



HUNTER ADVOCACY

INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT

Second Quarter, FY 2023

October - December 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's leadership as the first voice for hunters is showcased in this second fiscal quarter report, which captures October through December 2022.

The International Government & Public Affairs team advocates for our hunting freedoms across the country and around the globe. Over the past year, our team has expanded to ensure we are active in all levels of government; on the frontlines of communicating the issues to the hunting community; and leading a grassroots army to make the hunter's voice heard.

Safari Club International advocates for your right to hunt, regardless of species, location, or method of take. This last quarter, you might notice a strong focus on the "I" in SCI; it is critical to defend our freedoms internationally to ensure these attacks do not make it to the United States. However, there is no shortage of anti-hunting attacks right here at home. SCI is taking these on too, with our robust state and federal teams active with state boards and commissions, legislatures, Congress, and the Biden Administration.

This report features our team traveling from Montana to Panama, from Missouri to Mozambique, and from Kansas to Brussels. It provides updates on the New Jersey bear hunt, federal elections, African community leadership, and CITES. With these and much more, this report showcases just exactly how we are First For Hunters.

As we wrap up the end of the year, we could not be more excited for our 2023 Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, and our celebration of Women Go Hunting. With world class entertainment, seminars by the pros, and one-of-a-kind events, hunters of all ages and experiences are welcome. We hope to see you there!



W. Laird Hamberlin
CEO



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

African Conservation

SCI Foundation held the 20th Annual African Wildlife Consultative Forum in Maputo, Mozambique, where SCI's Advocacy team updated African conservation experts on international hunting import bans and discussed issues for the upcoming CITES conference. SCI further engaged with African leaders, including H.E. President Mokgweetsi Masisi of Botswana (right) and H.E. President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique, attending President Biden's U.S.-African Leaders Summit in Washington D.C.



Chapter Advocacy Support

This quarter, SCI supported several chapters advocating for hunting freedoms, including the Lehigh Valley Chapter's participation in the Delaware Water Gap Defense Fund coalition in New Jersey; Adirondack-Catskill Chapter's opposition to bills in New York that would restrict hunting and undermine wildlife management in that state; and the Lewis and Clark Chapter's opposition to restrictive gun control laws in Oregon.

CITES

SCI/SCIF's expanded delegation attended the CoP19 in Panama City, Panama, to make interventions and lobby Parties to vote in favor of sustainable use conservation and against proposals that are blatantly anti-use or that do not meet criteria for restriction in trade. SCI/SCIF created and distributed a voting guide supporting the scientific criteria for appropriate species listing status', best practice in trade regulation under the Convention text, and support for the direct participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) in CITES decisions. Together with partner conservation groups, such as FACE and CIC, SCI also supported IPLC communication efforts and co-sponsored an evening event for them.

Convention



The communications team was busy this quarter promoting the 2023 SCI Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Promotions included the various entertainment acts scheduled to perform, announcements around two pro-hunting legislators to be recognized at the convention and a social media campaign featuring women hunters' stories and photos in celebration of the convention's Women Go Hunting theme. Targeted communications invited women to attend special events for them at the convention.

Everywhere We Need to Be

SCI leadership and advocacy staff attended more than a dozen important meetings and events around the world these past three months, including the Alaska Professional Hunters Association annual meeting; Kansas Governor's Ringneck Classic; the annual Missouri Conservation Roundtable Partnership meeting; the NASC Summit in Montana; a meeting with other hunting NGOs and the Western Landowner's Alliance; National Hunting and Fishing Day ceremony in Nebraska; professional hunting association meetings across southern Africa and meetings in Brussels, Belgium, with conservation partners, parliament members and stakeholders to defend hunting, sustainable use conservation and trophy importations; and Maputo, Mozambique, for the 20th African Wildlife Consultative Forum.

Firearm Bans and Restrictions

Firearm restrictions invariably hurt hunting, including recent legislation in California, Oregon, and Canada. SCI's Advocacy Team devoted time and energy fighting these bans and restrictions through grass roots campaigns and litigation, while also supporting a state constitutional amendment recognizing the right to keep and bear arms in Iowa.

Friends in Congress

Thanks to hunters supporting the Hunter Action Fund and SCI-PAC, 94.5% of Congressional candidates endorsed by SCI won elections! These are pro-hunting allies we can count on in Congress to stand for sportsmen and women.

Game Commissions

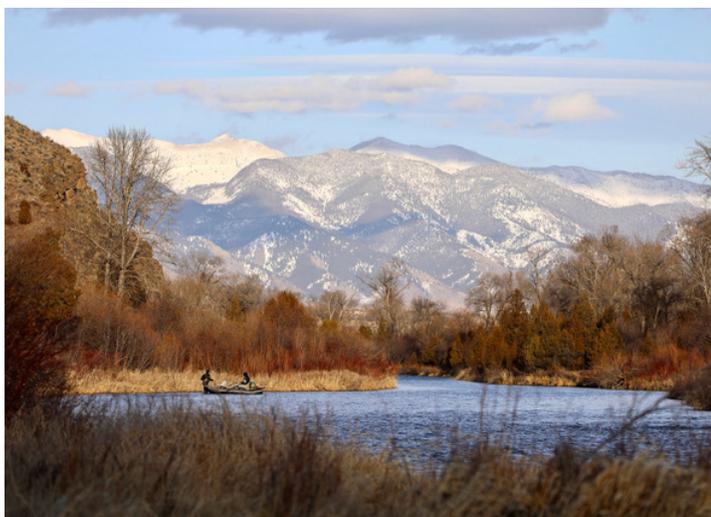
Anti-hunting groups are working hard to infiltrate state game commissions, but SCI is on watch. This quarter we supported legislation requiring Michigan's commission appointments to have held a hunting or fishing license for 4-6 years prior to appointment.

Growing the Team

SCI's new Federal Liaison, Nick Uberti, joined the government relations and advocacy team to increase our effectiveness on Capitol Hill.

Hunting Access and Methods

The fight to protect hunting access continues on several fronts. SCI is still opposing the efforts by the Department of the Interior to ban lead ammo and fishing tackle on 2 million acres recently opened to hunting on National Wildlife Refuges. We're also ready to oppose the same bans called for by the Biden Administration's FACA Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council and go toe-to-toe with the CBD in court over hunting with lead ammo on federal lands. SCI also opposed bills in New York that would reduce hunting opportunity and usurp the authority of the state's division of fish and wildlife. At the same time, a bill protecting access on public lands was introduced by two of SCI's champions in the House and Senate, and we supported expanding turkey hunting methods in Colorado to include air guns.



