



Wildlife Management Division

**Bighorn
19.31.17 NMAC**

March 1, 2018

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

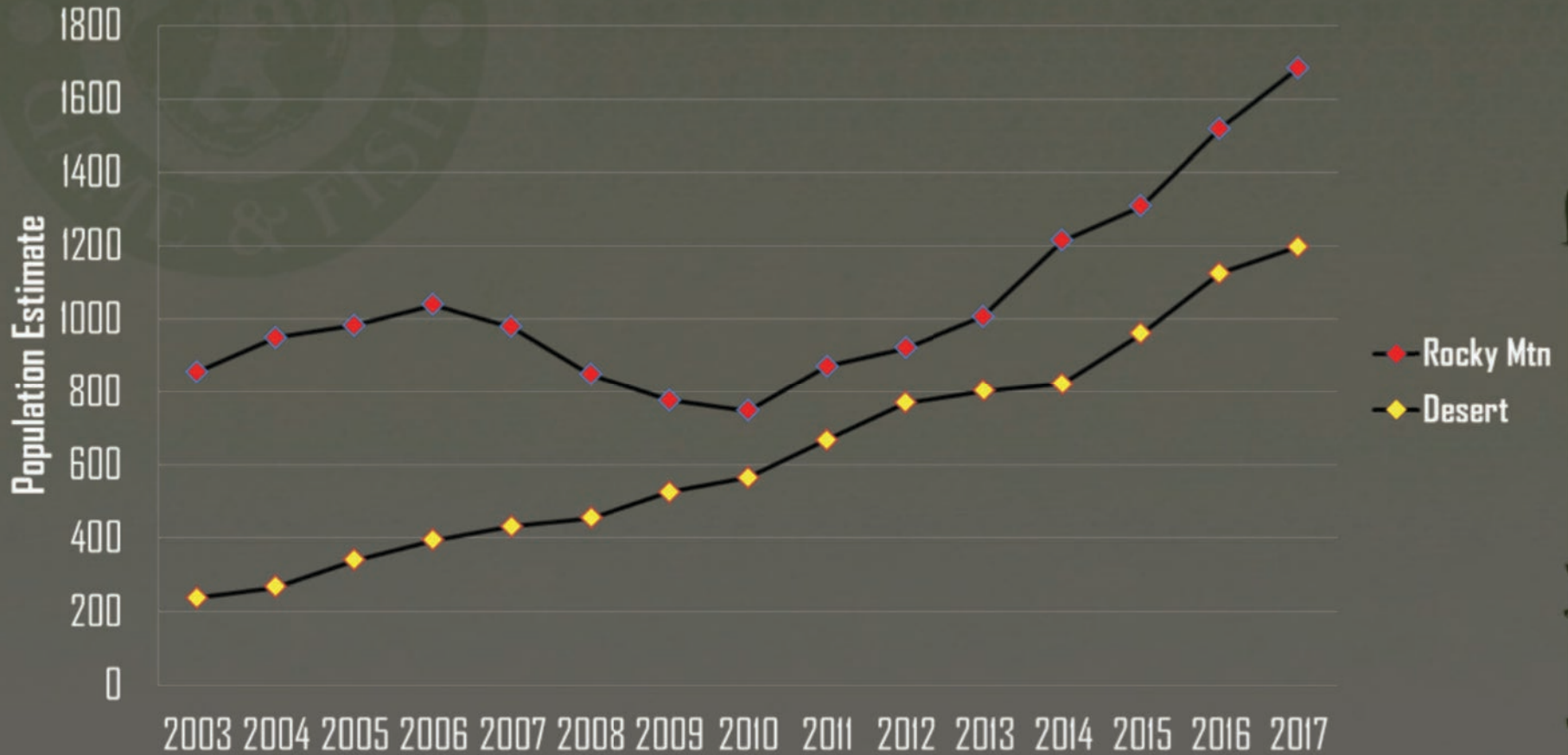
Las Cruces, NM



To date 2017-2018 Harvest Data

- Rocky Mountain Rams: (27/29)
- Desert Rams: (26/29)*
- Estimate of Rocky ewes: (15/30)

Statewide Population Estimates for New Mexico Bighorn



Summary of public comment

- **Total attendees at meetings (ABQ & Las Cruces): 17**
- **Tracking wounded big game with dogs (2)**
- **Archery ewe opportunity (1)**
- **Enhancement changes (3)**
- **Feeding comment (1)**

