



HUNTER ADVOCACY

INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT



SCI IN ACTION

- On Capitol Hill
- In State Capitals
- In Court
- Around the World

Summer's Field Notes
April - June, 2023



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

It has been a busy summer for SCI Advocacy and, as always, we've risen to meet the challenges; we're everywhere we need to be and first in the hunting community to take the attacks head on.

Right before school started, the U.S. Department of Education pulled funding for archery, shooting sports, and outdoor education in schools. This blatant attack on the hunting community was hidden behind a faulty interpretation of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, and SCI responded by filing suit against the department and encouraging a legislative fix from Congress. SCI worked diligently on this issue, and at the time of this writing the *Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act* has passed Congress near-unanimously and been sent to President Biden's desk for signature. Our members and advocates - old and new - have sent thousands of messages and again have made the difference for hunters across the country.

There is no better example of our dedication to the Future of Hunting than this defense of hunter education in schools. In fact, this is our theme for our 52nd Annual Convention in Nashville, TN: The Future of Hunting. This annual celebration will live up to its name of "the Super Bowl of Hunting Shows" and you won't want to miss an exclusive concert at the Bridgestone Arena. Each year, we bring together the world's premier outfitters, guides, hunters, and entertainment for an unforgettable event. Most importantly, we showcase just how we fight for your right to hunt each and every day.

As we defend our freedom to hunt, we recognize the incomparable contributions that hunters make to conservation. That is why SCI was the first hunting organization to support the U.S. Foundation for International Conservation, a bill that brings big solutions to big problems. This act will encourage sustainable use, local community leadership, and long-term conservation in Africa and many other parts of the world. Our leadership on this in Washington has brought in 16 other hunting and conservation groups, representing millions of hunters, anglers, conservationists, and outdoor professionals across the country.

While we would rather be in the field, we are in Washington, D.C. so you don't have to be. Our headquarters on Capitol Hill has recently been purchased thanks to the generous donation of Armand and Mary Brachman. This Hunters' Embassy brings together Members of Congress, hunters and conservationists, and foreign dignitaries to work towards our mission: defending the freedom to hunt and promoting wildlife conservation worldwide.

Without you, none of our work would be possible. Thank you for your support and dedication to hunting advocacy!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Laird Hamberlin".

W. Laird Hamberlin
CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "BJC".

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

LEADING THE FIGHT

The Biden Administration persisted in attacking hunter education, intent on defunding firearm and archery safety programs, hunting, and outdoor programs in schools. SCI launched a HAAC and media campaign, filed suit and supported legislative action to protect hunting and outdoor education.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA)

The message that the ESA needs fixing has been heard and has resulted in various actions, including a House subcommittee hearing. SCI is working to help Congress implement simple changes that will realign the ESA with its original purpose. SCI's Washington, DC office serves as the epicenter of our efforts to educate congressional leaders and staff on ESA history, where the Act has gone away and how to fix it.

EVERYWHERE WE NEED TO BE

Why attend meetings and conferences? Because that is where the seeds of action and alliances are sown. SCI representatives this past quarter participated in 18 meetings, conferences and special events in 12 US states and several other countries in Europe and in Canada. They engaged with federal and state legislators, representatives of foreign governments, wildlife managers and other conservationists.

ANTI-HUNTING LEGISLATION

SCI opposed legislation that hurts hunters and conservation in four states this quarter, issuing alerts through the Hunter Advocacy Action Center, and aligning with other groups from the shooting sports.

BLM

SCI has opposed a Bureau of Land Management proposal that could allow third parties to close almost half a million acres of public lands to hunting.

CHAPTERS

SCI Advocacy celebrated the efforts of several chapters in the US and Europe supporting regional wildlife departments, outdoor education and advocacy.

EXPANDING OUR TEAM

The advocacy team brought on its newest intern to assist with the growing work of litigation and government affairs.

FEDERAL OVERREACH

Efforts continue in the fight to keep the federal government from shutting down land in Alaska to anyone but federally qualified subsistence users. SCI is also fighting the Whitehouse's attempt to politicize things further and weaken scientific input.

GAME COMMISSION INFILTRATION

Anti-hunting groups are targeting game commissions and councils across the country to effect game management and hunting regulations. SCI is there to expose them and oppose them.

GUN CONTROL

SCI alerted hunters to gun control measures in several states that would severely hamper gun ownership, hunting and conservation. Efforts we've opposed include exorbitant taxes and regulations that criminalize gun ownership and endanger Pittman Robertson conservation funding.

HUNTING CONTESTS

Two states continued efforts to ban hunting contests. SCI issued a HAAC for one and submitted a letter to the game commission for another, countering the claimed conservation benefits of the bans.

HUNTING REGULATIONS

SCI weighed in on draft hunting regulations, and the misuse of conservation funding and game management issues in 10 states over the last three months alone.

ACCESS & LEAD AMMUNITION

Lead ammo use is tied to hunting access and SCI's no-net-loss initiative. SCI has won a lead ammo ban court case in Arizona, is working another in West Virginia, supporting Congressional efforts to prevent lead ammo bans, and has opposed plans for lead ammo phase-outs on federal lands.

NATIONAL HUNTING & FISHING DAY

Three more states enacted National Hunting & Fishing Day this September and SCI representatives were present as the governors of Alabama, Mississippi and Wyoming signed their proclamations.

NO-NET-LOSS

The proposed 2023 Hunt Fish Rule by US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) triggered SCI to create a No-Net-Loss campaign to have the Biden Administration and FWS commit to maintain or increase the current level of hunting land access. Over the last quarter, SCI has issued HAACS, participated in lawsuits, submitted eight comment letters defending hunting rights and access to federal and state lands and supported expanding hunting access to lands announced in the FWS Hunt Fish Rule.

PUBLIC RELATIONS & SOCIAL MEDIA

Over 4.5 million users checked out SCI's social media accounts over the last three months. And the SCI YouTube channel attracted another 5.5 million views. More people have also popped in to hear all the new episodes on the SCI First of Hunters Podcast.

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

SCI has partnered with premier organizations in our industry to advance our shared missions. In the last quarter, this includes USA Shooting, Grand Slam Club Ovis, and the Green Way Outdoors on the HISTORY Channel.



PREDATOR MANAGEMENT – BEARS, MOUNTAIN LIONS AND WOLVES

This quarter saw progress on bears from Yellowstone to New Jersey to Romania. Hunting re-openings and legislation to remove grizzly bears from the Endangered Species Act list are moving forward. Additionally, SCI submitted comments on management plans for bears, mountain lions and wolves in four other states.