Import Bans and Restrictions

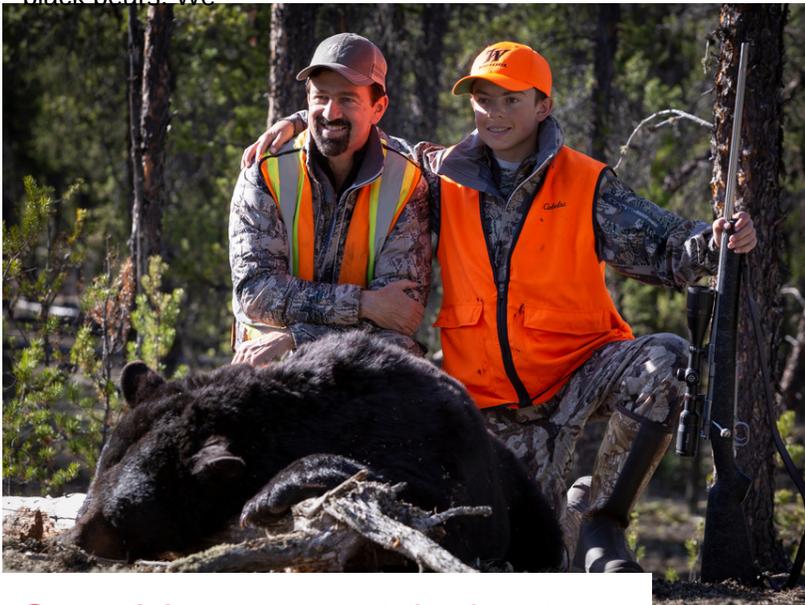
No matter how creative anti-hunters get in finding ways to curtail trophy imports, SCI is there to clear the smoke screen, identify these efforts and meet them head on. This quarter, SCI worked with friends in Congress to remove Section 439 from the Congressional omnibus spending bill. We continue fighting efforts to shut down leopard trophy imports; oppose the new elephant proposal by FWS that will further restrict imports; work with conservation partners in the UK to educate the public on how trophy import bans hurt conservation abroad; and oppose a petition to the European Parliament to ban all trophy imports to the EU.

Anti-Poaching

SCI is supporting initiatives to combat poaching and show how legal hunting is an effective conservation tool.

Predator Management - Bears, Coyotes, Wolves

In New Jersey, continued efforts to reopen black bear hunting paid off this fall after SCI-led grass roots efforts, lawsuits, letters to the Governor and a bill requiring annual black bear estimates and reports. In Utah and Wyoming, we supported black bear management plans, administrative rules and proposed hunting regulations and seasons. SCI is commenting on Colorado's draft plan to reintroduce wolf, Montana's draft grizzly bear plan and New Jersey's 2023 proposed changes to the Game code regarding black bears. We



are supporting the expansion of black bear hunting areas in North Carolina, and changes to the Washington black bear hunting regulations that include hunting as part of a responsible and sustainable management plan, and that also include a spring bear hunting season. We are also preparing comments on the Wisconsin draft plan for wolf management, running a grass roots campaign to support a spring bear hunt in Washington, and joined conservation partners opposing the ban of coyote hunting contests in Oregon, where these events help control coyote numbers.

State Management Authority

Federal agencies continue overstepping their authority when it comes to wildlife management. SCI supported Alaska's rights to manage wildlife, especially predators, throughout the state, even on federal lands such as National Wildlife Refuges. We also oppose the Alaska Subsistence Board's shut down of hunting on public lands to all non-subsistence hunters.

Public Relations & Social Media

More content, more topics, more platforms reaching a greater audience than ever before! Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, TikTok, and a new First for Hunters podcast reaching more than 7 million users. Strategically placed Op-Eds, the weekly International Government & Public Affairs Update newsletter and the bi-weekly SCI News continue reaching more people.

SCI Online Store

Relaunched just last quarter with better products and wider selections from high quality brands that hunters know and want, SCI's new online store has already surpassed last year's sales!



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

Elections: Senate - 51 Dems, 49 GOP. Seats flipped: Pennsylvania. House - 222 GOP, 213 Dems. Seats flipped: GOP +11. SCI endorsed candidates enjoyed a 94.5% success rate in their races. We are extremely grateful to all hunters who contributed to the Hunter Action Fund and SCI-PAC, making it possible for SCI to support candidates who will be our allies in Congress.

While the overall election results were underwhelming, the 2022 Federal Election saw the return of a divided government. With the House flipping to GOP control, there is now a check in place on the Biden Administration's agenda. All appropriations will begin in the GOP-controlled House, and House oversight can slow down any attempted actions by the Administration. The fight is still very real, but we now have tools available to us that previously were not.



SCI Hires Federal Liaison: SCI hired Nick Uberti as Federal Liaison, a new position on the government relations and advocacy team. Uberti will lobby the U.S. Congress and administration on behalf of SCI and the hunting community and provide direction and federal perspective to SCI's PAC, SuperPAC and grassroots programs. He will collaborate with SCI's EVP of International, Government & Public Affairs Ben Cassidy, the advocacy staff, the Government Affairs Committee and other SCI departments to further SCI's mission to be first for hunters. His work includes advancing SCI's political positions and enhancing the effectiveness of SCI's pro-hunting agenda and lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill. Uberti will also assist with strategies on how to best represent SCI's position to members of Congress and their staffs. Additionally, Uberti will participate in and provide strategic input on SCI-led or supported coalitions.

Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers: SCI champion and House Committee on Natural Resources Ranking Member Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), U.S. Rep. Rob Wittman (R-Va.) and 34 other members introduced the Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act of 2022. This is in response to the FWS Hunt Fish Rule that outright bans or phases out the use of lead ammunition on several National Wildlife Refuges across the country. This is the companion bill in the House to the bill recently introduced by Senator Steve Daines. This bill is critical to protecting access for hunters on our public lands. [Read more about the bill on Westerman's website.](#)

