

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.



National Elk Refuge Support
Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA
Total Funds: \$4,000



refuge, providing funding for elk refuge irrigation (\$1,000), brucellosis vaccination (\$500), and emergency sheep and elk feeding (\$1,250), and has developed youth hunting programs and provided cross-sticks to help control elk numbers on the refuge (\$1,750). SCI Jackson Hole has also contributed substantially to defending science-based refuge management from attacks by the anti-hunting community.

SINCE PREHISTORIC TIMES, the southern Yellowstone elk herd has migrated from summer ranges in the Grand Teton National Park, Yellowstone National Park and the Teton Wilderness into Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to wait out the long Rocky Mountain winters. Historically, in excess of 20,000 elk wintered in the shadows of the Tetons.



However, with the advance of Western civilization across North America, Jackson Hole was settled. Winter range that formerly supported the big herds of elk, bison and bighorn sheep was converted for domestic cattle, sheep and homes. Wildlife was no longer welcome, and by the late 1880s elk were depredating farms or starving during severe winters. In response, Congress first appropriated funds for winter elk feeding in 1911.

The National Elk Refuge was then established in 1912 to protect the remaining winter range, which today encompasses 24,700 acres, or about 25 percent of the former range. Although most of the valley is now resorts and subdivisions, this remaining range must still support a minimum of 7,500 elk during winter.

SCI's Jackson Hole Chapter has been a long-term friend of the

