



HUNTER ADVOCACY

SCI GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS IN ACTION

State & Local

Federal

International

Legal

Hunter Information Service



AN INTRODUCTION FROM VP OF GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS CHRIS TYMESON

At Safari Club International, our mission to protect the freedom to hunt and promote wildlife conservation is not just a tagline—it is a daily, deliberate commitment that demands vigilance, strategy, and action. This is most evident in our advocacy efforts.

Every regulation, every bill, every courtroom decision that impacts hunting rights or wildlife management is a line in the story we are writing together. Whether we are pushing back on unjust trophy import bans, defending sustainable use at national and international conventions and conferences, or challenging misguided proposals that would restrict access to public lands, our advocacy team is on the front lines.

This quarterly report provides a snapshot of that work. It shows what we have accomplished and identifies the challenges that remain. Behind each policy win or legislative push is a team of professionals working with lawmakers, agency leaders, international allies, and fellow conservation organizations to defend science-based wildlife management and your right to hunt. In addition, we updated our [federal priorities](#) to reflect recent wins and ongoing challenges hunters face from Washington, DC.

But advocacy is not just about what happens in capitols or in courtrooms. It is also about engagement from SCI members, chapters, and volunteers who write, call, and show up. You amplify our voice and turn our policy positions into political action.

SCI again experienced an unprecedented level of success this quarter. We supported or hosted nearly 40 advocacy events at Convention including: Continuing Legal Education classes, the SCI-Political Action Committee Reception, the Hunter Action Fund Lunch, the State Wildlife Directors' Forum, and so much more. We continually reinforced our partnership with leaders in the Department of the Interior with meetings and regular communications. We sustained relationships with our Congressional and legislative champions and their staff, hosting 19 events at the Hunters' Embassy that involved 26 individual members of Congress. Internationally, we celebrated the publication of South Africa's first export quotas for leopard, elephant, and black rhino hunting trophies in years. I am proud of this team--the best in the business--and pleased to report on all these positives.

Your voice matters—and now is the time to use it. Stand up for conservation and the values you believe in by taking action today. Call your legislators and let them know where you stand. Make your voice heard by supporting policies that protect hunting, promote sustainable use, and defend our shared outdoor heritage. You can also make a direct impact by giving to [Safari Club International](#), helping ensure advocacy, education, and conservation efforts continue for generations to come.

One Team, One Direction, One Purpose,



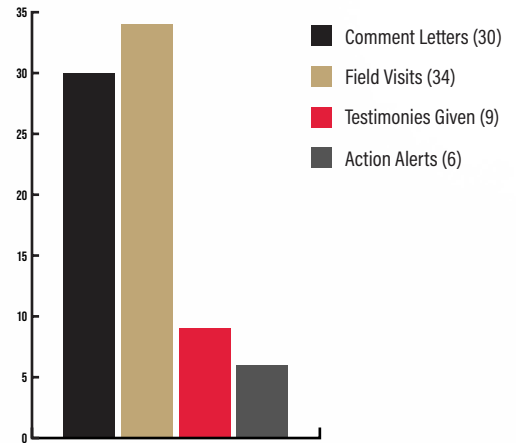
Chris Tymeson, J.D.
Vice President of Government Affairs
Safari Club International

STATE & LOCAL



WINS

- Sunday Hunting Passes the Delaware House.** A bill to allow hunting on Sundays for all game species with an established hunting season passed the Delaware House on a 38 to 1 vote. The bill proceeds to the Senate, where its approval is expected.
- Sunday Hunting Also Likely in Massachusetts.** Massachusetts Governor Maura Healy publicly supported the opening of Sunday hunting in the Commonwealth and pledged to submit her own legislation to allow Sunday hunting, crossbow inclusion, and the reduction of discharge distances.
- Oregon Measure 114 Implementation Delayed.** A bill that was originally drafted to legislatively implement the numerous anti-gun provisions from Ballot Measure 114 was successfully amended to delay the effective date of the measure to 2028. While this does not stop all implementation, it allows for delayed implementation while the legality of Measure 114 continues to be litigated.
- Arizona "Predatory Animal" Bill Defeated.** A bill to change the status of mountain lions and bears from "big game animals" to "predatory animals" was defeated in Arizona's legislature. This would have resulted in year-round hunting of the species without any tag requirements or bag limits, thereby removing management authority from the Arizona Department of Game and Fish. SCI met with Committee members ahead of the scheduled public hearing, resulting in the bill being removed from the agenda and not being considered for the remainder of the 2026 session.