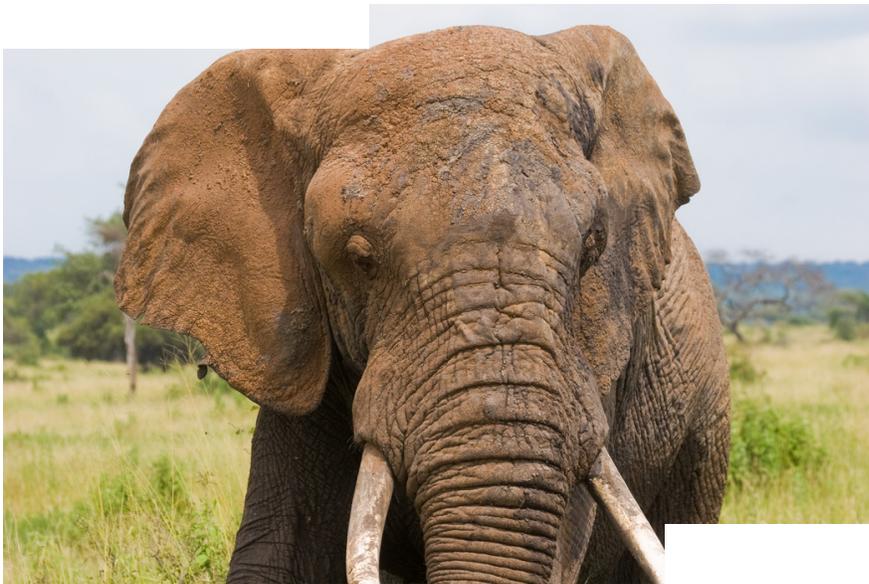
Poach and Pay: SCI is proud to continue supporting Boone and Crockett's Poach and Pay Initiative to reduce poaching and support hunting as a legal and ethical conservation strategy. Learn more about the program on the [Boone and Crockett website.](#)

Appropriations: SCI successfully lobbied Congress to remove Section 439 from their \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill, which would have been a defacto trophy import ban on elephants and lions from Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Thanks to hunting advocates across the country who partnered with us through HAAC to make their voices heard and help SCI get this trophy ban removed from the bill.

CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

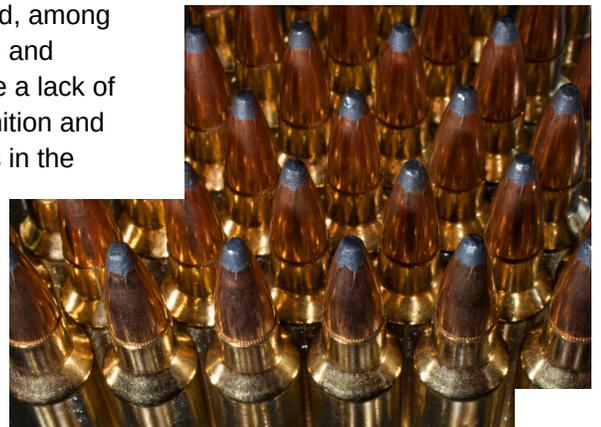
Oppose the FWS Elephant Proposal: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a proposal to amend the import regulations for African elephants, both alive and as hunting trophies. The proposal would require that African range states provide an annual certification regarding their elephant management and conservation programs and would prohibit the import of trophies from any country whose national laws have not been deemed to “fully implement” the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). This new proposal will likely prevent the import of elephant trophies from Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia, and Mozambique.

This rule will not help elephant conservation, end poaching, or stop human-wildlife conflict. What this rule will do is further oppress rural and local communities who bear the burden of wildlife and are denied its benefits. The FWS did not even consult range states when proposing this rule. SCI learned of this proposal while on the ground at CITES. We immediately issued a [HAAC](#) informing hunters and encouraging them to oppose the proposed revisions to the rule. SCI also released a video of EVP Ben Cassidy discussing the issue with Dr. Maurus Mshu, Tanzania Director of Wildlife. [Watch the video on SCI's Instagram account.](#)



Furthermore, SCI was joined by community partners representing millions of sportsmen and women in sending a letter to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service requesting that USFWS fulfill its obligations to consult with the range states that will be affected by the proposed rule. Specifically, the letter requests that the Service extend the comment period and use that opportunity to consult with range states.

FACA Hunting and Wildlife Conservation Council: The council met for the first time under the Biden Administration on December 19th and, among other things, extensively discussed the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle, particularly on National Wildlife Refuges. Despite a lack of robust scientific evidence that indicates the use of lead ammunition and tackle has population-level impacts, the majority of participants in the meeting urged for quick phasing out of lead on federal lands. This will severely hamper hunting access across the country; access continues to be one of SCI's top priorities, one which the Biden Administration does not seem to share.



SCI is unique among hunting organizations for having in-house lawyers (a total of seven!) dedicated to defending hunting as a conservation tool. Our attorneys have litigated dozens of cases throughout the United States involving domestic and international hunting-related issues and filed seven U.S. Supreme Court briefs on wildlife law. A staff attorney in the European Union's capital of Brussels, Belgium, monitors issues in Europe. Our team is the only one among hunting rights organizations that defends all hunters for all species from around the world.

WINS THIS QUARTER

Supreme Court Brief: SCI supported the State of Alaska's petition for Supreme Court review in a case challenging certain hunting restrictions on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against the State and SCI's arguments that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's restrictions on the hunting of brown bear over bait and predator hunting on a certain area of the refuge violated the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and other laws.

The State's petition for Supreme Court review explains how the Ninth Circuit erred in interpreting ANILCA. SCI further extended this argument and pointed out how Congress' understanding of the State's authority to manage wildlife, even on federal lands, was consistent with the State's argument and not with the Ninth Circuit's ruling.



Reopening New Jersey's Bear Hunt: SCI and partners previously sued the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to overturn the 2018 closure of state lands to black bear hunting, which was done to fulfill the governor's campaign promise. SCI and partners demonstrated that the black bear population was increasing too rapidly, and that human-bear encounters (including dangerous encounters) were rising. A judge credited this evidence but found in September 2020 that the risk to public safety was not substantial enough to warrant overturning the closure. In November 2022, the governor announced that, due to an expanding black bear population and increasing conflicts, the DEP would support the reopening of a bear hunt. While SCI initially lost in court, SCI's arguments were ultimately vindicated when the governor reversed his closure order. This reversal confirms the basic fact that regulated hunting is the only feasible way to responsibly manage abundant and increasing black bear populations.

Lead Ban Litigation: Litigation efforts by SCI and partners helped to preserve hunting opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges around the country. An anti-hunting group challenged a 2020 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rule that expanded hunting and fishing on over 2 million acres of refuges. SCI and partners sought to intervene to defend the rule. When the district court denied intervention, SCI and partners appealed to the Ninth Circuit. Meanwhile, the anti-hunting group and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service settled the case, and their agreement left all the challenged hunting opportunities in place. The case represents both a victory and a threat, as the anti-hunting group will likely pick up with targeted challenges to hunting on certain refuges. But for the moment, SCI and its partners demonstrated that hunters were not going to quietly accept a reduction in hunting access, and undoubtedly helped moderate the settlement between the plaintiff and the Service.

CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

Lead Ammunition: The Center for Biological Diversity has launched several lawsuits challenging the use of lead ammunition for hunting on federal lands, arguing that this method of hunting threatens vulnerable species like condors and jaguar. SCI is defending the use of lead ammunition in court, including in a case involving the Kaibab National Forest in Arizona. But clearly, the Center will continue these challenges, especially when it has had success in forcing concessions from the federal government. In one suit, the Center obtained an agreement that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would phase-out the use of lead ammunition for hunting on certain National Wildlife Refuges. SCI anticipates that these lawsuits will continue, and it is likely the Service (and other federal agencies) will begin to restrict the use of lead ammunition and tackle for hunting and fishing on federal lands.

Alaska Federal Subsistence Board: Board actions continue threatening to shut down hunting opportunities on extensive public lands in Alaska to all but federally qualified subsistence users. Litigation brought by the State of Alaska has not succeeded in reducing this federal overreach. SCI will continue strategizing to limit the Board's authority and protect hunting access for all citizens.

State vs. 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. SCI is defending these permits and the well-managed leopard hunting in Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Firearm Restrictions: SCI is involved in a case in California over a law that prohibits the marketing of firearms and related products in a way that appeals to minors. At the same time, SCI is engaging in another lawsuit challenging magazine size limits and new permit requirements for the purchase of firearms in Oregon. This law affects the ability of SCI chapters to fundraise with firearms raffles and sales. Although the defense of access to firearms is tangential to SCI's mission, some new restrictions have a disproportionate impact on hunting. SCI will continue to monitor and challenge these laws.

In every state, Safari Club International monitors, tracks, and evaluates legislation 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 Action Advocacy Center.

WINS THIS QUARTER

Alaska: Guides and outfitters from across Alaska gathered in Anchorage December 9-10, 2022, for the annual Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA) meeting, and Safari Club International was in attendance to represent the membership and engage on conservation and hunting issues. SCI President Sven Lindquist, Corporate Secretary Mike Crawford, State and Local Liaison Chris Tymeson and Litigation Associate Madie Demaske attended the meeting on behalf of the national organization along with other SCI members and leaders from Alaska chapters, interacting with APHA members, government officials and other non-governmental organizations on topics of importance to SCI, its chapters and members. SCI continues to lead from the front and is always First for Hunters.

California: SCI President Sven Linquist submitted comments in California regarding a proposal to use mobile licensing platforms. He wrote, "The current version of the regulations requires every person engaged in taking fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds or mammals to have on their person or in their immediate possession a valid sport fishing or hunting license. Those licenses are available at point-of-sale locations or online, further requiring a printed temporary permit followed by a permanent license via regular mail. Many other states have moved toward electronic licenses available through mobile devices. SCI commends the Department on this proposed change, which will greatly benefit hunters and anglers. In addition, there could be some long-term cost savings by reducing mailing costs, money that could otherwise go to furthering conservation or to offset the initial cost of implementation."

Colorado: SCI President Sven Lindquist submitted comments in Colorado supporting the use of air guns stating, "In addition to our previous comments in

support of expanding the youth season, SCI also supports the use of air guns as legal equipment for the take of turkeys in the fall and late seasons. Modern air guns have greatly expanded in their use as a conservation management tool across the country, are more than adequate to ensure a clean and humane harvest of wild turkeys and provide an alternative for hunters when choosing to go afield."



Iowa: The constitutional right to keep and bear arms was on the ballot in Iowa on November 8, passing with 65% of the vote. Iowa was one of just six states where the right to keep and bear arms was not enshrined in the state constitution. Although some argue that the US Supreme Court has ruled on the issue already, the makeup or composition of the court could change, and this measure would protect Iowans far into the future. Additionally, the right, as proposed and passed, is subject to strict scrutiny, the strongest form of protection against government overreach, should the right be subject to judicial review in the courts. The ballot language reads: The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. The sovereign state of Iowa affirms and recognizes this right to be a fundamental individual right. Any and all restrictions of this right shall be subject to strict scrutiny.

Kansas: SCI State and Local Liaison Chris Tymeson attended the Kansas Governor's Ringneck Classic after addressing the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks Commission on the significance of SCI as a conservation and advocacy partner. (Below)



Missouri: SCI State and Local Liaison Chris Tymeson attended the 6th Annual Missouri Conservation Roundtable Partnership meeting, hosted at the Bass Pro White River Conference Center in Springfield, engaging with over 450 national, state and local political, agricultural and conservation leaders on topics such as healthy lands, people and animals, landscape conservation, working lands, and recreation and engagement, including Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation of hunters and anglers.

Montana: SCI State and Local Liaison Chris Tymeson attended a meeting with other hunting NGO's and the Western Landowner's Alliance to discuss mutual issues of concern with the hunting and agricultural communities, ending with a general direction of further communication between the groups.

Nebraska: SCI Western State and Local Liaison Chris Tymeson attended a National Hunting and Fishing Day Proclamation signing ceremony in Lincoln, Nebraska with Governor Pete Ricketts, along with representatives from several other sportsmen's organizations and Nebraska Game, Fish and Parks officials. SCI consistently works with state elected officials and the GFP Department on important hunting and conservation issues in the Cornhusker state.

Michigan: SCI President Sven Lindquist submitted comments in support of House Bill 6387 which would amend Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act of 1994 by requiring newly appointed members of the Natural Resource Commission (NRC) to have held a hunting or fishing license in four of the last six years prior to appointment. Codifying this language would ensure that decision makers on the NRC have a personal and direct understanding of the impact and importance that hunting and fishing have on Michigan's vast natural resources, the recreation opportunities they provide, and their associated economic impact. This bill, ultimately, did not receive further consideration this year but is expected to return in 2023.

NASC: SCI State and Local Liaisons Bee Frederick and Chris Tymeson attended NASC in Bozeman, Montana. Founded by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation in 2004, NASC is a nationwide network of state legislative sportsmen's caucuses providing interaction and idea exchange among state caucuses and the outdoor community. Chris Tymeson and Bee Frederick provided updates to the group on SCI's state advocacy efforts and had a productive week with other industry and state leaders. (Below)



New Jersey: Following a two-year black bear hunting season hiatus and the resulting increase in bear population, Governor Phil Murphy abruptly reversed course and prompted New Jersey to reinstitute a regulated black bear hunt for the benefit of public safety. The state's activity report noted a 237% increase in nuisance bears during 2022. In mid-November, an emergency rule and updated Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy (CBBMP) was approved by the Game and Fish Commission and finally signed by the Commissioner of the DEP.

