



# **Bear and Cougar Rule Development 19.31.11 NMAC**

August 27, 2015

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

Santa Fe, NM

# Rule Development Timeline

- **March, May, June, and August** – presented at SGC meetings
- **April** – Initial NMDGF ideas posted on the website
- **May** – Public meetings in 5 cities
- **Early August** - Final NMDGF proposal and a viable alternative posted on the website

# Public Comment

## Meeting and Attendance Record

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u># of people</u>
Las Cruces	May 4	16
Albuquerque	May 5	48
Ruidoso	May 27	39
Silver City	May 28	49
Raton	June 1	18

# Public Comment

- 1,989 comments received via email and mail; 768 were unique and the remainder were form letters
- Meetings and mail comments focused on:
  - Use of traps and snares for cougar harvest
  - Increasing bear harvest limits

# Cougar Proposals





# Cougar Sport Harvest Limits

- No proposed changes to sport harvest limits from the current rule
- Harvest limits are not met in approximately 85% of Cougar Management Zones

# Cougar: Proposal

## Manner and Method Requirements and Restrictions 19.31.11.10 NMAC

- Eliminate the need for private landowners to obtain a permit prior to using traps or foot snares for sport harvest.
- Allow traps and foot snares as a legal method of sport harvest on private and State Trust lands from Nov – March.



# Cougar: Viable Alternative

## Manner and Method Requirements and Restrictions 19.31.11.10 NMAC

- Prohibit use of traps or foot snares for sport harvest

# Cougar: Proposal and Viable Alternative

## Manner and Method Requirements and Restrictions 19.31.11.10 NMAC

- Allow increased bag limits in Zones where harvest limits are not being reached.
- Prohibit use of hounds during September deer and elk archery seasons
- Allow licensed deer and elk hunters to hunt cougars on certain WMAs during their hunt

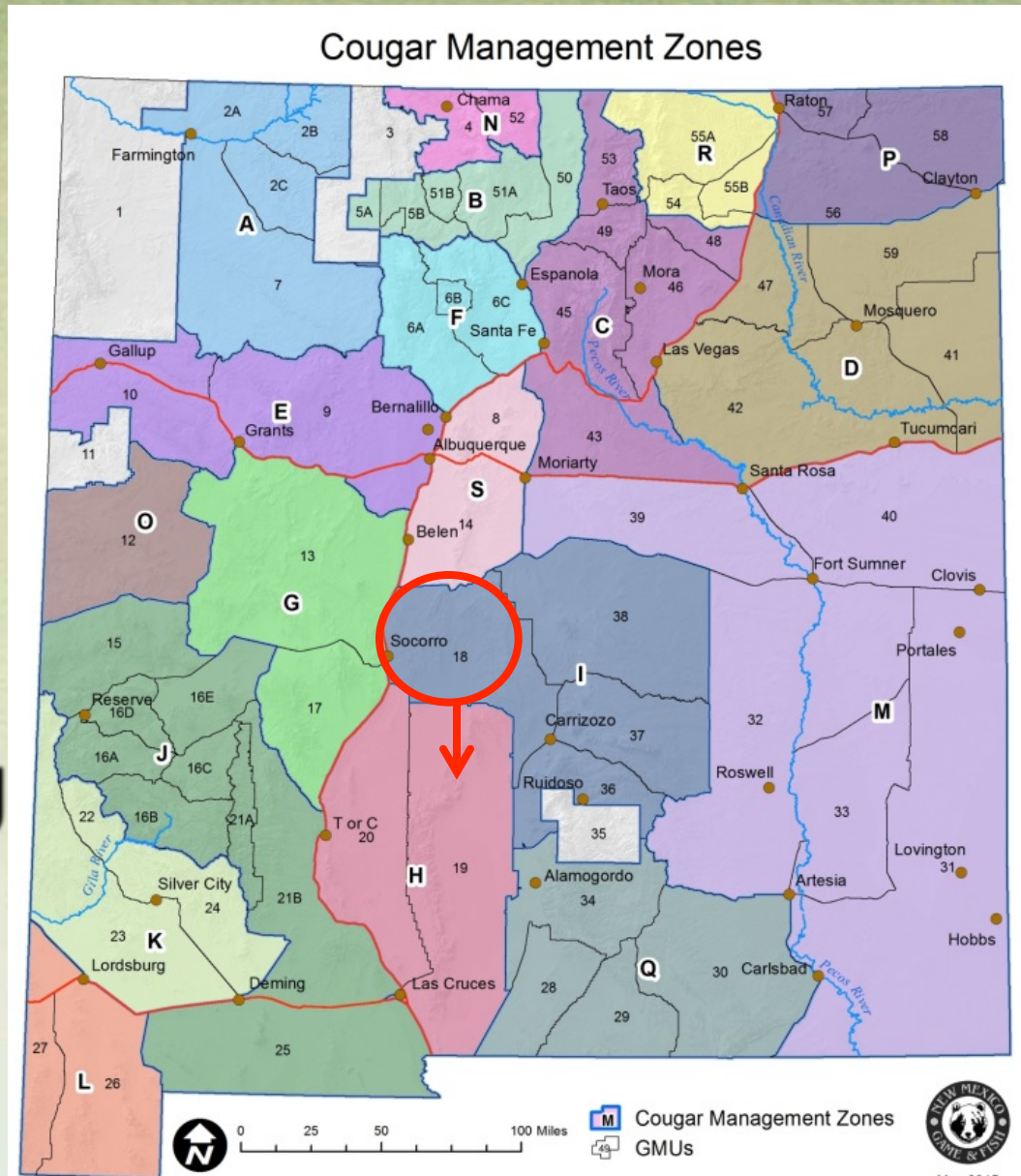
# **Bear and Cougar: Proposal and Viable Alternative**

