



HUNTER ADVOCACY

GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT

First Quarter, FY 2023

July - September 2022



SCI IN ACTION

- On Capitol Hill
- In State Capitols
- In Court
- Around the World
- In Public Relations



*A Message from CEO W. Laird Hamberlin and
EVP of International Government & Public Affairs Benjamin Cassidy*

SCI continues to be the leader in defending the freedom to hunt in local, state, federal, and international legislatures. This quarterly report covers July through September 2022, and showcases the issues affecting hunters everywhere.

SCI's team of government liaisons, litigation counsel, and communications specialists ensure that SCI is on the frontlines of hunting advocacy. Established connections, quick reporting, and rapid response are critical to fighting threats to our hunting heritage. Make no mistake - these threats are serious, constant, and everywhere. Our team is more determined than anti-hunting advocates, however, and always ready to take on the next challenge as soon as the last one is beaten.

Despite proposed trophy bans around the world, an effort to dismantle the Pittman-Robertson fund, and reduced hunting access by a ban on traditional ammunition, SCI and the hunting community can claim several major wins in the last few months. SCI has played pivotal roles in ensuring waterfowl imports across the U.S./Canada border; securing hunting protections in an anti-firearm law in California; restarting the processing of bontebok imports by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and much more. This report includes the wins and ongoing fights SCI is taking on across the country and around the world.

Throughout these battles, one thing is certain: SCI is First for Hunters. Our advocacy program is unmatched and only continues to improve as we expand our team and grow our reach. We extend a sincere thank you to all SCI members, advocates, and supporters as the work we do is only possible with your voice and your support. Read this full update to see how your organization is working on your behalf and encourage your friends and family to join the greatest hunting organization in the world!



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "W. Laird Hamberlin".

W. Laird Hamberlin
CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ben Cassidy".

Benjamin J. Cassidy
EVP of International,
Government & Public Affairs

Convention

We've released the annual convention "sizzle reel," an exciting and upbeat video showcasing our new venue in Nashville, Tennessee. Warning - watching this video will make you jump up, dance, and register to attend! Plus, we've featured a score of SCI members in our online Women Go Hunting Campaign in support of our convention theme this year. Watch the teaser video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFAHE4QAsD0> and register today at <https://safariclub.org/2023-convention/>.

CITES

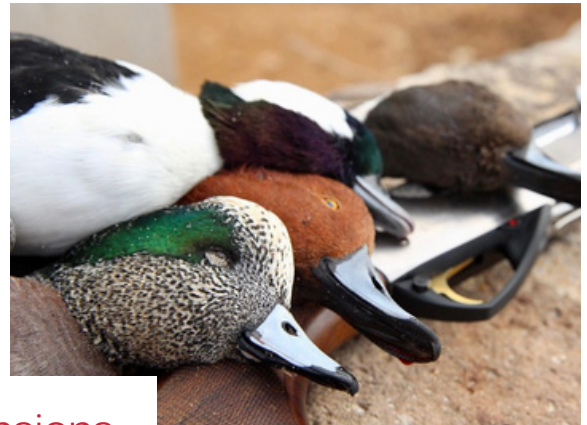
The 19th Convention of the Parties of CITES takes place in November 2022 in Panama City and SCI has prepared for months to participate and champion science-based conservation and support the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities who depend on the sustainable use of wildlife.

Firearms

Firearm bans and undue restrictions on their transportation hamper our hunting freedoms, so SCI won't hesitate to fight for you over this issue. This quarter, SCI joined its California chapters and affiliated organizations to squash a new law that would end youth shooting and hunting education in that state. For hunters who travel abroad, we worked with our champions in the U.S. Senate to resolve a 10-year problem with the US Customs Form 4457. Two major wins for hunters!

Government Overreach

Whether its blocking harvested game birds at the border for avian flu (while millions of live ones simply flew over the international line) or federal agencies overstepping in state management issues, SCI recognizes federal overreach and challenges it at every stage. We were the first organization to warn wingshooters about trouble at the border with birds from Canada; our HAAC alert helped overturn a government agency's overzealous policy. SCI President Sven Lindquist also gave testimony against nonsensical closures in Alaska.



Hunting Access Restrictions and Expansions

No Net Loss! It is what our advocates demand. Over the last three months, SCI has championed continued access to the Big Cypress Preserve in Florida, adding huntable land in Oregon's Minam River Wildlife Area, and preventing a portion of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area from becoming a national park without hunting opportunities. Also, our inhouse attorneys have poured over the USFWS proposed expansion rules for 19 National Wildlife Refuges and pointed out various errors. Plus, we've supported new opportunities for recovered game species, expanded youth hunting, and additional hunting methods where appropriate.

Everywhere We Need to Be

Numerous events celebrating hunting traditions and supporting sustainable use conservation took place this past quarter. Whether it was National Hunting and Fishing Day celebrations, important association meetings, or the 35th year celebration of the SCI Italian Chapter, SCI staff, and leadership were there!

Lead Ammo Bans

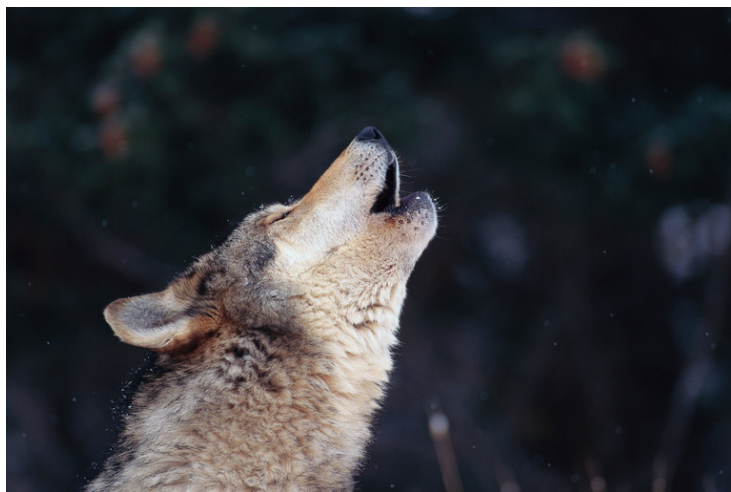
Lead ammo bans threaten hunting access in the US and in Europe. SCI continues to fight these bans in court and by any other means available. New independent research in Europe shows how science referenced by anti-hunters is flawed and does not support the claims that lead ammo is the cause of mass declines in bird populations.

Nonresident Angst

Efforts to severely reduce permit allocations to nonresidents continue brewing in numerous states. SCI has encouraged state game commissions to reconsider these efforts, which can severely impact conservation department funding.

