



18 November 2024

2024 Proposed Land Acquisitions lands@dfw.wa.gov
C/O Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Re: 2024 Proposed Land Acquisitions

Dear Commissioners and Director Susewind:

On behalf of Safari Club International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes in the 2024 Proposed Land Acquisitions. Hunting access is one of the pillars of SCI's advocacy platform. Major considerations for SCI regarding public land acquisitions include hunting as a primary focus, proximity to current public hunting properties, lands purchased from willing sellers, fair market value acquisition, payment in lieu of taxes after acquisition and keeping working land working to the extent possible. SCI is pleased that WDFW has an extensive policy online containing these items.

In reviewing the 2024 proposals, SCI is supportive (subject to the above listed SCI priorities) of the Chief Joseph Exchange (13 acre wildlife area swap), Headgate Park (28 acre hunting acquisition), West Foster Creek (5100 acre hunting acquisition), Duckabush (6.3 acre hunting acquisition), Big Beef Creek (451 acre land transfer), Luna Ponds (480 acre hunting acquisition), Big Valley Addition (142 acre hunting acquisition), Chewuch River (90 acre hunting acquisition), Ellemehan Mountain (109 acre hunting acquisition), Happy Hill (1372 acre hunting acquisition), Lockman Ridge (960 acre hunting acquisition), Scotch Creek Addition (93 acre hunting acquisition), North Willapa Bay (75 acre hunting acquisition), Maytown/West Rocky Prairie (743 acre hunting acquisition), and Silver Springs (1100 acre hunting acquisition).

Further, SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting and trapping as the primary management tools, 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 and trapping is also key to long-term funding for all conservation. Hunting and trapping benefit wildlife conservation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the 2024 Proposed Land Acquisitions. 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