## **Manner and Method Requirements and Restrictions 19.31.11.10 NMAC**

- Hunters not present for pelt tagging must make contact with a game warden

# Cougar: Proposal and Viable Alternative

**Cougar Hunting  
Seasons  
19.31.11.12  
NMAC**



*Wildlife Management Division*

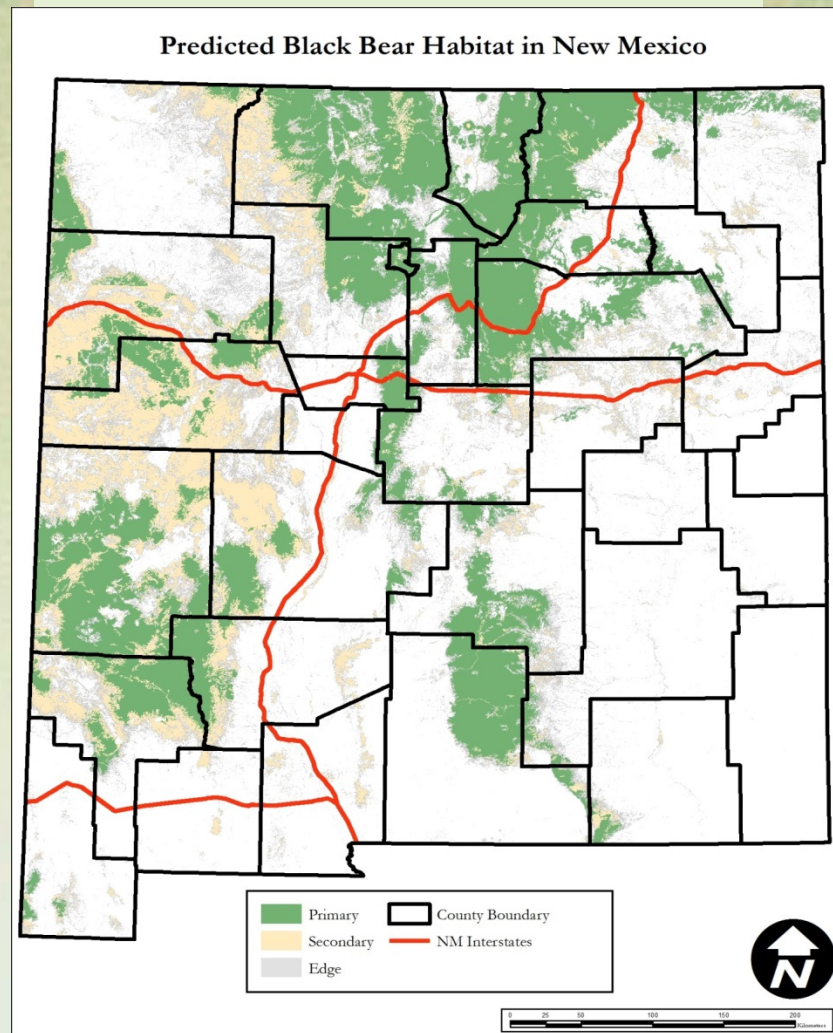
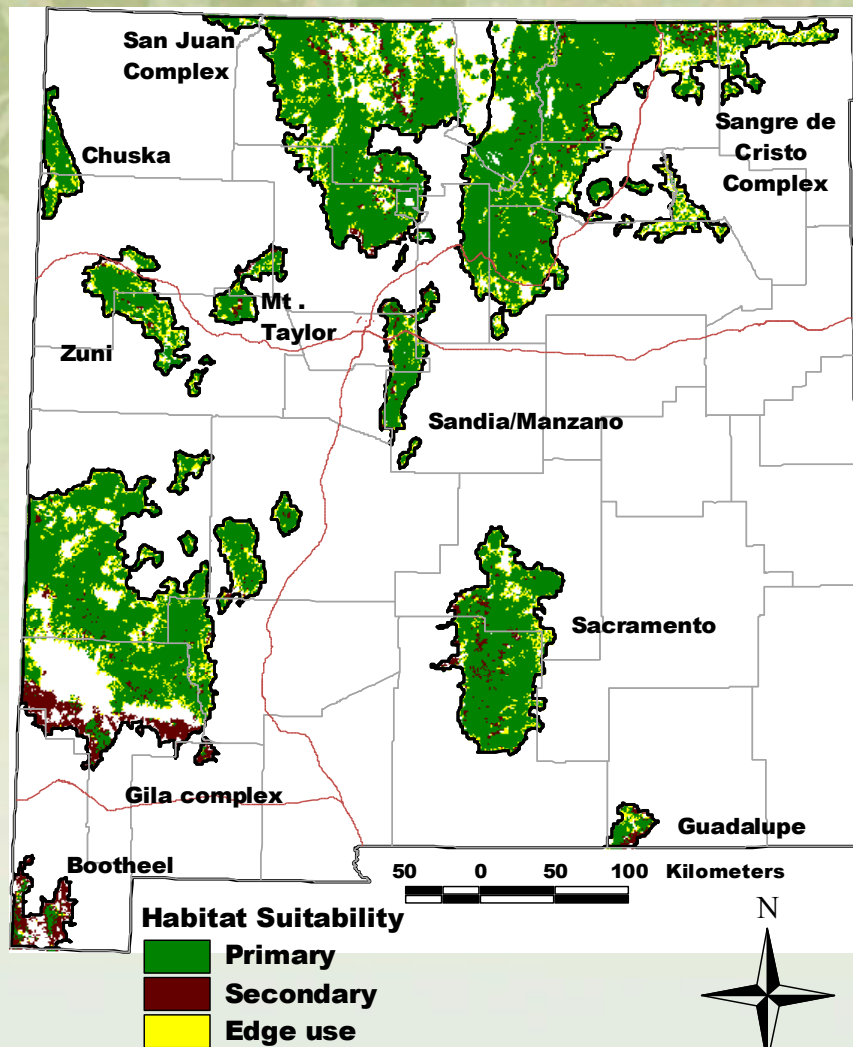
# Bear Proposals



