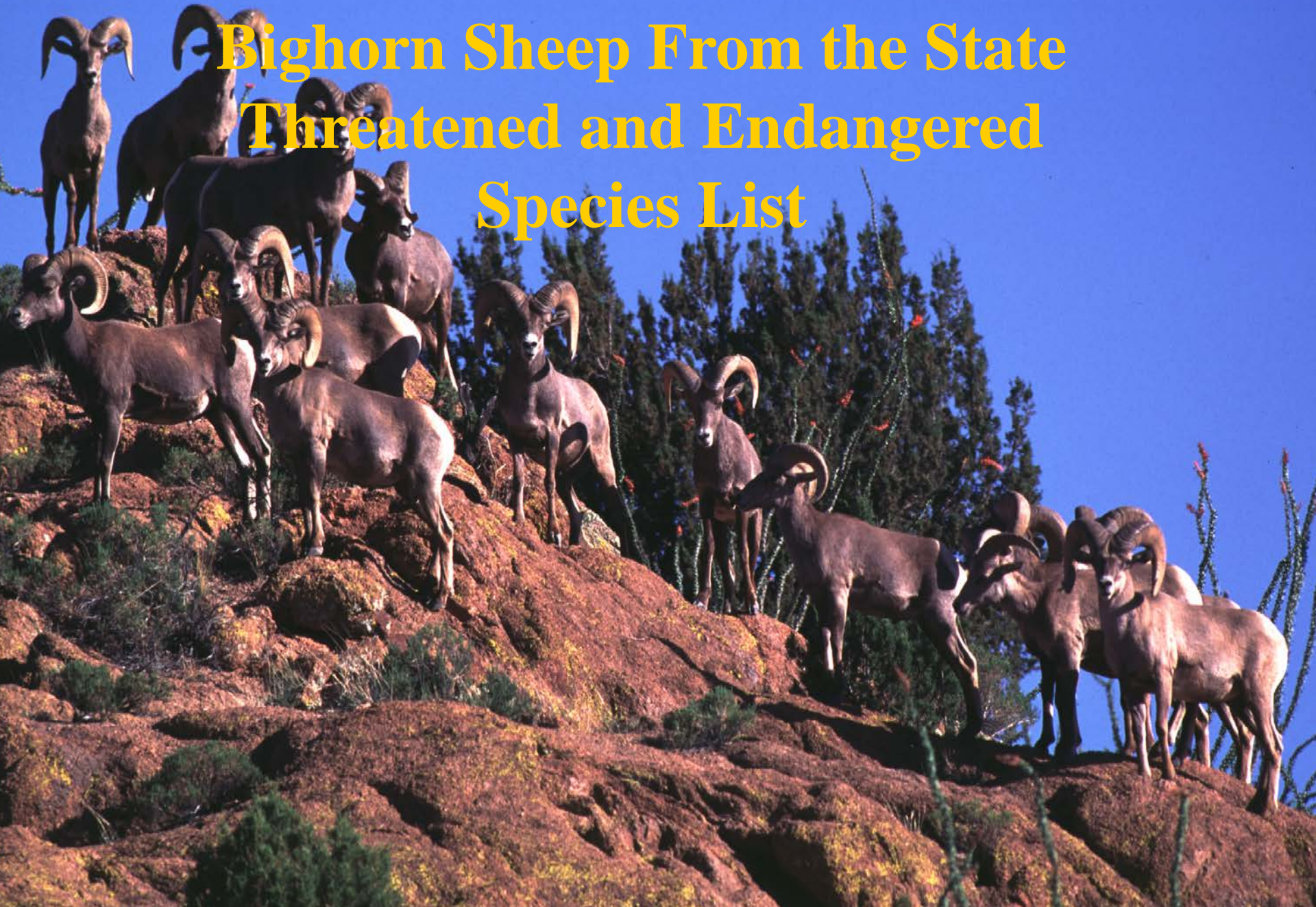


# Recommendation to De-list Desert Bighorn Sheep From the State Threatened and Endangered Species List



# Historic desert bighorn sheep populations in New Mexico



# Red Rock Captive Breeding Facility

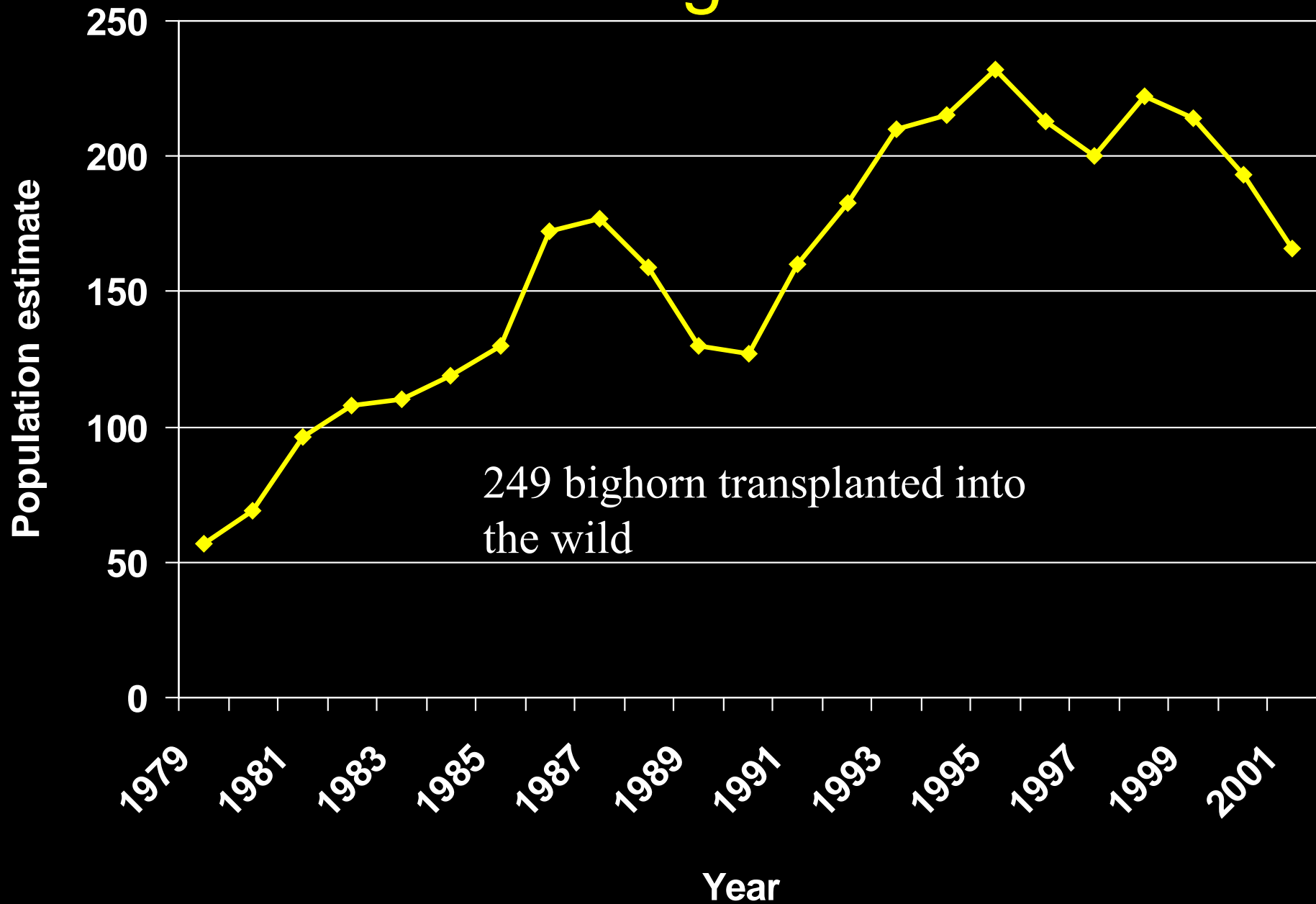
## Established 1972



# Desert Bighorn Listed as an Endangered Species in 1980



# Pre-cougar control



# Recovery Plan Approved 2003

- **Threatened**:  $\geq 250$  bighorn in at least 2 populations or metapopulations, each containing  $\geq 100$  bighorn.
- **Delisted**:  $\geq 500$  bighorn in at least 3 populations or metapopulations, each containing  $\geq 100$  bighorn.