Pittman Robertson

All 50 states face the defunding of their conservation programs by the Return Act, proposed legislation that would dismantle the Pittman Robertson Act. SCI is fighting this effort on Capitol Hill and through the grassroots efforts of our Hunter Advocacy Action Center.



Predator Management

Predators are a lightning rod for anti-hunters. In the last three months, SCI weighed in on the management of wolves, mountain lions, and grizzly and black bears in six different states. We continue fighting in court over the erroneous return of wolves to ESA status, and we encouraged Michigan, Minnesota, Texas and Washington to manage predators by science, not by public opinion.

Social Media

Social Media is a double-edged sword, and SCI is swinging it more successfully every day. Engagement with SCI's media platforms keep going up along with support for our messages. Notably, the SCI YouTube channel has caught fire. Over 1.5 million views this past quarter!

State Game Commissions

SCI's leadership and State Liaison team has engaged more than a dozen states this quarter, submitting proposals on state issues, supporting expanded hunting opportunities, the modernization of tag-issuing systems, the downlisting of Columbian white-tailed deer, and numerous other initiatives benefiting hunters and sustainable-use conservation.



State Management Authority

States are battling federal agencies and members of Congress for the right to manage their natural resources. In Alaska, the fight is on the ground, with the Federal Subsistence Bureau and the National Wildlife Refuge system.

Sunday Hunting

Sunday hunting is still closed in numerous states, and SCI supports initiatives to remove this restriction. South Carolina is the latest state to allow hunters in the field on this day. The fight continues in others.

Trophy Bans

Lawmakers sympathetic to animal rightists have again tried the backdoor approach to a trophy ban on Capitol Hill, but SCI's government affairs team is on top of it, working with pro-hunting legislators to shut that door a second time. At the state level, efforts to ban the importation of African trophies have failed due to the quick action of SCI's team, African representatives, and our in-state partners working together. SCI's State Liaisons are on the watch for more of these attacks, allowing SCI to implement our response plan and stop them from preventing hunters' ability to bring their trophies home. Overseas, we're monitoring and countering bans in five different countries.



Trophy Import Permits

The Antis have challenged the way U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service determines an enhancement and nondetrimental take when issuing leopard import permits. SCI is defending the issuance of permits and leopard management in Africa. SCI also prodded the service to action and after years of no movement on bontebok permits, hunters are finally able to bring these trophies home.



SCI is the first voice for hunters in Washington, D.C. by monitoring, evaluating, and lobbying on federal legislation impacting hunters and wildlife conservation. SCI ensures that hunting interests are at the forefront when important bills come up by building relationships with Congressional leaders as well as staying current on the issues.

WINS THIS QUARTER

APHIS Ban on Canadian Game Birds: The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, quietly prohibited the importation of waterfowl and upland birds from certain areas in Canada over concerns of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. SCI learned of the issue and immediately began engaging, pointing out the fallacy of prohibiting frozen birds all the while live migratory birds were winging their way south over the border. Just when it appeared that APHIS was loosening geographic restrictions, they reversed course and issued a full prohibition on importation regardless of location taken. They announced this after hours, on a holiday weekend and after hunters were crossing the border to hunt, unaware of the new restrictions. SCI engaged again, issuing a HAAC, calling on congressional leaders and working with others to pressure APHIS. Cooler minds prevailed and APHIS relented, allowing frozen dressed birds to once again be imported.

Travel with Firearms: Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) announced that, after extensive negotiations with the Department of Homeland Security and continued advocacy from both Alaska's senate delegation and sportsmen and women across the country, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has eliminated the expiration date from Form 4457. CBP Form 4457 is required for U.S. citizens to travel abroad with their firearms. Up until September 28, the form's deadline and the agency's inability to update it in a timely manner created unnavigable and unclear procedural hurdles for hunters. Too often, compliant and prepared hunters were forced to cancel/postpone trips for which they had put significant time and money into planning. As we enter the peak season for international hunting, CBP's repeal of the arbitrary deadline on this form could not have come at a better time for American hunters going afield outside the U.S.



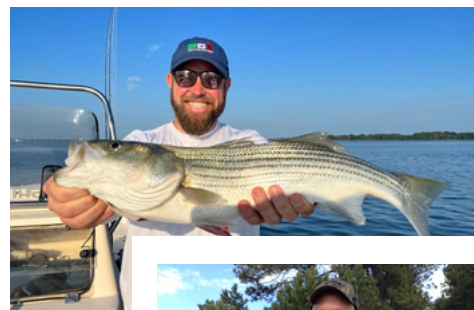
Hunting Access: Senator Steve Daines of Montana introduced the Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act of 2022. Congressmen Bruce Westerman and Rob Wittman introduced the House companion. The Act addresses the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2022 Hunt Fish rule, which includes several bans and phaseouts of lead ammunition and which will significantly limit access for hunters across the country. This proposed legislation would prohibit the Service from implementing such a ban. SCI extends a huge thank you to Senator Daines for introducing this bill and for his constant support of the hunting community.

Hunting Access (Cont'd): SCI's EVP Ben Cassidy said, "On behalf of SCI members across America, thank you, Senator Daines, for being an unwavering champion for hunters and our access to public lands by introducing the Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act of 2022. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife's 2022 Hunt Fish Rule shuts down a lawful method of harvest – use of traditional ammunition – through either immediate prohibition or rapid phaseout. Scientific studies have not demonstrated detrimental population-level impacts on game species. Emotion-based bans are a blow to economic access and negatively impact Pittman Robertson revenue. Wildlife and habitat win when federal land managers base their decisions on best available science while giving deference to state management authorities."

Bass Pro Shops and Cabelas Headquarters: Name a man or company that has had a more outsized impact on Conservation.... You can't. SCI was honored to spend the day in Springfield, Missouri, at Base Camp with Johnny and JP Morris and the BassPro/Cabelas family discussing conservation and the future of hunting.



National Hunting and Fishing Day: Saturday, September 24, SCI joined the millions of hunters and anglers across the country in celebrating National Hunt Fish Day. Officially declared by President Nixon in 1971, on National Hunting and Fishing Day we recognize our hunting heritage, celebrate countless contributions to conservation, and appreciate the freedom to hunt.



CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

Interior Appropriations: The U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives have passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) on the federal budget. This extends government funding at current levels through December 16. The Senate introduced this stopgap measure while negotiations on the Appropriations package continue. The House passed the Appropriations bills this summer, including the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies bill. This includes Section 439, which is a de facto trophy import ban on elephants and lions from Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Section 439 has received constant opposition from African leaders and governments and will undoubtedly harm local communities, hunters, and wildlife conservation efforts. Fortunately, the Senate's current version does not include Section 439.

