

Safari Club International

First for Hunters

**Lobby Day
Washington, DC
May 9, 2019**





WHO IS SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL (SCI)?

The politically active members of SCI hunt on federal, state and private lands, and globally. They vote in federal, state, and local elections to protect their hunting opportunities, to conserve our nation's wildlife, and to conserve wildlife around the world. SCI is the country's leader in advocacy to protect the freedom to hunt and to promote wildlife conservation worldwide. SCI's approximately 50,000 members and 200 Chapters represent all 50 of the United States as well as 106 other countries. Through our active advocacy network, SCI works with federal and state legislators and policy makers to develop, promote and communicate positions on important issues, laws, regulations and initiatives. SCI generates broad support for candidates who support hunting and the issues that are important to them.

WHAT IS OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE?

The mission of SCI is to protect the freedom to hunt and to promote wildlife conservation worldwide. The purposes of SCI include –

- To advocate, preserve and protect the rights of all hunters.
- To promote safe, legal and ethical hunting and related activities.
- To advocate within the limits imposed by law and regulation.
- To monitor, support, or otherwise take positions on local, national and international legislative, executive, judicial or organizational endeavors that foster and support SCI's mission and purposes.
- To inform and educate the public concerning hunting and related activities.

SCI members help shape and promote the image of the hunter to the general public, through their words and actions. In addition to practicing ethical hunting while in the field, SCI members give back by participating in educational, civic, conservation, and humanitarian efforts across the globe.

WHAT RESOURCES DO WE HAVE TO OFFER?

In SCI's office on Capitol Hill, we have experienced lobbyists, litigators, policy makers, and social media experts working hand-in-hand with wildlife biologists from our sister organization, the Safari Club International Foundation. We administer the largest hunter-led Political Action Committee (SCI-PAC), which helps support campaigns of legislators on both sides of the aisle. SCI's Washington, D.C. office has the capacity to:

- 1) Develop, edit, and analyze legislation.
- 2) Defend federal actions, rules, plans and policies in federal and state courts.
- 3) Alert and generate support for federal and state legislation through our communications network.
- 4) Support candidates in federal and state races throughout the country.
- 5) Draft scientifically supported comment letters and white papers on hunting related decision-making.

Learn More

Learn more about SCI by visiting www.safariclub.org or contacting Bill Greene at our Washington, D.C. office at (202) 543-8733 or bgreene@safariclub.org.

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**Support ESA Delisting & State Management of
Recovered Species**

H.R. 1445 & S. 614 – Grizzly Bear State Management Act of 2019: Introduced jointly by Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY) and Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY) on February 28, 2019. Cosponsored by Rep. Gianforte (R-MT).

S. 831– A bill directing the Secretary of the Interior to reissue rules delisting Western Great Lakes and Wyoming gray wolves: Introduced by Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) on March 14, 2019. Cosponsors: Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), John Barrasso (R-WY), and Mike Enzi (R-WY).

Safari Club International’s Position: [Support](#)

SCI believes that species recovery should lead to delisting and the restoration of state management authority. Regulated harvest should be a part of the management of recovered, delisted species.

H.R. 1445 & S. 614 direct the FWS to reissue the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem grizzly bear delisting rule. The bill responds to a 2018 court ruling that blocked the delisting and restoration of management to Wyoming, Idaho and Montana.

S. 831 directs the DOI to reinstate a rule, invalidated by a D.C. federal court, that delists Western Great Lakes wolves. **S. 831 has strong bipartisan backing and provides a solution to the prolonged imprisonment of the wolves of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan on the federal endangered species list.** These wolves exceeded their recovery goals more than a decade ago.

H.R. 2532 – Tribal Heritage and Grizzly Bear Protection Act: Introduced by Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-Az) on May 7, 2019.

Safari Club International’s Position: [Oppose](#)

H.R. 2532 would permanently prohibit the recreational hunting of grizzly bears under any and all circumstances.

For additional information on these issues, please contact Bill Greene of SCI’s Government Relations Department at bgreene@safariclub.org or 202-543-8733.

