



18 March 2024

2024-2026 Three-year Season Setting
3yourseasonsetting@publicinput.com
C/O Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Re: Three-year Season Setting, 2024-2026

Dear Commissioners and Director Susewind:

On behalf of Safari Club International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2024-2026 Three-year Season Setting.

SCI supports the proposed changes in WAC 220-414-060, Muzzleloading firearms, that would allow the use of one power telescopic sights (including red dot, one power scopes) on muzzleloading firearms. Hunter participation, recruitment and retention may benefit from allowing the use and the scopes will not make the target bigger, only clearer. Additionally, SCI supports the proposed changes in WAC 220-414-100, Crossbow requirements, to allow crossbows as a lesser included equipment type in the muzzleloading firearm season and to allow senior (65 plus) hunters to use crossbows in the archery season. Both changes could assist in hunter participation, recruitment and retention as well as some senior hunters may not be able to physically participate in archery season without a crossbow.

Further, SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, is necessary to the long-term health of wildlife. Hunters have long paid the way for conservation, both game and non-game wildlife, and maximizing opportunity for hunting is also key to long-term funding for all conservation. Hunting benefits wildlife conservation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the 2024-2026 Three-year Season Setting Rulemaking. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and we appreciate the partnership with the Agency and the Commission. SCI is always First For Hunters.

Sincerely,

W. Laird Hamberlin
Chief Executive Officer
Safari Club International