This is the same playbook we saw last year: the House passes the funding package, with the trophy ban included; the Senate's version does not include Section 439; and government funding is extended through a CR, stalling the process. Last year, the House and Senate went to conference on the bill, which is a negotiations process to create a bill that will pass both chambers. During conference last year, SCI and SCI advocates ensured that the trophy ban was not included in the final law.

Return Act: Congressman Andrew Clyde (GA-R) introduced the RETURN (Repealing Excise Tax on Unalienable Rights Now) our Constitutional Rights Act. This bill would eliminate a primary funding source for state fish and wildlife agencies. Since 1937, the Pittman-Robertson Act has put \$15 billion towards wildlife conservation, hunter recruitment, construction of public shooting ranges and other activities. In fact, the excise tax directed by Pittman-Robertson generated more than \$1 billion in funding last year alone. SCI joined 42 other hunting and conservation organizations in a letter detailing strong opposition to this bill to House and Senate Committee leadership. SCI continues to fight against this bill in Congress and stand up for hunters across the country.

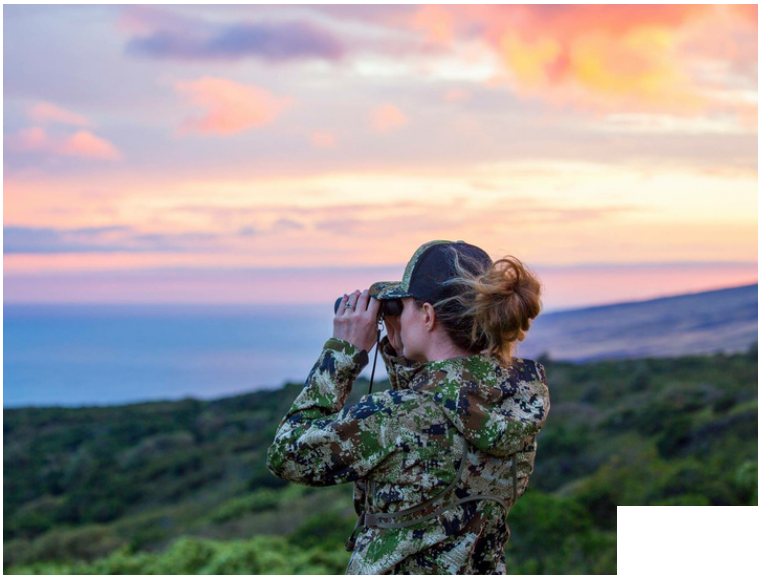
Alaska Federal Subsistence Board: On July 26, 2022, the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) voted unanimously to enact proposal WSA 22-02, despite overwhelming opposition from the public and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG). WSA 22-02 restricts hunting by all users for Brooks Range Dall's sheep on federal public lands in Unit 24A and Unit 26B, west of the Sagavanirktok River, for the 2022-2024 wildlife regulatory cycle. This is yet another FSB closure in a long series of closures, contrary to ADFG's position. Comments against the proposal were overwhelming, with comments opposing over supporting at an 11:1 ratio. SCI Alaska Chapter President John Sturgeon testified in opposition at the hearing, and SCI President Sven Lindquist provided written comments in opposition prior to the hearing. Despite the voice of Alaskans, hunters, and the experts, the FSB – a group of largely unelected, federal bureaucrats – voted unanimously to enact WSA 22-02. SCI stands against this decision as we fight for the rights of states to manage their wildlife and against federal overreach.



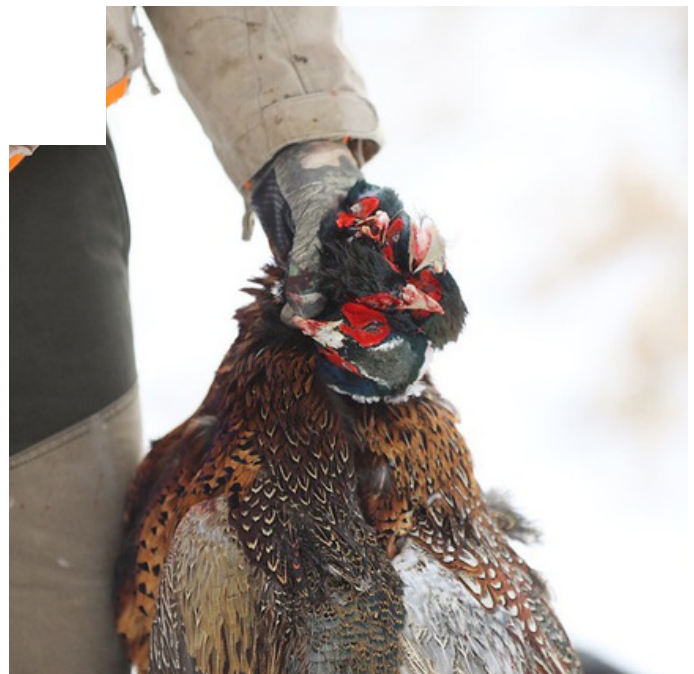
CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

Hunt Fish Rule: On September 16, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published the 2022 Hunt Fish Rule, which opens new hunting and fishing opportunities on approximately 38,000 acres across 18 National Wildlife Refuges in 12 states. Unlike prior rules which simply opened new opportunities, the 2022 Rule shuts down an otherwise lawful method of harvest—use of lead ammunition. The 2022 Hunt Fish Rule adopts regulations for the newly opened hunting opportunities which either immediately prohibit use of lead ammunition, or pledge to phase out use of lead ammunition by 2026. SCI submitted comments that supported the new hunting opportunities but opposed the lead ammunition restrictions. As explained in those comments, there is simply not enough scientific support for an across-the-board

prohibition on use of lead ammunition. Among other things, research does not demonstrate widespread negative effects from lead ammunition. SCI urged the FWS to consider voluntary programs to encourage hunters to use non-lead ammunition, and SCI pointed out the potential detrimental impacts on hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation (R3) from prohibiting the most widely available type of ammunition. SCI also pointed out that for some bullet weights and calibers, there is no non-lead alternative available on the market. With these comments, SCI included the record of the Big Five Summer Series Panel on hunting access. While the FWS acknowledged SCI comments in the final 2022 Hunt Fish Rule, the agency made no changes.



FACA Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council: The Departments of Interior and Agriculture announced the 18 members of the Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council after being chartered this past February. This announcement comes at a critical time, as the hunter's voice has gone unheard by the Biden Administration. With no commitment to maintaining hunting and fishing access, we've seen massive public land closures in Alaska, the recent Hunt Fish Rule that bans lead ammunition, no action on wolf issues, and a mounting backlog of import permits. While the charter for the council does not include protection of hunting and fishing access, SCI encourages the members to make this a priority. Our advocates want to see meaningful work done around International Hunting and Imports; State Management Authority; Support of Pittman-Robertson; Traditional Ammunition; and No-Net-Loss. SCI members will continue championing these critical issues every day.