SCI STORE

New fall designs, National Hunt Fish Day shirts, and new Kuiu gear have all hit the store! Check out the new arrivals.

SUPPORTING LEGISLATORS WHO SUPPORT US

Whether it's attending campaign meetings, making contributions through SCI's Hunter Action Fund or awarding an SCI Legislator of the Year Award, SCI supports the legislators who defend hunting, sustainable-use conservation and the outdoor lifestyle.

TRAVEL WITH FIREARMS

After many months of persistent inquiries and a little help from a senator, SCI succeeded in having US Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) correct the regulations posted on its website regarding hunters traveling abroad with guns. SCI representatives also attended the meeting of an international association of shooting organizations representing millions of shooters worldwide to discuss solutions to current challenges.



TROPHY IMPORT ISSUES

Together with allies, SCI fought trophy bans in Europe, then addressed import processing delays in Canada, and launched an effort to resolve the import permit delays at the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

WOMEN GO HUNTING (WGH)

More than 100 women have now shared their personal hunting journeys through the WGH social media campaign, with photos and stories distributed on all of SCI's social media platforms. Plus, major feature stories have run in *Safari Times* encouraging women to participate. Additionally, the 100 Woman Campaign launched, incentivizing women to enter their trophies in the SCI World Hunting Awards.



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

- On June 27th, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it will expand its work on wildlife conservation by investing at least \$500 million over the next five years and by leveraging all available conservation programs, including the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), through its Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) effort. [Full release here:](#)
- In response to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) released proposed Hunt Fish Rule, SCI created a [No-Net-Loss petition](#) to demand that the Biden Administration commits to a no-net-loss policy for hunting and fishing access on America's public lands - meaning the Administration pledges to preserve current access to public lands for hunters and anglers around the country. While we support the proposed expansions on three refuges, the FWS aims to prohibit use of lead ammunition on several current and proposed open refuges. Eliminating the use of traditional ammunition only serves to downsize the hunting community and reduce access.
- The House Appropriations Committee voted to approve the FY24 Interior Appropriations bill including amendments from Congressman Zinke that will prevent the Administration from banning lead ammunition and fishing tackle on federal lands or waters for hunting or fishing activities unless certain conditions are met, and to delist the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) population of Grizzly Bears under the Endangered Species Act, respectively. Additionally, the House Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held an oversight hearing titled "ESA at 50: The Destructive Cost of the ESA." SCI thanks Chairman Bentz and the Subcommittee for continuing to highlight the many flaws that are keeping the Endangered Species Act from fulfilling its intended purpose, and we look forward to working with Congress to find legislative solutions. The House will have a difficult negotiation with the Senate to realize a final Appropriations bill.
- On July 24th, SCI welcomed House and Senate Congressional staff to our DC headquarters for a Lunch & Learn on the Endangered Species Act (ESA). SCI Litigation Counsel Regina Lennox led the briefing, discussing the ESA at 50, its legislative history, and commonsense reforms.
- On July 27th, Senator Jim Risch along with Senators Mike Crapo and Cynthia Lummis and Congressman Russ Fulcher introduced the [Grizzly Bear Review and Resource "Grrr" Act](#) in the House and Senate. This legislation would fully delist the grizzly bear in the lower 48 states from the Endangered Species List (ESA). Additionally, the Senate passed [S.788, the Duck Stamp Modernization Act](#). The bipartisan bill will allow hunters to satisfy the Duck Stamp requirement in the field by accessing their electronic stamp using a smartphone.



- Members of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Roundtable, including SCI, recently submitted a comment letter in opposition to the BLM's plan to shut down 480,990 acres of the Sonoran Desert National Monument in Arizona to recreational target shooting--99% of the monument would be closed to shooters. The BLM's plan stands in stark contrast to current management with 90% of the monument open to shooting. This issue has long been mired in litigation, and unfortunately, the closure proposal is the result of yet another out-of-court settlement between the Biden Administration and animal rights organizations. SCI and other members of the Roundtable strongly oppose the proposal and the settlement process that excludes meaningful public input.
- Following the Department of Education's misguided ruling to cut funding for hunting and outdoor programs in schools, Congressman Mark Green introduced the *Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act (H.R. 5110)* with Congressman Richard Hudson, to protect these vital programs. Senator Jon Tester led the Senate version of the bill. It bill passed unanimously through the House Education Committee and the House and Senate have passed it and sent it to President Biden's desk for signature.
- "The Department of Education and Secretary Cardona are responsible for ignoring their mandate set by Congress in the BSCA, and now it falls on Congress to hold the Department accountable and ensure that the next generation of outdoor sportsmen and women are not purposefully denied critical instruction by the Biden administration," said Ben Cassidy, Executive Vice President for International Government and Public Affairs for Safari Club International. "SCI and our nationwide membership thank Congressman Grothman for taking action to send a clear message: bureaucratic overreach will not deny America's hunting heritage."
- SCI President John McLaurin and Vice President Mike Leonard visited Washington, D.C. for a great week of meetings with some of SCI's biggest allies in Congress. SCI was also proud to attend and support the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation's (CSF) 34nd Annual Banquet & Auction and enjoyed an incredible event with our industry partners and allies in Congress. Following SCI's visits to the Hill, H.R. 5110, a bill to ensure schools can teach hunter education and archery classes passed out of committee unanimously (42-0).



CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

- Anti-hunting extremists in the Biden Administration are trying to end school firearm and archery safety programs. The Department of Education is weaponizing the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act to pull federal funding from these programs. With school starting in September, it will have an impact on students across the country.
- Continuing its leadership defending hunting on federal lands in Alaska, SCI spearheaded a group letter opposing the proposed move of the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Office of the Secretary of Interior or the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The OSM provides technical advice to the Federal Subsistence Board—meaning it helps the Board decide whether to shut down federal lands in Alaska to all but federally qualified subsistence users (defined as rural residents). The letter objects to the move because the Service has the scientific expertise necessary for the OSM's technical recommendations. Moving the OSM to the Office of the Secretary would politicize the process. Moving the OSM to the Bureau of Indian Affairs would marginalize approximately half of all subsistence users who are not Alaska Natives.



SCI is unique among hunting organizations for having in-house lawyers 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 anywhere in the world. Read SCI's most recent [Litigation Update](#).