Proposed Amendments: Bighorn 19.31.17 NMAC

- **Adjust seasons for calendar dates**
- **Increase desert & Rocky “up to” numbers for rams**
 - Up to 60 Rocky & 60 desert licenses



Proposed Amendments: Bighorn 19.31.17 NMAC

- **Modify hunt dates to accommodate more hunts, Rocky rams**
 - **MANZANOS, JEMEZ:** include TBD hunts
 - **SAN FRANCISCO RIVER:** remain same (1 Jan. hunt)
 - **PECOS:** 2 ram hunts
 - Each are 10 day hunts in Aug.
 - **WHEELER:** 2 ram hunts
 - 10 day hunt in Aug., 10 day hunt in Sept.
 - **LATIR:** 2 ram hunts
 - Each are 10 day hunts in Aug.*
 - **RIO GRANDE GORGE:** 2 ram hunts, 15 days
 - Aug. 10-24 & Sept. 1-15
 - **CULEBRES:** remain same (Aug. 15-Jan. 15)
 - **DRY CIMARRON:** remain same (Aug. 15-Jan. 15)

Proposed Amendments: Bighorn 19.31.17 NMAC

- **Add new Feb. hunt date to Fra Cristobals to spread out hunters**



Proposed Amendments: Bighorn 19.31.17 NMAC



- **Additional Rocky rifle ewe hunts (up to 150)**
 - **PECOS: 2 hunts**
 - 5 days each (Sat. starts); mid Sept. (after ram hunts), early Oct.
 - **RIO GRANDE GORGE: 3 hunts**
 - 9 days each (2 full weekends); mid-Oct., mid-Nov., mid-Dec.
 - **WHEELER: 2 hunts**
 - 5 days each (Sat. starts); mid Sept. (after ram hunts), early Oct.
 - **LATIR: 1 hunt**
 - 14 days; late Sept.-early Oct. (Sat. start)

Proposed Amendments: Bighorn 19.31.17 NMAC

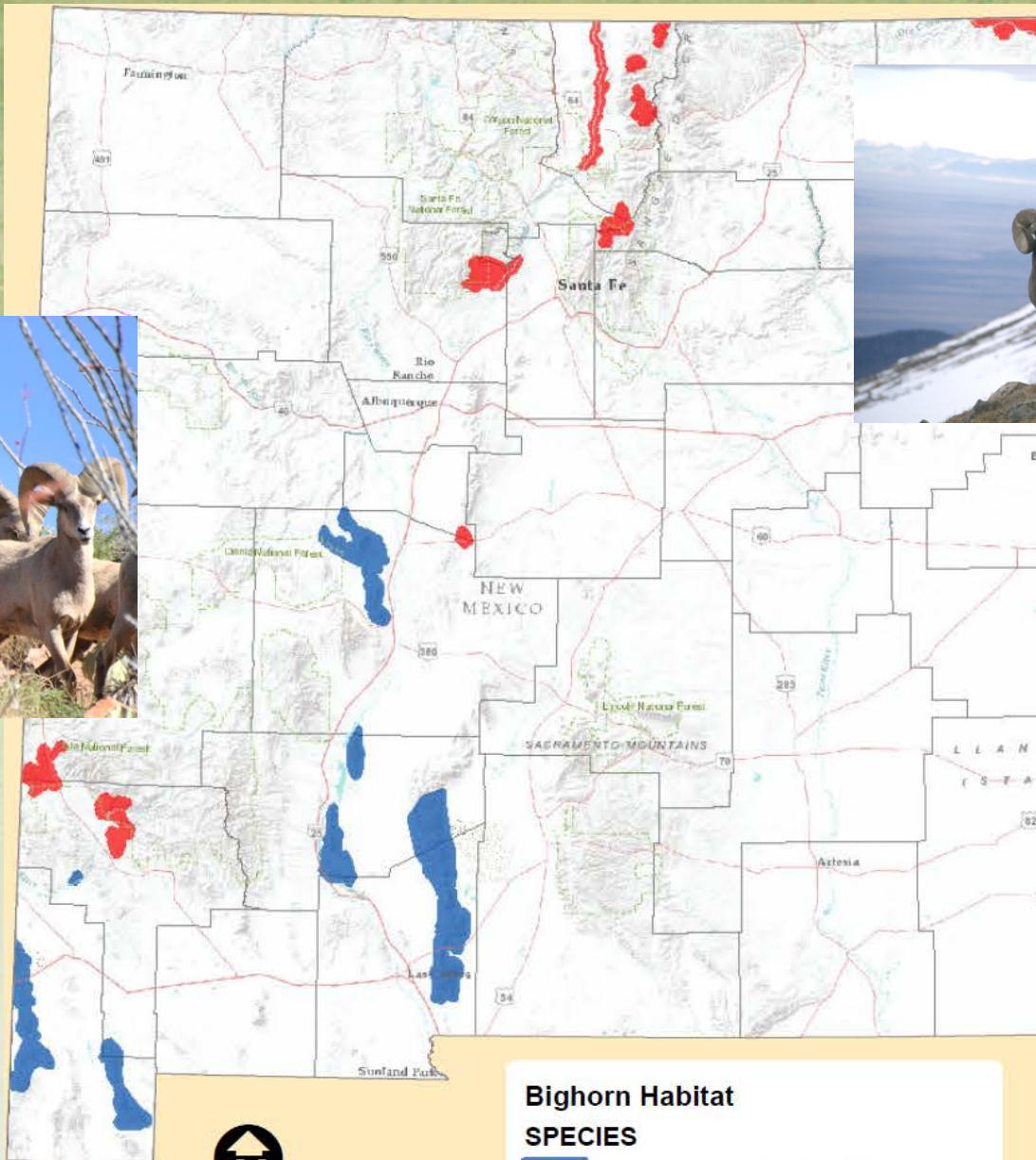
- **Additional Rocky archery ewe hunts (up to 60, before rifle ewe hunts begin)**
 - **PECOS: 1 hunt**
 - 9 days (2 full weekends), early Sept.
 - **RIO GRANDE GORGE: 1 hunt**
 - 15 days, Sept. 16-30
 - **WHEELER: 1 hunt**
 - 14 days, 1st Sat. following ram hunt (early Sept.)
 - **LATIR: 1 hunt**
 - 14 days, 1st Sat. following ram hunt (early Sept.)