WINS THIS QUARTER

SCI Hires Madeline Demaske as Litigation Associate

Madeline Demaske has joined SCI's team of staff attorneys as our new Litigation Associate. In this new role, Madeline will provide legal services for litigation and other legal matters; researching litigation, regulation and policy; and supporting SCI legal advocacy efforts.

Madeline was born and raised in the foothills of the Colorado Rocky Mountains. Her passion for hunting and the outdoors developed at a young age and has become a driving factor in her legal career. Madeline's love for the mountains took her to Montana State University, where she received undergraduate honors degrees in Agriculture Business and Applied Economics. Madeline

continued her education at the University of Kansas, where she graduated with a Juris Doctor in May 2021 and became a licensed attorney in the state of Colorado soon after. Since, she has dedicated her time to the mass denial of Tajikistan Marco Polo argali import permits, as she has a ram stuck overseas herself. As an avid hunter and conservationist, Madeline offers a unique perspective to wildlife and hunting-related legal issues.



California Firearm Marketing

SCI and partner organizations challenged a California law restricting the marketing of firearms in a way that appeals to minors. The law imposed a \$25,000 fine on marketing the "use" of firearms, which was so broadly defined as to cover youth hunting and shooting activities. Passage of this law led to widespread cancellations of youth hunts in California. After SCI's suit was filed, the California Legislature amended the law to carve out youth hunting, youth shooting and hunter education. These activities can now resume. SCI remains committed to this suit, however, because this law still prohibits lawful conduct and violates the First Amendment.

Alaska National Preserves

SCI, partner organizations, and the State of Alaska filed a summary judgment brief defending the 2020 National Park Service rule that withdrew certain restrictions on hunting on Alaska National Preserves. The National Park Service chose not to defend this rule, making SCI's involvement that much more important. The district court largely ruled in favor of SCI's arguments and left the rule in place while the National Park Service works on revising the rule.

Bontebok Imports

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has approved the import of a number of bontebok trophies from South Africa. Bontebok import permit applications have been piling up, with some pending for more than four years. SCI's litigation team had notified the Service of a potential lawsuit if the Service did not prioritize processing these applications. The permits represent a litigation success without litigation.

CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

Hunting Methods and Means - Lead Ammunition

In one current case, the Center for Biological Diversity challenged the 2020 Hunt Fish Rule, which expanded hunting on National Wildlife Refuges, alleging that expanded use of lead ammunition will harm threatened and endangered species. Despite SCI's efforts to defend the 2020 Rule, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Center have reached a settlement in principle that prohibits the use of lead ammunition on some refuges.

In a separate suit, the Center has challenged the use of lead ammunition on Kaibab National Forest in Arizona, alleging that leftover lead in gut piles harms the endangered condor. This suit has been dismissed three times, but the Center continually appeals and keeps reasserting its novel claims under a solid and hazardous waste statute, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). SCI, along with the NRA, is defending the use of lead ammunition and defending against the Center's third appeal.

Alaska Federal Subsistence Board

Federal Subsistence Board actions continue to threaten to shut down hunting opportunities on extensive public lands in Alaska to all but federally qualified subsistence users. Litigation may ultimately be the best course of action to reverse and prevent further federal overreach.

State v. Federal Wildlife Management Authority in Alaska

Alaska has a unique law that sets aside certain lands for conservation, but also authorizes hunting on these lands, and preserves the State's authority to regulate hunting and wildlife management. However, federal courts have allowed federal agencies to override this State authority. SCI has engaged, and continues to engage, in litigation to protect the State's management of hunting.

Import of Leopard Trophies

A federal district court denied SCI's motion to dismiss a case in which anti-hunting groups are challenging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's issuance of two dozen permits to import leopard hunting trophies, including permits issued to a number of SCI members. The case is proceeding to summary judgment briefing, with the plaintiffs more broadly challenging the management of leopards in Southern Africa and the Service's approval of leopard imports. SCI is defending these permits and well-managed leopard hunting in Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Gray Wolf Management

A federal district court vacated the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2020 removal of gray wolves from the Endangered Species Act list of threatened and endangered species. SCI and the NRA were the first parties to appeal the court's order. The service is still deciding whether to pursue an appeal. If the court's order is allowed to stand, it will limit the service's ability to delist wide-ranging recovered species (like grizzly bears) in the future.



In every state, Safari Club International monitors, tracks, and evaluates legislation and regulations impacting hunting, hunters, and wildlife conservation. SCI works with pro-sportsmen elected leaders through the collaboration of the individual state sportsmen's caucuses. Building relationships between state leaders and sportsmen as well as staying current on the issues ensures that SCI is protecting your right to hunt. The SCI State Advocacy Network and local state chapters play a critical role in the success of SCI's advocacy efforts. Hunters become a valuable voice in each state by joining SCI's Hunter Advocacy Action Center (HAAC).

WINS THIS QUARTER

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA):

SCI staff, along with state wildlife agency directors, agency professionals and conservation partners, attended the AFWA annual meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, during September. SCI Eastern States and Local Liaison Bee Frederick and Litigation Counsel Regina Lennox represented SCI and our membership throughout the meeting and engaged with the attendees on topics of importance to Safari Club International.

Big 5 Summer Series: State and local liaisons Bee Frederick and Chris Tymeson hosted the second webinar in the Big 5 Summer Series. The webinar focused on state management authority, and the panel consisted of five state fish and wildlife agency directors: Sara Parker Pauley, Director, Missouri Department of Conservation; Tony Wasley, Director, Nevada Division of Wildlife; Tim McCoy, Director, Nebraska Game and Parks Department; Brian Nesvik, Director, Wyoming Game and Fish Department; and Mark Williams, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The panel discussed the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, the Pittman-Robertson Act and its practical application in wildlife management, and the RETURN ACT, which would detrimentally impact state agencies and change the funding model of wildlife management. The panel then pivoted slightly to state management of predators and the intersection of federal law, including the Prohibit Wildlife Killing Contests Act of 2022.



