



# FIELD NOTES



THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN CWD, DEER AND PREDATOR STUDY



## UTV Donation from SCI Boosts Trapping Effort

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We spend a long time sorting through the logistics of trapping season, coordinating with landowners, managing crew schedules, stocking and restocking supplies. The list goes on, but finally winter arrives and it's time to get outside and get the job done.

Weather permitting, our crew is in the field every day of the week from late December through March trapping for deer, bobcats and coyotes. With all our trapping and collaring equipment, we don't travel light. "We need to be where the deer are," said Mike Watt, deer coordinator for the study, "and that often means getting way back on these properties." There are a lot of properties which are inaccessible by pickup. Walking in all our gear and heavy trapping equipment just isn't practical.

That's why SCI's donation of two UTVs is such a boon to the project. UTVs are great because they can haul 3 people each, all the gear, and they can navigate the narrow, winding trails often found on the properties where we work.



Caitlin Henning

OAS crew maneuver a UTV along a trap line in Southwest Wisconsin.



When Dan Trawicki and the members of SCI's four Wisconsin chapters heard about the study, they asked how they could contribute. "I talked with Dan Storm, [DNR's Deer and Elk Ecologist]," says Trawicki, "and he said you know, the biggest obstacle we're having is getting back into these trapping areas. And he said if you guys could do UTVs that would be cool. I said that works for us."

Wisconsin boasts four SCI chapters: the Wisconsin chapter out of Milwaukee; the Badgerland chapter in Madison; Green Bay's Northeast chapter; and the Southeast Wisconsin Bow chapter from Waukesha.



Our crew arrive to a clover trap in their Arctic Cat UTV. Hanna Manninen records field notes while the rest of the team handles the deer.

Trawicki says a lot of folks have a misconception about SCI, thinking it's mostly for international big game hunters: "The majority of our members are regular people who just like to hunt, you know, ducks, bear, deer, you know Wisconsin turkeys, etcetera. It's not a safari club. It's SCI: First for Hunters."

Trawicki wants the DNR and sportsmen across the state to realize that while SCI is a national organization, the local chapters support Wisconsin. "Of the funds we raise," says Trawicki, "30% goes back to national, and 70% stays here to support hunters, local chapters of the National Archery in Schools Program, Boy Scouts, the DNR." Every year, the four chapters give away between \$300,000 to \$350,000.

The study crew is putting the Arctic Cats to use every day, and we're grateful to have them. Check out the video below to see them in the field!

[https://youtu.be/UIT-kUyAe\\_Q](https://youtu.be/UIT-kUyAe_Q)

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