SCI has been intimately involved with the politicized issue of bear hunting in New Jersey since the early 2000's, including through lawsuits arguing the hunting closure violated the state bear management policy because unmitigated bear population growth and increased human-bear conflicts put the public at risk. Governor Murphy's admission that the unchecked bear population in New Jersey affirms SCI's longstanding position that, while non-lethal methods are important for reducing conflicts, the only way to control New Jersey's growing black bear population and ensure public safety is through a regulated hunting season. A reinstated Bear Hunting Season on BOTH state and private lands within designated bear hunting zones, with various restrictions, ran concurrent with the six-day whitetail deer firearm season from December 5–10 with an additional four days from December 14–17.

The hunt was challenged by animal rights groups in the state, but the court quickly ruled that the emergency hunt did not violate due process and was necessary for public safety. In the end, a total of 114 bears were harvested during the two brief seasons, which is significantly lower than the 20% harvest objective. The December 2022 hunts were authorized under emergency rule and expire within 60 days. A full public comment period is currently open for the CBBMP regarding seasons in 2023 and beyond.

New Jersey: SCI President Sven Lindquist submitted comments in support of Senate Bill 3052 in the New Jersey legislature, which would require the Division of Fish and Wildlife to conduct an annual black bear population estimate. The bill would also require that an annual report containing information on black bear population estimates, distribution, density, growth, and other data be submitted to the governor and legislature for their review. SB 3052 is critically important for the management of black bears in New Jersey, especially considering that a proper population assessment has not taken place in two years due to the Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy being held back by the Commissioner of the DEP.

New Jersey: SCI's Lehigh Valley Chapter joined the Delaware Water Gap Defense Fund coalition in opposition to any potential federal redesignation of the Delaware Water Gap from a national recreation area to a national park that would restrict access for hunting.



New York: Governor Kathy Hochul recently vetoed Assembly Bill 9895 and Senate Bill 6510. The first, Assembly Bill 9895, would prohibit deer hunting on state lands adjacent to a wildlife rehabilitation center in the town of Southampton, Suffolk County. This measure is problematic because it would restrict access for sportsmen and women, and it would also usurp the management authority from the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW). In her veto memo response, Governor Hochul noted, “The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has the statutory authority to regulate hunting in New York. This bill would undermine DEC’s statutory authority over wildlife governance and would establish a problematic precedent.”

The other bill, Assembly Bill 9895, would allow counties and municipalities to opt out of a prescribed hunting season, which severely hinders the DFW’s ability to professionally manage game populations in the Southern zone and has negative implications for conservation funding that the DFW receives. The governor, in her veto memo, noted that this bill would “establish an extremely confusing patchwork of prohibitions on hunting during the Holiday Hunt and would have the consequences of undermining DEC’s statutory authority over wildlife governance. Additionally, last week, the Adirondack-Catskill Chapter of Safari Club International, as a member of the New York Sportsmen’s Advisory Council, signed two letters in New York opposing A. 9895 as well as A. 7785/S. 6510.

Oregon: SCI submitted a joint comment letter with other conservation partners to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission regarding a petition to ban coyote hunting contests. The letter opposed action by the Commission, based on a lack of authority to regulate such contests as raised in the petition. The Commission agreed with the lack of authority and denied the petition but directed staff to come up with a way under their statutory authorities to end such contests in Oregon.

Pennsylvania: Senate Bill 431 passed the legislature and received final approval from the governor. SB 431, introduced by former SCI State Legislator of the Year Senator Dan Laughlin, will do away with the antiquated pink envelopes that were synonymous with antlerless deer tags in Pennsylvania. Hunters will instead procure doe tags through the Pennsylvania Automated Licensing Service. SCI supported the measure throughout the legislative process and promoted SB 431 through a HAAC and social media campaign.



Utah: SCI President Sven Lindquist submitted comments on the Utah Black Bear Management Plan, Administrative Rule and Hunting Season proposal, stating, “The proposed changes to the Black Bear Management Plan, Administrative Rule and Hunting Structure generally demonstrate responsible and sustainable management of black bears while maintaining high levels of opportunity for hunters. SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, including carnivores such as black bears, 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.”



Washington: SCIF CEO W. Laird Hamberlin and SCIF President Brook Minx submitted a joint comment regarding domestic sheep and goats on department lands with wild sheep, stating, “Domestic sheep and goats have the potential to spread diseases, including pneumonia (*M. ovipneumoniae*), to wild bighorn sheep where they exist on department-managed lands. Disease transmission could have significant long-term impacts on Washington bighorn sheep populations because once introduced, pneumonia, for example, can persist in bighorn sheep populations for decades. Pneumonia infection, and particularly *M. ovipneumoniae*, is generally regarded as the most important threat to the persistence and growth of wild sheep populations in the western United States and Canada. Best management practices state that spatial separation between domestic sheep and goats and wild sheep should be a primary management goal of wildlife management agencies if conservation of wild sheep is an objective of the management agency. Scientific evidence clearly shows that domestic sheep and goats can transfer disease to wild sheep and therefore spatial separation and this proposed rule is warranted.

Wyoming: SCI President Sven Lindquist submitted comments in Wyoming in support of the proposed black bear regulation stating, “The proposed changes to the Black Bear Hunting Seasons Regulation generally demonstrate responsible and sustainable management of black bears while maintaining high levels of opportunity for hunters. SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, including predators such as black bears, 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.

CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

All States: The legislative season is upon us, and bills that affect sportsmen and women are already being pre-filed across the country. Common themes of attacks on hunters permeate the agenda. Attacks on predator and carnivore hunting and trapping will continue, state wildlife agency commissions will continue to be at the forefront as anti-hunting groups attempt to place members on the commissions, and nonresident angst is high among the Western States. SCI also will be engaged on expanding or maintaining access for sportsmen and women and repealing antiquated Sunday hunting bans.



Colorado: Colorado Parks and Wildlife has released the draft Colorado Wolf Reintroduction Plan, and SCI will be developing comments on the plan by the February 7, 2023, submission deadline. Unfortunately, the plan does not consider hunting as a viable management tool, and SCI will be sure to comment on the omission.