# Impacts of Cougar Control

- Mortality rate from cougar predation decreases 71%
- Mortality rate from all causes decreases 52%



# 2008 Desert Bighorn Downlisted to State Threatened

- Statewide population estimate 455
- Meta-populations in the Fra Cristobals-Caballos and Bootheel are each greater than 100





# Delisting Proposed 2010

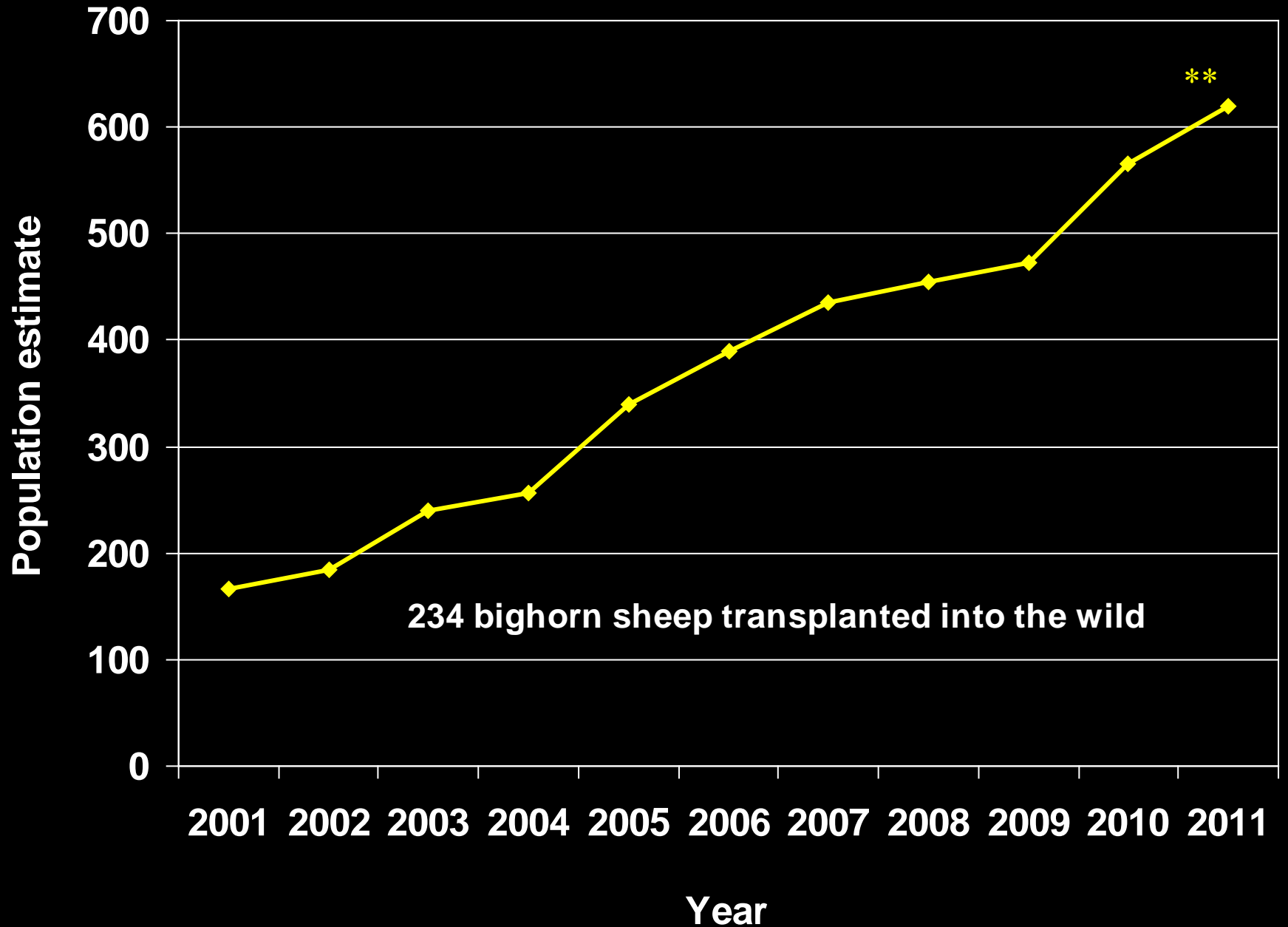
- Statewide population estimate 565
- Meta-populations in the Fra Cristobals-Caballos, Bootheel, and San Andres are each greater than 100



# Delisting Process As Mandated by the Wildlife Conservation Act (WCA)

- 2010
  - April - Delisting process initiated
  - May – Assemble peer review panel
  - June – Finalize Delisting Report
- 2011
  - May – Delisting Proposed to the SGC
  - September – Public Hearings held

# Post-cougar control



# Recommendation to Delist Desert Bighorn Sheep

- Delisting requirements in Recovery Plan and WCA have been met
- Continue management actions
- Delisted does not mean unmanaged

