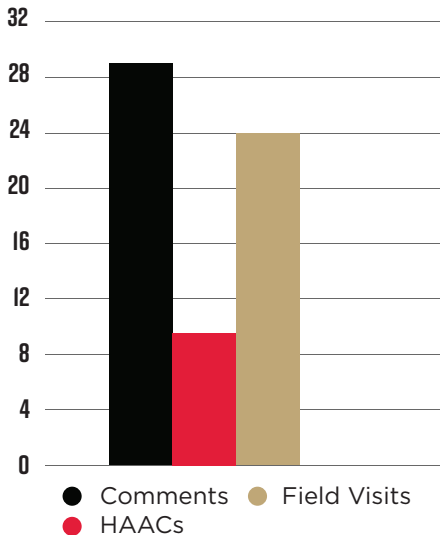


STATE



WINS

1. A blanket lead ammunition ban in Maryland that would have banned the use of any lead ammunition for the hunting of all game species was vigorously opposed by SCI and our partners and ultimately defeated in the liberal legislature.
2. A Colorado bill that would have weakened the use of hunting, trapping, and fishing as wildlife management tools was defeated in committee.
3. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is considering the re-opening of the black bear season at their May meeting. If the hunting proposal is approved, it will be formally voted on during the fall FWC meeting and a hunt would take place during the fall of 2025.



LOSSES

1. Anti-gun ownership bills continue to be introduced and make small gains all across the western and New England states.



THREATS

1. New York Big Five Africa Trophies Act that would ban in the State of New York the importation, transportation, and possession of any part or product of technically six major African species of wildlife (African elephant, lion, leopard, black rhinoceros, white rhinoceros, and giraffe) is still in play in the Legislature. It has currently passed a Senate committee and is awaiting further consideration in the full Senate.
2. Petitions have been filed with the Arizona Game and Fish Commission to ban a pursuit season as well as to ban the use of dogs for hunting mountain lions and bears. A hearing is set for the April 11th meeting.

INTERNATIONAL



WINS

1. SCI hired a new Africa Liaison, Mr. Mpho Tjiane. Based in South Africa, Mpho has hit the ground running and will continue to advance SCI's mission throughout Africa. SCI will soon open a joint PHASA-SCI office in Pretoria, South Africa.
2. The European Commission has proposed an amendment to the EU Habitats Directive, amending the protection status for wolves from strictly protected to protected. Once adopted, which will likely occur in May, this change will result in a more flexible approach to wolf conservation and management, including allowing hunting, across the European Union.
3. Cinegética+SCI was held in late March, hosting the largest hunting fair in southern Europe under the motto "United for Conservation."
4. The last CITES Committee meeting before CoP20 was held in February. The CITES Parties have not pursued any significant policies that would be harmful to SCI's interests during this 3-year cycle since the last CoP.



LOSSES

1. The current Canadian Government (Liberal) recently banned possession of 179 "assault-style" firearms, in addition to hundreds already banned.



THREATS

1. Federal elections in Canada at the end of April represent either a significant opportunity to reverse harmful policies, if Conservatives win, or a serious threat if Liberals maintain control.
2. A proposed trophy import ban is still being considered in the UK Parliament. Meanwhile, some airlines have adopted policies against shipping hunting trophies, making it difficult for hunters to get their trophies home.
3. As at all CITES CoPs, the Parties at CoP20 in Uzbekistan could propose listing decisions that would impact trade in hunting trophies; we will know more this summer.

FEDERAL



WINS

1. Former SCI Federal Legislator of the Year Bruce Westerman (R-AR) introduced the ESA Amendments Act to improve and modernize the ESA. SCI has worked closely with Chairman Westerman's team on language in the bill to facilitate the import of game animals. A House Subcommittee on has already held a hearing to consider the bill, and SCI facilitated the attendance of several African Ambassadors, a letter of support from the outdoor industry, and letters of support from range states.
2. SCI-PAC has cut and delivered \$80,500 in contributions to pro-hunting candidates and members of Congress up for election or re-election in the 2026 cycle.
3. At the Hunters Embassy, SCI hosted a major reception with attendance including 11 members of Congress, three embassies, four state wildlife agencies, and many partner conservation agencies. We have hosted two lunch and learns with representation from 30 states, and several fundraising events with more than a half dozen members of Congress coming to the Embassy.
4. On the Hill, Nick Uberti has met with 17 Congressional offices to discuss priority SCI legislation.



THREATS

1. With the administration moving at an extremely fast pace, SCI needs to continue constant engagement with Congress to ensure that our voice is not lost in the shuffle. We look forward to a great turnout on Lobby Day in May! SCI will host its annual Lobby Day in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, May 15.

LEGAL



WINS

1. SCI and our partner Sportsmen's Alliance successfully settled a suit that holds Colorado Commissioners accountable for complying with state law.
2. The team continues to defend SCI's core missions through briefs in cases seeking to get or keep recovered wolf populations off the ESA lists.
3. SCI is active in litigation to protect the right to bear arms for hunting. We have supported our sponsors and exhibitors by defending the marketing of firearms in a Fourth Circuit appeal and challenging the State of New Jersey's ban on possession of suppressors.
4. The Legal Advocacy Team has worked closely with the Federal Team to vigorously advocate for ESA amendments that would implement Congress' original intent and facilitate the import of animals from well-regulated hunting programs.
5. SCI's past advocacy has paid off, and we celebrated course-correction through Executive Orders that withdrew restrictions on hunting in Alaska (which we previously challenged in court) and the imposition of inappropriate wage and hour requirements on outfitters operating on federal lands.
6. SCI defended the ESA's preemption of state restrictions on actions that the U.S. Fish or Wildlife Service or Congress permits, including the import of trophies from well-regulated hunting programs.



LOSSES

1. States and private plaintiffs continue to seek to restrict ownership of firearms, which impacts SCI members' ability to hunt.
2. SCI filed an amicus brief requesting Supreme Court review of a case challenging the Department of Labor's overreach of outfitters operating on federal lands. The Supreme Court denied review.



THREATS

1. Even with Executive alignment, federal agency staff uncertainties make it difficult to move forward with SCI's priorities.
2. Anti-hunting groups are prepared to launch all-out legal and administrative attacks on the Trump Administration and Congressional actions, to sustain their fundraising.