

Exotics

19.31.12 NMAC

January 9, 2026

New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting

Santa Fe, NM



Persian ibex: 2024 harvest

- Ibex management strategy: maintain huntable population on Florida Mtns.
- Licenses sold: 301
- Success rate: 0-50% (depending on hunt type)
- Harvest: male-10, female-1)
- Satisfaction rating: 2.7



Background: Persian ibex

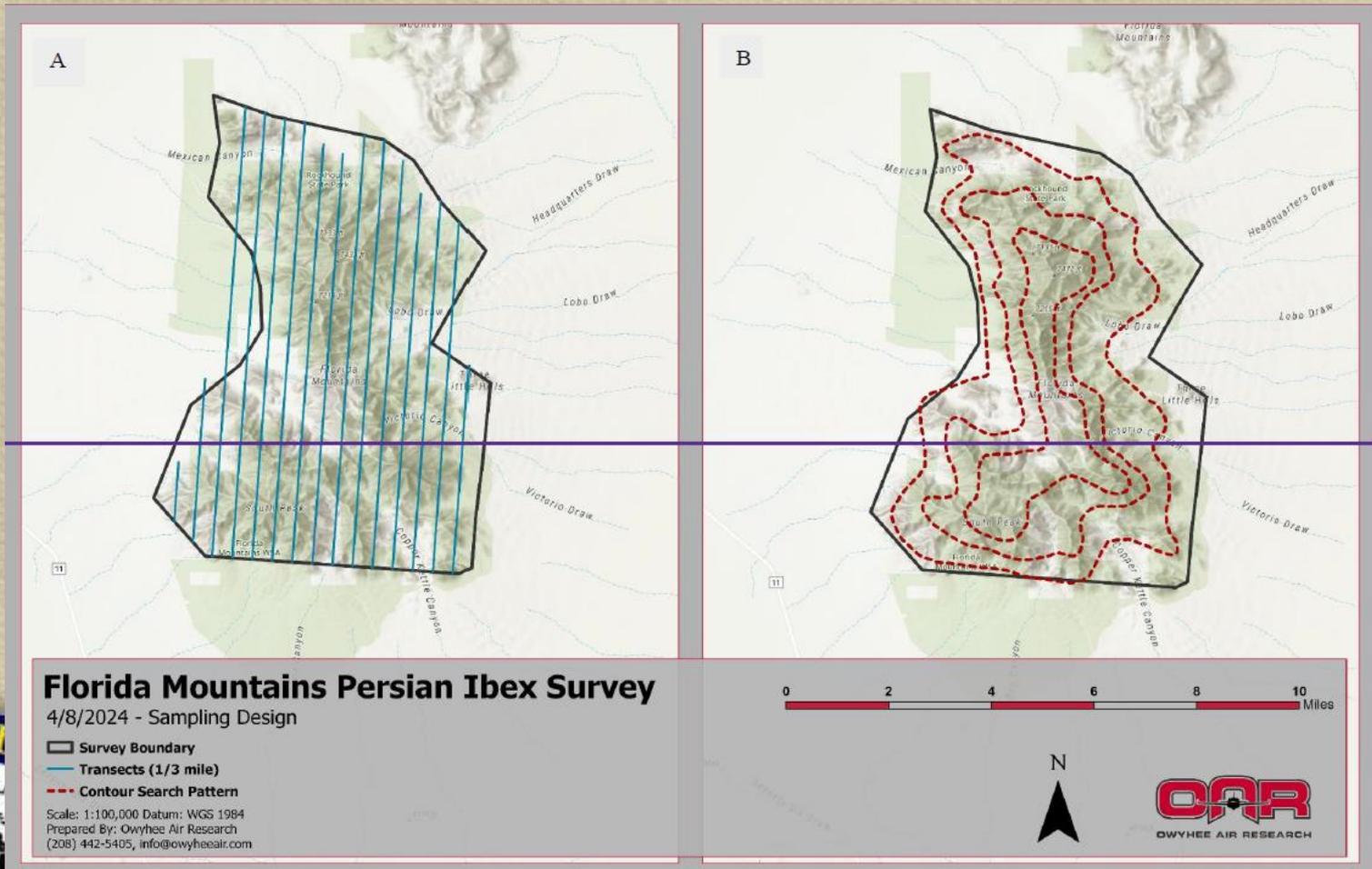


Figure 1. Side-by-side comparison of different survey design search patterns. (A) depicts the 1/3 mile spaced transects used in the first pass, and (B) illustrates the topographical lines that were flown, derived from USGS topographical data.



