



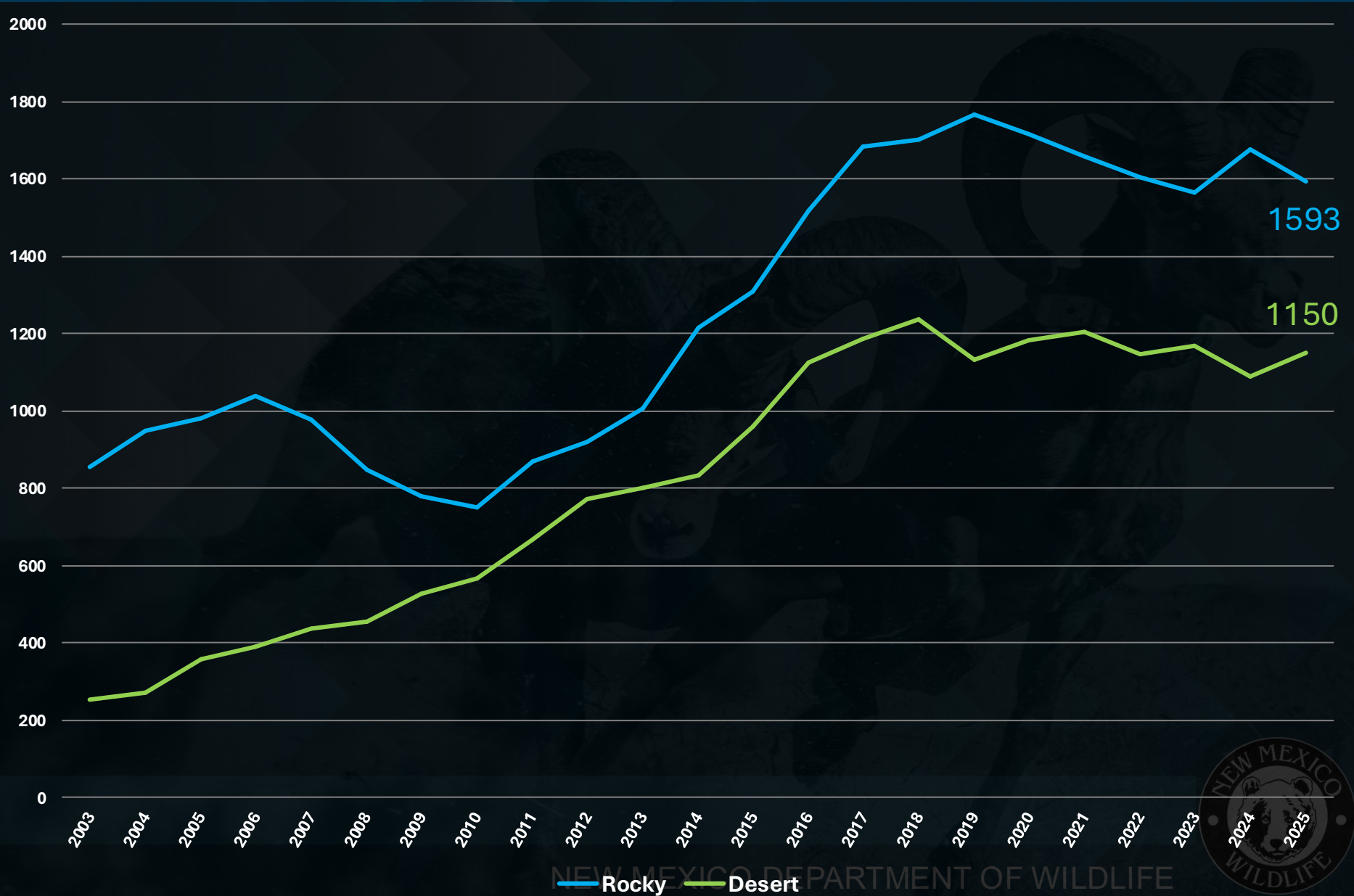
Bighorn Sheep Rule 19.31.17 NMAC



May 28, 2026
New Mexico State Game Commission Meeting



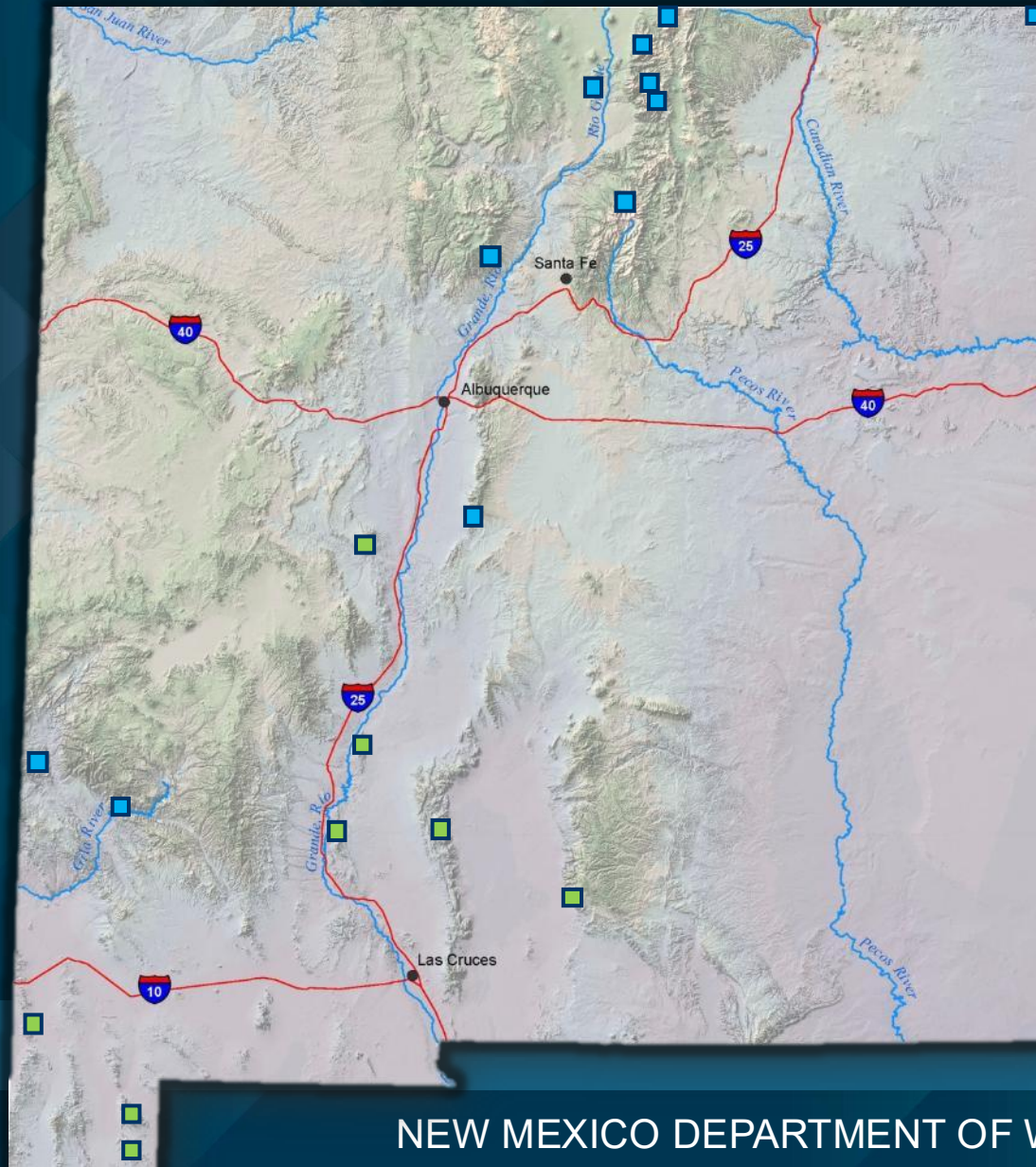
Statewide Bighorn Estimate



Bighorn Population Distribution

■ 8

Desert
Populations
~1,150



■ 11

Rocky
Mountain
Populations
~1,593

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Bighorn Projects

- Captures
 - 2022-2025: 305 bighorn captured/collared

Translocations

- 2023: 28 bighorn from Red Rock to Alamo Huecos
- 2025: 37 bighorn from Caballos to Sacramentos; 32 bighorn from Red Rock to Peloncillos

