way. . .

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**Next issue:** [Water Adjudication and Irrigation Strategies](#), [The Zoning Board's State of Emergency Plans for You](#), [Does Benewah County have its very own "Deep State"?](#)

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If you missed the previous issues of this newsletter, you can find them at the website: [savebenewahcounty.com](http://savebenewahcounty.com). James Stivers, Editor [jwstivers1@gmail.com](mailto:jwstivers1@gmail.com).

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