Background: Persian ibex

FLIR SYSTEMS

32.11337° N 107.61844° W
SPD 63 KTS HDG 235 °T
ALT 7817 FT

158°T
E S

32.11025° N 107.61694° W
SPD 0 MPH HDG --- °T
ELV 5823 FT SLT 0.44 MI

04/08/24
08:01:43

N

HDIR
C WH DDE
FOC MAN
EXP MAN
W N 17 FT

-55° 269°

GEOPOINT
INS NAV 0.12°
TRK CEN
SLEW READY



Background: Persian ibex

Fish



Background: Persian ibex

Fish

FLIR SYSTEMS

32.09362° N 107.61506° W
SPD 79 KTS HDG 325 °T
ALT 8204 FT

311°T
W N

32.10165° N 107.62587° W
SPD 0 MPH HDG --- °T
ELV 6640 FT SLT 0.89 MI

04/08/24
08:38:39



HDEO2
DDE
FOC MAN
EXP AUT

GEOPOINT
INS NAV 0.13°

TRK CEN

Background: Persian ibex

Fish

FLIR SYSTEMS

32.10330° N 107.61740° W
SPD 87 KTS HDG 2 °T
ALT 8237 FT

257°T
S W

32.10162° N 107.62567° W
SPD 0 MPH HDG --- °T
ELV 6644 FT SLT 0.58 MI

04/08/24
08:39:06

-N→



HDIR
C WH DDE
FOC MAN
EXP MAN

GEOPOINT
INS NAV 0.12°

TRK CEN

Background: Persian ibex

Fish

FLIR SYSTEMS

32.10306° N 107.61743° W
SPD 88 KTS HDG 5 °T
ALT 8232 FT

258°T

S W

32.10162° N 107.62567° W
SPD 0 MPH HDG --- °T
ELV 6644 FT SLT 0.58 MI

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HDE02
DDE
FOG MAN
EXP AUT

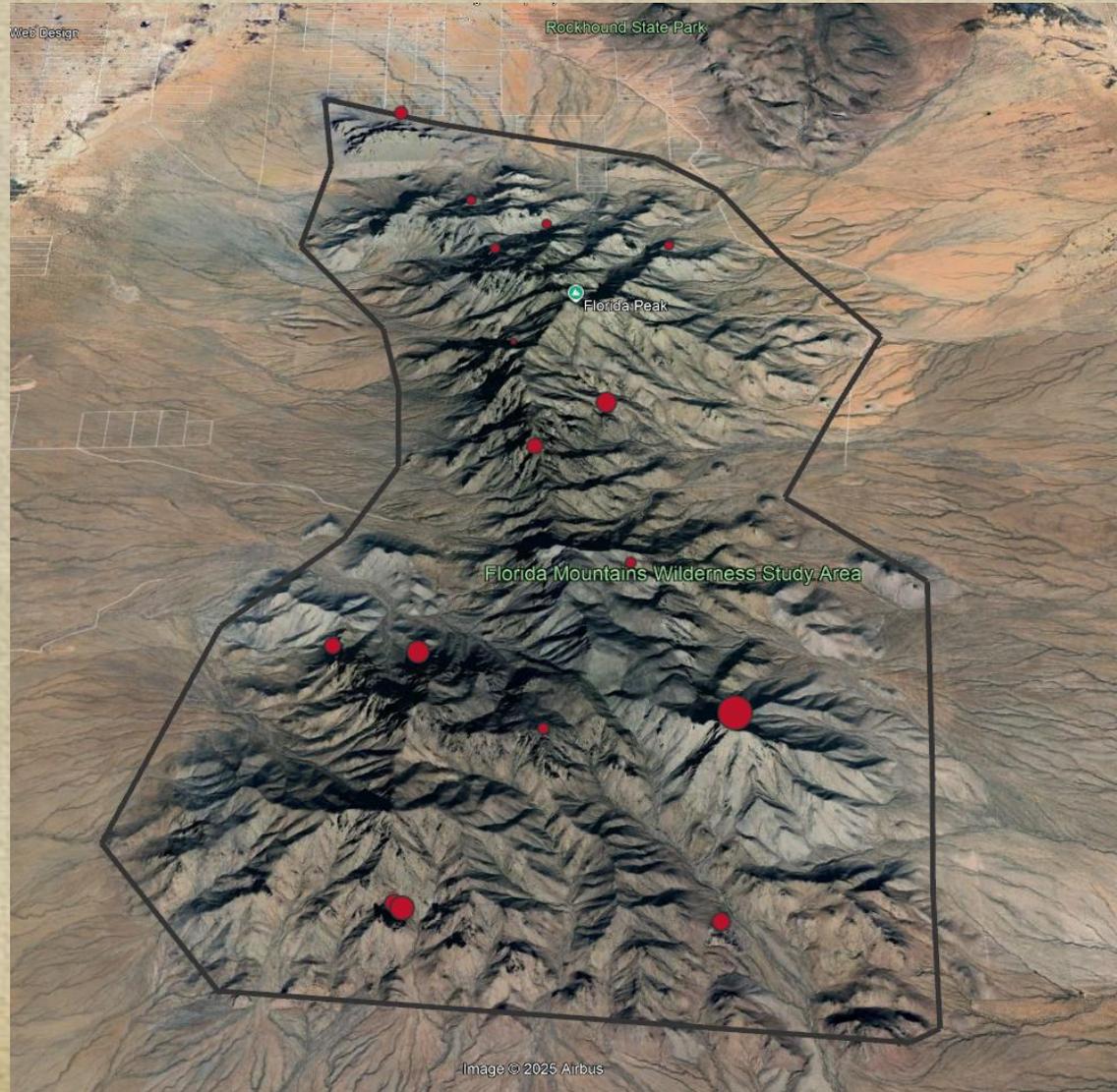
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TRK CEN