# Habitat Model

Primary Habitat= 40,732 km<sup>2</sup>  
(13% of NM)

Primary habitat = 54,793 km<sup>2</sup>  
(18% of NM)



# Population Information

Mountain Range	Costello et al. (2001) Density Estimates (bears/100 km <sup>2</sup> )	Gould et al. (2015) Density Estimate (±SE; bears/100 km <sup>2</sup> )
Northern Sangre de Cristo	17.0	21.5 (±2.25)
Southern Sangre de Cristo	17.0	18.6 (±3.47)
Sandia	13.2	18.4 (±5.82)
Northern Sacramento	17.0	19.9 (±3.35)
Southern Sacramento	17.0	13.4 (±1.97)

# Bear : Proposal and Viable Alternative

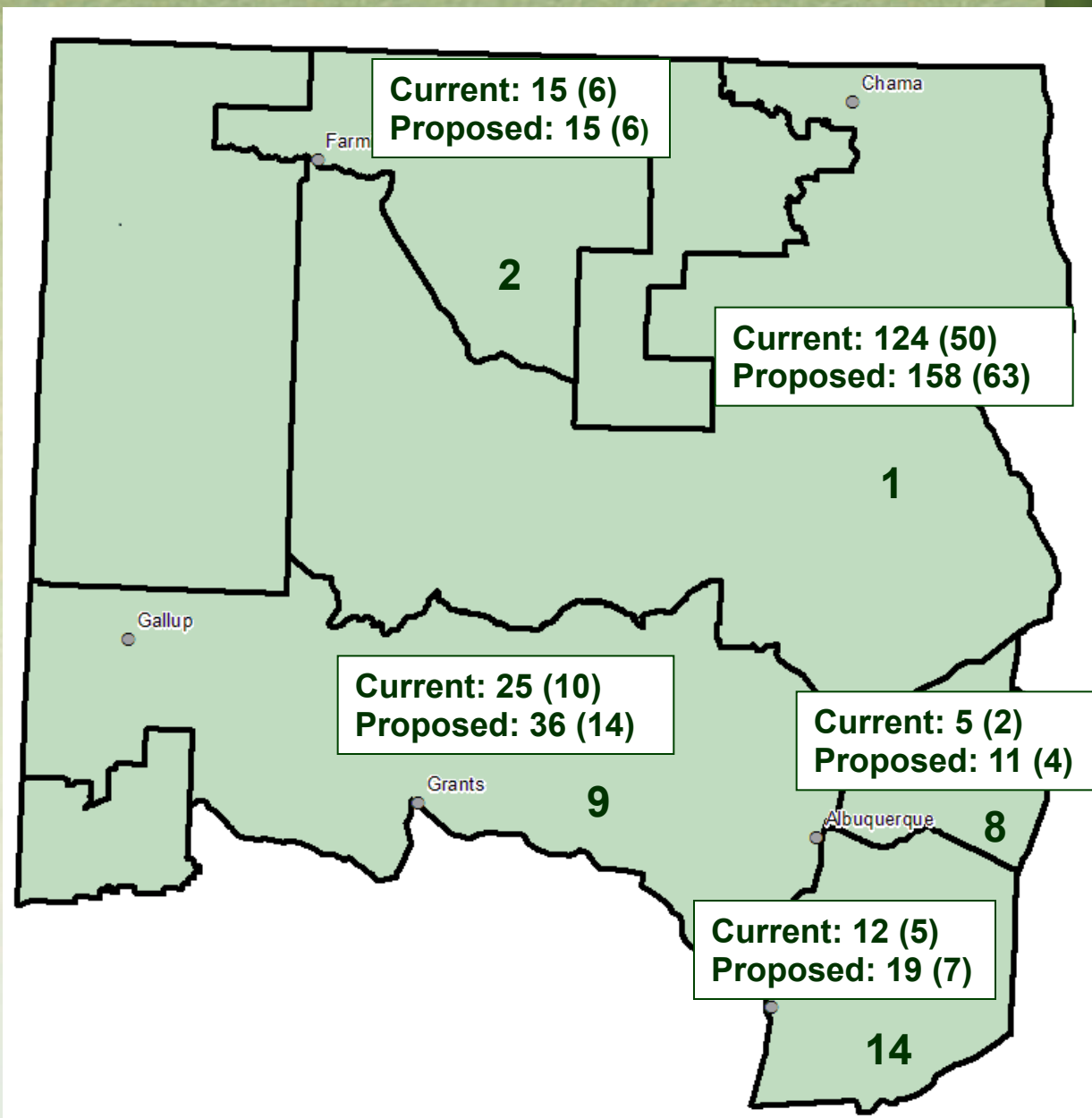
