

# 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.



## Mountain Goat Transplants

Southern and Central Idaho, USA

Total Funds: \$15,000

SEVERAL DECADES AGO, over-hunting and resource extraction caused central Idaho mountain goat populations to crash. Idaho Fish and Game biologists determined that, because unique habitat and social requirements cause goats to recover very slowly, if at all, the Salmon River populations would not recover without assistance. Meanwhile, introduced goat populations in the Palisades area and the Seven Devils Mountains were nearly overutilizing available habitats. Goat translocation was an obvious solution, but department budgets wouldn't allow it.



In 1997 SCI's Idaho Chapter provided \$5,000 (including SCI matching grants) to transplant mountain goats from Hell's Hole in the Palisades. Ten goats were in the helicopter net-gunned, hobbled and flown to a Big Elk Creek staging area. The goats were sampled, given antibiotics, ground transported and released near Shoup on the Salmon River.

In 1999, \$10,000 was provided by SCI's Idaho, Treasure Valley, Silver State, Wisconsin, New England, Georgia, Napa Valley, Lehigh Valley, Western and Central New York, and New York Tristate chapters to radio-collar and relocate seven goats from Riggins to Mallard Creek. As in 1997, SCI Idaho provided volunteer ground crews to assist Idaho Fish and Game biologists. Goat transport boxes were provided by SCI's Inland Empire Chapter. A generous donation also was received from SCI members Mr. and Mrs. Victor M. Smith Sr. Recent surveys reveal that these goats have adjusted to their new homes and are reproducing.

