



FROM THE BRINK

LOUISIANA'S BLACK BEAR RECOVERY

FROM THE BRINK LOUISIANA'S BLACK BEAR RECOVERY

Once thriving in the cypress swamps and winding bayous of Louisiana, the Louisiana black bear faced a harsh reality. Decades of habitat loss and overharvest pushed this iconic species to the brink of extinction. What was once a symbol of the Deep South nearly disappeared.

But the story didn't end there.

Recognizing the urgency, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, alongside wildlife organization partners, state and federal partners, joined forces with private landowners to restore habitat and support science-based management tools. And thanks to their tireless efforts, the Louisiana black bear has made a remarkable comeback. This is a true conservation success- but the next chapter is just beginning.

As we look ahead, the future of the black bear will be shaped by those who live closest to the land.

Watch to learn more about what happened to the black bear, the efforts for recovery and how Louisiana continues to blend conservation and hunting into a lasting win for wildlife, people, and the future of the Louisiana black bear.





MARIA DAVIDSON

Maria Davidson is a dedicated wildlife professional with a remarkable story and a deep commitment to the Louisiana black bear. Maria spent over 30 years with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as the large carnivore manager, working closely with landowners and partners to aid the bear's recovery through practical fieldwork. Now with the SCI Foundation, Maria brings her expertise and unique perspective to ongoing conservation efforts, continuing her work in bear recovery and management.



KRISTY TITUS

Kristy is a dedicated advocate for wildlife and habitat conservation, with a deep commitment to preserving hunting traditions. She is the producer and host of "Pursue the Wild," a lifestyle series that airs on Pursuit Channel, Pursuit Up, WildTV, CarbonTV, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Additionally, Kristy hosts the "Wild & Uncut Podcast," where she shares behind-the-scenes insights with guests from around the world. In this film, Kristy mentors young hunter Fisher Charles, teaching him proper gun use and technique, preparing him for the hunt, and guiding him through the experience.



FISHER BROWN

Twelve-year-old Fisher Brown from Louisiana was one of the ten recipients of a black bear tag for the 2024 season. Fisher and his family have been pivotal in bear conservation for many years, providing access to their land for essential research efforts that have significantly contributed to the species' recovery.



MICAH NESS CINEMATOGRAPHER

Micah is the co-owner of **Silverline Films** and has partnered with SCI Foundation on many program projects. Micah grew up between Idaho and Alaska, pursuing his passion for video, photography and outdoor adventure. He loves to share his outdoor experiences with others through guided adventures and cinematography.



ROBERT PEREZ EDITOR

Robert is a vital editor at Silverline, known for his military service in the Marine Corps and keen attention to detail. He effectively transforms project visions into completed works, exemplifying hard work and creativity. His contributions are essential for meeting the demands of rigorous production, whether at the computer or on set.

FILM APPEARANCES

Debbie Fuller – United States Fish and Wildlife Services Biologists

Brian Welker – SCI Foundation Board President

Denise Welker - Women go Hunting Founder

Kaitlin O'Connell – University of Tennessee Student

Richard Kennedy – SCI Acadiana Chapter President

Chris Landreneau – Prejean's Executive Chef

Fisher Brown – Louisiana Black Bear Hunter

Cody Brown – Louisiana Private Land Owner and Father to Fisher Brown

Charles Brown – Land Owner and Grandfather to Fisher Brown



FROM THE BRINK LOUISIANA'S BLACK BEAR RECOVERY

SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION



Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF) is dedicated to securing the future of wildlife through science-based conservation, education, and sustainable hunting practices. SCIF conducts and supports global wildlife scientific research to enhance wildlife management strategies, ensuring that conservation decisions are based on the best scientific evidence. By collaborating with governments, communities, conservation organizations, and SCI Chapters, SCIF actively supports wildlife research, habitat conservation, and anti-poaching initiatives. SCIF works to enhance conservation projects on local, regional, and global scales, promoting effective wildlife management and sustainable hunting practices.



SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL

For over 50 years, Safari Club International (SCI) has been the leader in defending the freedom to hunt and promoting wildlife conservation worldwide. SCI is the only hunting rights organization with a Washington, D.C. based national and international advocacy team and an all-species focus. SCI also mobilizes more than 150 chapters and affiliate networks representing millions of hunters around the world.

SCI FOUNDATION

SCI Foundation's conservation programs support state agencies in their conservation and management efforts by providing the necessary resources for sound scientific research. SCI and SCIF believe that wildlife resources should be managed by state agencies.

SCIF proudly hosted an educational bear hunting workshop to prepare hunters for Louisiana's first bear season in decades, focusing on ethics and informed practices. The workshop emphasized responsible conservation through selective harvesting, bear identification, shot placement, and proper meat care and consumption. This initiative reinforces the vital connection between conservation, ethical harvest, and respect for wildlife.

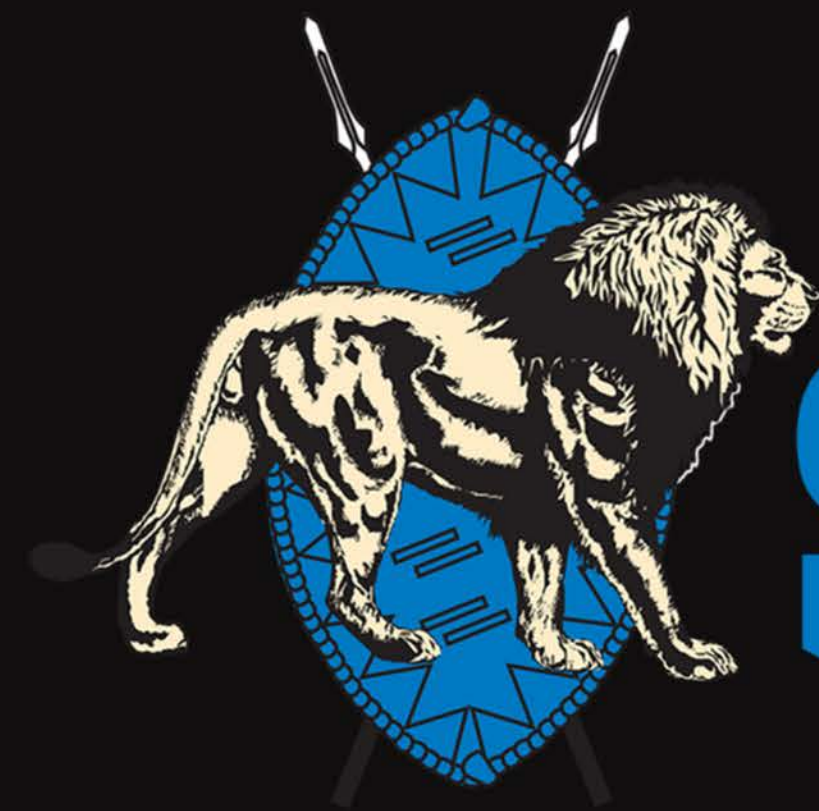


SCI STEPS IN

Anti-hunters sued the Fish and Wildlife Service in an attempt to place the black bear back on the endangered species list. SCI actively engaged in both litigations. SCI and SCIF strongly believe that wildlife resources within each state need to be managed by that state agency.

The federal judge stated that had it not been for the efforts of SCI as a defendant intervenor, the lawsuit would have gone differently.





SCI **FOUNDATION**
FIRST FOR WILDLIFE

WWW.SAFARICLUBFOUNDATION.ORG