## Alternative

**Bear Hunting  
Seasons**

**19.31.11.11**

**NMAC**

**NW Area**

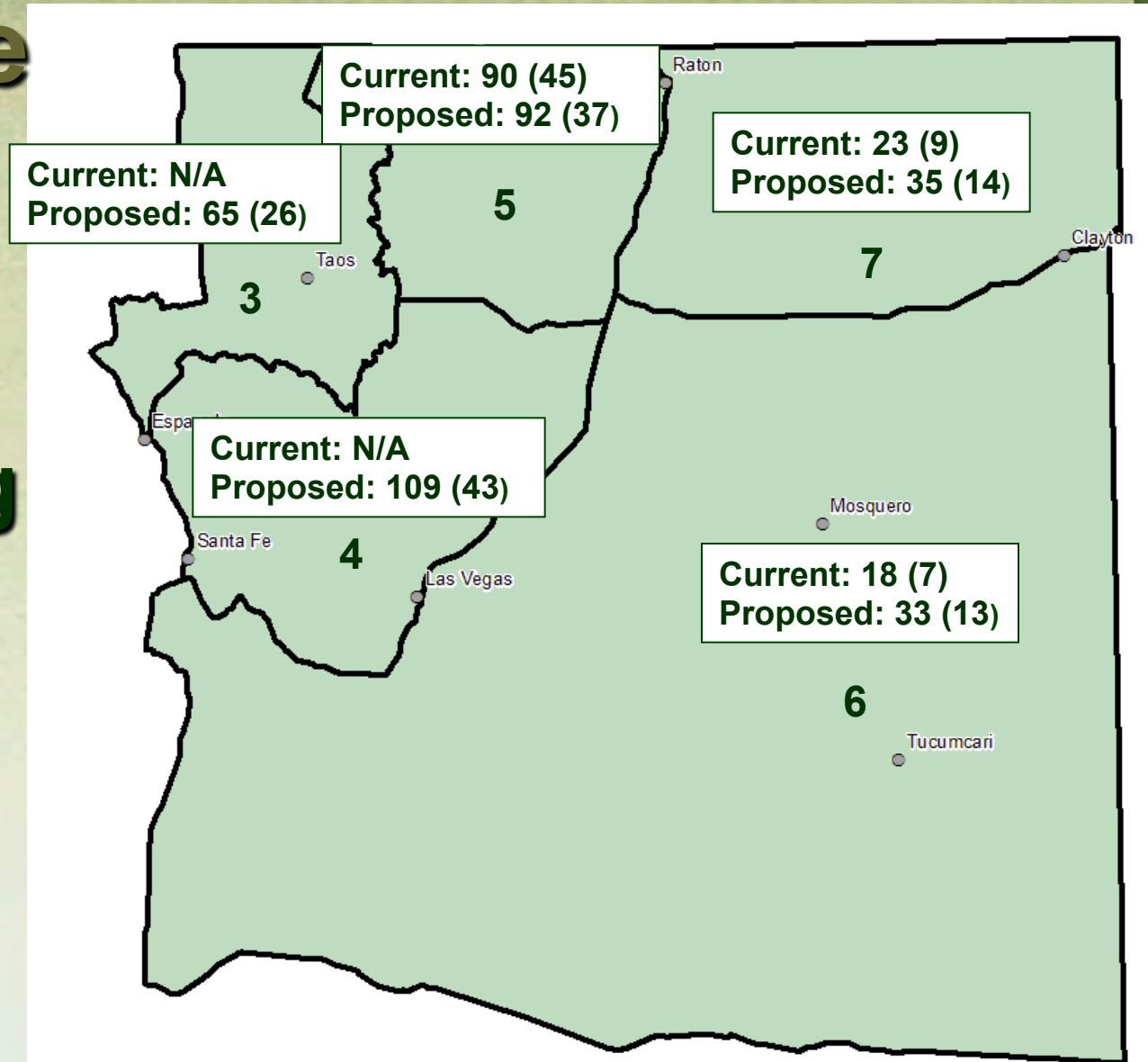




# Bear : Proposal and Viable Alternative

**Bear Hunting  
Seasons  
19.31.11.11  
NMAC**

**NE Area**

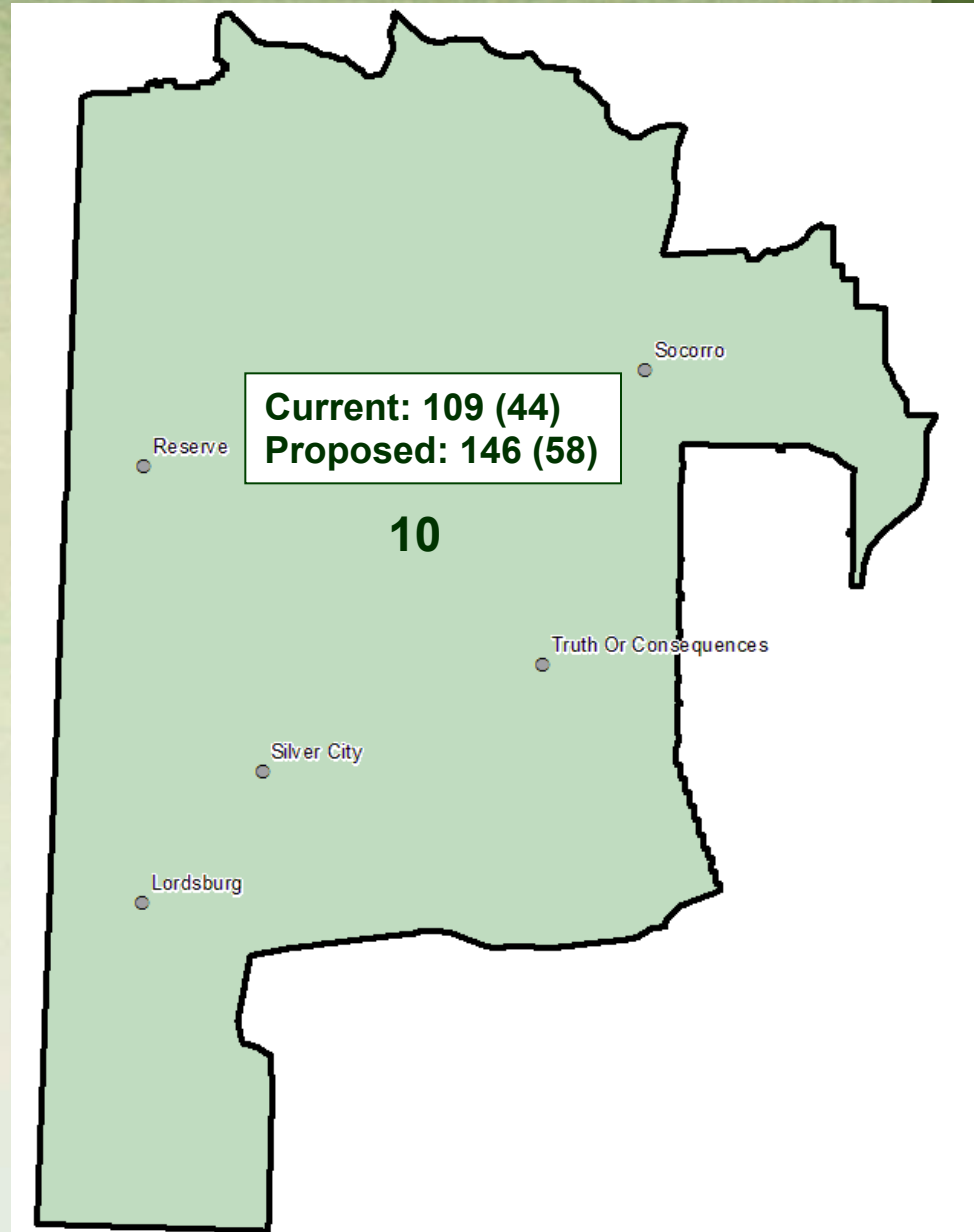


