

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.



Moose Reintroduction

Western UP, Michigan, USA
Total Funds: \$750,000
(including leveraged funds)

FOR NEARLY A CENTURY, moose had been largely absent from Michigan. During the 1800s, market hunting took its toll, and logging as well as fires altered Michigan's forests to favor whitetail deer. Increased deer numbers allowed the brainworm parasite, which is carried harmlessly by deer, to infect and kill moose. By 1889, moose were granted complete protection, but did not recover.



In the 17 subsequent years, the moose population has grown, and the MIC has supplied continued funding for moose monitoring, study and collar replacement. Including donations and leveraged funds, \$750,000 has been made available to MDNR for Michigan's new moose. The SCI Chapters of the MIC currently include: Detroit, Flint, Michigan, Mid-Michigan, Northeast Michigan, Great Lakes Muzzleloaders, Lakeshore Sportsmen, Kensington Valley, Lansing, Novi, Northwoods, Southeast Michigan Bow and West Michigan Bow.

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In 1985, the Michigan Department of Natural Resource's long-term goal of moose reintroduction became a reality with a \$25,000 grant from the Michigan Involvement Committee (MIC), a collaboration of Michigan SCI Chapters that work routinely with MDNR.

Between 1985-1987, 25 bulls and 36 cows were captured in Algonquin Provincial Park with the help of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Moose were first tranquilized, then loaded into a sling and lifted back to a staging area by helicopter. Each moose was radio-collared, administered a reversal drug and then driven 600 miles to the release site in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.