Montana: Montana Game, Fish and Parks has released the draft Grizzly Bear Management Plan, and SCI will be developing comments on the plan by the February 4, 2023 submission deadline.

New Jersey: The New Jersey Fish and Game Council is proposing the 2022 Comprehensive Black Bear Management Policy (CBBMP) and amendments pertaining to black bears in the game code for seasons in 2023 and beyond. The CBBMP outlines non-lethal and lethal management actions to ensure the longevity of this species, provide for human safety and reduce bear-human conflict. Public comment period is currently open and runs into February, and there is an in-person public hearing on January 18. SCI will continue to remain engaged here and advocate for the science-based, active management of black bears in the Garden State.

Oregon: Ballot Measure 114, the “Reduction of Gun Violence Act,” was on the ballot on November 8 and unfortunately for gun owners, shooters and hunters in Oregon, barely passed with 50.85% of the public voting in favor. BM 114 is a radical gun control measure that creates a redundant “permit to purchase” system that will require an application (in quadruplicate), photographs, fingerprints, FBI background check, and a new, non-existing, mandatory state firearms class that includes an undefined live gun handling and live fire requirement. After receiving this permit, an aspiring gun owner will still need to pass the normal federal background check at the time of the firearm purchase. In addition, the measure bans the possession of magazines greater than 10 rounds. The measure will dramatically reduce SCI’s ability to use firearms in fundraising, hurting conservation funding directly, as well as reducing Pittman-Robertson funding – the primary source of funding for conservation projects.

SCI is a member of the coalition Sportsmen Against Gun Violence, which opposed the ballot measure, and SCI’s Lewis and Clark Chapter donated to the Coalition. Several lawsuits have been filed and temporary stays have been issued by the courts as the issue moves forward. SCI will continue to engage as necessary to prevent the measure coming to fruition.

The unfunded mandate contained in [Ballot Measure 114](#) will not reduce crime or gang violence nor increase public safety or address mental health issues.



North Carolina: Efforts to expand black bear hunting in three current “bear sanctuaries” ran into procedural hurdles in 2022 but are expected to return in 2023 in the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission regulatory process.

Washington: SCI President Sven Lindquist submitted comments in Washington on the black bear seasons stating, “The proposed changes to the Black Bear Hunting Seasons Regulation generally demonstrate responsible and sustainable management of black bears while maintaining high levels of opportunity for hunters. SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, including predators such as black bears, 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.”

SCI President Sven Lindquist also submitted additional comments in Washington on the spring bear policy stating, “SCI believes that sound science-based conservation involving hunting as the primary management tool, while maximizing opportunities for all huntable species, including bears, is necessary to the long-term health of wildlife. Besides providing hunter opportunity and funding for the department, a spring bear season may also reduce negative human-bear interaction, decrease depredation by bears and decrease deer fawn and elk calf mortality. One only need look east to New Jersey and their recent reversal on the bear hunting ban to understand the policy of no hunting ultimately results in failure. 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.” Despite a HAAC being issued by SCI, the decidedly anti-hunting Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission indefinitely postponed implementation of a policy on hunting of bears in the spring.

Wisconsin: The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources released a draft of the updated Wolf Management Plan for public review and comment, and SCI will be preparing comments for submission before the January 10, 2023, deadline.



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 challenge efforts that threaten hunting rights, trophy importation 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



African Wildlife Consultative Forum: Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF) hosted its 20th annual African Wildlife Consultative Forum (AWCF) in Maputo, Mozambique. This year's Forum once again brought together a diverse group of international stakeholders—from African government officials to wildlife biologists. SCI's Ben Cassidy provided critical updates on international hunting import bans from around the world, and Litigation Counsel/International Affairs Liaison Jeremy Clare led updates and discussions on the upcoming CITES CoP19. SCI and SCIF were able to take insights from these fruitful discussions to defend African leadership and the participation of local communities in the decision making process as crucial to the success of wildlife conservation, particularly at CITES CoP19 in Panama.

Each year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sends representatives to AWCF to provide updates on one of the most critical issues affecting African conservation efforts: the status of trophy import permitting decisions for American hunters. The most relevant updates were on the status of elephant import processing and positive updates on bontebok imports. See our blog post on the [USFWS presentation](#).

Other critical topics covered during AWCF included community-based natural resource management, human-wildlife conflict, trans-continental conservation, and international sustainable use policy. See our video on [Instagram](#) where EVP Ben Cassidy asks AWCF attendees why sustainable use is important to them and their countries.

SCI also posted about Mozambique's huge potential for conservation and community leadership development. Read the [Mozambique Country Profile](#).

Next year's AWCF will be hosted by Namibia and will continue to be a critical meeting for the hunting and sustainable use communities, strengthening international cooperation, African leadership, and SCI/F involvement.

U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit: The Biden Administration hosted African heads of state in Washington, D.C. for the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit. SCI's advocacy team took advantage of the meeting to engage with leaders from southern Africa on issues of sustainable use, community benefits, and range state leadership. These priorities are critical as international opposition to sustainable use grows with proposed legislation and regulations to ban hunting imports in the United States and Europe. Ironically, the latest example of this is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recently proposed new restrictions on elephant imports, that will likely prohibit imports from Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia, and Mozambique. SCI was honored to meet with H.E. Mokgweetsi E. Masisi, President of Botswana and SCI's 2020 International Legislator of the Year Award Recipient, and H.E. Filipe Nyusi, President of Mozambique, at events hosted by SCI's conservation partner, the International Conservation Caucus Foundation. These presidents and other representatives from southern Africa are leaders in conservation and sustainable use.

SCI President-Elect John McLaurin in Africa: SCI President-Elect John McLaurin represented SCI and our advocates at the annual general meetings held by professional hunting associations across southern Africa. McLaurin presented on SCI's upcoming convention, shared our recent advocacy efforts, and engaged with stakeholders on the ground. With trophy bans and other attacks on hunting, conservation, and livelihoods worldwide, SCI continues to promote African leadership and engagement as top priorities. SCI thanks our partners in Africa, including the Professional Hunter's Association of South Africa, Custodians of Professional Hunting Conservation South Africa, Namibia Professional Hunting Association, Zimbabwe Professional Guides Association, and Professional Hunters Association of Zambia, with whom we work hand in hand to defend the freedom to hunt and promote wildlife conservation worldwide. (Right)



SCI in Brussels: SCI CEO W. Laird Hamberlin and EVP Ben Cassidy visited Brussels, Belgium. The week included meetings with partner organization the European Federation for Hunting and Conservation (FACE), pro-hunting members at the European Parliament, and other stakeholders. SCI will continue actively engaging governments around the world to defend our freedom to hunt! Pictured left are Dr. David Scallan (FACE Secretary General), Ben Cassidy, MP Alvaro Amaro (President of Intergroup on Biodiversity, Countryside and Hunting) and W. Laird Hamberlin.