# Bear: Proposal and Viable Alternative



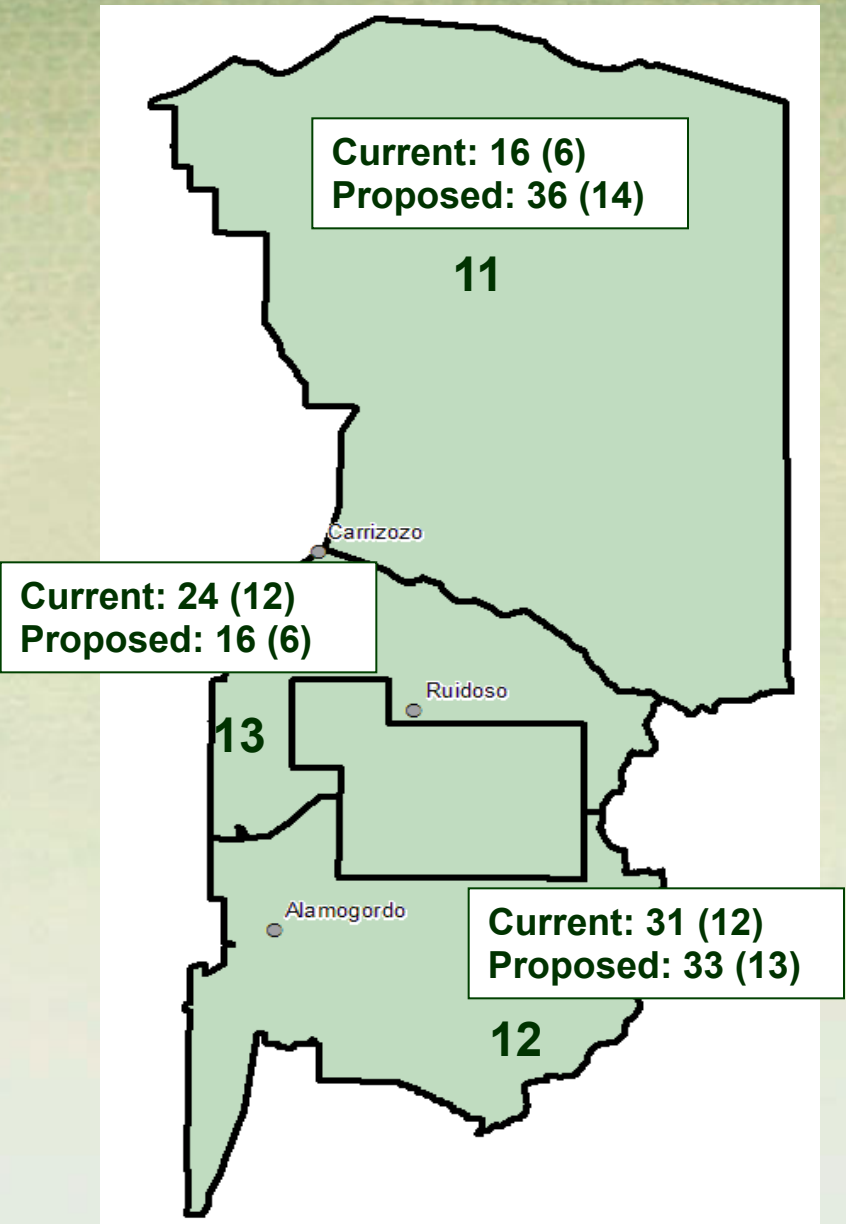
**Bear Hunting  
Seasons  
19.31.11.11  
NMAC**

**SW Area**



# Bear: Proposal and Viable Alternative

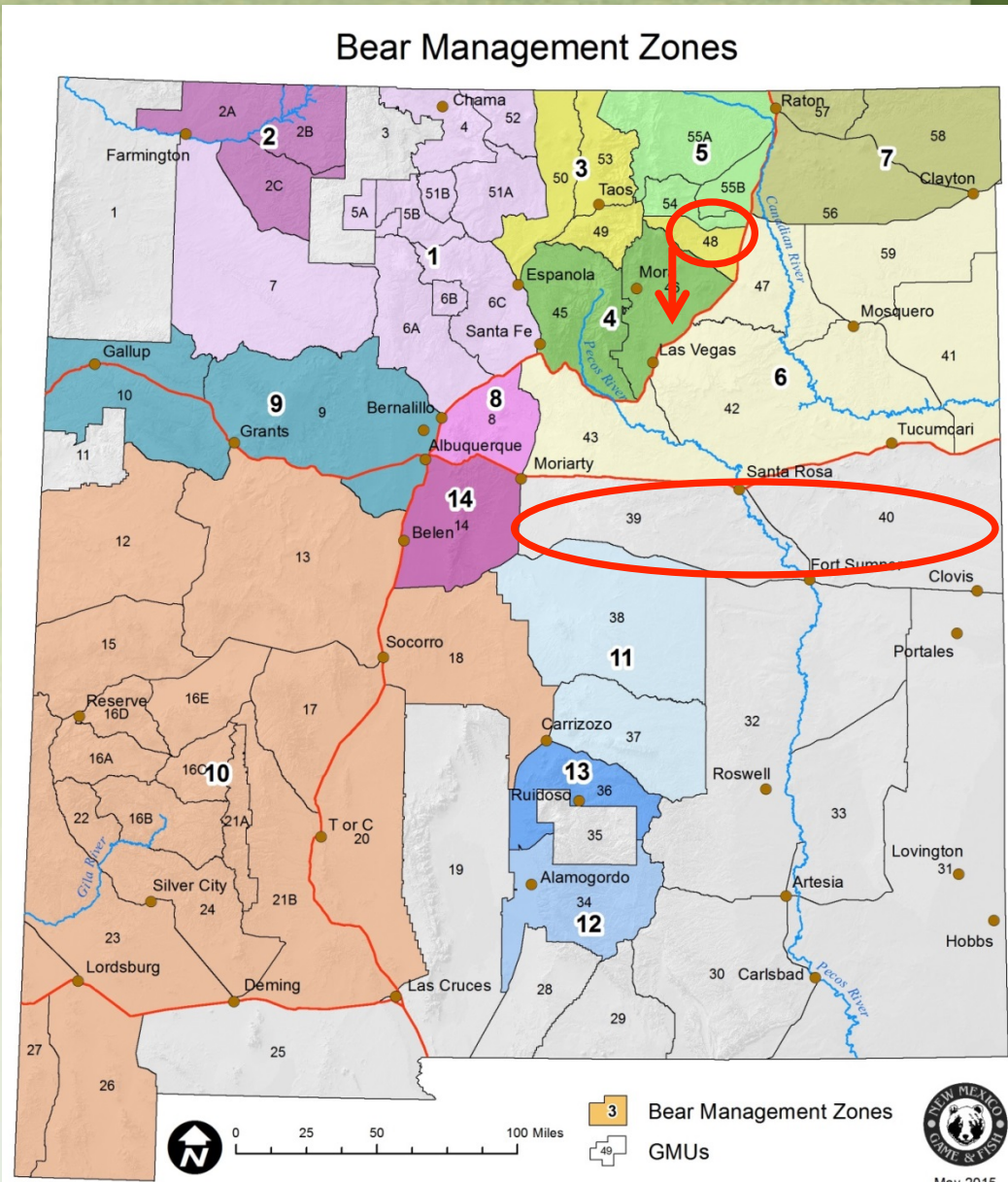
**Bear Hunting  
Seasons  
19.31.11.11  
NMAC  
SE Area**