California Victories: The SCI chapter coalition in California was instrumental in submitting testimony and comments on several bills late in the session, helping to defeat AB 1227, a bill that would have imposed an additional excise tax above the already existing federal excise tax on firearms and ammunition, and SB 918, an onerous bill directed at dismantling concealed carry laws. Both bills failed on the last day. Additionally, the legislature passed AB 160, a fix to AB 2571. AB 2571 passed quickly in June along with a slew of anti-gun ownership bills, taking advantage of the tragic circumstances surrounding national events. The bill prohibited marketing of firearms to minors but was so broadly written that it likely prohibited hunter education, youth shooting, and youth hunting events, with possible personal financial

penalties for the event holders. The hunting and shooting community rallied, including SCI chapters and members, and a trailer bill was passed that reduces some of the concerns with the events and programs portion but not with the overall marketing of firearms to minors. The trailer fix bill, AB 160, was signed by the Governor on September 29, 2022.



WINS THIS QUARTER

Colorado Fall Turkey Season Youth Expansion

Comments: SCI submitted written comments to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission in support of an agency proposal to expand youth turkey hunting opportunities within the state. Based on an initial pilot program in the southwestern part of the state, the youth-only fall turkey season would include the week of Thanksgiving, a time away from other activities and when families and kids can hunt together. Unfilled youth fall permits could be used under the same geographic limitations on the permit.

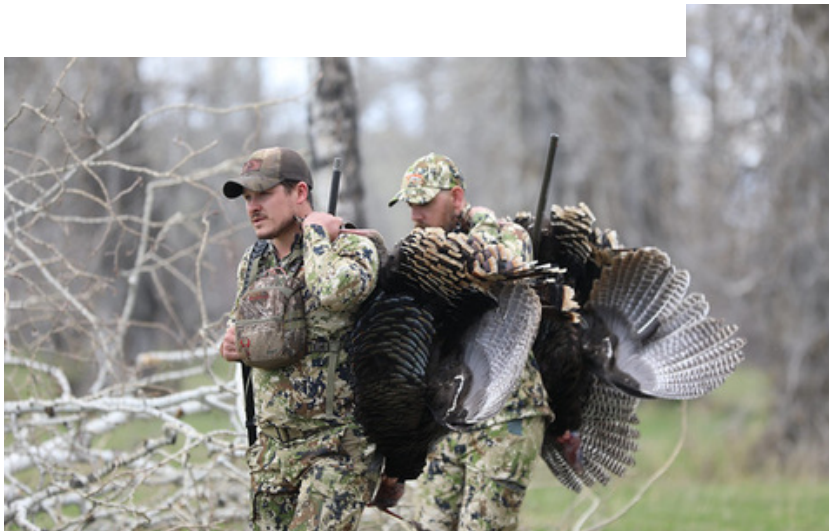
Florida Big Cypress National Preserve: SCI created a petition in support of increased access to Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida, and against any Wilderness designation for the area. Big Cypress is the country's first National Preserve and provides crucial wildlife and plant habitat as well as recreational opportunity for millions of Floridians. SCI also submitted official comments to the National Parks Service advocating for increased access and against restrictive federal wilderness designation.

Iowa Adopted .410 Turkey Regulation: SCI submitted comments during the Legislative session in support of the use of .410 shotguns during the turkey season. The Legislature passed the SCI supported bill and the Iowa DNR Commission recently adopted the regulation allowing the use of .410's during the turkey season.

Iowa Veteran License Comments: The Iowa Legislature has required the Department of Natural Resources to reduce the fees for veteran hunting and fishing licenses. Unfortunately, this will reduce funding critical to the mission of the Department and the Commission. SCI submitted written comments to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources regarding these fees. SCI generally supports reduced fees for veterans who have served our great nation, so long as it doesn't come at the expense of current users and the amount generated per license still enables the Department to capture Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson funds.

The ideal scenario would be for the Legislature to appropriate state general funds for these licenses because all citizens benefit from service to the country, not just other hunters and anglers. Current federal regulation requires the generation of two dollars per license issued in order to capture funds from Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson. Should federal regulations change to require additional fiscal generation above the mandated fee cap by the Iowa State Legislature, SCI would no longer be able to support such a potentially large negative impact to the Department's budget.

Michigan Wolf Management Plan: SCI and SCIF submitted joint comments to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources on their updated draft wolf management plan for 2022. The official comments made clear that SCI strongly believes management decisions, even for iconic predator species with their associated management challenges, should be science-based, not predicated on public opinion, and that state science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool is necessary for the long-term health of wildlife and robust management funding.



WINS THIS QUARTER

Minnesota Wolf Plan Comments: SCI provided written comments to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources advocating for active management within the Draft 2022 Minnesota Wolf Management Plan. The letter acknowledged the conservation success of gray wolf restoration and recognized SCI's long-standing commitment to supporting state-based management of wolves through the policy, legal and research arenas. Additionally, the official comments made clear SCI's strong belief that management decisions, even for iconic predator species with their associated management challenges, should be science based, not predicated on public opinion, and that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool is necessary for the long-term health of wildlife and robust management funding.

Missouri Conservation Roundtable Partnership: SCI attended the 6th annual Missouri Conservation Roundtable Partnership meeting, hosted at the Bass Pro White River Conference Center in Springfield, engaging with national, state and local political, agricultural and conservation leaders on topics such as healthy lands, people and animals, landscape conservation, recreation and engagement (including Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation), and working lands.



Above: SCI State & Local Liaison Bee Frederick attends the proclamation signing by Gov. Ivey.

Montana NCDE Grizzly Comments-Rule Adopted: SCI provided written comments in support of Montana's proposed Northern Continental Divide Grizzly Bear Rule amendments. The rule was adopted.

National Hunting and Fishing Day: SCI staff attended National Hunting and Fishing Day proclamation signing ceremonies in Alabama with Governor Kay Ivey and in Georgia with Governor Brian Kemp. Along with SCI and several other sportsmen's organizations, various state agency staff and elected officials also attended the ceremonies. SCI, together with the Alabama and Georgia SCI chapters, consistently work with their respective state elected officials and wildlife agencies on important hunting and conservation issues in both states.

New Mexico Bighorn Sheep Rulemaking: SCI submitted written comments in support of the Department's proposed rulemaking. Some groups and individuals were advocating for changes that would result in no nonresident permits for bighorn sheep. SCI also issued a hunter advocacy action alert to members. The Commission ultimately adopted the Department's position but only for two years instead of the proposed four. The issue will likely head to the legislature this coming January.

WINS THIS QUARTER

New Mexico Turkey Season Comments: SCI submitted written comments in favor of New Mexico's proposed turkey season rulemaking. This state's Gould's turkey recovery program is a conservation success story. The new rule would allow for a limited season for Gould's turkey, which SCI supports.

