



23 May 2024

Bjornberg Bridge Fishing Site Access Weapons Restrictions
C/O Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Re: Bjornberg Bridge Fishing Site Access Weapons Restrictions

Dear Commissioners and Director Temple:

On behalf of Safari Club International (SCI), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed 2024 Bjornberg Bridge Fishing Site Access Weapons Restrictions.

SCI has a No-Net Loss advocacy pillar, which this proposal directly confronts, regarding maintaining or increasing the current level of hunting, trapping and fishing access on public lands across the country. Hunting in Montana provides both hunter opportunity and funding for the Department. Hunting is also a highly regulated activity and is a relatively safe activity, despite the concerns raised by the neighboring landowners. It is a dangerous precedent to set when a safe, legal, highly regulated activity, is foreclosed simply because someone feels it is not appropriate for the location or does not like the activity. As such, SCI prefers Alternative B, but understands that Alternative A is a more logical choice than no hunting at the location.

Further, SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, 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 Bjornberg Bridge Fishing Site Access Weapons Restriction proposal. 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