



March 12, 2024

Via email to [doug\\_hobbs@fws.gov](mailto:doug_hobbs@fws.gov)

Douglas Hobbs  
Attn.: FWS-HQ-OC-2023-N088  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS: PRB (JAO/3W)  
Falls Church, Virginia 22041-3803

**Re: Safari Club International Comments on Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council; Charter Re-Establishment, 89 Fed. Reg. 14084 (Feb. 26, 2024); Docket No. FWS-HQ-OC-2023-N088**

Dear Mr. Hobbs,

Safari Club International (“SCI”) appreciates the opportunity to comment in strong support of the reauthorization of the Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council (“HWCC”). SCI supports the extension of the HWCC as a Federal Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the federal government on issues related to hunting, fishing, habitat conservation, and shooting sports, and to advance the needs of sportsmen and women across the United States.

SCI, an I.R.C. § 501(c)(4) nonprofit corporation, has approximately 88,000 members and advocates worldwide. SCI’s missions include conservation of wildlife, protection of the hunter, and education of the public concerning hunting and its use as a conservation tool. SCI believes that sound science-based wildlife conservation involves proper management and sustainable use hunting.

“Hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts have some of the deepest connections to wildlife and form the bedrock of habitat conservation efforts,” said Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland.<sup>1</sup> This statement must be kept in mind when reauthorizing the HWCC. The HWCC allows hunters and advocates to have a seat at the table for some of the most important decisions impacting wildlife and habitat conservation, hunting and fishing expansion, and policies that benefit national and local economies.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of the Interior and Agriculture Announce Members of Federal Council to Support Hunting, Conservation Efforts (Sept. 23, 2022), accessible at <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/departments-interior-and-agriculture-announce-members-federal-council-support-hunting>.



Hunters have long paid the way for conservation, restoration, management, and enhancement of game and non-game species alike. Maximizing hunting opportunities is key to the long-term funding for species conservation. Historically, sportsmen and women provide the majority of conservation funding through hunting license sales and federal matching dollars generated from an excise tax on firearms, ammunition, and other sporting goods. Since its authorization in 1937, the Pittman Robertson Act has collected and contributed \$12.5 billion to conservation and access across the United States.

SCI encourages the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reauthorize the HWCC for the benefit of wildlife and conservation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Regina Lennox or Madeline Demaske at [litigation@safariclub.org](mailto:litigation@safariclub.org).

Sincerely,

W. Laird Hamberlin  
CEO, Safari Club International