Oregon Minam River Comments: SCI submitted comments in favor of the Minam River Land Acquisition project. No-net-loss, maintaining or increasing the current level of hunting and fishing access on public lands across the country, is one of the advocacy pillars of the organization, and this project is directly in line with that tenant. This acquisition would add 10,964 acres of land to the Minam River Wildlife Area and secure a key linkage to 2.5 million acres of adjacent public lands, including the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and Eagle Cap Wilderness.

Pennsylvania Doe Tags/Pink Envelopes: Senate Bill 431, introduced by former SCI State Legislator of the Year Sen. Dan Laughlin, would do away with the antiquated pink envelopes that are synonymous with antlerless deer tags in Pennsylvania and allow for the sale of antlerless deer hunting tags through the Pennsylvania Game Commission's (PGC) Automated Licensing System. This bill is publicly supported by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. SCI has continued to promote SB 431 through a HAAC and grassroots efforts.

South Carolina Public Land Sunday Hunting: SCI continued to engage with a coalition of sportsmen's organizations assembled to support the removal of barriers to hunting on Sunday. Currently, SCI is working with partners and the state agency on opening 70% of South Carolina's public land to hunting on Sunday. The regulatory proposal is currently under consideration.

Texas Trophy Hunters Association and Buckmasters Expo: SCI advocacy staff attended the San Antonio Texas Trophy Hunter's Extravaganza and Buckmasters Expo, raising the awareness of SCI with membership of those organizations.

Texas Mountain Lion Comments: SCI submitted comments to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission regarding the management of mountain lions in Texas. The commission and department had been petitioned to make major changes, and SCI's comments related to maintaining the status quo. The commission denied the petition but directed the department to set up a working group made up of diverse stakeholders. The issue will likely go before the legislature this coming January.



WINS THIS QUARTER

Washington Cougar Victory: The Washington Blue Mountain elk herd is in decline, with calf recruitment largely suppressed by cougar predation. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife proposed additional cougar harvest through the regulatory process in an effort to reduce calf mortality. SCI submitted comments to the Fish and Wildlife Commission in favor of the proposal and launched an action alert to Washington members. Despite recent appointments by the Governor to the commission that have been decidedly anti-hunting in nature, the commission voted in favor of the regulation on a 5-4 vote to increase cougar harvest.

Wyoming Wolf and Mountain Lion Regulations Adopted: SCI submitted written comments in support of Wyoming's proposed wolf and mountain lion regulations. SCI was the only pro-hunting organization to do so, and the regulations were adopted as presented.

Washington Columbian White-tailed Deer Downlisting Comments: SCI submitted written comments in support of downlisting the Columbian white-tailed deer population, as proposed by the Department.



Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies: Wildlife directors and professionals from across the western United States and Canada gathered in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, during the week of July 11th for the annual Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) meeting. SCI and SCIF attended to represent the membership and engage on conservation and hunting issues. This was also the 100th anniversary of the association. SCI State and Local Liaison Chris Tymeson and SCIF Large Carnivore Program Manager Maria Davidson attended the meeting, interacting with wildlife directors, federal partners and other non-governmental organizations on topics of importance to SCI and SCIF as well as chapters and members. The jam-packed meeting included these pertinent topics, among many others: wildlife movement and migration; forums involving game and fish commissioners and wildlife state directors; wildlife health; recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3); human wildlife conflict; forest carnivores; legal strategy meetings and legal presentations. In addition, SCI co-hosted an event with other conservation organizations for pro-hunting state legislators in the late afternoon and early evening of July 11th. Those legislators from across the southern United States were in Oklahoma City for the Southern Legislative Conference.

CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

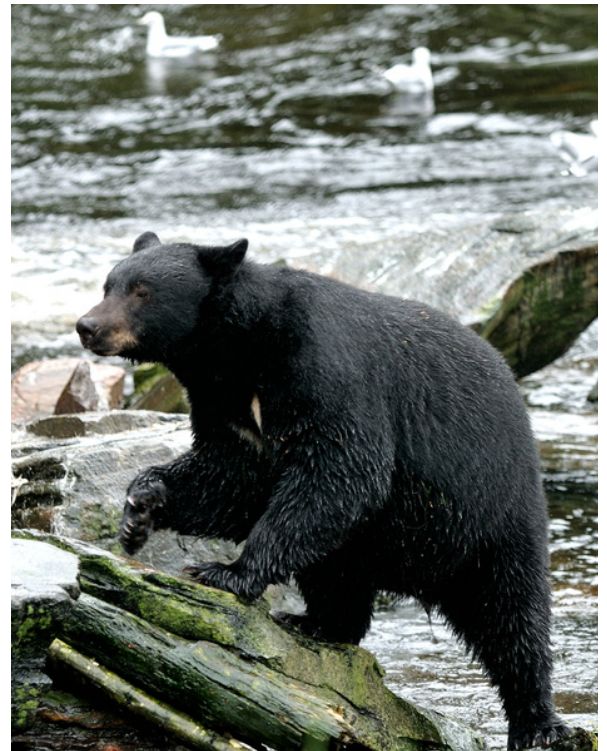
Washington Spring Bear Comments: SCI has submitted several comments in support of a spring bear season. Washington has several overtly anti-hunting commissioners on the commission and their actions have essentially denied hunters two seasons of scientifically valid spring bear hunting. The Commission has now undertaken a process to develop a spring bear policy. SCI continues to engage on the issue.

Alaska Testimony on Dall Sheep-FSB: On July 26, 2022, the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) voted unanimously to enact proposal WSA 22-02, despite overwhelming opposition from the public and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG). SCI Alaska Chapter President John Sturgeon testified in opposition at the hearing, and SCI President Sven Lindquist provided written comments in opposition prior to the hearing. WSA 22-02 restricts hunting by all users for Brooks Range Dall's sheep on Federal public lands in Unit 24A and Unit 26B, west of the Sagavanirktok River, for the 2022-2024 wildlife regulatory cycle. This is yet another FSB closure in a long series of closures, contrary to ADFG's position.

Reviewed Hunt/Fish Rules-USFWS: SCI advocacy staff reviewed 19 proposed United States Fish and Wildlife Refuge hunting expansion rules. In addition to lead restrictions for both hunting and fishing activities, SCI identified many other errors and restrictions on hunting and fishing.

Texas Mountain Lion: The management of Texas mountain lions will likely be a legislative item in January.

New Mexico Bighorn Sheep Rulemaking: The allocation of nonresident permits will be a legislative item in January.



CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

Washington Commissioner Letter of Support: SCI joined a coalition of NGOs in a letter of support for reappointment of a non-hunting but pro-hunting commissioner in Washington in the hopes that it would stave off the appointment of yet another anti-hunting commissioner.