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Defend Progress on Modernizing Monuments Designations

H.R. 1664 – National Monument Creation & Protection Act: Introduced by Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT-1) on March 11, 2019. Bill has eight cosponsors: Reps. Tom McClintock, Chris Stewart, Paul Gosar, Bruce Westerman, John Curtis, Don Young, Paul Cook, and Amata Coleman Radewagen. **Safari Club International’s Position:** [Support](#)

S. 367 & H.R 1050 – America’s Natural Treasures of Immeasurable Quality Unite, Inspire, and Together Improve the Economies of States Act or ANTIQUITIES Act: Introduced by Sen. Tom Udall (D-NM) and Rep. Deb Haaland (D-MN-1) on February 7, 2019. **Safari Club International’s Position:** [Oppose](#)

Rep. Rob Bishop has reintroduced H.R 3990 from the 115th Congress. The National Monument Creation & Protection Act is also called the CAP Act. **The bill limits the size of National Monuments and codifies presidential authority to reduce the size of current monuments.**

While the current administration deserves credit for steps they are taking to modernize the monuments designation process, SCI members believe Congress should spell out clear statutory limits to a potentially out-of-control process that ignores input from states or local stakeholders. **This input is needed so that hunters are never excluded from access to federal lands or hunting opportunities on those lands.**

SCI is opposed to the highly partisan ANTIQUITIES Act written to insulate existing National Monuments designations from scrutiny or adjustment by the current administration. The joint bills respond to the alleged “shrinkage” of the Bears Ears and Grand Escalante monuments in Utah. **In reality, those lands reverted to the federal agencies that managed them before their designations and enabled these agencies to provide access to additional hunting opportunities.**

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Oppose Harmful Importation Restrictions: The CECIL Act

H.R. 2245 – Conserving Ecosystems by Ceasing the Importation of Large Animal Trophies Act: Introduced by Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ-3). Also called the CECIL Act, originally introduced in 2015.

Safari Club International’s Position: Oppose

The CECIL Act is based on the erroneous belief that Washington politicians know best how to manage wildlife in foreign countries. Well-regulated international hunting is beneficial to wildlife conservation. This fact is recognized by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and respected scientific authorities such as CITES and the IUCN.

The CECIL Act will not “conserve ecosystems.” Instead—by restricting or banning importation—the bill will cause more harm than good. Countries that rely on regulated hunting as part of their conservation programs protect up to 5 times more habitat compared to those that do not.

The bill would harm, not protect, wildlife in Africa. By targeting U.S. hunters, the bill ignores the fact that countries where hunting is part of wildlife management (like Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) have some of the largest populations of elephant, leopard, lion, white & black rhino, and other species.

Many animals owe their recovery directly to international hunting. They include the black rhino, white rhino, bontebok, markhor, and wood bison – to name a few. The CECIL Act would make these remarkable successes virtually impossible.

The drafters of the ESA intended that the U.S. encourage foreign conservation efforts, not cripple them. **Leave wildlife conservation to the experts.**

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Pittman-Robertson Modernization

H.R. 877 – Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow’s Needs Act: Introduced by Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA-8) on January 30, 2019. Bill was H.R. 2591 in the 115th Congress and was unanimously approved by voice vote last September. The current version has 16 bipartisan cosponsors.

Safari Club International’s Position: Support

Pittman-Roberson (P-R) is the bedrock of state managed wildlife conservation in the U.S. It has been supported by hunters since its introduction in 1937.

SCI strongly supports H.R 877 and its goal of modernizing the use of P-R funds for recruiting hunters and recreational shooters.

H.R. 877 will increase flexibility for state wildlife managers by allowing the use of P-R funds for the recruitment of hunters and recreational shooters. Hunters and shooters contribute nearly \$800 million annually from related excise taxes to the Pittman-Robertson Fund. These funds are apportioned back to state fish and wildlife agencies for conservation programs.

H.R. 877 defines recruitment, retention, and reactivation as it relates to hunters and recreational shooters, and expressly enables states to use P-R funds for these purposes. It also clarifies that P-R funds can be used for the development, construction, and maintenance of public shooting ranges as activities to recruit and retain hunters and recreational shooters.