LOSSES

- Wisconsin Priorities Fail to Advance.** Despite the historic passage in the Wisconsin Assembly, a bill to open a sandhill crane hunting season ultimately fell one vote short of the necessary support in the Senate Republican Caucus to advance. Further, Wisconsin's dedicated conservation funding program, the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program, also fell victim to politics and was not reauthorized. SCI will continue to advocate for these priorities in future sessions.
- Virginia Firearms Restrictions.** In late March, the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate signed bills that ban the purchase, sale, transfer, or manufacture of "assault weapons" and set magazine limits to 15-rounds. Governor Spanberger is expected to sign these bills. SCI is disappointed in enactment of these draconian assaults on Second Amendment rights and will review legal options.
- Failure of Right to Hunt & Fish.** New Hampshire legislators declined to advance the right to hunt and fish constitutional amendment legislation by a slim margin.



THREATS

- Maryland Lead Ban Progresses.** The Maryland legislature has again considered an overly restrictive bill that would prohibit all use of traditional ammunition for the hunting of all game species. SCI has vigorously engaged to prevent the passage of this bill, though it now appears that Maryland is likely to become only the second state in the nation to statutorily ban the use of lead ammo for hunting statewide.
- New York "Big 5" African Trophy Ban Looms Yet Again.** The New York State Senate Committee on Environmental Protection and Conservation passed the "Big 5" African Trophy ban, which would prohibit the import, possession, sale, or transfer of "Big 5" species (elephant, leopard, lion, and black and white rhino), in addition to giraffe, in New York. SCI has battled this perennial bill for a decade, and will continue to advocate against it using science, sustainable use and African voices.
- New Jersey Considers Putting Activists on Game Commission.** A pending bill in the New Jersey legislature calls to reallocate three of six seats held by sportsmen and women on the Fish and Game Council to animal advocacy group members.
- Oregon Ballot Measure 28.** This ballot measure would ban all hunting, fishing, trapping, and many other animal-oriented practices. It now has over 100,000 signatures out of the 120,000 required to place it on the November ballot. Should it qualify, SCI will actively oppose the initiative.

FEDERAL

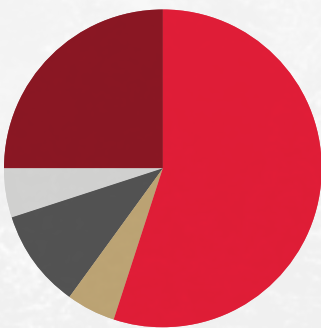


WINS

- 1. Celebrating A Congressional Win on Lead Ammunition.** The House of Representatives passed H.R. 556, the Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act, in a bipartisan vote. The bill prohibits the adoption of bans on the use of traditional lead ammunition and tackle on federal public lands without sufficient scientific justification. SCI also joined our colleagues in the American Wildlife Conservation Partnership in a letter to House Speaker Mike Johnson to express support for the bill and issued an action alert to SCI members ahead of the vote.
- 2. Progress on the Farm Bill—But More Work to Do.** The House Agriculture Committee voted to advance this year's Farm Bill. The legislation will now proceed to the House floor for a full vote. The Republican-backed legislation passed 34-17 with the support of seven Democratic members. The committee adopted several amendments introduced by both sides of the aisle related to the tobacco industry, wildlife connectivity, cover crops, and virtual fencing. A new Farm Bill has not passed since 2018, and SCI will continue to work towards passage in the Senate.
- 3. Expanding Hunting Access on DOI Lands.** Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum issued Secretarial Order 3447, which expands hunting and fishing access on federal lands. Many of the actions outlined in the Order reflect requests by SCI in our 2025 "Priorities for the Trump Administration." SCI commends Secretary Burgum for recognizing the vital role hunters and anglers play in conservation!
- 4. Movement on Endangered Species Act Reform in the Senate.** The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing titled "Examining the Challenges and Opportunities with Implementing the Endangered Species Act." SCI thanks Chair Ricketts (NE) and the Committee for their continued attention to the ESA's shortcomings and the negative impact that it can have on effective wildlife conservation. The Senate has not been as active on ESA issues as the House, and this is an important marker for bills that will need Senate approval.