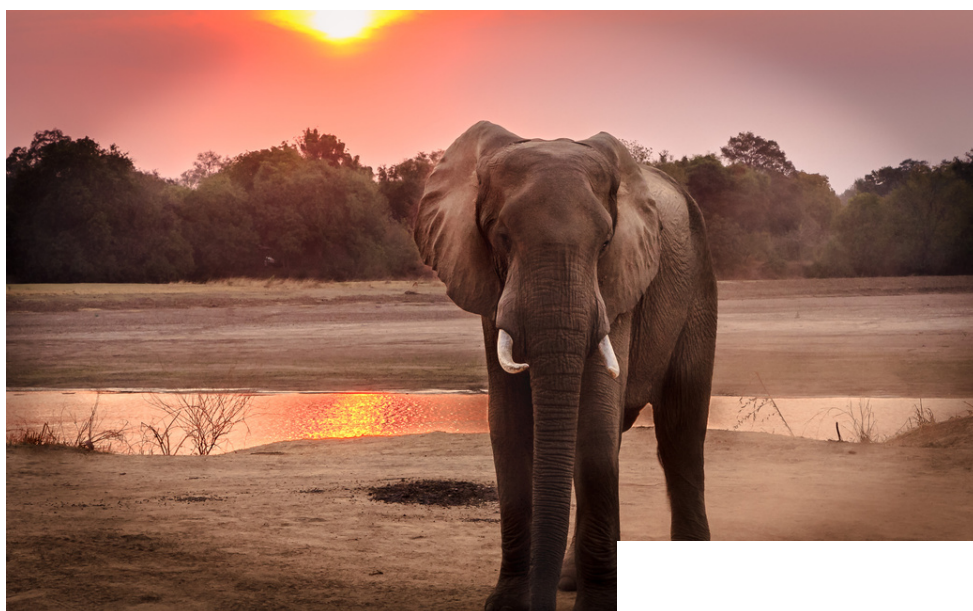
WINS THIS QUARTER

A Win for Traditional Ammo: Since 2012, anti-hunting organizations have challenged the U.S. Forest Service's deference to state regulations which permit the use of lead ammunition on Kaibab National Forest in Arizona. Plaintiffs raised a novel legal theory under an anti-pollution law and managed to keep their case alive twice on appeal. But the third time, on September 1st, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the dismissal of their claims. The court's decision was based in part on arguments by SCI, the National Rifle Association, and the National Shooting Sports Foundation, which jointly intervened to defend the Forest Service's deference to state law allowing use of lead ammunition for hunting and sport-shooting (subject to a voluntary ammunition "swap" program). A ruling for the plaintiffs could have opened the way to future lawsuits trying to use federal anti-pollution laws against hunting with traditional ammunition. Fortunately, SCI and its partner organizations succeeded in this case, and will continue to defend traditional hunting methods, including the use of lead ammunition, on public lands throughout the country.

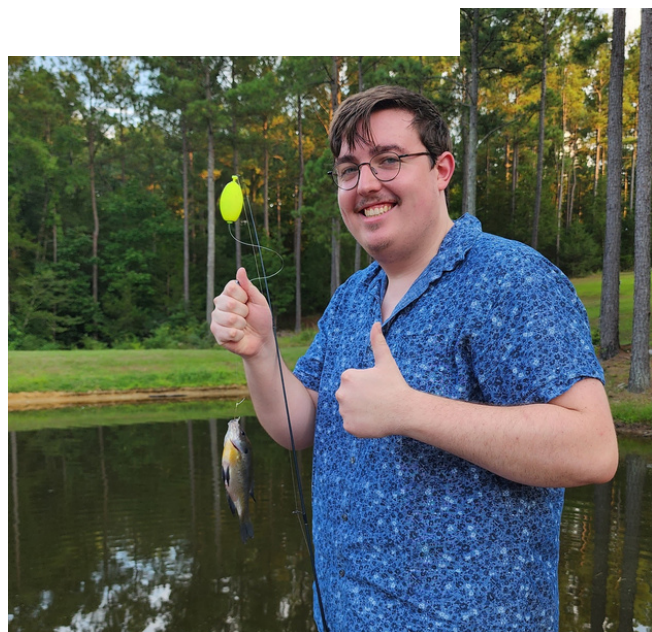
A Busy Quarter for Public Comments: The Legal Advocacy team kept busy this quarter defending hunting rights and access in federal and state agencies. We submitted eight comment letters on federal and state proposed regulations. For example, SCI opposed the Bureau of Land Management's proposed Conservation and Land Health rule, which would create "conservation leases" allowing a lessee to close public lands to certain uses. Our comment suggested amendments to the proposed rule that would protect access to hunting and guiding on BLM lands. In another letter, SCI submitted comments to help the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service develop a new management plan for the National Elk Refuge in Wyoming. On the state side, the Legal Advocacy team submitted a comment on the State of Wyoming's elk feedgrounds management plan. SCI supports the State's plan as it maintains robust elk herd objectives, commits to providing invaluable hunting opportunities, and provides for long-term adaptive management.



ESA Amendment Efforts: In recognition of the Endangered Species Act's 50th anniversary, SCI is encouraging Congress to adopt small revisions that will have a big impact on the efficacy of the Act, and more fully implement Congress' original intent. In July, SCI's Advocacy team presented a "Lunch and Learn" for Congressional staff. We explained how the ESA is not being administered true to how Congress envisioned it, especially regarding foreign species and the removal of species from the ESA's protections. We explained what Congress intended and offered small "fixes" that would help the ESA successfully conserve foreign game species and recognize and encourage species conservation efforts through delisting. SCI's Legal Advocacy team is next taking these ideas to the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Legal Committee, in a presentation that will highlight our efforts and seek constructive suggestions from experts in how ESA-listed species are handled at the state level.



Welcome Cody Balow: SCI welcomes Litigation Intern, Cody Balow, to the Legal Advocacy Team! Cody is currently a law student finishing his last year at Michigan State University College of Law. He is originally from Michigan, where he has lived in Genesee County for most of his life. In his past summers, he worked as a prosecutor in Genesee County and as a law clerk for the National Wild Turkey Federation. He is excited to continue working in conservation as, between Boy Scouts and going to school in the Upper Peninsula, he has developed a love for the outdoors. On his off time, you can find him between two trees on a trail with a good book. Welcome, Cody!



CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

Shooting Sports and Hunter Ed in Schools: In late July, news media reported that the U.S. Department of Education was prohibiting the use of federal funds for archery, shooting sports, hunter ed, and outdoor education programs in schools. The Department confirmed that it interpreted one small provision of the 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act to require defunding these programs. Two weeks later, SCI and our colleagues at Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation sent a notice of intent to sue, asking the Department to reconsider its misinterpretation of this Act. After receiving no response, on September 14, SCI, the West Michigan Bowhunters Chapter of SCI, and Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation filed a lawsuit alleging that the Department's policy violates federal law and Congress' intent in enacting the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. As explained in this suit, SCI, SCI Chapters, and SCIF have spent millions of dollars to train educators in outdoor skills, including

archery and shooting sports, so they can bring these programs to their schools.

