



# HUNTER ADVOCACY

INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
END OF YEAR REPORT

## End of Year Highlights

---

Safari Club International (SCI) protects the freedom to hunt and promotes wildlife conservation worldwide. Through proactive advocacy, access to content for the outdoors lifestyle, and a network of hunting enthusiasts, SCI advances the interests of hunters around the world. SCI's advocacy efforts:

- Protect and improve hunting access and education
- Promote science-based wildlife management
- Stop government overreach of wildlife management
- Foster collaboration with local and rural communities pursuing wildlife stewardship
- Champion the hunters' lifestyle

Over the course of 2023, we've accomplished big things in these areas. Here are our "Year in Review" Highlights:

### MEMBER ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

Our members and advocates are unmatched in dedication to protecting our hunting rights. Through the Hunter Advocacy Action Center (HAAC), our army is mobilized to amplify our advocacy efforts in Washington, across the country, and around the world. The unparalleled engagement of our members was exemplified during lobby day in May, where over 100 members advocated for hunters in the halls of Congress. Recognizing the pivotal role of our DC building, the Life Hunter Advocate Society has generously granted funds to enhance our advocacy events program. Likewise, our efforts have been recognized as the gold standard by the Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund and awarded a generous grant of \$150,000. We extend a huge "thank you" to the dedicated members, advocates, and organizations that make our work possible.

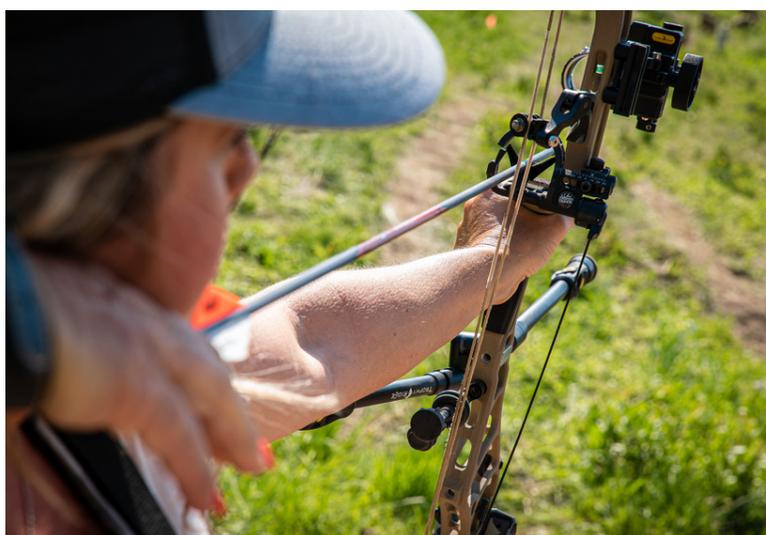


## End of Year Highlights

---

### PROTECTING HUNTER EDUCATION

The Biden Administration's Department of Education misinterpreted federal law to strip federal funding for archery, shooting sports, and hunter education in schools. SCI broke the news and made the fight national. At every turn, SCI was instrumental against this attack on the hunting community. We activated our members and advocates through a petition and thousands of letters opposing the department's policy. We supported Rep. Glenn Grothman's (R-WI) resolution condemning the rule and Rep. Mark Green's (R-TN) bipartisan Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act. We led a lawsuit against the Department of Education alongside Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation and the SCI West Michigan Bowhunters Chapter. We used this lawsuit to confirm that the department understood passage of the Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act resolved its misinterpretation of the law, marking a big win for hunters and safeguarding the future of archery, shooting sports, and hunter education programs in schools.



### WINNING IN THE COURTS

SCI was the only organization to intervene in litigation to defend leopard import permits, many of which were issued to SCI members. Based on SCI's arguments, a U.S. federal court in Arizona rejected the challenge by anti-hunting groups and dismissed the suit. In California, SCI successfully fought a vague and overbroad law that restricted the marketing of firearms in a "manner attractive to minors," with the court deeming the law unconstitutional. Finally, SCI, alongside the NRA and National Shooting Sports Foundation, secured a victory in a decade-long lawsuit seeking to ban lead ammunition on Kaibab National Forest in Arizona. These cases underscore how SCI is first for hunters in court.