The bill provides states with valuable tools to combat the decline in the number of hunters. That decline threatens P-R’s core purpose of funding state management and conservation efforts towards fish, wildlife, and habitat. Recreational shooting, in addition to serving as a gateway to hunting provides crucial P-R funding.

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Remove ESA Authority Over Foreign Wildlife Conservation

H.R. 30 – Saving America’s Vulnerable Endangered Species Act or SAVES Act:
Introduced by Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX-1) on January 3, 2019.

Safari Club International’s Position: [Support the 2017-2018 Bill](#)

In 2017, Rep. Louie Gohmert introduced a bill that would have had the greatest impact on the international hunting community than any bill since the 1973 Endangered Species Act. The 2017-2018 version of the SAVES Act provided that all species that are not native to the United States shall not be “treated or listed” as endangered or threatened species.

The SAVES Act would have prevented the FWS from listing foreign species, requiring ESA permits for the importation of these animals and banning the import of most legally-hunted wildlife into the U.S. That version of the bill passed favorably out of the House Natural Resources Committee. Had the SAVES Act been in effect, the FWS could not have banned the importation of elephants from Zimbabwe in 2014 or imposed permit requirements for the import of legally-hunted African lions in 2015 and African elephants in 2016.

In 2019 the SAVES Act was reintroduced as H.R. 30. The new bill applies only to non-native species ***in the U.S.*** and does nothing to alleviate the problems that U.S. interference has caused to foreign countries who use hunting to conserve their wildlife.

SCI asks Congress to reinstate and pass the 2017-2018 version of the SAVES Act.

Note: House cosponsors of the 2017-2018 bill (H.R. 2603) were Reps. Babin (R-TX), Gosar (R-AZ), Tipton (R-CO), Westerman (R-AR), King (R-IA), Burgess (R-TX), Abraham (R-LA), Marshall (R-KS), Hunter (R-CA), Womack (R-AR), Crawford (R-AR), Johnson (R-LA), Cole (R-OK), Peterson (D-MN), LaMalfa (R-CA), Lamborn (R-CO), Olson (R-TX), Duncan (R-SC), Gianforte (R-MT), Aderholt (R-AL), Higgins (R-LA), Yoho (R-FL), Biggs (R-AZ), Estes (R-KS), and Duffy (R-WI).

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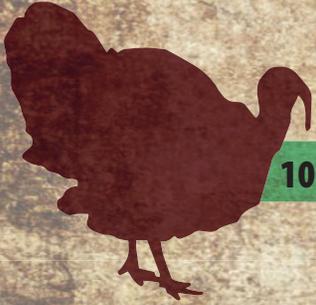
Sportsmen Saved Species

Wildlife is thriving due to successful conservation efforts brought forth and funded by hunting sportsmen and women. NO species has become extinct due to hunting. Here are some facts on saved species.

1900s **WHITETAIL DEER** TODAY
500,000 32,000,000 (QDMA)



1900 **WILD TURKEY** TODAY
100,000 7,000,000 (NWTG)



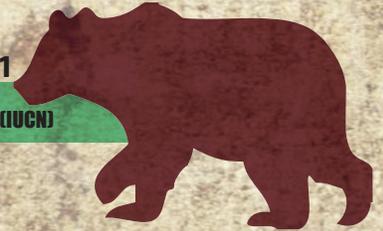
1940 **BIGHORN SHEEP** 2014
<20,000 >85,000 (WSF)



1907 **ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK** TODAY
41,000 1,000,000 (RMEF)



1900s **BLACK BEAR** 2011
NEARLY EXTINCT 950,000 (IUCN)



50 YEARS AGO **PRONGHORN ANTELOPE** TODAY
12,000 1,100,000 (WWF)



1901 **DUCKS/WATERFOWL** TODAY
FEW 46,000,000 (USFWS)



1890 **BLACK RHINO** TODAY
1,000 3,500 (IUCN)



1900s **CAPE BUFFALO** TODAY
DECIMATED 1,000,000 (IUCN)



1895 **WHITE RHINO** TODAY
<100 19,600-21,000 (IUCN)