Archery and shooting sports have a proven track record of helping students build self-esteem and attain better grades and participation in school. Hunter ed has a proven track record of reducing hunting incidents and developing careful and ethical hunters. These programs are too important to lose federal funding—particularly when the Act in question appropriated \$1 billion to achieve the same goals of making students happier, healthier, and safer. The Department has 60 days to respond to SCI's lawsuit. If the problem is not resolved through Congressional action amending the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, we hope our suit will correct the Department's misinterpretation of the law.



Additional Challenges to Traditional Ammo: In August, several organizations challenged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision not to require a future ban on the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle on Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge in West Virginia. A few weeks later, SCI, the National Rifle Association, and Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation moved to jointly intervene to defend the Service's decision. Although the Service initially proposed to pledge to phase out lead usage, it declined to finalize the plan after the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, and many others including SCI, opposed its proposal. Moving to intervene in this case continues SCI's years of advocacy related to the use of traditional ammunition. Many hunters prefer to use lead ammo because it is more familiar, available, and affordable. SCI will continue to defend the use of lead ammunition on federal lands throughout the United States unless and until there is location-specific evidence of a need to reduce lead use.

For the same reason, SCI submitted comments in August in opposition to the Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed 2023 Hunt Fish rule, which would phase out the use of lead ammunition and tackle on eight refuges in 2026. This proposal was originally announced in last year's Hunt Fish rule. SCI's comments criticized these lead restrictions for being unnecessary, as no scientific evidence demonstrates any negative impacts from use of lead ammunition or tackle on these Refuges. SCI also objected because lead restrictions are likely to reduce hunter participation and access, with detrimental consequences for wildlife management and conservation funding. SCI's comments also supported the minimal expansion of hunting opportunities on three Refuges proposed in the 2023 Hunt Fish Rule.

Rollback of ESA Regulatory Reforms: Under the prior Administration, the Fish and Wildlife Service adopted several regulations to improve the efficiency of the Endangered Species Act. Most notably, the Service withdrew the “blanket 4(d) rule,” which extended the same prohibitions on conduct that apply to endangered species to threatened species. The Service proposed in June to withdraw these reforms. In August, SCI submitted comments in opposition to the proposals. SCI opposed the reinstatement of the blanket 4(d) rule. Our comments cited specific examples in the legislative history of how Congress intended that the listing categories (endangered and threatened) be treated differently. We also provided a specific example of how application of the blanket 4(d) rule negatively impacted the conservation of threatened-listed wood bison in Canada. SCI submitted comments in opposition to two other proposals as well. We objected to the removal of language that allows the Service to explain how an ESA listing may have negative impacts on local economies (even while still listing the species). We also opposed a regulatory change that weakens the regulations requiring removal of a species from the ESA lists when the species no longer meets the criteria for being endangered or threatened. None of the Service’s proposed rollbacks are necessary, and they all serve to make the ESA less flexible and responsive to the needs of both species and people who live alongside listed species.

Protecting State Wildlife Management Authority: Federal Subsistence Board actions continue to threaten to shut down hunting opportunities and override state wildlife management authority on extensive public lands in Alaska. The Board has sought public input on proposals for the 2024-2026 Wildlife Regulatory Cycle. The Legal Advocacy team submitted comments on several proposals that impact non-rural and non-resident hunters, including three to close non-subsistence deer hunting in Southeast Alaska and one to close Dall sheep hunting in the Brooks Range. Decisions on the current proposals will occur in early 2024. SCI has also taken a leadership role in opposing efforts to weaken the scientific analysis that is prepared in response to proposals under consideration by the Board. This analysis is undertaken by the Office of Subsistence Management, which has been housed since its creation in the Fish and Wildlife Service. However, the President’s 2024 Budget proposes to move the Office of Subsistence Management to the Bureau of Indian Affairs—despite the fact that approximately half of all subsistence users are not Alaska Natives. A Senate proposal would move the Office of Subsistence Management under the Office of the Secretary of Interior, which would politicize and weaken the credibility of the Office of Subsistence Management’s recommendations. SCI spearheaded a letter by a coalition of organizations, members of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners, in opposition of either proposal.



In every state, SCI 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 freedom 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.

IN THE FIELD

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Meeting: Wildlife directors and professionals from all across North America gathered in Calgary, Alberta during the week of September 24th for the 113th Annual AFWA Meeting, hosted by the Alberta Ministry of Forestry and Parks, and Safari Club International (SCI) was in attendance to represent its membership and engage on conservation and hunting issues. SCI State and Local Liaisons Bee Frederick and Chris Tymeson as well as International Affairs Liaison and Litigation Counsel Jeremy Clare and Litigation Counsel Regina Lennox attended, meeting with wildlife regulators and other non-governmental organizations on topics of importance to SCI and its chapters and members. The meeting included attendance at the following presentations, reports and related gatherings: the International Relations Committee, the Legislative and Federal Budget Committee, the Federal Public Lands Committee, the Threatened and Endangered Species Committee, Human Wildlife Conflict Committee, the Legal Committee, the Law Enforcement Committee, the AFWA Legal Strategies Advisory Council, the Waterfowl Working Group, the Sustainable Wildlife Use Committee, the Lead and Fish and Wildlife Working Group and the Hunting and Shooting Sports Participation Committee, in addition to the various networking and social meetings and opportunities. As usual at AFWA meetings, SCI presented in two of those Committees (Legal and Sustainable Use). SCI continues to lead from the front and is always first for hunters. Pictured L-R: Chris Tymeson, Western State and Local Liaison, Regina Lennox, Litigation Counsel, Jeremy Clare, International Affairs Liaison and Litigation Counsel and Bee Frederick, Eastern State and Local Liaison.



Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Director's Meeting: Wildlife directors and professionals from all across the Midwest gathered in Green Bay, Wisconsin for the annual 89th MAFWA Director's Meeting, hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. SCI's State & Local Liaisons Chris Tymeson and Bee Frederick were in attendance to represent our membership and engage on conservation and hunting issues (right).

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Meeting: Wildlife directors and professionals from all across the West gathered in Santa Fe, New Mexico during the week of July 10th for the annual WAFWA Meeting, hosted by the New Mexico Department of Fish and Game in the Land of Enchantment, and Safari Club International (SCI) was in attendance to represent its membership and engage on conservation and hunting issues.