### BUILDING HISTORIC PARTNERSHIPS

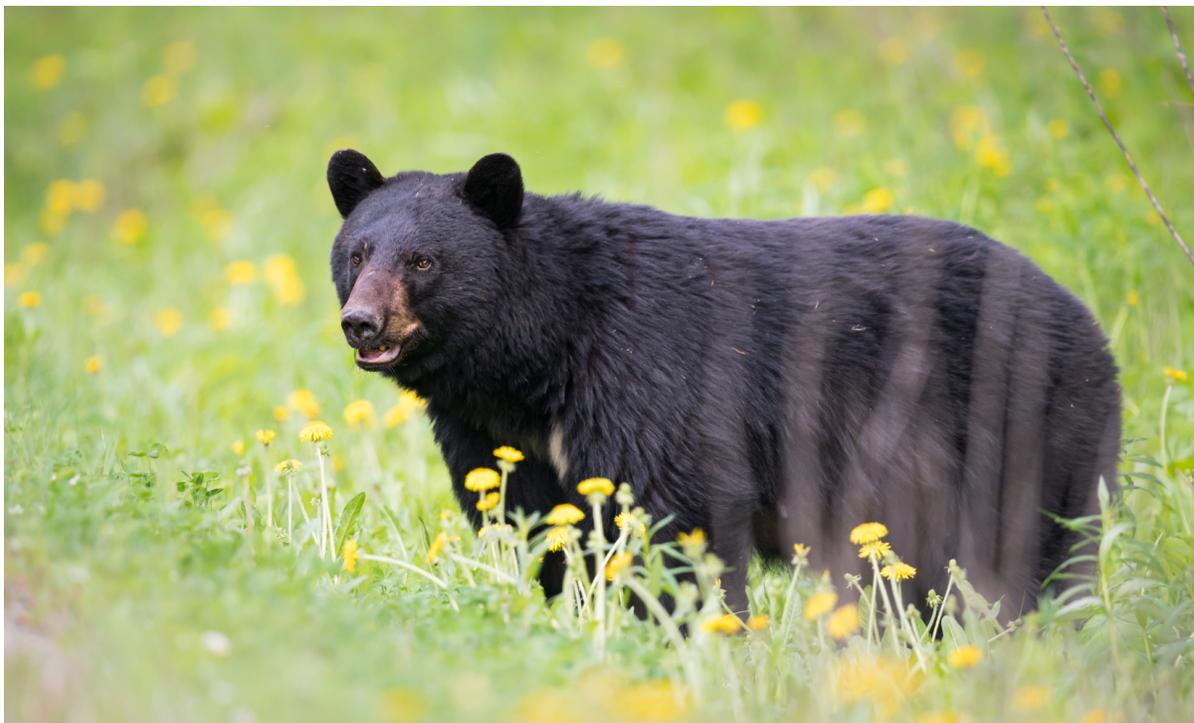
SCI proudly established groundbreaking partnerships with USA Shooting, Cinegética in Madrid, Grand Slam Club/Ovis, The Green Way Outdoors on the HISTORY Channel, and Patrick Smith Roping. These prominent entities share our cherished values of hunting and the outdoor way of life.

## End of Year Highlights

---

### SUPPORTING PREDATOR MANAGEMENT

SCI has tirelessly promoted and defended science-based predator management in court, in state legislatures, and before federal agencies. 2023 represented a big win when the Governor of New Jersey reopened a black bear hunting season after the bear population exploded and human-bear conflicts increased by over 200%. SCI had warned of these risks in a lawsuit challenging the hunting closure. SCI also helped defend the use of bait for hunting black bears in national forests in Idaho and Wyoming. At the state level, SCI has strongly supported the opening of a conservative and science-backed black bear hunt in Louisiana. The proposed 2024 hunt will be the first since the 1980s. SCI is part of a coalition opposing a proposed ballot initiative to ban mountain lion hunting in Colorado, and our efforts forced the proponents to remove misleading language in the initiative. With support from the Advocacy team, SCIF's Large Carnivore Program Manager Maria Davidson penned an op-ed emphasizing the critical role of regulated bear hunting as a necessary tool for managing increasing bear populations, urging states without regulated bear seasons to consider this option. This op-ed reinforces the management choices of most state wildlife agencies. Federally, SCI has combatted a proposed rule that will prohibit certain hunting, including hunting bears over bait and an extended season for wolves and coyotes, on national preserves in Alaska. SCI will continue to engage with biologists, scientists, and our partners to promote effective wildlife management.



# End of Year Highlights

---

## DEFENDING HUNTERS IN THE MEDIA

SCI continues to be the loudest voice defending hunters' rights in the media. EVP Ben Cassidy appeared on Fox News to do just that, calling out the Biden Administration's war on hunting, shrinking of hunting access and opportunities, and unwarranted bans on traditional lead ammunition. SCI has stood up to defend famous hunters when they are attacked for posting hunting photos, including Senator Steve Daines and former NFL players Jay Cutler, Carson Wentz, and Derek Wolfe. SCI continues to stand up to Big Tech and other efforts to censor the hunting community. Additionally, SCI has produced 18 episodes of the First for Hunters Podcast; appeared as guests on at least five podcasts; been quoted or mentioned in five E&E News articles, and been quoted in three Fox News articles.



## End of Year Highlights

---

### LEADING FROM THE HUNTERS' EMBASSY

Thanks to the generous donation of Armand and Mary Brachman, SCI's advocacy headquarters on Capitol Hill has been officially dedicated. Throughout the year, we have used our central location for outreach to decision makers and to host the Ribbon

Cutting for the building; a "Hunters on the Hill" reception for Members of Congress and staff, Embassies, and conservation partners; a "Lunch & Learn" for Congressional staff on the need for Endangered Species Act reform; a certified Hunter Education course with Congressman Bob Latta; political fundraisers, and other events that demonstrate the value of our location on the Hill to our champions and partners.



### REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF HUNTERS IN CONGRESS & THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION

SCI has continued to champion hunting and conservation priorities in Congress and in the Federal Administration. Leading from the front, SCI's Ben Cassidy was invited to testify before Congress to express SCI's support for H.R. 5009, the WILD act, and to encourage greater collaboration on community-based conservation. SCI has urged a modernization of the Endangered Species Act and has worked closely with Congressman Dan Newhouse and the House Natural Resources Committee on their new Endangered Species Act working group.

## End of Year Highlights

---

To protect access to hunting, we have once again supported Representative Rob Wittman's H.R. 615, the Protecting Hunters and Anglers Act, which would prohibit bans of lead ammunition on public lands. This measure also received a legislative hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee this summer. SCI supports the EXPLORE Act, legislation that would it easier for disabled hunters to go afield, improve and build public shooting ranges, and simply reduce barriers for America's hunters and anglers to practice these great traditions on America's public land. We have worked closely with our allies on the Hill to advocate a modernization of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and support H.R. 764, the Trust the Science Act, which would delist the grey wolf from the ESA, having met recovery goals for over a decade. We are also working closely with the House Natural Resources Committee ESA working group, which aims to produce broader reform legislation in the future. We also supported a Congressional Review resolution from Representative Bentz and Senator Lummis to retain the regulatory definition of habitat within the ESA following the Biden Administration's decision to roll back a prior definition of critical habitat. We are proud to support H.R. 6352 the Tax Stamp Revenue Transfer for Wildlife and Recreation Act, a bill to reallocate the funding generated from tax stamp processing for the purpose of enhancing wildlife and habitat conservation and recreation programs. SCI has joined our community partners in several letters to Congress and to the Administration, expressing support for a legislation fix to the "Cottonwood" issue and the Save our Sequoias Act; pushing back on the Administrations attacks on recreational shooting in the Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument area; opposing S. 2990 and its damaging effects to habitat management; expressing support for the FY23 Interior Appropriations bill that contains several pro hunting measures; requesting funding for CWD efforts, migration corridor management, and Wildlife Services.

From May 10 – May 12, SCI hosted its May 2023 Board of Directors Meeting in Washington, D.C., to discuss and advocate for our membership's priority legislative and regulatory issues affecting hunting and wildlife conservation in the U.S. and worldwide. More than 100 SCI members attended this productive conference that featured a Lobby Day with over 60 meetings on the Hill, a Capitol Hill reception with SCI's key allies in Congress, the annual volunteer leadership election from SCI's membership, and much more. SCI remains steadfast in its clear direction and purpose: protecting the freedom to hunt and continuing proven conservation policies.

# End of Year Highlights

---

## LEADING AT THE STATE & LOCAL LEVEL

SCI's dedicated liaisons take dynamic action in state and local advocacy by working with decision makers and conservation partners. We've opposed ballot-box biology and anti-gun initiatives in Colorado, Nevada and Oregon; promoted state constitutional amendments securing the right to fish and hunt in Montana, Florida and Ohio; been the first line of defense to anti-hunters' attempts to infiltrate and alter fish and wildlife commission memberships in Colorado, Michigan, Oregon, Washington, and New Jersey; and worked to secure additional access and opportunities through opposing lead ammunition bans in New York and to remove Sunday hunting restrictions in South Carolina, Maine, Massachusetts, and elsewhere. These efforts are the tip of the iceberg, as we've visited most of the states in 2023 to celebrate gains in hunting access and recognition of the sporting lifestyle.

## FIGHTING ATTACKS TO INTERNATIONAL HUNTING

SCI stands committed to protecting all hunting, of all species, across the globe. We do this through our dedicated team of attorneys, liaisons, and lobbyists. By coordinating with partner organizations worldwide, mobilizing our advocates to send thousands of communications through the Hunter Advocacy Action Center, and engaging in high-level international meetings, SCI confronts global threats to hunting and sustainable use conservation. This year, proposed firearms restrictions were defeated in Canada, and proposed bans on the import of hunting trophies did not pass in New York State or the United Kingdom. Among other important international meetings, SCI engaged with range state wildlife management authorities and partner stakeholders at the African Wildlife Consultative Forum in Windhoek, co-hosted by SCIF and Namibia's government. Collaborating with local communities and range state representatives, grounded in scientific fact, SCI continues to fight for conservation hunting around the world.

## CONVENTION!

The Super Bowl of Hunting Shows is returning to Nashville, Tennessee! Building off last year's record-breaking success, SCI's annual Convention features the world's premier outfitters, exhibitors, seminars, entertainment, and more. SCI Advocacy will be hosting legislators and dignitaries from across the country and around the world. Our work would not be possible without Convention – join us from January 31-February 3, 2024!



---

### *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.