# Bear: Proposal and Viable Alternative



**Bear Hunting  
Seasons  
19.31.11.11  
NMAC**



# QUESTIONS??



Photo: Jim Stuart

# Motion

## Manner and Method and Restrictions

**“Move to adopt the proposed changes to 19.31.11.10 NMAC as presented by the Department”**

**[or]**

**“Move to adopt the viable alternative amendment for 19.31.11.10 NMAC as presented by the Department”**

# Motion

## Bear Hunting Seasons

**“Move to adopt proposed changes to 19.31.11.11 NMAC as presented by the Department”**

**[or]**

**“Move to adopt the viable alternative amendment for 19.31.11.11 NMAC as presented by the Department”**

# Motion

## Cougar Hunting Seasons

**“Move to adopt proposed changes to 19.31.11.12 NMAC as presented by the Department”**

**[or]**

**“Move to adopt the viable alternative amendment for 19.31.11.12 NMAC as presented by the Department”**



# Motion

## Remaining Sections of Bear and Cougar Rule

“Move to adopt proposed changes to 19.31.11 NMAC, except those sections previously adopted by the commission, as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with State Records and Archives ”

**[or]**

# Motion

## Remaining Sections for Bear and Cougar Rule *Continued* [or]

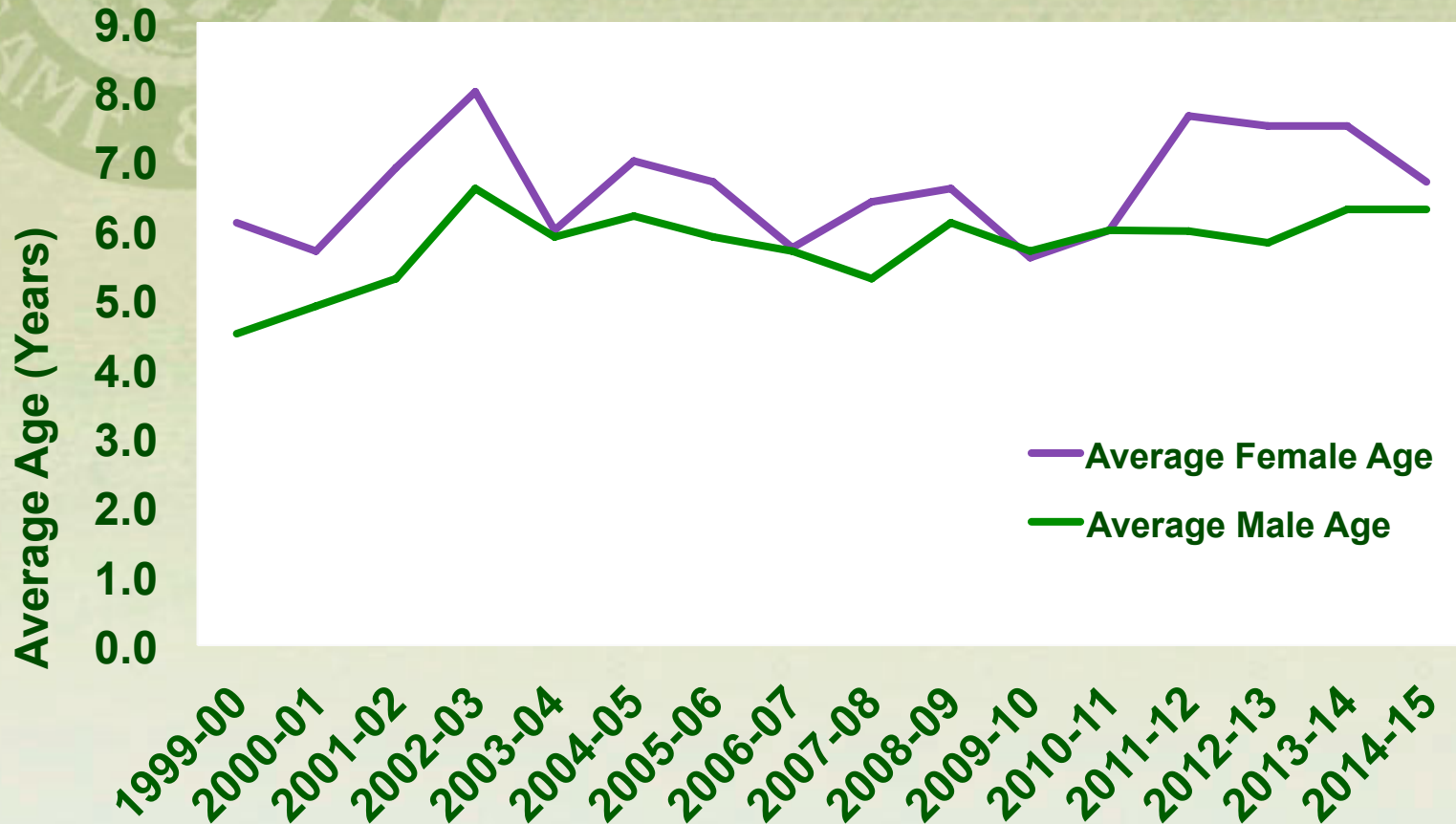
“Move to adopt the viable alternative amendment for 19.31.11 NMAC except those sections previously adopted by the commission, as presented by the Department and allow the Department to make minor corrections to comply with filing this rule with State Records and Archives ”