Colorado: Western State and Local Liaison Chris Tymeson attended the meeting of the Colorado Wildlife Conservation Partnership in Denver, CO the week of July 17 to discuss coalition strategies for future legislative and regulatory action within Colorado.

Alabama: Eastern State and Local Liaison Bee Frederick attended a National Hunting and Fishing Day Proclamation private signing ceremony with Governor Kay Ivey, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Commissioner Chris Blankenship, DCNR Deputy Commissioner Ed Poolos, and several representatives from pro-sportsmen's organizations.

Arkansas: Western State and Local Liaison Chris Tymeson attended the 2nd Annual Delta Waterfowl Expo in Little Rock, Arkansas over the weekend of July 28th, engaging with other hunting government affairs professionals as well as waterfowl hunters from across North America (right).



Mississippi: Eastern State and Local Liaison Bee Frederick attended a luncheon in support of Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves' reelection campaign. SCI, the only sportsmen's organization with a Political Action Committee (PAC) and a super-PAC, is proud to support Governor Reeves through our Hunter Action Fund (HAF) for his reelection later this year.

Texas: Safari Club International (SCI) Western State and Local Liaison Chris Tymeson attended the Texas Trophy Hunters Association (TTHA) Extravaganza in Houston, Texas the weekend of August 4th. While there, Tymeson met with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department officials and engaged with TTHA and SCI members.



Colorado: SCI awarded Colorado State Senator Perry Will the 2023 SCI State Legislator of the year award. Senator Will is a tireless advocate for scientific wildlife management and Second Amendment issues affecting hunters (right).

Florida: SCI Eastern State and Local Liaison Bee Frederick joined Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Director Roger Young, many of his FWC staff, FWC Commissioner (and SCI Life-Member) Preston Farris, state elected officials, Congressional staffers, Department of Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff, and dozens of sportsmen NGO representatives on an educational airboat trip through the Everglades. The event, organized by SCI member Mike Elfenbein, provided an opportunity for candid conversations with stakeholders on the actual landscape regarding Everglades restoration and recreational use on federal lands.

Texas: SCI Western State and Local Liaison Chris Tymeson and SCI/F's Director of Conservation, Dr. Chris Comer attended a forum hosted by the Texas Trophy Hunters Association (TTHA) at the San Antonio TTHA Extravaganza the weekend of August 19th. The purpose of the forum was to update participants on the status of chronic wasting disease and the efforts by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) to manage the disease. A TPWD veterinarian, Dr. Hunter Reed, was the main presenter for the agency and took questions and concerns from the audience after the PowerPoint presentation.

Mississippi: SCI Eastern States and Local Liaison Bee Frederick attended the National Hunting and Fishing Day proclamation signing ceremony in Jackson, MS with Governor Tate Reeves, staff from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks as well as state legislators and various representatives from partner organizations. SCI is proud to support Governor Tate Reeves and thanks him for his support of hunting in the Magnolia State! (Right)

Washington: Western State and Local Liaison Chris Tymeson travelled to Ridgefield, Washington



late in the week of September 7 to attend the Washington and Oregon bi-state joint caucus meeting hosted by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. The inaugural event was attended by approximately 20 legislators, staff from both the Washington Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Oregon Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and several conservation organizations, including Safari Club International.

Wyoming: SCI Western State and Local Liaison Chris Tymeson travelled to Wyoming during the week of September 18th to celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day and attend the Wyoming Governor's Proclamation Signing Ceremony for National Hunting and Fishing Day. While there, Tymeson also met with Department of Game and Fish officials regarding the business of SCI.



WINS THIS QUARTER

Oregon: The Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3086, regarding the makeup of the Oregon Department of Fish and Game Commission, in the final days of the legislative session and the bill will be effective on January 1, 2024. SCI issued several alerts and submitted testimony in favor of the bill.

Pennsylvania: Senate Bill 344, which would allow nonresident college students in the Keystone State to purchase hunting and fishing licenses at resident prices, unanimously passed the Senate on June 27. SCI previously submitted a letter of support for this bill which now heads to the House for further consideration.

Wyoming: SCI submitted comments in support of the proposed mountain lion season draft regulation. [Read the letter here.](#)

Idaho: SCI submitted a letter in support of the proposed draft changes to the 2023-2024 sage grouse harvest season and tag proposals. [Read it here.](#)

Wyoming: SCI submitted comments on proposed thermal and night vision opportunities. [Read the letter here.](#)

Podcasts: Chris Tymeson joined the National Wildlife Federation Outdoors' Podcast to discuss SCI Policy and what SCI does to defend hunting. [Listen Now!](#)

Pennsylvania: SCI, as part of the Pennsylvania Sportsmen's and Women's Policy Workgroup, recently signed onto two group opposition letters for House Bill 493 and House Bill 1522. House Bill 493 proposes to eliminate antler point restrictions for senior hunting license holders. Primarily at issue here is the management authority of the Pennsylvania Game Commission which SCI strongly supports. [Read the letter here.](#) Additionally, House Bill 1522 seeks to establish Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Program and the Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant Fund which would be funded through the Game Fund. SCI believes this is extremely unacceptable use of the Game Fund, which is primarily funded through hunting license sales, is meant to be used for wildlife habitat protection and management and for vital scientific research conducted by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. [Read the letter here.](#)



Washington: SCI CEO Laird Hamberlin [submitted comments](#) on the Gray Wolf Species Status Review. [Read here.](#)

Idaho: SCI CEO W. Laird Hamberlin made comments on the [Idaho Draft Mountain Lion Plan](#) for 2024-2029.

Alabama: The Alabama SCI Chapter proudly presented a check to the University of Montevallo President's Outdoor Scholars Program.

Georgia: Former Georgia Chapter President, Chris Albrecht, presented a contribution to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, providing additional resources to purchase equipment as needed by the agency.

Massachusetts: SCI submitted a letter in support of the proposal to extend the archery hunting season for whitetail deer in Wildlife Management Zones 1-9 by two weeks. [Read more.](#)

New Mexico: The New Mexico Game and Fish Commission took comments on the proposed Bear and Cougar Rulemaking. SCI submitted comments [here](#) and encouraged New Mexico advocates to take action through the HAAC.

Washington: SCI submitted comments in response to the Black Bear Timber Damage Rulemaking.

Colorado: SCI joined 12 other hunting and conservation organizations to request urgent action to address an emergency situation regarding big game sustainability in Northwest Colorado. [Read it here.](#)

New Jersey: The updated, and highly contested, Comprehensive Black Bear Management Plan (CBBMP) was officially approved by New Jersey Fish and Game Council earlier this summer and recently signed by Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, and Gov. Phil Murphy. Five days after it is published in the Oct. 2 edition of the New Jersey Register, the Plan and season will be official for the next five years upon which the CBBMP would be updated.