HUNTERS' EMBASSY™ EVENTS

26 Different Members of Congress
Attended These Events



- Fundraisers (11)
- VIP Visits (5)
- Lunch & Learns (2)
- Reception (1)
- Hunt Club Roundtable (1)



LOSSES

- 1. Pro-Hunting Riders Removed from Appropriations Bill.** While the House and Senate passed an FY 2026 Interior Appropriations bill, it was stripped of all policy riders to better reach consensus. Among those were provisions in the House version containing priority ESA reform and public land access measures. Those bills will need to pass individually or attach to another vehicle.



THREATS

- 1. Farm Bill Amendments Could Impact Hunting with Dogs.** While the House Farm Bill would provide the single largest private land conservation funding source, one provision may be harmful to hunters. SCI is working with coalition partners and members of Congress to strip or amend language from the Greyhound Protection Act that may be interpreted beyond its intended purpose and could negatively impact lawful hunting with dogs and dog training.
- 2. Looming Elections.** Mid-term elections are looming on the horizon. Elections have consequences, and SCI must continue to support candidates who support SCI's objectives and goals.

INTERNATIONAL



WINS

- 1. RSA Export Quotas—Finally!** The South African government published proposed export quotas for leopard, elephant, and black rhino hunting trophies for 2026 and 2027. South Africa did not issue export quotas for several years, to the detriment of conservation efforts. SCI supported the quota-setting process and submitted a comment letter in support of the quotas.
- 2. SCI Celebrates Record Convention Attendance.** Government representatives from nine foreign countries attended Convention and engaged in productive meetings with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, SCI, and others. SCI signed two MOUs and held its first-ever Mexico Summit to engage with the Mexican Government and outfitters. Convention was very successful for international advocacy!
- 3. Representing Hunters in Ontario.** The Ontario Provincial Government appointed Chris Everett, SCI's Chapter and Advocacy Specialist in Canada, to sit on the Big Game Management Advisory Committee, which advises the Minister on big game management issues across the Province. Chris' appointment demonstrates SCI's leadership on Canadian wildlife issues.
- 4. Advocating for Hunters in the United Kingdom Panel.** SCI recently established a panel to direct SCI's engagement in the United Kingdom, focusing on efforts to stop the perennial trophy import ban bill in Parliament.



LOSSES

- 1. Expanding Firearms Ban.** The Canadian government is moving forward with its gun buyback program, requiring the surrender of firearms previously prohibited from future use, sale, or transfer. SCI categorically opposes executive overreach, blanket bans, mandatory buyback schemes, and ammunition restrictions, and continues to work against these restrictions on lawful gun ownership.
- 2. Advocating for Visa Reform.** New U.S. visa policies made it impossible for some government representatives and exhibitors to attend Convention, despite SCI pushing for resolution. SCI continues to advocate to reopen entry for these affected members and government representatives.



THREATS

- 1. Trophy Import Bans Threaten SCI's Interests.** Country-wide trophy import bans remain under consideration in various legislatures, including the United Kingdom and France. SCI continues to advocate against the UK ban and work to have it removed from the Labour Party's manifesto.
- 2. Transportation Costs Affect Hunting.** Increasing transport costs have caused many hunters to choose not to import hunting trophies or to not hunt abroad altogether.