A Long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas: On December 13, 2022, the European Parliament voted on the motion, "A long-term vision for the EU's rural areas." The motion includes important recognition of game management and its social, economic, cultural and biodiversity benefits as well as a key request to fully implement the Habitats Directive in order to reduce conflicts with large carnivores. With regard to hunting, the motion stresses "the importance in social, economic, cultural and biodiversity conservation terms of sustainable game management for the future of rural areas." This is a significant recognition for millions of hunters across Europe who are involved in conservation projects bringing a wide range of benefits to rural areas.

CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

Canada Firearms Ban: SCI condemns the Canadian government's latest sneak attack on hunters, which if implemented as intended would qualify as the most extensive firearm ban in the country's history. Liberal MP Paul Chiang introduced two amendments (with designations G4 and G46) to the Liberal Party's gun control legislation, Bill C-21. Although the bill was initially targeted at handgun control, both amendments would restrict thousands of long guns commonly used in hunting and sport shooting. Passage of the first amendment (G46) will add a 478-page list of specifically banned firearm models to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's already extreme list of 1,500 firearms banned in 2020. These include thousands of additional models of hunting rifles and shotguns. MP Chiang's second amendment (G4) expands the definition of prohibited firearms to include those "designed to accept a detachable cartridge magazine with a capacity greater than five cartridges of the type for which the firearm was originally designed." SCI will continue its fight against repeated assaults on Canada's hunting heritage and strongly urges Members of Parliament to strike down this radical proposal. SCI has also sent out a HAAC for Canadians to contact the minister in opposition to this ban.

UK Trophy Import Ban: On November 23, the UK government announced its [support for a bill](#) that will prohibit the import of sport-hunted trophies of more than 6,000 CITES-listed species, many of which are not and have never been hunted. The bill also allows the relevant government agency to prohibit importation of other species by regulation. The "[Hunting Trophies \(Import Prohibition\) Bill](#)" will now make its way through Parliament. November 25th marked the "Second Reading" of the bill, a small step in the process to becoming law. The government's announcement constitutes the gravest threat to date to trophy importation into the UK, and SCI continues to work with its partners to actively push against an import ban. Leaders from southern Africa have consistently opposed a UK trophy ban, submitting letters from the [Community Leaders Network](#) and [SADC Ambassadors](#), and during [visits to the UK](#). It is certainly not lost on these leaders that a member of the UK Parliament trying to control their wildlife and their future is simply a modern attempt at colonialism. Other opposition comes from acclaimed conservation biologists and many other stakeholders. Proponents of the ban are buoyed by public support, but SCI and many others are working to educate the public and change the narrative. This is a developing issue with updates to come.



CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

Finland Trophy Import Ban: Finland announced adoption of an amendment to its Nature Conservation Act, including a provision prohibiting the import of hunting trophies of all EU Annex A species (i.e. CITES Appendix I species) and six species on Annex B: African elephant, African lion, argali, hippopotamus, polar bear, and southern white rhinoceros. Unless changed, the ban will go into force on June 1, 2023.



Humane Society International Petition to European Parliament: HSI submitted a petition to the European Parliament to prohibit the importation of all hunting trophies into the entire European Union. The European Parliament's Committee on Petitions now must consider the petition. This follows the European Parliament's Environmental Committee's adoption of a resolution that effectively called for CITES to ban trade in hunting trophies. SCI and its partners continue to address and work against these efforts to prohibit trade in hunting trophies throughout the European Union and within individual member states.

Argentina Trophy Shipments Delayed Due to New Government Requirements: Hunters waiting on trophy shipments from Argentina this season encountered delays due to a new requirement for all hunting properties to register as "hunting preserves" with the Argentine National Department of Flora and Fauna (NDFF). The new regulation was suddenly announced as the big game hunting season was winding down for 2022, catching hunting outfitters by complete surprise.



In November, SCI and SCI Foundation, along with other partner organizations, participated in the CITES 19th Conference of the Parties (CoP19) in Panama City, advocating for sustainable use, proven conservation methods, and local community leadership. While in Panama, SCI/F's delegation had productive meetings with community leaders, range state governments, and our partners and other stakeholders.

Prior to CoP19, SCI, SCIF, and FACE circulated their [sustainable use voting guide](#) to Party members, providing information on proposals and documents up for vote and why to support or not support each one. Here were our top priorities, and their results:



- Hippo - A proposal to increase restrictions on trade in hippo was rejected.
- Rhino - A proposal to decrease restrictions on trade in southern white rhino from Namibia was partially rejected and partially adopted, resulting in no change in regulation of rhino hunting trophies from Namibia.
- Elephant - A proposal to increase restrictions on trade in elephants was rejected.
- Leopard - An effort to prohibit trade in leopard hunting trophies by reducing all export quotas to zero was rejected.
- IPLCs - Two documents that would have resulted in increased input in CITES decision-making from indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs)—who often support sustainable use programs, including hunting—were rejected.
- Protecting socio-economics - A document proposing amendments requiring Parties to take socio-economic factors into account on decisions was also rejected.
- Aleutian cackling goose - The parties accepted a proposal to transfer Aleutian cackling goose from Appendix I to Appendix II.

Supporting IPLCs: SCI/F and its conservation partners supported and co-hosted several events regarding the IPLC issues. These included a press conference, a side-event/presentation and a reception, all lead by the Community Leaders Network (CLN). Numerous environment and tourism ministers and general directors of wildlife conservation departments from across southern Africa spoke at these events, along with IPLC leaders, warning Party members that CITES is at a crossroads due to the impacts of its decisions on rural communities and livelihoods.



SCI/F also co-hosted The Role of IPLCs in CITES, an evening reception held at Panama City's Biomuseo, where Party members and NGOs could directly engage with IPLC representatives. Along with a representative of CLN, SCI/F CEO W. Laird Hamberlin, addressed the gathering, saying, "SCI and SCIF are here with our partners in sustainable-use conservation to make sure CITES recognizes the role that indigenous people and local communities have in wildlife conservation. These people have been told by the rest of the world what to do with their natural resources without being consulted. Local communities are the ones living with wildlife every day, their livelihoods depend on wildlife, and they are the ones ultimately responsible for it. So, they should be the ones managing these resources, and CITES should recognize and include them in the decision-making process."