Pennsylvania: SCI, as part of the Pennsylvania Sportsmen and Women's Policy Workgroup, signed onto an opposition [letter](#) regarding House Bill 1300 and particularly the amendment that would take \$150,000,000 from the Game Fund, money earmarked for wildlife and habitat and Pennsylvania Game Commission administration, and divert it to the Clean Streams Fund.



CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

Michigan: Continuing the troubling national trend from anti-hunting groups, legislators in Michigan filed bills last week that would seek to “reform” state-based wildlife management through changes to the current structure of the Wolf Management Advisory Council and the state’s Wildlife Council.

Minnesota: Safari Club International (SCI) condemned the arbitrary action of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director Strommen’s order banning traditional ammunition on 56 DNR properties. The action was taken without public input or interaction with the hunting community and without consideration to the additional costs placed upon hunters by the action. Further, SCI joined partner Federal Ammunition in requesting the DNR withdraw and repeal the rule while considering future options available for recourse.

Massachusetts: Earlier this summer, legislators in Massachusetts introduced the nearly 50-page House Docket 4420, an Act Modernizing Firearm Laws. This bill would severely impact sportsmen and women who lawfully hunt in Massachusetts or the surrounding states. It would restrict private property rights, and generally criminalize gun ownership—all of which would hamper conservation efforts in Massachusetts funded through hunters and recreational shooters. Most concerning, this measure would require express consent or a posted sign permitting carry with valid firearm license on ANY private property, including residential, commercial, industrial, agriculture, recreational and more. This undue provision would severely limit access for sportsmen and women in the Bay State. The bill would also limit the ability of residents of surrounding states to carry some firearms through Massachusetts on the way to other hunting opportunities in New England by requiring a Massachusetts permit for carry through the state. Additionally, if passed,

the proposal would prohibit the purchase of ANY semi-automatic firearms for citizens under 21 years of age. This would include common shotguns, modern sporting rifles, and long-rifles which would be a major hinderance for sportsmen and women who wish to go afield and/or participate in recreational shooting. The bill also runs the risk of restricting firearms instruction for youth hunters and shooters.

Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania’s annual budget bill was amended and passed the State Senate in September. In doing so, the Senate included an amendment that would transfer \$150 million from the Pennsylvania Game Commission’s (PGC) Game Fund to fund Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts. This proposed transfer poses significant threats to the PGC’s budget and jeopardizes future eligibility for federal funding for wildlife conservation efforts in the Keystone State. The Game Fund supports the mission of the PGC and is used for wildlife and habitat restoration and management efforts for both game and non-game. It is also used for land acquisition, promoting recreational opportunities, and endangered/threatened species recovery. Importantly, if the proposed transfer of funds from the Game Fund to Chesapeake Bay restoration is found to fall outside mandated parameters on how Pittman-Robertson funds can be spent, it is considered a “diversion.” The state would not only be ineligible to receive future federal funds, but would also have to repay the diverted funds. While the proposed transfer identifies royalties from oil and gas extraction on State Gamelands, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service explicitly considers these funds the same as license revenue as the properties were acquired using licensing revenue. SCI signed onto a Pennsylvania Sportsmen’s and Women’s Policy Workgroup opposition letter and also created a HAAC for further grassroots engagement.

Wisconsin: Wolf Management Plan; The DNR released a new revised draft of the plan on Aug. 1, 2023, and encourages the public to read through it. The revised plan will be presented to the Natural Resources Board (NRB) during their October meeting. [Read the new plan here.](#)

Kentucky: SCI's Kentuckiana Chapter sent a letter to their U.S. Senators and Representatives in opposition to the Department of Education's attacking hunters. [Read more.](#)

Louisiana: The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (LWFC) [approved a resolution](#) to request Louisiana's Congressional Delegation to compel the U.S. Department of Education to reverse its decision to restrict federal funding to schools implementing hunter education and Archery in Louisiana Schools (ALAS) due to language in the 2022 Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

California: The California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 28, despite fervent opposition from the entire conservation community, and it is expected that Governor Gavin Newsome, a rabid anti-gun advocate, will sign the bill. AB 28 imposes an additional eleven percent tax on ammunition and firearms sales to law abiding hunters and shooters in order to raise an estimated 160 million dollars earmarked to pay for gun violence prevention programs. With the new tax rate, the effective tax rate on firearms and ammunition will now be over thirty percent in California. SCI issued several action alerts to its members during this process and thanked them for their continued support in contacting policy makers.

Oregon: SCI submitted comments on the Contest Prohibition for Taking Unprotected Animals, Exhibit E on the Commission Agenda. [Read the letter here.](#)

New York: The New York General Assembly passed Senate Bill 4099 that would prohibit any contest, competition, tournament or derby where the objective of such contest or competition is to take wildlife. SCI issued a HAAC to ask Governor Hochul to veto this bill and support the Department of Environmental Conservation's authority.



SCI collaborates with conservation partners and our international chapters to represent the interests of the hunting community before government leaders and agencies in Canada, Europe, and other parts of the world. Together we challenge efforts that threaten hunting freedoms, trophy importation, and conservation efforts. Whether you are hunting partridge, roe deer, or Cape buffalo, SCI has and will continue to defend your freedom to hunt and bring back a trophy memento of your hunt.

WINS THIS QUARTER

Brown Bear Hunting to Return to Romania: The outgoing Minister of Environment in Romania signed an order to reinstate hunting and management of brown bears, following reports of a substantial increase in human-bear conflicts. SCI is celebrating this win for hunters and conservationists around the world!

Poland: In July, the Environment Commission of Poland's Parliament held a hearing to consider a trophy import ban bill with very little advance notice. The bill was supported by Humane Society International. Thanks to SCI's partners in Europe, who coordinated with range state representatives, Botswana's Consul in Warsaw was present at the Commission meeting and spoke at length against the bill. Statements from South Africa and Tanzania were also read to the Commission. The supporting members of Parliament and Humane Society International had no real response to the African opposition. It was agreed to set aside the bill until more African representatives can attend any future hearing, but the Parliamentary session concluded. This is a victory, for now—and hopefully provided an education to Members of the Polish Parliament that trophy ban bills will be met with strong opposition.

