THE SCI CENTER FOR CONSERVATION LAW AND EDUCATION

Safari Club International recently launched the not-for-profit **SCI Center for Conservation Law and Education**. SCI is unique among hunting conservation organizations in having in-house legal counsel, state liaisons, and a "Hunters' Embassy" on Capitol Hill. Together, these professionals litigate mission-critical cases, educate wildlife commissions and support science-based decision-making at the state level, and educate federal lawmakers and staff about issues of importance to hunting and wildlife conservation.

Litigation: SCI has litigated more than 60 cases in the last decade and filed briefs in twelve cases in the U.S. Supreme Court. Our cases involve species from elk to elephants and issues running from Alaska to Zimbabwe. In addition to litigation, SCI's lawyers work through the U.S. federal and state regulatory process to protect hunting access and benefit wildlife conservation around the country. SCI's attorneys are foremost experts and advocates on the Endangered Species Act, National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, and other federal and state laws. Examples of cases include:

- To promote science-based decision-making and proper implementation of the Endangered Species Act, SCI has defended the downlisting or delisting of recovered gray wolves for more than 20 years. SCI also defended the delisting of grizzly bears. SCI was the only organization to step in and successfully defend the delisting of black bears in Louisiana, which led to a new hunting season in the state.
- To preserve access for recreational shooting, as required by the Dingell Act, SCI and partners sued the Bureau of Land Management over its decision to close 99% of the Sonoran Desert National Monument to target shooting.
- To ensure that state wildlife commissioners follow the law, SCI sued two Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commissioners over their failure to comply with commission regulations and demonstrably false statements made about mountain lion and bobcat hunting.
- To roll back federal agency overreach in Alaska, SCI challenged federal agency actions that overturned state hunting regulations. SCI has also defended agency actions that appropriately deferred to state authority to manage wildlife.
- To encourage foreign conservation programs, SCI defended the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's issuance of import permits for leopards from well-managed hunting programs in southern Africa.
- To maintain Wyoming's Western elk population, SCI defended the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's adaptive management of supplemental winter feeding.
- To safeguard the outfitting industry and public access to remote federal lands, SCI opposed an overreaching federal wage and overtime policy.
- To discourage politicians from closing hunting opportunity based on a campaign promise to anti-hunters and ensure hunting is used to properly manage overly abundant wildlife, SCI sued the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection over a political decision to close black bear hunting on state lands.

Education of State Commissions and Agencies: SCI works across the country to educate state wildlife commissions and agencies on the use of hunting as a wildlife management tool and source for funding state wildlife conservation efforts. SCI's state liaisons write countless letters to state commissions on proposals affecting hunting access and sustainable-use wildlife conservation. SCI regularly presents at a number of national conferences, including the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and North American Wildlife Conference, about topics from the recovery of the Louisiana black bear, predator control as a tool for ensuring sustainable wildlife populations, and international wildlife conservation efforts. SCI's "States by the Numbers" for the first half of 2025 include:

- **43** legislative and regulatory comment letters
- **35** field visits
- **14** action alerts
- **2** podcasts

The Hunters' Embassy: As the name suggests, SCI's Washington, DC headquarters provides a welcome center for hunters from around the world. In addition to an educational exhibit on Teddy Roosevelt, the Embassy hosts monthly "Lunch and Learns" and other periodic events to educate Congressional staff and partner organizations about issues of importance to hunters. Topics are as diverse as the issues facing hunters today: how the Pittman-Robertson Act works to generate funding for wildlife conservation around the country; how the Federal Land Policy and Management Act protects access to public lands; how the Endangered Species Act was intended to conserve foreign species; how international trade in wildlife is regulated; and much more. These programs are free and open to all.

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