



20 February 2025

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

Re: Bear Season Setting Proposals 2025-2026

Dear Commissioners and Director Fredericks:

On behalf of Safari Club International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bear Season Setting Proposals for 2025-2026.

The Bear Season Setting Proposals for 2025-2026 generally demonstrate responsible and sustainable management of bears while maintaining high levels of opportunity for hunters.

Specifically, no major changes are proposed for the Panhandle, Clearwater, Southwest (Nampa), Upper Snake, and Salmon regions, continuing to demonstrate responsible and sustainable management of bears and which SCI continues to support. SCI also supports the following proposed regional changes:

Southwest (McCall) region to reduce harvest in Unit 32A based on science, clarifying unit boundaries for the benefit of hunters and aiding in regulatory compliance, alleviating hunter conflicts and increasing overall harvest in Unit 32, and restoring some hound hunting in Units 22, 31 and 32 for hunter opportunity.

Magic Valley region to create a new bear hunting opportunity in Units 52A and Unit 53

Southeast region to extend the season and create more opportunity in Units 66A and 76, to extend the general spring and fall seasons to the western portion of the region for more opportunity in Units 68, 68A, 70, and 73A and to extend the take season for more opportunity in Units 71, 72, 74, 75, 77, and 78.

SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, including carnivores such as bears, 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 Bear Season Setting Proposals for 2025-2026. 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



20 February 2025

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

Re: Mountain Lion Season Setting Proposals 2025-2026

Dear Commissioners and Director Fredericks:

On behalf of Safari Club International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Mountain Lion Season Setting Proposals for 2025-2026.

The Mountain Lion Season Setting Proposals for 2025-2026 generally demonstrate responsible and sustainable management of bears while maintaining high levels of opportunity for hunters. SCI supports the expansion of the mountain lion season statewide and year-round in all regions as proposed, with no change to the hound hunting season dates, for increased incidental mountain lion harvest opportunity and regulatory consistency as well as to help reduce predation on deer and elk, reduce human conflicts and reduce livestock depredation.

SCI also supports the following proposed regional changes:

Clearwater proposal for regulatory alignment in Units 8 and 11A in order to reduce hunter conflicts, adding a second mountain lion tag in Unit 10A for additional opportunity, and simplifying the Selway Elk Zone nonresident hound permits as the separate areas are no longer needed.

Southwest (Nampa) proposal to remove Units 41 and 42 from the statewide nonresident hunter permit quota to increase harvest on mountain lions and address concerns affecting ungulate populations.

Magic Valley proposal to allow the use of a second mountain lion tag in Unit 45 and provide additional incidental take opportunity.

Southeast proposal expand mountain lion hunting opportunity in Units 70, 73, and 73A to extend the season through April 30 and allow the use of dogs November 1st to address mule deer predation.

SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, including carnivores such as mountain lions, 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 Mountain Lion Season Setting Proposals for 2025-2026. 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



20 February 2025

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

Re: Wolf Season Setting Proposals 2025-2026

Dear Commissioners and Director Fredericks:

On behalf of Safari Club International, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wolf Season Setting Proposals for 2025-2026.

Although no major changes are proposed, the Wolf Season Setting Proposals for 2025-2026 generally demonstrate continuing responsible and sustainable management of wolves while maintaining high levels of opportunity for hunters. SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, including predators such as wolves, 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 Wolf Season Setting Proposals for 2025-2026. 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