KAZA Elephant Survey: On August 31, results of the 2022 Kavango Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA) elephant survey were announced. Established in 2011 and covering 106 million acres across parts of Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, KAZA is the world's largest transboundary conservation landscape. The much-anticipated results from the first-of-its-kind survey show exactly what hunters, outfitters, and southern African governments have known all along: elephants are stable or increasing throughout the region. The estimated elephant population for the region was calculated at 227,900. This represents a significant increase from the IUCN's 2016 African Elephant Status Report, which estimated a combined 216,970 elephants in the KAZA region. And it refutes ongoing claims from anti-hunters and overzealous regulators that elephants are going extinct. The survey results represent a triumph for the five partner countries, who successfully coordinated an unprecedented transnational survey across an area roughly the size of France. SCI applauds the range states and their wildlife management agencies who helped produce these invaluable survey results.

ICE Website: Thanks to the persistence of Senator Dan Sullivan, the process for traveling abroad with firearms should be simpler for most U.S. hunters and sport-shooters. Relevant U.S. regulations were changed in 2020. Despite these changes, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) had not sufficiently updated related information on its website and Customs and Border Protection had not properly trained all its officers regarding the new laws. As he has many times, Senator Sullivan took up SCI's cause and resolved the problem. The ICE website has been updated, and although it does not go into significant detail about the 2020 regulation changes, it no longer contains inaccurate information.

Prague: SCI President John McLaurin and CEO W. Laird Hamberlin attended the 100th anniversary of the General Assembly hosts, the Czech Hunters' Association in Prague alongside our partner FACE. President McLaurin presented on the history and existing rules of game meat in the states as well as European countries.

Chapter Success: From Switzerland to Louisiana, SCI's chapters are doing great work to secure the future of hunting and conservation. SCI EVP Ben Cassidy attended the chapter events for the Acadiana Chapter and Switzerland's Helvetia Chapter, which were great successes put on by strong local leaders and attended by hunting and conservation enthusiasts.



London to New York: EVP of International Government & Public Affairs Ben Cassidy represented SCI at World Forum on Shooting Activities. SCI is a member of WFSA, an association of hunting, shooting, and industry organizations representing over one hundred million sport shooters around the world. This meeting focused heavily on battles over the use of lead in the USA and Europe, as well as travel with firearms.

Ben then flew straight to New York City to attend the International Conservation Caucus Foundation's (ICCF) reception alongside the United Nations General Assembly. Joined by SCI Communications Specialist Claire Zunk, SCI celebrated the conservation successes of the KAZA Trans-frontier Conservation Area - the largest in the world - with special guest President Masisi of Botswana and other dignitaries from the KAZA region.

A focus of the event was the U.S. Foundation for International Conservation Act, which has been introduced in the U.S. House and Senate. The act would establish a foundation that will facilitate long-term conservation projects leveraging a private and public dollar match. Enormous sums of private dollars have already been identified and now require public dollars and a framework for identifying and distributing dollars to the projects of need. SCI was the first hunting organization to support the act, and we spearheaded a coalition letter of sportsmen's groups that represents the support of USFICA by millions of hunters and anglers. The foundation clearly prioritizes buffer zones around national parks. By securing the most habitat, providing the largest share of operating revenue for wildlife authorities and being the primary source of anti-poaching revenue, hunting in buffer zones is an essential tool for conserving and enhancing the species and habitat we all hold dearly. Finally, the bill is dedicated to supporting local communities through sustainable use conservation. SCI will continue to work with our partners in Washington and Africa towards this bill's passage as one of our top priorities.



CURRENT THREATS AND ISSUES

Import Bans: Efforts to prohibit the import of hunting trophies continue around the world. In the UK, a bill that would prohibit import of all CITES-listed species was thankfully stymied in the House of Lords, but if it does not pass this year, the bill's proponents will likely reintroduce it next year. In Canada, the government is considering adopting regulations that would prohibit import of elephant ivory and rhino horn, including hunting trophies. In July, SCI submitted extensive comments in opposition to the proposed regulations. In Belgium, members of Parliament are again trying to force the government to prohibit trophy imports. The European Union is regularly pressured to increase restrictions and regulations on trophy imports. And the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is still considering whether to significantly increase restrictions on the import of elephant hunting trophies. Needless to say, fighting against these efforts constitutes a large portion of SCI's international advocacy.

Import Processing Delays: Lengthy delays in Canada and the United States in the inspection and clearance process for certain wildlife species have resulted in the accrual of significant and unreasonable storage fees for hunters. In addition to the inordinate storage fees—reports are that one storage bill in Canada reached \$25,000—these delays threaten to disrupt businesses that depend upon efficient and predictable customs processing at ports of entry. Shipping and logistics companies, taxidermists, and other industry professionals rely on timely processing. SCI and its members have engaged appropriate U.S. agencies, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and Canadian government ministers regarding this ongoing issue. Among other things, we have had several successful meetings regarding U.S. Department of Agriculture inspections and will hopefully see reduced delays as a result of these inspections.



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

- **Hunting Priorities:** Based on the results of the SCI advocacy poll, a letter to Representatives and Senators on priorities for the hunting community; these are opposing trophy bans, opposing anti-conservation bills, supporting no-net-loss, fixing the endangered species act, opposing predator control restrictions, and supporting access to lead ammunition.
- **No-Net-Loss:** [Petition](#) to the Biden Administration to maintain the current level of hunting and fishing access across the country. We have also added a [letter](#) to Director Martha Williams and a [letter](#) to Congress as part of our membership campaign.
- **Women Go Hunting:** These [stories](#) are showcasing women in the SCI community in publications and digital media. To date, 100+ women have shared their stories with great success on social media and other communications.
- **Trophy Import Issues:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is experiencing a considerable backlog in processing import permit applications for hunting trophies. SCI is encouraging Congress to [fix this issue](#) simply by making its intent in the Endangered Species Act clear.
- **California:** AB 28 will make the combined taxes on the retail sale in this state of any firearm, firearm precursor part, or ammunition over 30%. The bill has passed the legislature and signed into law by Governor Newsom.
- **New York:** The New York General Assembly passed Senate Bill 4099 that would prohibit any contest, competition, tournament or derby where the objective of such contest or competition is to take wildlife. Use the [HAAC](#) to ask Governor Hochul to veto this bill and support the Department of Environmental Conservation.
- **Massachusetts:** HB 4420 would severely impact sportsmen and women who lawfully hunt in Massachusetts or the surrounding states. It would restrict private property rights, and generally criminalize gun ownership—all of which would hamper conservation efforts in Massachusetts funded through hunters and recreational shooters. MA advocates, [take action now!](#)
- **Michigan:** Tell your elected officials to oppose any efforts to “reform” state-based wildlife management through changes to the current structure of the Wolf Management Advisory Council (House Bill 4855) and the state’s Wildlife Council (House Bill 4856) using the [HAAC!](#)
- **Pennsylvania:** The State Senate included an amendment in the budget that would transfer \$150 million from the Pennsylvania Game Commission’s Game Fund to fund Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts. This proposed transfer would significantly impact the PGC’s on the ground conservation work. [Take action!](#)

TOP CAMPAIGNS THIS QUARTER

No Net Loss



State HAACs Across the Country



Hunting Priorities



Women Go Hunting



Moving the Needle

Convention: We can't wait to welcome you to SCI's annual convention in Nashville, TN, "the Super Bowl of hunting shows," according to Forbes. Our registration is now open – be sure to register NOW for the best price! We are about to announce four nights of MAJOR entertainment for our convention - including a huge **Thursday night concert at Bridgestone Arena** that you won't want to miss. Get your 4-night convention table entertainment package today to lock-in priority pricing before our announcement with the link [here!](#)

In case you missed it, watch our Convention trailer [here](#) for a sneak peak of the highlights!

