



26 November 2024

Idaho Department of Fish and Game
600 S. Walnut Street
Boise, ID 83712

Re: Draft Black Bear Management Plan, 2025-2030

Dear Commissioners and Director Fredericks:

On behalf of Safari Club International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Black Bear Management Plan, 2025-2030 ("Plan"). The Plan generally demonstrates responsible and sustainable management of black bears, while maintaining high levels of opportunity for hunters while reducing human-bear conflict and livestock depredation. SCI appreciates the numerous black bear hunting opportunities throughout the state, including hunting with hounds and the use of bait, and encourages the allowance for those methods of take wherever possible.

Consistent with previous SCI comments and specific to page 24 of the Plan, SCI does not oppose requiring immediate reporting of a grizzly bear on a black bear bait site, discontinuation of the use of the site, and removal of bait when possible. This regulation may reduce hunter opportunity in the immediate short term and SCI questions whether it is truly necessary given the very few grizzly bears that have been mistakenly shot or shot in defense of life at black bear bait sites. However, SCI understands the Department's cautionary approach, and supports proposals that will support black bear hunting in the long-term.

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

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on the draft Black Bear Management Plan, 2025-2030. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and we appreciate the continued partnership with the Department and the Commission. SCI is always first for hunters.

Sincerely,

W. Laird Hamberlin
Chief Executive Officer
Safari Club International