

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.



Translocation of Depredating Mule Deer

Southern New Mexico, USA
Total Funds: \$40,000

ACCORDING TO New Mexico state law, if the Game and Fish Department (NMG&F) cannot resolve wildlife crop depredation to a landowner's satisfaction in one year, the landowner can kill every depredating animal on his or her property. Often, NMG&F itself has been forced to destroy offending mule deer and antelope.

Finding this option unacceptable, SCI's Southern New Mexico Chapter collaborated with NMG&F and the US Bureau of Land Management to drop-net trap, transport, and release offending animals to BLM-identified, underused state habitat. BLM then monitors deer survivability using SCI-donated radio collars. SCI also donated a 7-acre soft release enclosure with 8-foot fencing that provides transport-stressed deer with food, water and cover.

Now a full-time collaboration, translocation occurs from November through February, with 125 deer transplanted last winter. SCI is often called directly about depredation concerns.

The program has been successful with the public and landowners, and has improved relations between the agencies and sportsmen. NMG&F's Mike Perry states, "The SCI guys don't get burned out like other volunteers. They really care about the wildlife and I really enjoy working with them. We are keeping more deer alive and the Game and Fish is spending fewer hours at it." In the past three years, SCI Southern New Mexico has donated over \$40,000 to deer translocation.