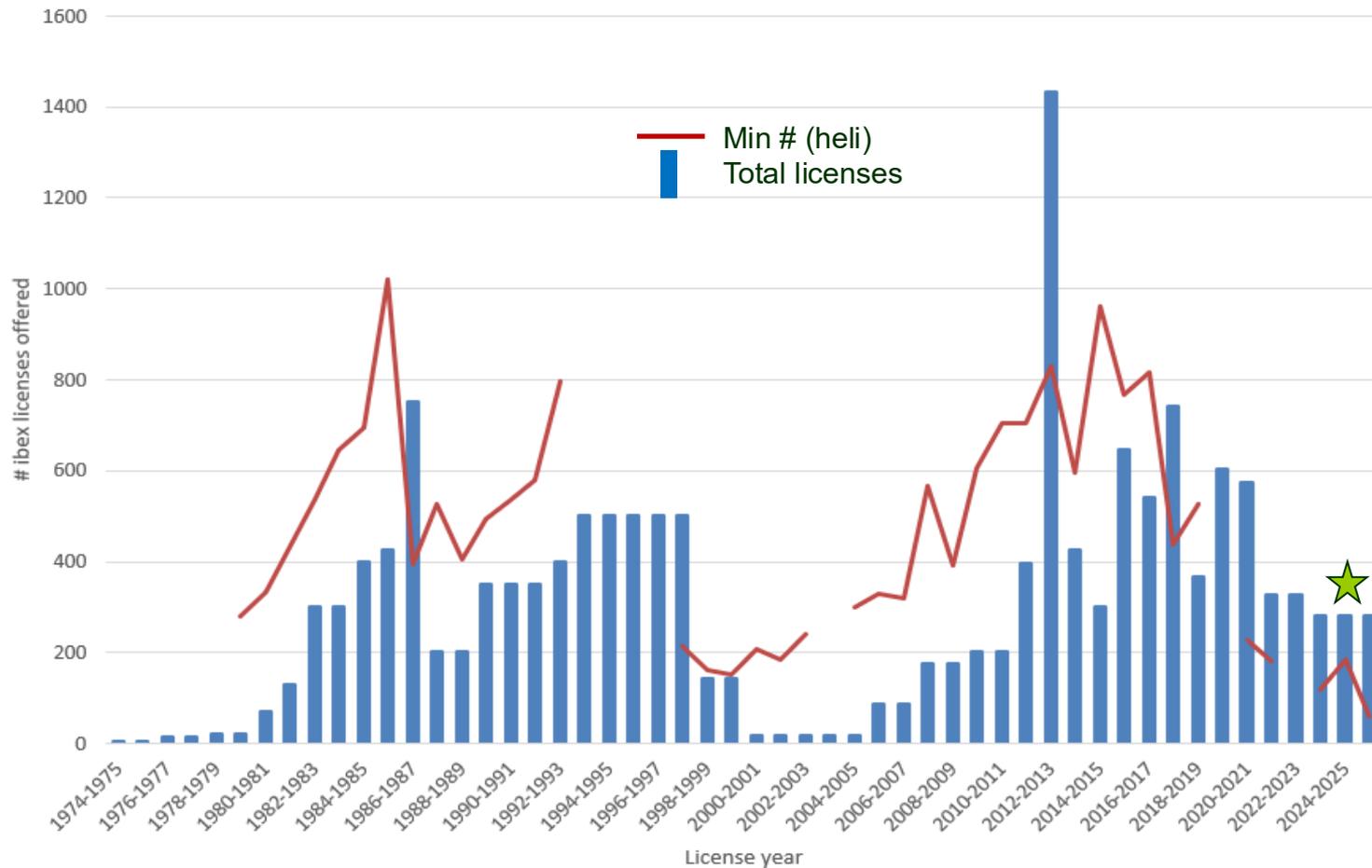


Background: Persian ibex

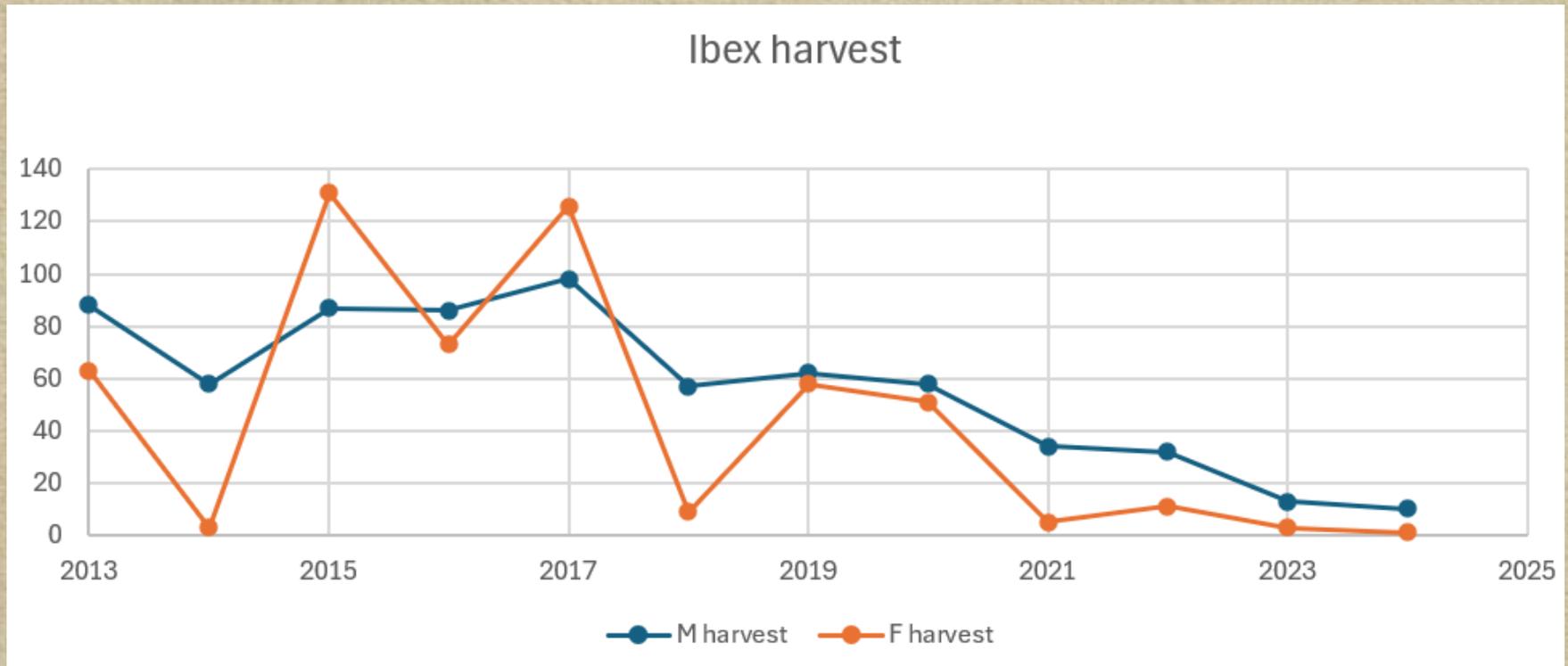
- 4/8/2024
- 185 ibex observed
- Mid-February 2026: Duplicate survey scheduled (will yield an updated minimum count)



