

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.



Elk Food Plots

Pennsylvania, USA

Total Funds: \$60,816

Thanks to help from SCI's *Lehigh Valley Chapter*, the Game Commission is taking the program one step further and expanding the habitat for the state's now-healthy elk herd into more public land.

In addition to maintaining established areas, 395 acres of new food plots were established since 2001. Of that total, state game lands received 158 acres, state forest lands received 137 acres, and state park lands received 100 acres.

A new, three-man food and cover crew was also established, complementing crews based in Cameron and Clearfield counties.

Over the past three years, SCI *Lehigh Valley* raised over \$60,000 in support of the food plot project. In addition to the development and maintenance of the food plots, these funds were used to purchase dart gunning equipment, assist in anti-poaching efforts in the areas, and build an elk restraint fence. "The food plots not only benefit elk but all wildlife," such as deer, turkeys, and grouse, said program manager Colleen Shannon.

(Other sources: Pennsylvania Game Commission, *Pennsylvania Outdoor Times*)



YEARS AGO, Pennsylvania's Game Commission was faced with a basic problem in trying to bring back its struggling elk herd: lack of acceptable forage habitat.

To resolve this problem, the Game Commission began establishing elk food plots for the ungulates in various parts of the state. In part because of these efforts, the state's elk herds have bounced back. In 2001, the state held its first elk hunt in 70 years.