Proposed Amendments: Bighorn 19.31.17 NMAC

- **Pop. mgmt. rams potential for NOT once-in-lifetime**
 - **If identified by Dept. w/chairperson concurrence**
- **Manner & method references moved out of big game species rules**
- **Enhancement program**
 - **Auction hunter declares June 30**
 - **Raffle hunter declares July 20**
 - **Both hunters can hunt other open areas (exception: each persons declared range)**



Questions?



0 25 50 100 Miles

Transplants

New Mexico Desert Bighorn Transplants

| YEAR | SOURCE | DESTINATION | NUMBER |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| 2014 | Fra Cristobal | Big Hatchets | 40 |
| 2014 | Red Rock | Big Hatchets | 26 |
| 2016 | Red Rock | Peloncillos | 12 |
| 2017 | Fra Cristobal | Ladrones | 22 |
| TOTAL | | | 100 |

New Mexico Rocky Mountain Bighorn Transplants

| YEAR | SOURCE | DESTINATION | NUMBER |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 2012 | Wheeler Peak | Manzanos | 31 |
| 2014 | Wheeler Peak | Jemez | 45 |
| 2016 | Red River | Jemez | 3 |
| 2017 | Red River | Jemez | 33 |
| TOTAL | | | 112 |

Rocky Population Estimates

New Mexico Rocky Mountain Bighorn

| Herd | Population Estimate |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Pecos | 350-400 |
| Wheeler | 230-275 |
| Latir | 55-65 |
| Culebres | 65-70 |
| Dry Cimarron | 170-190 |
| Rio Grande Gorge | 355-400 |
| San Francisco River | 75-90 did not survey 2017 |
| Turkey Creek | 20-25 did not survey 2017 |
| Manzanos | 65-80 did not survey 2017 |
| Jemez | 105-115 |
| Red River Valley | 80-100 did not survey 2017 |

Desert Population Estimates

New Mexico Desert Bighorn

| Herd | Population Estimate |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Fra Cristobals | 280-320 |
| Caballos | 170-190 |
| Peloncillos | 130-150 |
| Little Hatchets | 60-80 |
| Big Hatchets | 135-155 |
| Sierra Ladron | 110-125 did not survey 2017 |
| San Andres | 220-260 |