

# **Update on Bighorn Sheep Status in Jemez**



**May 22, 2018**

**New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting  
Los Alamos, NM**

# Translocations: Rocky Mtn. Bighorn in Jemez

- 2014: 45 (35F, 10M) from Wheeler Peak Wilderness
- 2015: 3 rams from Red River herd
- 2017: 33 (24F, 9M) from Red River herd
- 2018: Attempted capture\*



# Population Metrics



- Relatively low mortality (n=10, including legal harvest of 2 rams)
- Positive growth rate since initial translocation (2014)
- ***ESTIMATED CURRENT POPULATION: 105-115***

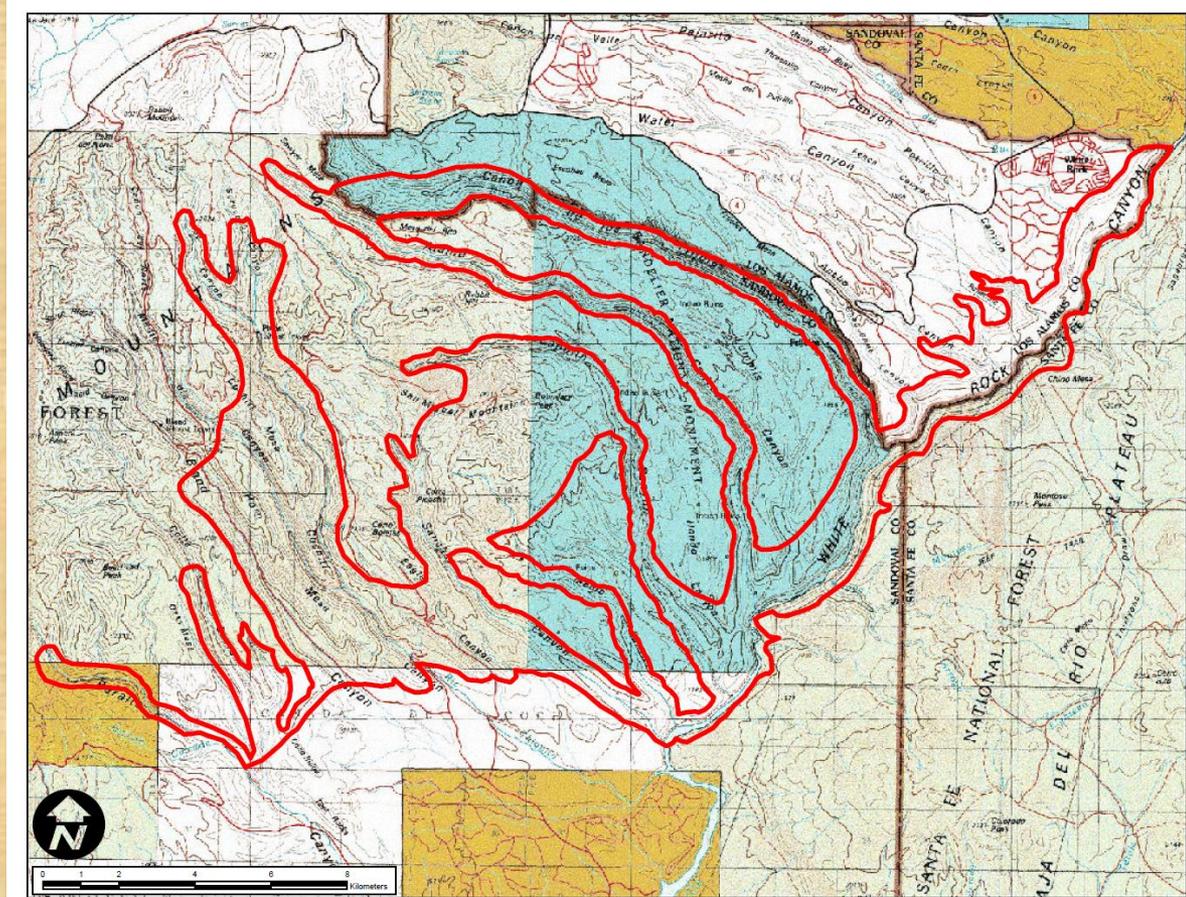
# Landscape Use

- **GPS collars fixed to most adult bighorn sheep**
- **Data suggests bighorn using available habitat**
  - **Total available habitat ~135km<sup>2</sup>**
- **Expanded from the core Cochiti Canyon habitat**
  - **Sightings more frequent on Los Alamos National Laboratory property & Bandelier National Monument**



# Future plans

- Could support ~270-540 bighorn sheep
- Hunt anticipated ~2023-2025, when rams are 10-12 yrs old
- Proposing a Red River capture in winter 2018-2019





**Questions?**