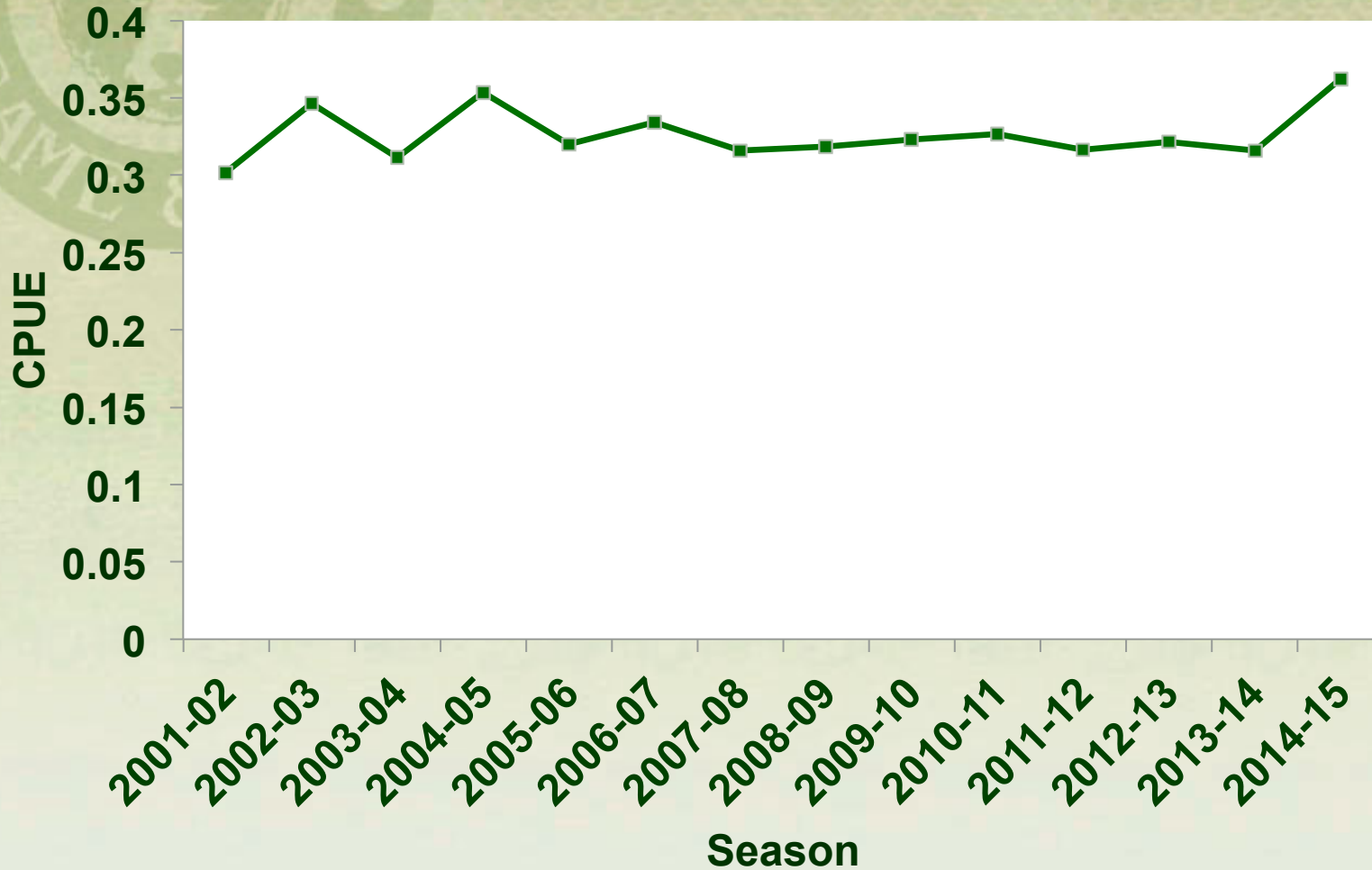
**Thank you**

# Population Information

## Average Ages of Black Bear Mortalities from 1999-2014



# Bear Catch Per Unit Effort



# Bear Harvest

Year	Sport Harvest (females)	Maximum Harvest	Depredation	Other	Total	# of Zones Closed
2014-15	475 (185)	668	48	33	556	9
2013-14	546 (224)	681	170	58	774	11
2012-13	568 (217)	664	90	56	714	9
<b>AVG</b>	<b>522 (209)</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>9.7</b>

# Cougar Sport Harvest 2001-2014

