



Dear FWP Commissioners,

July 11, 2026

The Safari Club International – Great Falls Chapter would like to thank you for the great work you are doing on behalf of the Montana sportsmen and women. We appreciate the opportunity you have given the Great Falls Chapter over the past sixteen (16) years to auction the Governor's Mountain Goat Tag.

We are currently the 18th LARGEST CHAPTER in SCI out of 180 chapters! We are a unique organization in that we support mostly local conservation efforts with the funds we raise. 70% of all funds raised stay with the local SCI Chapters! This allows us to participate in those projects throughout Montana that other organizations are unable to directly contribute. We have local control of projects that are deemed important to wildlife conservation and hunting opportunities that may be overlooked by large, centralized organizations. We have given over \$1.75 million back to Montana through conservation, humanitarian and educational opportunities. I have included numerous projects we have contributed to in the attached proposal and encourage you to review them to get an idea of what we stand for and support.

The Great Falls Chapter SCI has raised **\$598,700** over 16 years for mountain goat research/management through the auctioning/raffle of the Governor's Mountain Goat Tag with Montana FWP receiving **\$495,590 to date**.

This year we are offering to auction the tag at our 2026 banquet/fundraiser.

We take great pride in maximizing the value of this coveted tag and look forward to auctioning the Governor's Tag both live and on-line simultaneously through Online Hunting Auction.com, ensuring worldwide exposure to over 1 million hunters!

Please find enclosed a proposal to auction the Governor Mountain Goat Tag.
Should you have any questions or concerns please contact me at your convenience.

Respectfully,

Nathan Gerega,
President, Great Falls Chapter SCI
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AUCTION PROPOSAL

MOUNTAIN GOAT

2027

Prepared by:
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Great Falls Chapter SCI
Safari Club International



STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION'S PURPOSE

The Great Falls Chapter of Safari Club International, is committed to provide a channel for organized efforts to promote a public understanding and acceptance of hunting as an effective tool for wildlife conservation, management and education.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of SCI is to protect the freedom to hunt and to promote wildlife conservation worldwide.

The mission is supported through the many arenas of the organization:

- Conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitats
- Education of the public regarding hunting as a conservation tool
- Humanitarian services for those in need

GREAT FALLS CHAPTER SCI FACTS

- **18th largest SCI Chapter in the world out of 180 chapters**
- **2019 “Diamond Conservation and Membership Growth Award.”**
- **“Chapter of the Year by Size 201 Members and Over Runner Up Award”**
- Have auctioned the Governors Mountain Goat tag since 2010 (16 years) bringing in a total of **\$598,700** to the Chapter of which FWP has received a total of **\$495,590**.
- Chapter established in 2001
- Four (4) general membership meetings per year
- Held 23 Annual Banquet and Fundraisers – last years grossed \$480,000/year
 - Averages 375-400 attendees each year
 - Grossed over \$5.3 million in the past 23 banquets with over \$1.7 million put back into sponsorship and projects in Montana
- Board of Directors consists of 10-12 diverse volunteers consisting of hunters and non-hunters with a wide range of experiences

PREVIOUS MOUNTAIN GOAT CONSERVATION INVOLVEMENT:

- Great Falls Chapter SCI contributed **\$18,500 and over 100-man hours** for the relocation of 25 mountain goats to the Ear Mountain Wildlife Management area in 2008, 2009.

- Have auctioned the Governors Mountain Goat tag since 2010 (16 years) bringing in a total of **\$495,590** to the MTFWP earmarked for research and management of Montana's mountain goats.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION EFFORTS

PARTNERED WITH MTFWP ON PROJECTS:

- **\$25,000 Devil's Kitchen Elk Movement and Spatial Ecology Project** – Worked with Cory Loecker, Wildlife Manager for MTFWP towards the purpose of capture and collaring efforts of cow elk winter 2019/20 to study elk seasonal movement.
- 2018, 2019 - Donated **\$5,600** in funding for research project on elk in Central Montana. We worked with Sonja Anderson, Area Wildlife Biologist, FWP. Two of our Board Members were able to spend 2 days with Sonja looking for newly born elk and putting radio collars on them.
- 2018 - Donated **\$2,000** towards implementation of the Big Snowy Aspen and Meadow Restoration Project. Working with David B Kemp, Natural Resources Specialist with the United States Department of Agriculture.
- Donated **\$50,000** toward the Whitetail Prairie land acquisition in 2014
- Donated **\$10,000** toward the Olson Conservation Easement project in 2015
- Capture and relocation of Merriam Turkeys: 2015 worked with MFWP, NWTF and private land owners to transfer 97 Merriam's wild turkeys from Nebraska and reintroduce North of Carter.
 - Winter 2016 transplanted 135 turkeys from Nebraska to Montana in two different places on the Missouri River between Fort Benton and Loma.
- Worked as a coalition with MFWP, the Montana Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation and private land owners to reintroduce wild turkeys to the Missouri River area between Cascade and Ulm Montana
- Donated **\$20,000** to MFWP to help secure perpetual recreational access on Chokecherry Bend and Riverdale Ranch Conservation Easements on Missouri River near Cascade (9 miles river frontage and 2,000 acres)
- Donated a full body "robo" deer decoy to MFWP poaching reduction project
- Donated **\$500** to FWP for permanent stock rails at Beartooth Wildlife Management Area
- Donated **\$12,000** (2026) to MTFWP toward the Mule Deer Study in area 410
- Donated an additional **\$5,000** (2025) to MTFWP for reintroduction of Pine Martin in the Little Belt Mountains

