**CAES Value Proposition: Proposed for Steering Committee’s Feedback and Approval**

The CAES consortium provides multi-institutional expertise, capabilities, and state-of-the-art facility access required to address grand energy challenges. CAES lowers the barrier to collaboration through joint planning and programs across research, education, and innovation to create leading-edge opportunities for member researchers, faculty, and students that would otherwise be unavailable. CAES provides: 1) opportunity for capture of increased and diversified research funding through teaming, including large multi-institutional programs, 2) access to novel and curated multi-institutional education programs, 3) collaborative development, recruitment, and retention of world-class talent, and 4) national visibility and leadership for the States of Idaho and Wyoming to lead the Intermountain West region in pioneering, cooperative energy R&D, leading to workforce development, and economic growth.

CAES Principles: Proposed for Steering Committee’s (SC) feedback and approval

* CAES’ foundation is built on:
	+ Collaboration
	+ Inclusion and Diversity
	+ Exploration and Discovery
	+ People and Impact
	+ Sustainability
* Governance structure should be as simple as possible to enable CAES to be effective.
* Roles
	+ The SC should focus on strategy, building collaborative research, and overarching issues, not everyday operations
	+ The Executive Board (EB) should focus on the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
	+ The roles of the SC, EB, and CAES Director are outlined in the Consortium Agreement.
	+ Decision making: The EB should make decisions by consensus. If the EB cannot come to a consensus, the SC may be consulted if the issue is of appropriate importance. The SC should also make decisions through a consensus approach.
* Operations
	+ Operations support the CAES mission and strategy. Operations personnel should develop solutions that support strategic plan implementation while managing risks appropriately.
	+ Access to the CAES building should be as open as possible while maintaining safety and security.
	+ Specifics authorities for operations of the CAES building depends on the particulars of the lease agreement. If the lease agreement changes, the operational authorities for the building will be adjusted accordingly.
	+ Laboratory space: The goal is to have laboratory spaces that support collaborative research projects involving at least two CAES institutions. Initial repopulation of the CAES building (2020) may not be able to achieve the goal in all cases; however, longer-term future allocation of laboratory space will not support single-investigator activities. Existing tenants who are not conducting collaborative research may be moved out of laboratory space if there is need for space for a collaborative effort: collaborative research has priority. The EB is responsible for allocating laboratory space.
	+ Use of government assets (e.g. INL equipment) is allowed and encouraged, recognizing that such use involves non-negotiable government requirements.
	+ Finances should be transparent and aligned among the entities in support of the strategy.