Background: Persian ibex

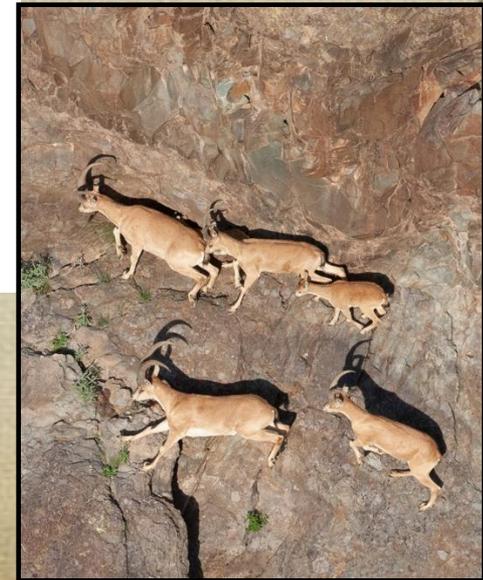
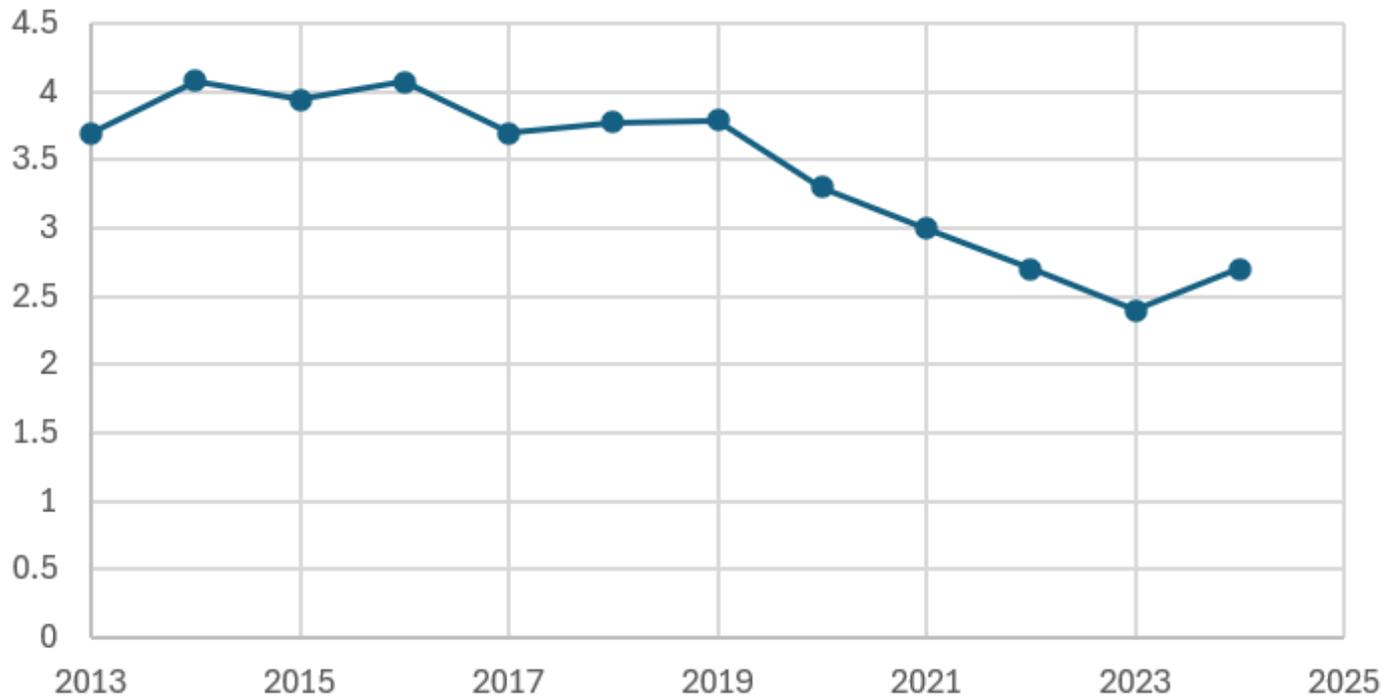


Background: Persian ibex



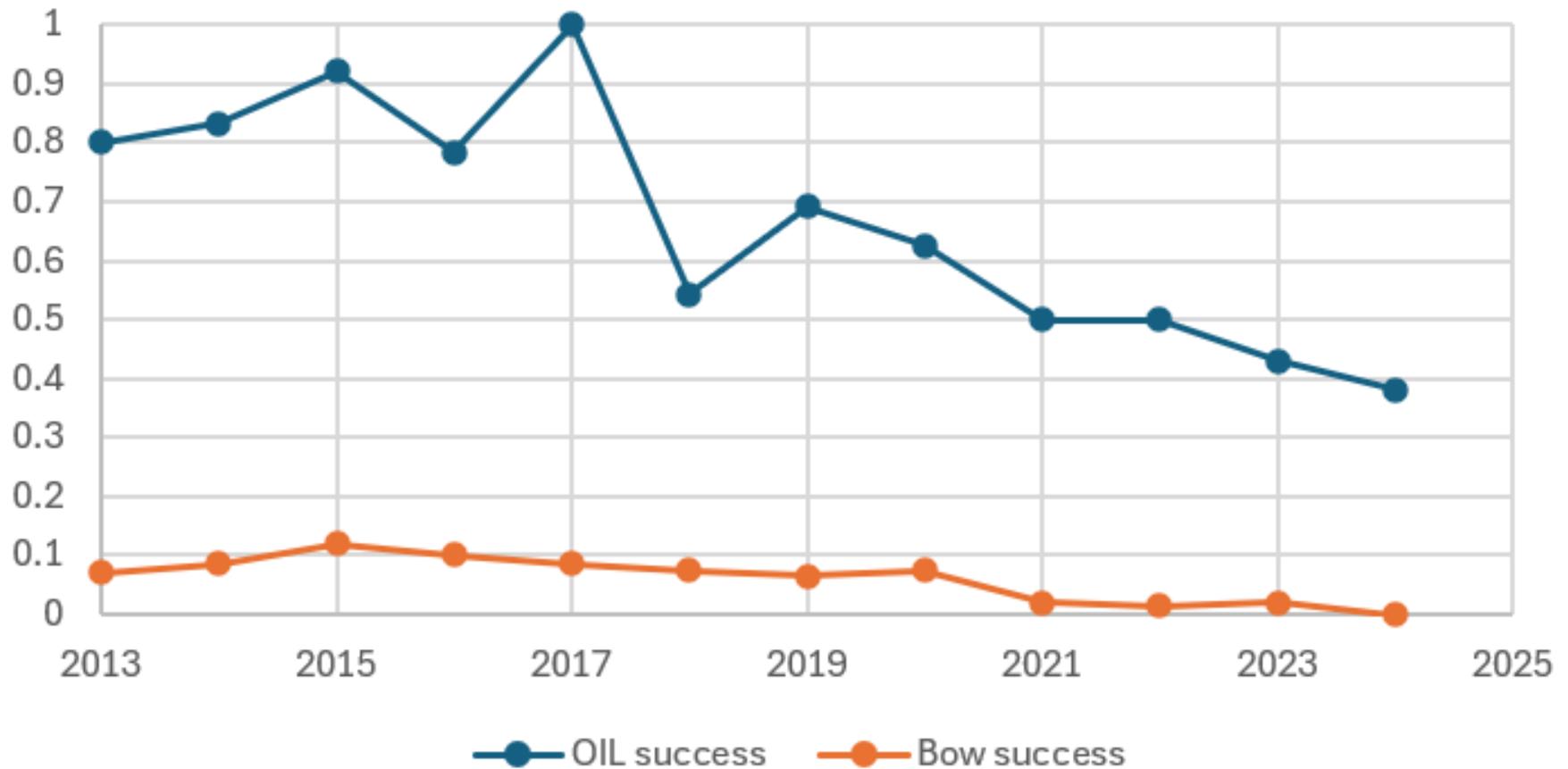
Background: Persian ibex

Average satisfaction rating (scale: 1-5)