Nonresidents in General: Nonresident angst is high amongst the states. Several state departments and legislatures continue grappling with the issue, including Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico.



African Trophy Bans: State legislation to ban the importation of legally harvested game from Africa are fully expected to return in 2023 with the first versions of these proposals expected this fall.

Michigan Natural Resource Commission: A legislative proposal was filed requiring members to have a hunting or fishing license for four out of the six previous years prior to appointment. SCI is supportive of this measure.



Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (NRA): A coalition of sportsmen's groups are working together to ensure a potential proposal to designate a portion of the current NRA as a National Park does not happen. The New River Gorge Model (90 percent preserve / 10 percent park) has been discussed, which would be a loss of roughly 8,000 acres of hunting and fishing access. This is a no-net-loss issue that SCI is watching closely.

Sunday Hunting: Various efforts to repeal restrictive Sunday hunting measures will percolate over the months before the 2023 legislative session. This includes efforts in Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and others.



SCI's specialized staff and Brussels-based attorney have collaborated with conservation partners and our international chapters to interact with government leaders and agencies on behalf of the hunting community. Together we have challenged a number of efforts that threaten hunting rights, trophy importations and conservation efforts abroad. Whether it's hunting partridge, roe deer or Cape buffalo, SCI has and will continue to defend your right to hunt.

WINS THIS QUARTER

Bontebok: Thanks in part to SCI's advocacy efforts, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is once again issuing permits for the importation of sport-hunted bontebok, an endangered-listed species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. After a years-long delay in processing permit applications, the Service is now working through a backlog of applications and approving those that meet certain requirements. Moving forward, most hunters who apply to import a bontebok will likely receive a permit to do so.

US Customs Form 4457: U.S. Customs and Border Protection removed an erroneous expiration date on its Form 4457, which is used by hunters to document possession of firearms when taken abroad. The form demonstrates that firearms (or other expensive items) being brought back into the country were already possessed by the hunter when he or she left the United States, so no duty taxes need be paid on them. Persistent engagement from SCI staff and SCI's Traveling with Firearms subcommittee resulted in amendment of the form, fixing a problem for many hunters. Previously, an unnecessary expiration date caused significant issues for hunters because agents of some foreign governments did not understand that the form is not used as a permit to possess the relevant firearm; rather, it is used simply to document existing possession. Amendment of the form should result in easier travel for hunters abroad.



WINS THIS QUARTER

SCI Italian Chapter Celebrates 35 Years!

SCI President Sven Lindquist, SCI/F CEO W. Laird Hamberlin, Europe Committee Chair Miguel Estade and EVP of Int'l Gov & Pub Affairs Ben Cassidy attended the SCI Italian Chapter Convention to celebrate the chapter's 35th anniversary in Florence, Italy. Three days of events included a welcome reception, a shooting competition, a presentation of Benelli's Magnifico Set of Five (MC'd by SCI's own J. Alain Smith), and evening galas. Pictured in the photo is founding Italian Chapter member Claudia Ricci receiving



the Italian Hunter of the Year Award from Chapter President Tiziano Terzi. There is no doubt that the Italian Chapter's 35 years of excellence will continue well beyond the next 35 years after this weekend's successful events and auctions. Forza Italia e Forza SCI!



Lead Study in Europe: This study scientifically demonstrates how current estimates of terrestrial bird losses across Europe from ingestion of lead ammunition are based on uncertain or generic assumptions. These assumptions have been used also by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in its restriction proposal. This new study essentially shows how the methodology behind most of the current literature is not efficient and leads to flawed outcomes. Claims that lead ammunition leads to mass death in bird populations are not scientifically founded and are grossly exaggerated. It is important to note that this study was done on overall lead impact, not just lead from hunting and shooting sports. The benefits brought to habitat, wildlife and conservation initiatives from hunting outweigh the minimal risks posed by lead ammunition to the environment.

CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

Canada: Firearms Ban – On March 16th the Canadian government extended the amnesty period for the May 2020 Order in Council (OIC) that outlawed millions of lawfully registered firearms. Prime Minister (PM) Justin Trudeau and his party ignorantly touted the gun control measure as an “assault-style” weapons ban. The OIC, however, outlaws over 2,000 makes and models of firearms, many of which are widely used for hunting, sporting, and self-defense.

Belgium: Trophy Import Ban – In March, the Parliament approved a proposed resolution prohibiting the import of hunting trophies of certain species, including white rhino, hippopotamus, elephant, argali, lion, polar bear, and many antelopes. FACE and SCI sent letters to members of parliament noting the huge negative impact a decision like this would have on wildlife conservation and local communities in Africa. In April, as a result of being in Brussels for SCI et al.’s event, several African representatives were able to meet with key members of Belgium’s government to explain why Belgium should not implement the ban.

European Union: The European Parliament’s draft resolution on “Protection of livestock farming and wolves in Europe” calls for more flexibility regarding management of wolves in order to protect livestock. Hunters have been and always will be key players in the conservation and management of wolves in Europe. Sustainable hunting can play a key role in the long-term conservation and management of wolves in Europe through an EU legal framework.



Finland: Trophy Import Ban – The Finnish government submitted a proposal in the national Parliament to ban the importation into Finland of hunting trophies for all CITES Appendix I species as well as African elephant, argali, southern white rhinoceros, polar bear, African lion, and hippopotamus. The proposal mirrors similar efforts in other European countries but is particularly troubling because Finland is and traditionally always has been a strong supporter of sustainable use hunting and related wildlife issues.

United Kingdom: Trophy Import Ban – Despite Boris Johnson’s departure as Prime Minister, the long-standing threat of a UK trophy import ban still looms without resolution in sight. SCI has opposed the ban for nearly three years. The current iteration of the bill would prohibit import of thousands of species, most of which are completely unrelated to hunting, and has no positive impact on wildlife conservation worldwide.

Spain: Anti-Hunting Legislation – Draft legislation in the Spanish parliament would hurt the Spanish and international hunting community. The legislation would affect hunting by requiring special training for all dog owners; prohibiting the harvest of animals due to overpopulation without veterinary control; prohibiting injury or death of all types of animals not explicitly for human consumption (ex. fox or other predator hunting); eliminating traditional bird hunting with traps; imposing severe breeding regulations and ending all pet shops or the trade of dogs, cats and other pets.

Europe: FACE Sign for Hunting Petition – Conservation is Under Threat. Bird hunting habitat for game, large carnivore management, Europe’s hunting cultures, and our incentives to conserve nature are at risk from problematic policymaking. Add your name here: <https://signforhunting.com>.