LEGAL



WINS

- 1. Representing Youth Hunters and Shooters.** A federal district court entered a final judgment enjoining California from enforcing a law that bans marketing firearms in “a manner attractive to minors.” SCI, along with coalition partners, previously obtained a successful ruling from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that California’s law is unconstitutional. The district court recently approved a settlement declaring the law void in its entirety, barring California from enforcing the law, and requiring the State to pay nearly \$500,000 in attorneys’ fees. This case represents a huge victory for youth hunting and shooting in California!
- 2. Advocating for Equitable Management of Fish and Wildlife in Alaska.** SCI petitioned the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to revise the federal subsistence management program to align with federal law. The Departments opened a public comment period and took comments during a “listening session” in Anchorage. SCI participated and urged necessary reforms. In late March, SCI took the next step by submitting formal written comments underscoring how the current subsistence management program violates federal law, creates confusion for users, and weakens Alaska’s long-standing role as manager of fish and wildlife populations in the state.
- 3. Restoring Recreational Shooting on Sonoran Desert National Monument.** SCI submitted comments encouraging the Bureau of Land Management to restore and expand dispersed recreational shooting opportunities on the Sonoran Desert National Monument in Arizona. Until 2024, 90% of the Monument was open to dispersed shooting. Following a lawsuit, the Bureau bowed to anti-use activists and shut down shooting on 99% of Monument lands. SCI’s comment emphasizes that the current closure violates federal law. SCI urged the Bureau to adopt a new plan that reopens the Monument to dispersed shooting subject to only reasonable, narrowly tailored limitations.
- 4. SCI Engages Outfitters and Policymakers in Wyoming and Alaska.** SCI was proud to attend the Wyoming Guides and Outfitters Association annual meeting in Casper, where Madie Demaske, SCI’s Litigation Associate, presented about SCI key advocacy priorities and the legal successes that SCI has achieved in Wyoming. Demaske also recently visited Alaska, where she connected with federal leaders to discuss policy and conservation priorities, including Senator Dan Sullivan (AK), Deputy Secretary of the Interior Kate MacGregor, Associate Deputy Secretary Karen Budd Falen, and Senior Advisor for Alaska Affairs Kara Moriarty.
- 5. Stakeholder Comments on Wyoming Elk Feedgrounds.** SCI provided stakeholder input to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department regarding development of elk Feedground Management Action Plans for the Pinedale and Jackson elk herd units, emphasizing the need to maintain these feedgrounds during harsh winters unless and until additional winter range is developed to avoid the mass starvation that led to implementation of feeding over a century ago. SCI Sr. Litigation Counsel Regina Lennox and Western State and Local Liaison Keely Hopkins met with Wyoming Fish and Game Director Angi Bruce to reinforce these comments and the importance of maintaining western Wyoming’s elk herds.



LOSSES

- 1. Florida Court Allows Bear Hunt Challenge to Continue.** A Florida state court allowed a lawsuit challenging the first black bear hunt in a decade to continue—for now. SCI remains active in this suit to help defend the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s decision and the opening of the hunt as part of the state’s broader wildlife management program. SCI remains confident that the suit will be dismissed within the near future.
- 2. Wildlife Fur Ban Advances.** The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission narrowly approved a petition to ban the sale of wild fur in the state. SCI strongly opposed the petition, submitting a Notice of Legal Deficiencies to the Commission and the Attorney General’s office ahead of the Commission’s vote. The Legal Advocacy team will continue to develop arguments against this effort.



THREATS

- 1. Catalina Island Deer Eradication.** In late January, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife approved an exemption to short-circuit environmental review and subsequently issued a permit to eradicate mule deer on Catalina Island. This decision paves the way to exterminate every deer on the island—without scientific support or demonstrated conservation need. SCI and six coalition partners sued the Department to require a full environmental review, in an effort to slow down or stop the planned eradication.

HUNTER INFORMATION SERVICE



WINS

- 1. Women Go Hunting Steps It Up.** The Women Go Hunting initiative helped raise more than \$5,000 for the Record Book Department and SCI conservation efforts through its annual Women Go Hunting Awards Challenge. Over 200 Record Book entries were submitted. More women continue to join the effort as the WGH Facebook group has surpassed 640 members and the newsletter list has surpassed 1,000. Approximately 400 women attended the annual "Mix & Mingle" event at Convention. The silent auction raised \$14,000 with all three auction items selling over value.
- 2. Successful Recovery of Seized Property.** After several months of a member struggling on his own, the Hunter Information Service worked with the SCI team in South Africa to secure the release of his rifle bolt for a custom firearm after it was seized from his luggage in South Africa.
- 3. Resolution of Trophy Shipment Issues.** The Hunter Information Service helped numerous members receive trophy shipments stuck abroad, including elephant trophies from Namibia and Zimbabwe and trophies stuck in Spain.
- 4. Repatriation of a Life Member's Remains.** The Hunter Information Service assisted the widow of a life member who passed away while on safari in Cameroon.
- 5. Continued Engagement over Argentina Trophy Seizure Crisis.** The Hunter Information Service continues to monitor developments in Argentina, regarding the seizure of hunting trophies during a government raid of an export agent's warehouse. SCI facilitated a meeting with the Argentine Outfitters Association to explore strategies to facilitate the released of the seized trophies and the exportation of others in a multi-year backlog.

486 MEMBER REQUESTS

- 46** Argentina Trophy Seizures and Export Permits
- 45** Hunting Travel (Firearms, Insurance, Airlines, Visas, Travel Warnings/Safety)
- 85** Outfitter Disputes/Controversies
- 52** Outfitter Research and Vetting
- 89** Trophy Shipment/Import Issues
- 50** Women Go Hunting