Background: Persian ibex

Success by hunt type



Ibex: directions forward

- Continue moving away from pendulating harvest fluctuations
 - Maintain some F/IM licenses to allow population to increase, but in a monitored-framework
- Decrease ES ibex licenses because of low satisfaction ratings
- Adjust some hunts for calendar shifts



Barbary sheep

- Management direction: maintain huntable population in SE draw units, minimize expansion into new ranges
- Use hunter harvest metrics to track population
- 2024 harvest data
 - Licenses sold: 3,532
 - 33% overall success (16% OTC statewide, 35-43% draw hunts)
 - Harvest (male: 563, female: 321)
 - Satisfaction rating: 3.1



Background: Barbary sheep

The rise of exotic Barbary sheep (aoudad) in the Southwest has brought challenges to native desert bighorn sheep, ranging from disease to habitat degradation and competition for forage and water sources.

Another challenge is mistaken identity.



Multiple desert bighorn ewes have been inadvertently killed by hunters thinking they were shooting an aoudad. This impacts bighorn numbers and can cause significant legal troubles for hunters.

The following is a guide to help hunters distinguish bighorn sheep from aoudad.



If you see an ear tag or GPS collar, odds are you're looking at a bighorn sheep.

Scan code for more information and to order additional copies of this field identification brochure.



WILD SHEEP Foundation
PUBLISHED BY
WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION
www.wildsheepfoundation.org

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:
NEW MEXICO WOLF & TEXAS BIGHORN SOCIETY



BE SURE
FIELD IDENTIFICATION:
Bighorn Sheep **versus**
Barbary Sheep (Aoudad)



Licenses, applications, harvest reporting and general information: wildlife.dgf.nm.gov

BIGHORN SHEEP v. BARBARY SHEEP

It is illegal to kill a bighorn sheep with a Barbary sheep hunting license. Know the difference!

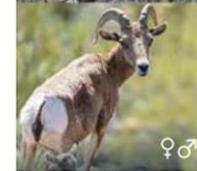
For more information, examples and a quiz, visit the Wild Sheep Foundation at wildsheepfoundation.org/field-identification-desert-bighorn-aoudad



CHECK AGAIN!



Young bighorn ram horns can look similar to Barbary sheep ewe and young rams

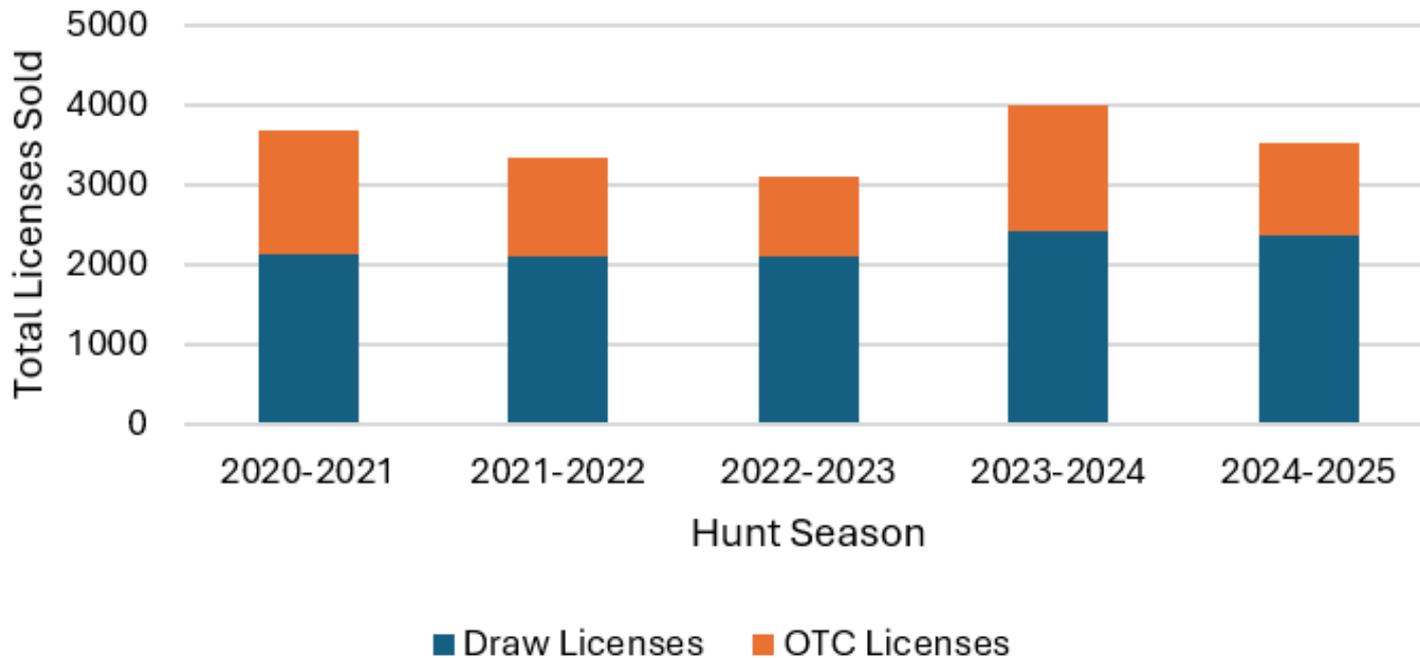


KEY DIFFERENCES:
ALL bighorns have white rumps and ALL Barbary sheep have shaggy beards and muzzles