- **\$5,000** towards the reintroduction of the Big Horn Sheep into the Little Belt Mountains. Capture and release was accomplished on Dec 16-17, 2020.
- **\$15,000** towards the reintroduction of the Pine Marten back into the Little Belt Mountains.
- **\$20,000 to Everson Bench Conservation Easement** - Sonja Andersen presented proposal and the Great Falls Chapter committed \$20,000 to Everson Bench Conservation Easement
- **\$5000 to Whiskey Ridge Conservation Easement** - Sonja Andersen presented proposal and the Great Falls Chapter committed \$5000 to Whiskey Ridge Conservation Easement
- **\$25,000 Devils Kitchen Elk Movement and Spacial Ecology Project** with MTFWP

CONTRIBUTIONS TO LOCAL AREA ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Safari Club International, Great Falls Chapter is proud to be associated with and support other likeminded sportsmen organizations and agencies as well as various community service projects. SCI, Great Falls Chapter has donated funding and/or provided volunteer labor to the following projects:

- **Donated \$7,500** towards the Christian Sportsman Youth Hunting Program since 2021.
- **\$1,480** donated to 2 boys whose father was killed in Afghanistan 10 years ago. His wish was they would learn to hunt. The money was used to pay for out-of-state hunting license and game processing for a hunt scheduled here in Montana.
- **\$1,000** towards Missouri River Shooting Association for cement and access improvement
- **\$5,000** for the Scholastic 3D Archery Youth programs in for The Little Belt Archers out of Cascade, MT
- Two Highway clean ups per year on US Highway 89
- **Donated \$22,000 to Hooked on Fishing not Drugs Program** for junior high students in Great Falls area.
- **Donated \$11,5000** to East and North Middle School in Great Falls to sponsor hunting bulletin board allowing students to post pictures of their hunt. All students were awarded prizes.
- Provided Archery Backstop netting for indoor Highwood Youth Archery Range in Belt, MT
- **Donated \$300** toward youth waterfowl/upland bird education in Region 4
- **Donated a meat grinder** to Set Free Ministries in Great Falls

- Donated **\$6,000** to Great Falls Shooting Complex
- Donated **\$12,500** to Sun River Skeet Club
- Donated **\$4,000** for the purchase of orange hunting vests for the Hunters Safety Program over past 4 years
- Contribute instruction annually in Bow Hunter Education Program
- Donated **\$2,000** toward the construction of a new boat ramp at Lake Frances in conjunction with Walleyes Unlimited
- Donated **\$28,000** towards high school senior scholarships for college
- **\$2,500 to University of Providence** for a summer wildlife technician intern/volunteer for the Judith-Musselshell Ranger District
- **\$6,000 toward the Hooked-on Fishing not Drugs program** that gets Junior High School students outdoors and learning how to fish. This includes money for Camp Walleye 2021 & 2022.

AUCTION/RAFFLE EXPERIENCE:

Auctioning the Governor's Mountain Goat Tag: The Great Falls Chapter of SCI auctioning of the Montana Governors Goat Tag has become a tradition and sportsmen favorite over the course of **16 years**. The Great Falls Chapter Auction is one of the most highly anticipated SCI auctions throughout the world of sportsmen.

- Over the **16-year history** of Great Falls Banquets in which we have auctioned/raffled the Governors goat tag we have raised an astonishing \$495,590 toward the research and management of the Montana Rocky Mountain Goat!

Fundraising Auction Experience:

- The Great Falls Chapter SCI has considerable experience with live and online auctions. We have held **26 official auctions**, auctioning well **over 1,000 items**, including guided hunts all over the globe.

2026 PROPOSED AUCTION PLAN:

- The Great Falls Chapter SCI has considerable experience with live/online raffles including raffling guns, original art works, fine jewelry, and high-end hunts throughout the world.
- This years plan of implementation is to auction the Governors Tag **live and online simultaneously** at our annual banquet/fund raiser on **March 13, 2027**, at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls MT. We will use email, social media, word of mouth and advertising through Hunting Auctions.com as well as through

international SCI resources to reach out to sportsmen and women throughout the world. This would include:

- Mailing banquet/auction information to over **1800 people statewide** – including members of all four SCI chapters as well as past attendees
- Great Falls Chapter Website: www.safariclubgreatfalls.org
- Electronic mailings to the other **180 SCI chapters (50,000+ members)**
- Local newspaper articles
- Outreach to over **1 MILLION on-line auction participants**

ANTICIPATED REVENUE:

Based on our twenty-five-year history of local wildlife hunt auctions and our sixteen-year history with auctioning the Governor's Mountain Goat tag, we anticipate the revenues to between \$60,000 and \$70,000.

RETAINER INTENT :

It is the intent of Great Falls Chapter SCI to retain up to 10% of proceeds for allowed expenses.