CITES

The 19th CITES Conference of the Parties (CoP19) will occur November 14 – 25 in Panama. All species proposals and working documents to be discussed and voted upon at the meeting have been posted. SCI and SCIF submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service a pro-sustainable-use voting guide with positions on all relevant items. SCI and SCIF, along with FACE, are finalizing the voting guide and will have it translated into five other languages for maximum impact in advance of CoP19.

CURRENT ISSUES AND THREATS

Hippopotamus: For CoP19, a proposal to uplist hippo from Appendix II to Appendix I is the biggest threat to SCI's interests. An Appendix-I listing will undoubtedly make it more difficult for hunters to import sport-hunted hippo into the United States, Europe, and elsewhere around the world. SCI, along with many others, continue to urge the Parties to reject the hippo proposal.

European Parliament: The European Parliament adopted a motion for a resolution, pushed by the Environment Committee, that announces the Parliament's protectionist-supported position on many relevant CITES issues. The resolution is not legally binding and does not affect the EU's position at CoP19, but it is an attempt to influence the position of the European Commission (EC) and Council ahead of CoP19 (at European level, the EC and Council work together and shape the EU's position on CoP19 items). The EU is unquestionably the most important Party to CITES because it casts 27 votes on every issue.



More information on the CoP19: <https://safariclub.org/safari-club-prepares-for-cites-19th-conference-of-the-parties/>



SCI's Hunter Advocacy Action Center (HAAC) is the most effective tool for sportsmen and women to take action on critical issues affecting the hunting community. The HAAC achieves real results in local, state, federal, and international governing bodies. Your voice matters – take action today at <https://safariclub.org/haac/>.



NEW AND CONTINUING CAMPAIGNS THIS QUARTER

No-Net-Loss: Petition to the Biden Administration to maintain the current level of hunting and fishing access across the country.

Interior Appropriations: Campaign to the U.S. Senate opposing Section 439, the de facto trophy ban, in the Interior Appropriations Bill.

The RETURN Act: Campaign opposing the RETURN Act, which would eliminate Pittman-Robertson funding and the American System of Conservation.

Pennsylvania Doe Tags: Campaign supporting SB 431, which would modernize the doe tag system in the state.

California Firearms: Opposed AB 1227, which would impose an excise tax on firearms and ammo; helped eventually defeat the bill.

Big Cypress Preserve: Petition in support of increased access to Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida and against any wilderness designation for the area.

Women Go Hunting: With SCI 2023 Convention's focus on women, we are asking women to share their hunting lifestyle, stories as an SCI member, or their favorite hunting adventure. These stories are showcasing women in the SCI community in publications and digital media. We encourage all women to share their stories by visiting <https://safariclub.org/womengohunting/>.

TOP CAMPAIGNS THIS QUARTER

No-Net-Loss:

USFWS Lead Ammo:

Interior Appropriations:

California Firearms

Big Cypress

Women Go Hunting

In addition to advocating in the legal and legislative arenas, SCI also advocates for hunting through various public relations and public communications efforts. These range from strategically placing op-eds and letters to the editor in print and digital publications, running pro-hunting advertisements, and conducting social media campaigns.

WEBINARS

Big 5 Summer Series: SCI proudly presented the Big 5 Summer Series, highlighting the most pressing issues affecting hunting and conservation around the world through panels, informative sessions, and testimony from the experts. SCI members and advocates received the most updated information on our legislative priorities around the world and received opportunities to take action through the HAAC, which saw unprecedented engagement. The topics of priority to hunters are International Hunting Imports, State Management Authority, Pittman-Robertson, Traditional Ammunition, and No-Net-Loss. More information is available here: <https://safariclub.org/sci-advocacy-concludes-successful-big-5-summer-series/>.

In addition to social media and email newsletters, SCI promoted the Big 5 Summer Series through an online ad campaign conducted by The Herald Group. The campaign was designed to drive awareness of the summer series to audiences and educate them on SCI's core issues covered in the summer series. Display advertising across the web put SCI's name and message in front of target audiences, built familiarity with audiences, and drove our core messages.



SOCIAL MEDIA



Instagram and Facebook: These are SCI's primary social media platforms, where we engage with SCI supporters, members and advocates. Both platforms continue to see strong upward growth in followers, engagements and reach. On Instagram, SCI shared 175 pro-hunting messages and updates followed by 105 on Facebook, reaching over 1 million users. Social media drives engagement, activity on the SCI website, membership, and our advocacy mission.



Twitter: SCI has focused on publishing the same messages on Twitter but with a different audience. SCI has coordinated with other NGO's, local African Community Organizations, and Twitter personalities to tweet important conservation and advocacy work being done at the state and international level.



YouTube: Of all social media platforms, SCI's YouTube page has seen the greatest growth in Quarter 1. SCI posted dozens of pro-hunting videos on the platforms and through digital marketing strategies, receiving over 1.5 million views.

OPINION EDITORIALS

Washington Examiner: EVP Ben Cassidy shared a piece in *The Washington Examiner* titled "Anti-hunters are loading up to outlaw lead ammunition" on August 8th in response to the USFWS proposals to ban lead ammunition. Read it here: <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/anti-hunters-are-loading-up-to-outlaw-lead-ammo>

Atlanta Journal-Constitution: SCI Georgia Chapter President Chris Albrecht shared "Opinion: Don't threaten needed conservation funding" in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* on July 19th in response to the RETURN Act and threats to the American System of Conservation. Read it here: <https://www.ajc.com/opinion/opinion-dont-threaten-needed-conservation-funding/WBVBREH35OJAH5O7JWWBHL7IBI4/>

SCI Store: On September 1st, SCI announced the launch of its new online store. The month of September saw growing numbers of merchandise sales with strategic retail partners like KUIU. SCI's mission is strengthened with every purchase. Head over to <https://safariclub.org/shop/> today!





About SCI

Safari Club International (SCI) is the leading defender of the freedom to hunt and supporter of wildlife conservation worldwide. SCI is unique in the scope of our ability to defend and advance our freedom to hunt, mobilizing 143 chapters and an affiliate network representing 7.2 million hunters around the world.

SCI is also the only hunting rights organization with an international advocacy team based in Washington, D.C., and an all-species focus. In the U.S., SCI's fulltime staff of professional advocates speak for hunters at federal and state levels on important issues such as access to hunting on public lands and the authority of states to manage their wildlife.

Through SCI's Hunter Advocacy Action Center (HAAC), SCI educates and activates hunter advocates on issues in their communities and states, as well as nationwide. SCI's chapter networks in Canada and Europe are involved in advocacy on local and global hunting issues, protecting sportsmen's rights to hunt and import trophies. For more than two decades, SCI has been the major defender of hunters in courtrooms throughout the country.

SCI is First for Hunters.