Although CITES Parties did not adopt all the Working Documents that SCI/F and its conservation partners supported, IPLC issues have been elevated to a point that CITES cannot continue ignoring them. While the next CITES CoP has not been announced yet, SCI/F plans to use the next three years to work with IPLCs and conservation partners to advance the positions of IPLCs and the sustainable-use conservation community at CITES and other relevant gatherings.

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

Top Campaigns

FWS Elephant Proposal: A campaign to oppose the proposed rule by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to amend regulations on the import of African elephants by requiring annual certifications from range nations regarding their elephant management and conservation programs, and implementing restrictions that would prohibit imports from the countries with the highest populations of elephant.

Canada Gun Ban: A campaign against two new amendments to the Canadian Liberal Party's gun control legislation, Bill C-21, that would add a 478-page list of banned firearm models to an already existing list of 1,500 firearms that were banned in 2020. The new list includes thousands of additional models of hunting rifles and shotguns.

Washington Spring Bear Hunt: A petition for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission to implement science-based conservation of black bears through a spring hunting season that would decrease deer fawn and elk calf mortality, and reduce human bear conflicts.

Ongoing Priorities

The RETURN Act: Continuing campaign opposing the RETURN Act, which would eliminate Pittman-Robertson funding and the American system of conservation.

TOP CAMPAIGNS THIS QUARTER

RETURN Act



Washington Spring Bear Hunt



Canada Gun Ban



FWS Elephant proposal



Women Go Hunting



CONVENTION

All eyes on Nashville! Convention planning was thoroughly underway with exciting events, features, and entertainment announced to SCI members every week.

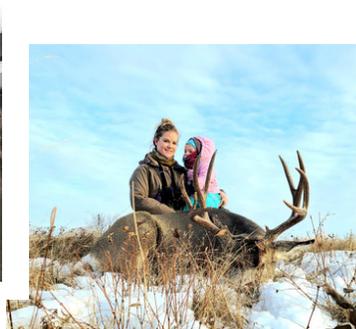
Nightly Entertainment Announced: Wednesday - The Frontmen and Gretchen Wilson; Thursday - Big & Rich; Friday - Lee Brice; Saturday - Lynyrd Skynyrd.



Legislators of the Year: Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith of Mississippi, Federal Legislator of the Year; Deputado Eduardo Bolsonaro of Brazil, International Legislator of the Year



Women Go Hunting: This year, the convention theme is Women Go Hunting, and through the HAAC, SCI has given women a unique opportunity to share their stories as hunters and be featured in our Women Go Hunting celebration. Dozens of women of all ages, backgrounds, and hunting abilities have sent in their testimonials and photos. In addition to the special events held each evening at convention, all ladies are invited to the first annual Ladies' Mix & Mingle, to be held Saturday morning at Convention.



SOCIAL MEDIA



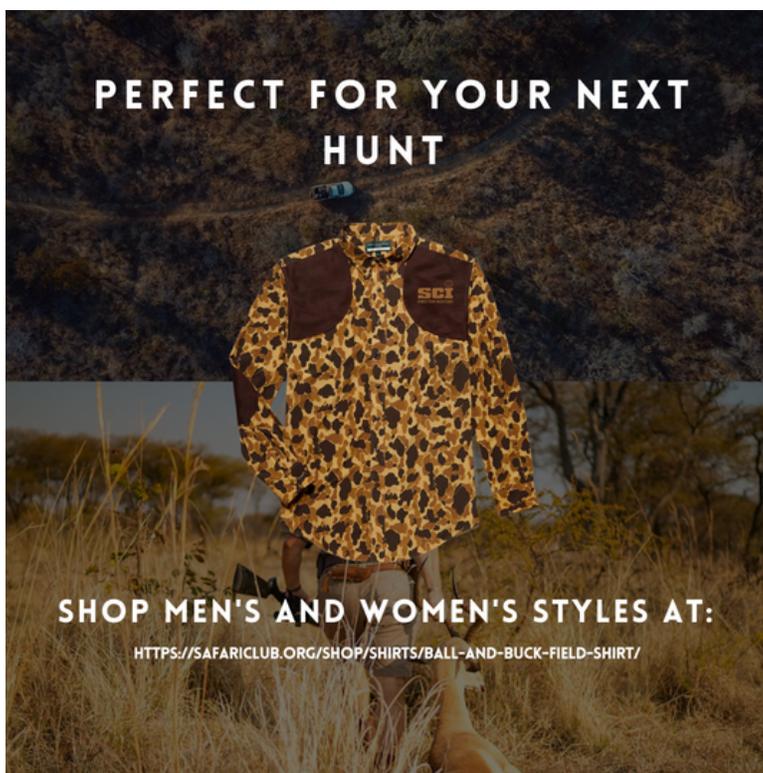
In this last quarter, SCI has placed content on more platforms than ever before. SCI has posted on the following topics: advocacy updates, convention marketing, influencer collaboration, and hunting/conservation content. SCI has strong follower growth on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Tik Tok. In this quarter, SCI social media reached out and engaged with over 7.2 million social media users!

The numbers below show how many users each platform reached in the last quarter alone:

- Facebook: 3.2 + million
- Instagram: 1.4 + million
- Twitter: 41,000 +
- YouTube: 250,000 +
- TikTok: 1.9 + million and 13,900 followers gained

SCI ONLINE STORE

Launched September 1st, SCI's new and improved online store has more than doubled last fiscal years' online merchandise sales in only four months. These growing e-commerce numbers have come directly from new merchandise and digital marketing efforts through social media, email, and text marketing. New products: KUIU Gear, Ball and Buck, Tom Beckbe, On-Demand Products. This convention, SCI will have more custom merchandise for members to choose from than ever before (KUIU, McKenna Quinn, Ball and Buck, Beretta, Tom Beckbe, and other custom logo wear).



PODCAST

We are excited to announce the official podcast of Safari Club International hosted by Ben Cassidy! SCI's ["First For Hunters" Podcast](#) is the only podcast keeping you up to date on legislation affecting hunters and wildlife conservation worldwide. Tune in for bi-weekly episodes discussing international hunting legislation, wildlife conservation, trending hunting news, and updates on SCI's membership and convention.

WEEKLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER

Stay up to date on SCI's Advocacy activities. Sign up for the weekly International Government & Public Affairs Updates from Ben Cassidy. Email Tipton Wagner at twagner@scifirstforhunters.org to subscribe!



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.