

10 January 2024

Natural Resources Commission – Division of Hearings  
Indiana Government Center North  
100 North Senate Avenue – Room N103  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: Proposed Bobcat Amendments

Dear Natural Resources Commissioners and Department of Natural Resources Staff:

On behalf of Safari Club International (SCI), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule changes for bobcat harvest which were the result of enabling legislation passed by the Indiana General Assembly in March 2024 (SEA 241-2024) requiring bobcat harvest rules to be in place by July 1, 2025.

The proposed changes to bobcat harvest regulations demonstrate a conservative, responsible, and sustainable management of the species while allowing for a highly limited take. The parameters set forth in the proposed 40 counties for bobcat trapping in Southern Indiana of a bag limit of one bobcat per trapper, per season and a total 40-county wide season quota of 250 is highly conservative and would have zero population-level impact on the species while also allowing for a new opportunity for sportsmen and license buyers.

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

SCI thanks the Natural Resources Commission for their preliminary adoption to the proposed rule changes at the September 2024 meeting and asks the Commission for final approval to adopt a conservative, science-based management plan that includes harvest for bobcats.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on these proposed changes. SCI is dedicated to protecting the freedom to hunt and we appreciate the work and dedication of the NRC and DNR for wildlife and hunting in Indiana.

Sincerely,



W. Laird Hamberlin  
Chief Executive Officer  
Safari Club International