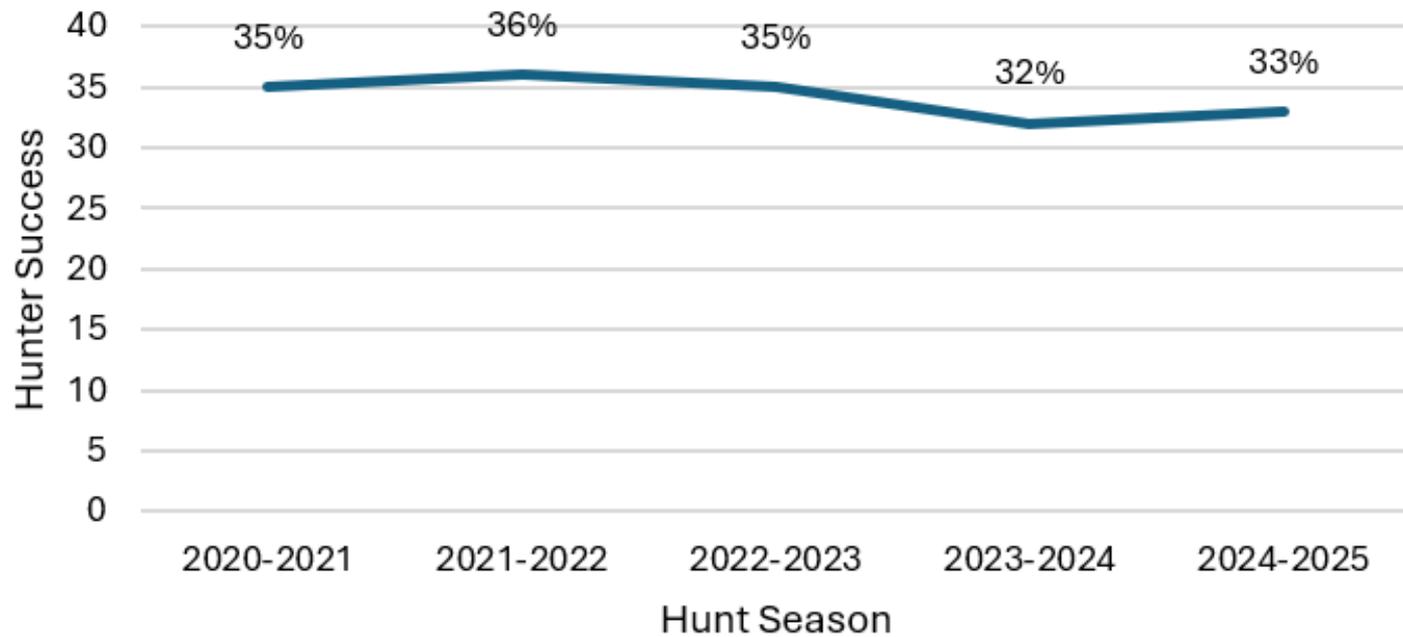
Background: Barbary sheep

Draw vs. OTC Barbary Sheep Tags Sold 2020-2024



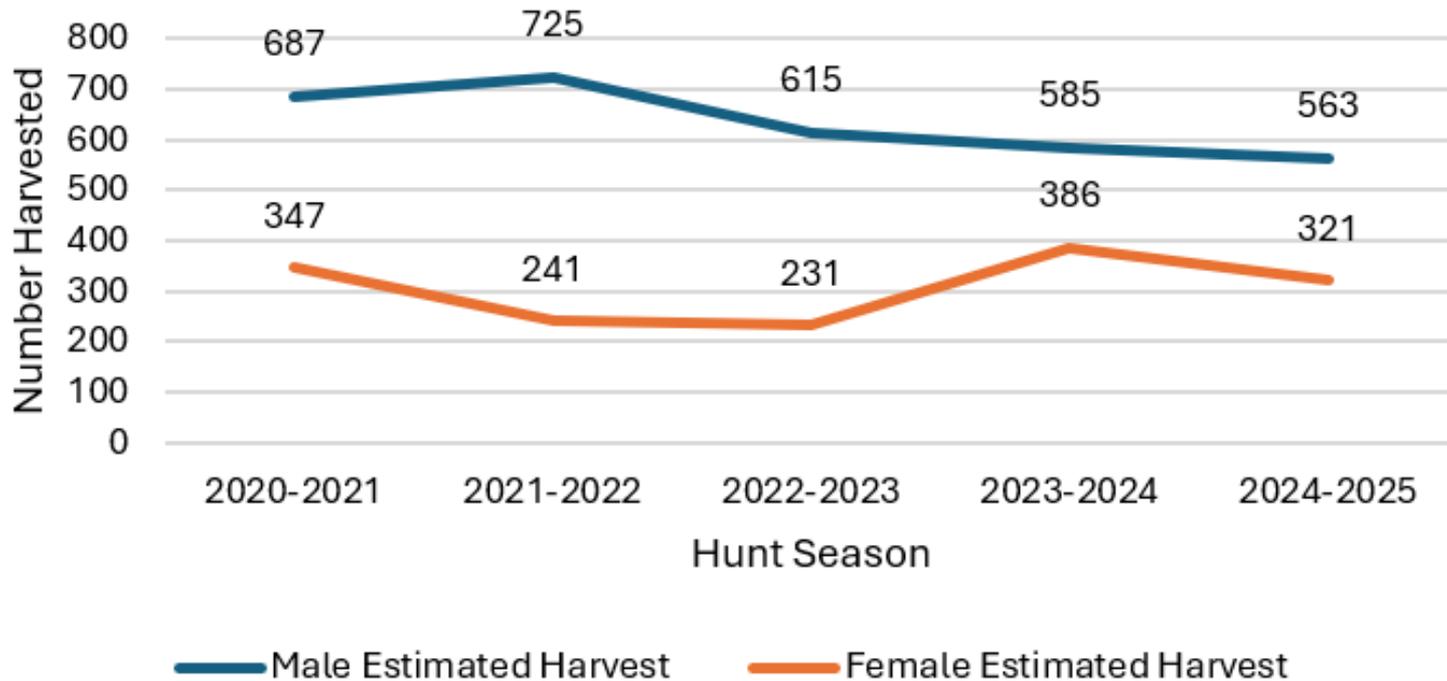
Background: Barbary sheep

Barbary Sheep Hunter Harvest Success Rate
From 2020-2024



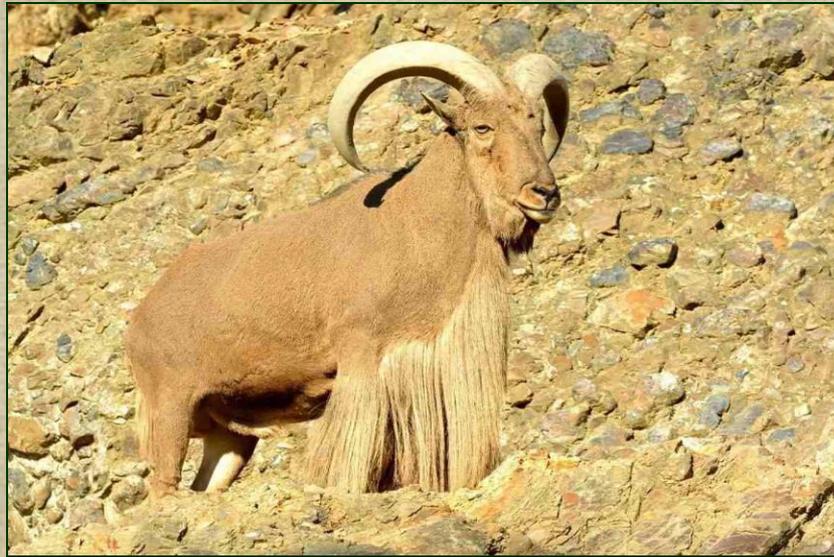
Background: Barbary sheep

Estimated Barbary Sheep Harvest From 2020-2024



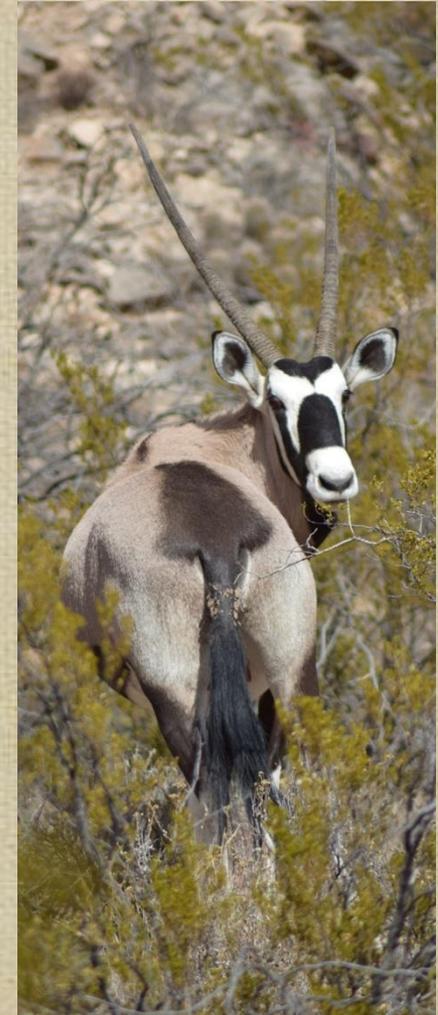
Barbary sheep: directions forward

- 2022: implemented new F/IM hunts on McGregor Range (Ft. Bliss) to address growing Barbary population
- Work with Ft. Bliss on determining if hunts are addressing the issue
- Adjust dates for calendar shift



Background: oryx

- Management direction: maintain huntable population in GMU 19, manage population adjacent to GMU 19 at acceptable levels
- Use hunter harvest metrics in conjunction with aerial surveys (WSMR-only) to track population
- 2024 harvest metrics
 - Licenses sold: 2,604
 - Success WSMR: 80%
 - Success off-range: 58%
 - Harvest (male: 1,088, female: 904)
- Satisfaction rating WSMR & off-range: 4.2,3.7



