Good morning, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I live in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ County, and am a member of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.

I would first like to say thank you to the WDFW staff who have worked tirelessly to provide the best available science to the commission, and perpetuate successful wildlife management practices. I would also like to say thank you to the commission members who have been open to input from true conservation organizations and upheld the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

As an outdoors person and conservationist, I am strongly opposed to the drafted Conservation Policy. Verbiage such as “preserve and protect” in the purpose statement is a clear shift away from the North American Model of Wildlife Management which strives to conserve wildlife and ecosystems. Conservation seeks the proper use of nature, where as preservation seeks only protection from use. This is not a sustainable management practice and is in no way forward progress.

In the proposed conservation policy it states that “the WDFW’s top priority is the conservation of Washington’s fish, shellfish, and wildlife for the benefit of all state residents, current and future.” Shifting the department’s priority from conservation to preservation will in no way accomplish that goal. It will only make it more difficult. To hunters and anglers, conserving our natural resources and opportunities while preserving our heritage so that future generations may have the opportunity to experience a tangible connection to their food and environment is paramount. Reducing or removing recreational hunters and anglers involvement in wildlife management will only trade a proven and successful conservation practice for one that has only been ineffective.

Fill in 4-5 sentences about how hunting and angling is important to you and your family.

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation was designed to evolve through time to accommodate changing circumstances and complications. We don’t need a different model, we simply need to utilize the one that we have effectively.

Thank you for your time, I look forward to providing further input at future meetings.