Attacks on the Hunting Community: As mentioned above, Biden's Department of Education is stripping Funding for School Archery and Firearms programs in a blatant attack on the hunting community. SCI has been the leader in opposing the Administration's decision and encouraging Congress to fix the issue legislatively. Watch [this message](#) from President Trump supporting shooting sports and outdoor education!



The Hunters' Embassy: Safari Cub International's DC Headquarters will be hosting the official Ribbon Cutting for the Armand and Mary Brachman SCI Advocacy Center on October 19th. The opening of the "Hunters' Embassy" is a monumental step forward for SCI and would not be possible without the help of our members. Our new Advocacy Center is just steps away from the U.S. Capitol, putting SCI first in the fight to defend hunting freedoms. Attending the event will be an array of SCI members, Members of Congress, dignitaries, and community partners. Your contribution makes our work possible - donate today at <https://safariclub.org/huntersembassy/>.



Membership Deals: SCI ran several membership promotions with our partners this summer. Growing our members and advocates is critical to defending our freedom to hunt and promoting conservation around the world! Join today at <https://safariclub.org/join/>



Partnerships:

- **SCI and GSCO Announce Landmark Partnership:** SCI CEO W. Laird Hamberlin and Grand Slam Club/Ovis (GSCO) Executive Director Jason Price are announcing a first of its kind agreement between their respective organizations to create a long-term partnership to yield a groundbreaking experience for their memberships, beginning with SCI's 52nd Annual Hunter's Convention in Nashville, TN. Hosting SCI's Annual Hunter's Convention and GSCO's annual events consecutively will foster the emerging alliance between SCI and GSCO, bringing the greatest outdoor advocacy opportunities under one roof to further expand what Forbes calls "the Super Bowl of hunting shows."
- **SCI and USA Shooting Announce Historic Partnership:** SCI announced its exclusive sponsorship agreement with USA Shooting, the National Governing Body for the Olympic and Paralympic Shooting Sports Teams, in preparation for the 2024 Olympics in Paris, France. SCI will become the Official Sponsor of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Shooting Teams Athlete Development and Sports Performance Program, a Gold Level Partner for USA Shooting, while gaining a Board of Directors seat as a Trustee of this esteemed organization.
- **SCI Partners with Green Way Outdoors on The HISTORY Channel:** This exciting new partnership includes an SCI segment that airs during select episodes this fall on the HISTORY Channel. The segment aired during two back-to-back 30-minute episodes of The Green Way Outdoors on September 30, 2023, at 9:00 and 9:30 a.m. EST. The Green Way Outdoors seeks to make hunting and fishing more accessible to Millennials and Gen-Z through an entirely new style of educational and entertainment content.

Each episode of The Green Way Outdoors is about a specific hunting or fishing tactic for a particular species. The Green Way Outdoors team takes viewers from nature to the dinner table in every episode through unique hunting and fishing trips.



Supporting Our Community:

- **In Memory of Louise Shockey:** Louise was more than a member of our SCI family. She was a role model and mother figure to the entire hunting community. We treasure the countless memories we've made with Louise and the Shockey family, and are so grateful for the time we had with her. SCI joins the Shockey family in remembering Louise for the remarkable woman she was, and will continue to honor her legacy.
- **More Attacks on Famous Hunters:** Former Philadelphia Eagles and Washington Commanders quarterback Carson Wentz was criticized for posting a photo from a black bear hunt in Alaska. Hunting is the backbone of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, which has successfully recovered and managed wildlife across the U.S., including the black bear. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates that over 100,000 black bears inhabit Alaska.



Women Go Hunting: A series of Women Go Hunting (WGH) stories ran in Safari Times, focused on women's roles in the future of hunting. A July story showed how the most accomplished Diana Award hunters all started out from humble beginnings. An August story spotlighted four girl hunters, who have become eloquent advocates for sustainable-use conservation. And finally, a story encouraged women to document their hunting accomplishments in the SCI World Hunting Award Field Journal and participate in the 100 Woman Challenge. The WGH 100 Woman Challenge contest was also finalized and launched October 1, with prizes incentivizing women hunters to enter their trophies in the SCI World Hunting Awards program.

Social Media:

- SCI social media accounts reached over 4.5 million users this quarter. Trends included communicating on International, Federal, and State Advocacy issues including the Department of Education's recent ruling against school archery and hunter education programs. This topic alone sparked tremendous engagement among SCI's followers and the entire hunting community.
- We are excited to announce that this quarter, SCI's YouTube page hit over 66,000 subscribers! This ranks SCI as one of the largest NGOs on the social media platform. The page also collected an additional 5.5 million views.

First For Hunters Podcast: SCI's First For Hunters Podcast released 5 new episodes this quarter. As hunting season progresses and convention season draws near, you can look forward to more exciting episodes from your host, Ben Cassidy!

SCI Store: This quarter, SCI released the new Vintage Line of SCI clothing. Look forward to new Vintage Line designs this Fall. SCI also released a custom NHFD T-shirt to celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day with the hunting community. This Fall, SCI will be releasing new outdoor and wildlife t-shirt designs along with a whole new line of Kuiu Gear! Look out for new product releases with SCI partners this hunting season.

Weekly Email Newsletter: Want to receive weekly updates from the International Government & Public Affairs team? Sign up here! <https://safariclub.org/hunter-advocacy-email-alerts/>

Moving the Needle

Public Relations and Communications

- SCI Staff Hunts: SCI celebrated National Hunting and Fishing Day. This annual observance, held on the fourth Saturday of September each year, honors the rich tradition of hunting and angling across the United States while highlighting the vital role that sportsmen and women play in responsible wildlife management.





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 146 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.