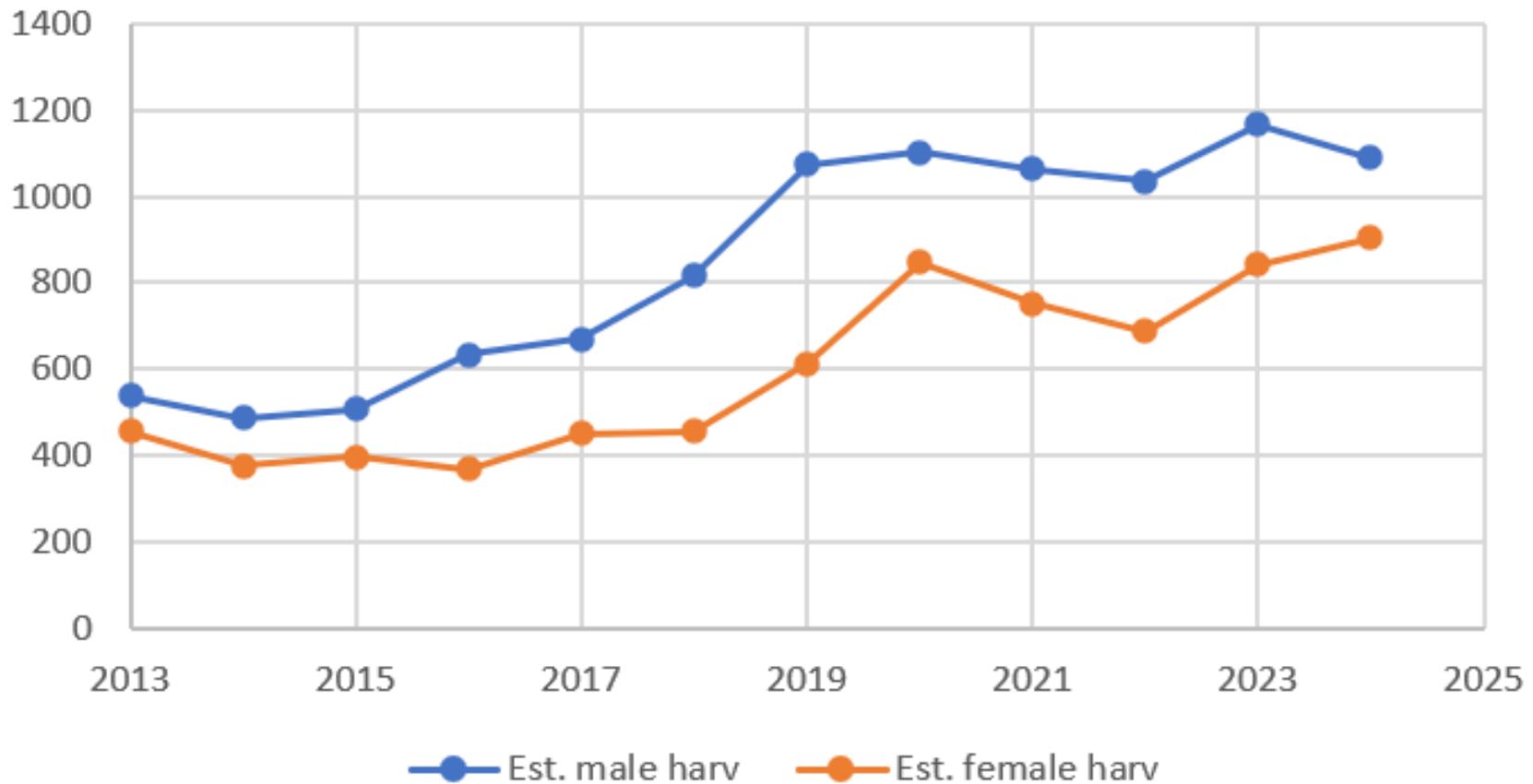
Background: oryx

- WSMR population estimate:
 - 3,000-3,500 (range-wide)
 - 2,200-2,400 (SRC, RCRC)
 - Additional animals off-range adjacent to WSMR
- Collaborate with WSMR & Ft. Bliss on oryx management on military lands
 - Access is limited due to security concerns



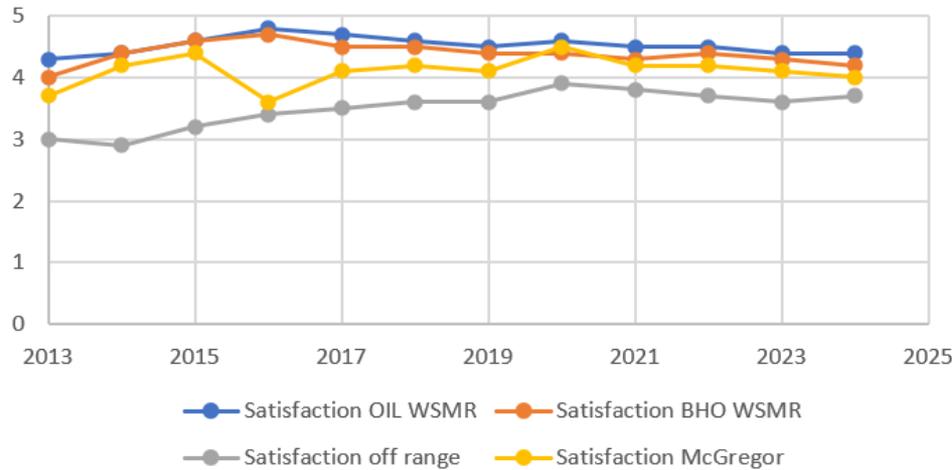
Background: oryx

Oryx harvest through time

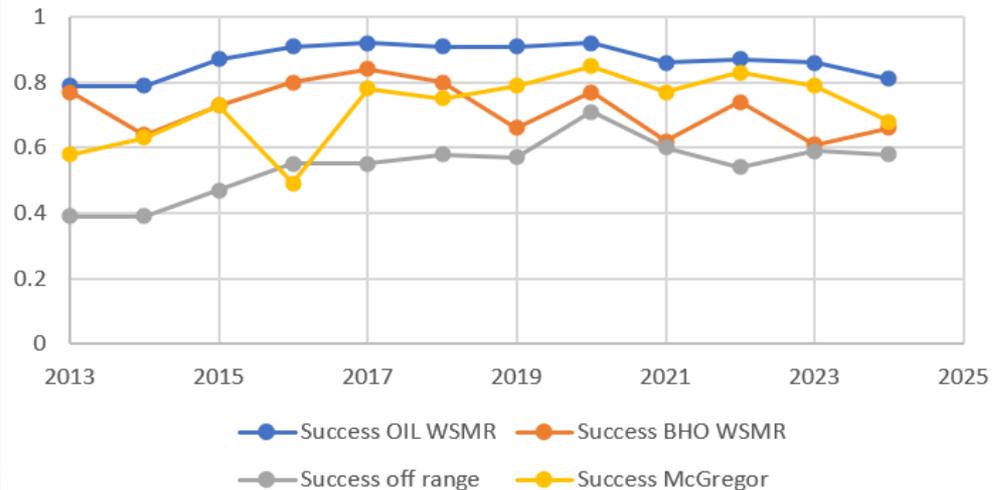


Background: oryx

Oryx satisfaction ratings



Oryx hunt success rates



Oryx: directions forward

- Beginning discussions with military partners on oryx management and harvest strategies
- Likely maintain same level of licenses on WSMR
- Perhaps increase off-range opportunities
- Adjust dates for calendar shift
- Potential for “Ranch Registration” for OTC private land license



Public outreach

- Will host multiple meetings for public involvement throughout the state
 - One meeting usually covers multiple species/rules



Comment on Proposals:
DGF-Exotics-Rule@dgf.nm.gov



Background: Persian ibex

- Ibex management 2001-2025

Year	Total ES	Total F/IM	Notes
2001	15	5	
2002	15	5	
2003	15	5	
2004	15	5	
2005	70	15	
2006	70	15	
2007	150	25	
2008	150	25	
2009	150	50	
2010	150	0	
2011	295	0	
2012	351	0	
2013	265	150	OTC 2 F/IM bag limit (max 125 harvested)
2014	265	0	
2015	265	420	Pop. mgmt hunt
2016	265	275	Pop. mgmt hunt
2017	265	500	Pop. mgmt hunt
2018	265	50	Pop. mgmt. hunt
2019	265	300	F/IM in draw
2020	265	300	F/IM in draw
2021	265	80	F/IM in draw
2022	265	80	F/IM in draw
2023	235	40	F/IM in draw
2024	235	40	F/IM in draw
2025	235	40	F/IM in draw

