

# Making a Difference for Wildlife

The SCI Foundation funds and manages worldwide conservation programs, including innovative partnerships with international agencies and SCI Chapters around the globe.



## North American Conservation Program

Total Funds: \$500,000



**T**HE SCI FOUNDATION'S North American Conservation program is focused on enhancing wildlife management for all big game species and conservation of habitats. This multi-year initiative supports excellent research, science-based wildlife management practices, and conservation advocacy with both state and federal governments. It is a catalyst for the critical partnerships needed to conserve natural treasures while meeting the needs of sportsmen, private and public landowners.

The SCI Foundation is working in Alaska to support development of private land wildlife management. Over 33 million acres of privately-held wildlife habitat are currently closed to sport hunting and reserved only for subsistence hunting.



The SCI Foundation and the Alaska Chapters of SCI are part of a collaborative effort to create wildlife management programs that generate significant income to landowners while conserving wildlife and increasing hunting opportunities. The largest challenge is the decline in moose populations. Lack of grazing areas and predation by black bears are two issues that must be addressed.

Wildlife disease issues in North America also are a priority for the SCI Foundation, which is supporting state and federal efforts in research, monitoring and management programs for Chronic Wasting Disease.

Particular emphasis has been given to hunter education encouraging sportsmen to participate in the surveillance efforts needed to protect deer and elk threatened by CWD.

The SCI Foundation continues to assist state fish and game agencies addressing population declines in mule deer. Given the complexities associated with this wildlife management issue, the SCI Foundation hosted a Western Association Mule Deer task force workshop at its American Wilderness Leadership School near Jackson Wyoming in 2002 and 2003.

In Mexico, the SCI Foundation funded and managed the five-year jaguar initiative that led to the landscape scale habitat management plan for jaguar in the Yucatan Peninsula. This successful program is expanding into Belize and Guatemala.