



20 March 2025

2025 Cougar Hunting Seasons and Regulations
2025SSCougar@publicinput.com
C/O Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Re: 2025 Cougar Hunting Seasons and Regulations

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 2025 Cougar Hunting Seasons and Regulations.

SCI opposes the proposed changes to the 2025 Cougar Hunting Seasons and Regulations contained in WAC 220-415-100. Changing the structure of the mortality cap as proposed would ultimately penalize hunters as well as decrease hunter harvest, creating even more human-wildlife conflict. If roadkill and problem animal take is included above the 16 percent cap threshold, it is arguably because the cougar population is higher than estimate and should require additional hunter harvest, not a reduction by nearly half in overall take in subsequent years. And the reality is that cougars will still be taken as problem animals by government officials or hit on the road by vehicle strikes. In either of those cases, those problem or vehicle strike cougars will not be properly utilized nor will the state get any income from hunting license sales, which may also reduce federal matching funds based on reduced license sales.

SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, such as cougars, 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 2025 Cougar Hunting Seasons and Regulations. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Laird Hamberlin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

W. Laird Hamberlin
Chief Executive Officer
Safari Club International



19 March 2025

2025 Fall Black Bear Hunting Seasons and Regulations

2025ssbear@publicinput.com

C/O Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Natural Resources Building

1111 Washington St. SE

Olympia, WA 98501

Re: 2025 Fall Black Bear Hunting Seasons and Regulations

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 2025 Fall Black Bear Hunting Seasons and Regulations.

The proposed changes to the 2025 Fall Black Bear Hunting Seasons and Regulations contained in WAC 220-415-090 generally demonstrate responsible and sustainable management of black bears while maintaining high levels of opportunity for hunters. SCI also requests the reinstatement of the spring bear hunting season. Besides providing hunter opportunity and funding for the department, the spring bear season may also reduce negative human-bear interaction, decrease depredation by bears and decrease deer fawn and elk calf mortality.

SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, such as bears in both spring and fall, 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 2025 Fall Black Bear Hunting Seasons and Regulations. 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,

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W. Laird Hamberlin
Chief Executive Officer
Safari Club International



18 March 2025

2025 Season Setting Rule

2025seasonsettingcr102@publicinput.com

C/O Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Natural Resources Building
1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Re: 2025 Season Setting Rule

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 2025 Season Setting Rule.

SCI opposes the proposed changes to WAC 220-412-070, Big game and wild turkey auction, raffle and special incentive permits, that would remove the spring bear hunting dates from the Auction permits. Further, SCI requests the reinstatement of the spring bear hunting season. Besides providing hunter opportunity and funding for the department, the spring bear season may also reduce negative human-bear interaction, decrease depredation by bears and decrease deer fawn and elk calf mortality.

SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, such as spring bear hunting, 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 2025 Hunting Season Setting Rule. 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,

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W. Laird Hamberlin
Chief Executive Officer
Safari Club International