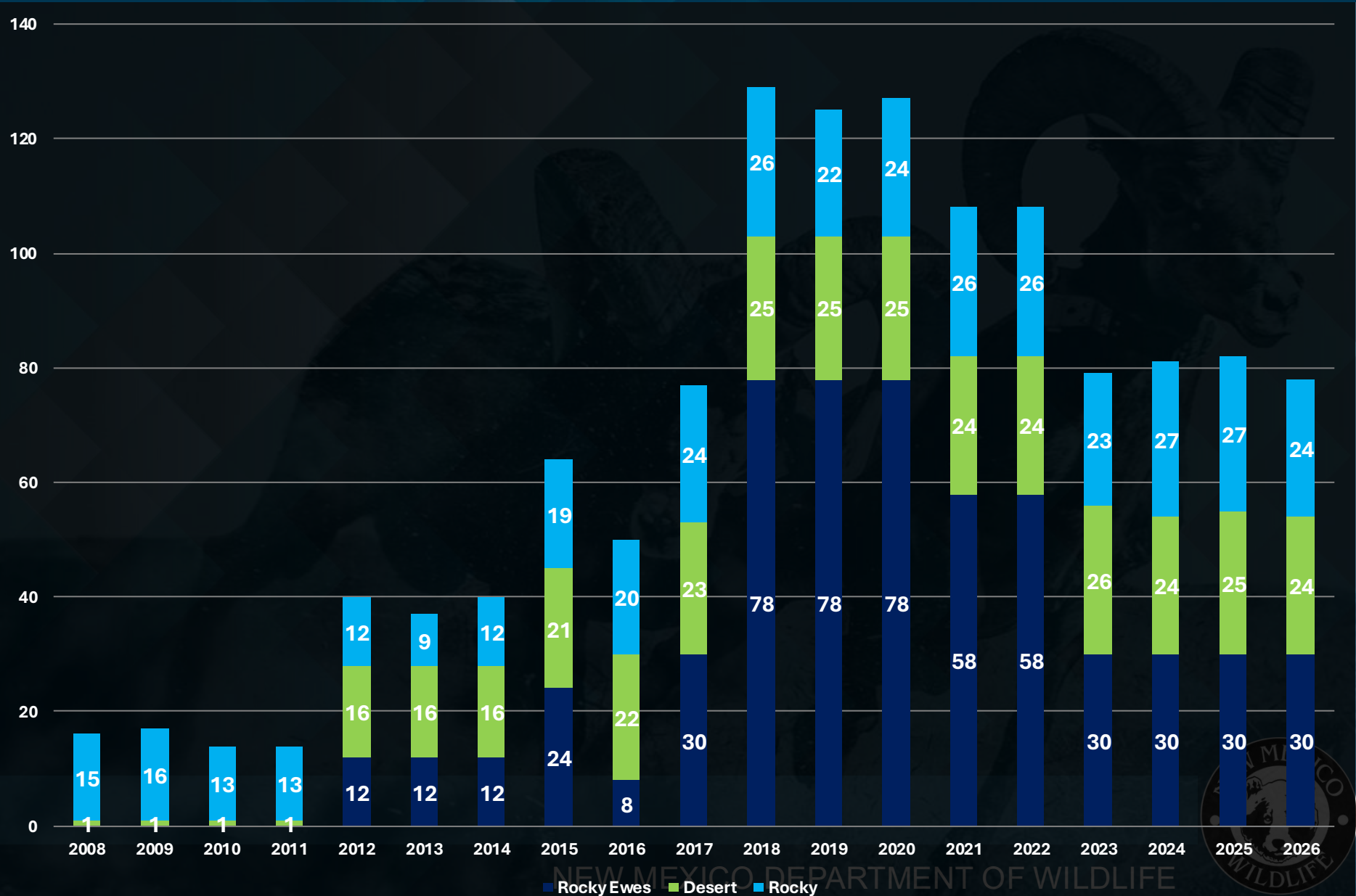


Bighorn Projects

- **Testing GPS solar ear tags vs GPS collars**
- **Improving survey precision**
- **Diet analysis**
- **Alternative survey methods**



NM Bighorn Sheep Hunting



Manzanos Ram Hunt



- GMUs 14 & 18
- Has never been hunted
- Bighorn spend 90% of time on Tierra Grande lands
- Proposed changes:
 - Define as open GMU under Private Land
 - 2 hunt periods: Oct 1-15, Oct 16-30
 - Start ram hunt ~2027



Sacramentos Ram Hunt

- **GMU 34**
- **Re-established in 2018, has never been hunted**
- **Proposed changes:**
 - Define as open GMU in rule
 - 1 hunt period: Dec 1-15
 - Start ram hunt ~2027



Little Hatchets and Big Hatchets Ram Hunts



- GMU 26 west of NM 81 and east of NM 81
- Currently two hunt periods each:
 - Sept 15-30, Oct 1-15
- Public comment desiring later hunt periods
- Proposed changes:
 - Shift the two hunt periods from Sept and Oct to Dec 1-15 and Dec 16-30



General

- Adjust season dates appropriately (including date adjustments)



Public Outreach

- **Held 2 hybrid in-person/virtual public meetings**
 - March 11, 2026, Albuquerque
 - March 12, 2026, Las Cruces
- **Public comment summary:**
 - 19 comments received
 - Support for shifting desert hunts from Sept/Oct to Dec
 - Support for opening new GMUs to ram hunting
 - Other various comments



Summary of Recommended Changes to the Bighorn Rule

- Open Manzanos (GMU 14 & 18) to ram hunting
 - Authorize 2 hunt periods: Oct 1-15, Oct 16-30
 - Increase RMBHS private tag allocations from 6 to 10
- Open Sacramentos (GMU 34) to ram hunting
 - Authorize 1 hunt period: Dec 1-15
- Shift Little and Big Hatchets (GMU 26 w and e of NM 81) hunt periods
 - From Sept 15-30 & Oct 1-15 to Dec 1-15 & Dec 16-30
- General date shifts for consistency



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