

Making a Difference for Wildlife

Hundreds of local conservation projects are undertaken annually by SCI Chapters. They are reinforced by many notable conservation initiatives funded by the SCI Foundation.



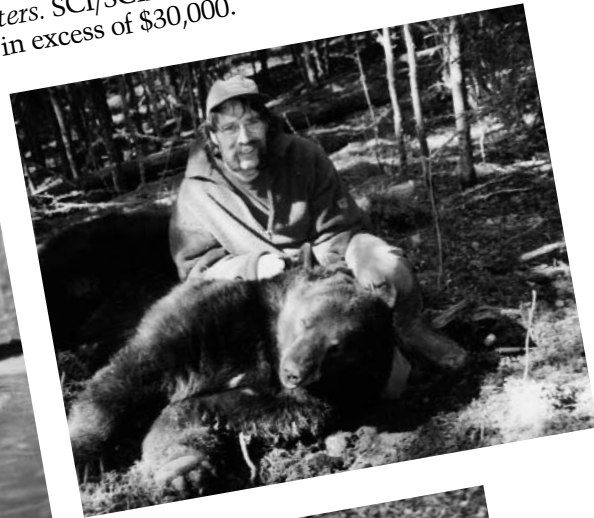
Effects of Hunting on Black Bears

Northern Alberta, Canada

Total Funds: \$30,000



resource management on science defensible to the general public. SCI's *Alberta Chapter* originally sponsored this research with a \$10,000 grant. Additional contributions have come from the SCIF Conservation Committee and SCI's *Michigan, Flint Regional, Badgerland, Central Washington, Northwest Ohio and Idaho chapters*. SCI/SCIF contributions are in excess of \$30,000.



IN VARIOUS PROVINCES and states, bear hunting has come under public attack, with accusations of overharvest, cub orphaning and unethical hunting methods by the anti-hunting community. Although black bears are hunted in many locations with no adverse effect on their numbers, the effects of spring and baited hunting on population demographics is debated. Furthermore, bear biologists are divided on whether the harvest of adult males improves or hurts cub recruitment.

In northern Alberta, University of Alberta researcher Dr. Mark Boyce and graduate student

Sophie Czetwertynski are conducting a four-year study designed to address the biological implications of spring baited hunts. Bears in hunted and unhunted sites are collared to monitor dynamics, behavior, habitat selection and physical condition. Hunter access to bears will be modified over time to produce data for hunted and unhunted years for the same populations in the same habitats.

The project will answer critical questions about bear hunting to ensure the long-term sustainability of black bears as a wildlife resource. Results from this research are timely and crucial if wildlife managers are to base

