

### Culebres Ground Survey

A ground survey was conducted in the Culebres Mountains on August 20, 2019. Observers included personnel from NMDGF, Vermejo Park, and RCCLA. Forty eight sheep were seen through the course of the day. This total matches that observed from the helicopter a couple weeks prior but varies in composition, most notably with the addition of rams. Given the two sources of survey data there is a minimum count of 52 sheep. We arrive at this total by adding the 4 rams (2 CII, 1 CIII, 1 CIV) seen on the ground survey to the aerial survey data. Four yearling rams were observed on the ground survey, but these may be classified as ewes during the aerial survey method, so they could not be reliably added to the helicopter count.

Sheep were distributed throughout the New Mexico portion of the range. The estimate remains at 55-60 sheep and this herd appears to be stable. Observations included an injured ewe that had a piece of torn muscle hanging off of her left hindquarter. She did not appear to have any other injuries and her lamb was in good health. It is hypothesized to be related to a failed predation event.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP OBSERVED IN THE CULEBRES MOUNTAINS, NEW MEXICO														
Date	T	Ram	Ewes		Juv <sup>b</sup>	Rams					Survey Type (Hrs)	Est No	M: F: J	
			Ad	Yrl <sup>a</sup>		Yrl	I	II	III	IV				Unk
Aug 2010	14	14						7	5	2		G		
Sep 2011	17	7	7		3		2	3		2		A		
Jul 2012	15	3	8	2	2		3					G		
Jul 2013	27	1	19		7		1					G	30-35	:100:37
Jul 2014	35	2	24	1	8	1		1				A (1.1)	35-40	:100:32
Jul 2015	17	0	12		5							A (1.0)	20-25	
Jul 2016	42	8	25		9		2	2	2	2		A(0.9)	45-50	
Aug 2016	32	5	14	5	8		2	1	2			G		:100:57
Jul 2016	38	6	25		7			1	5			A(0.9)		
Aug 2017	63	8	28	4	21		1	3	1		5*	G	65-70	:100:75
Jul 2018	52	3	31		18		1		1	1		A	55-60	100:58
Aug 2018	50	1	33		16		1					G	55-60	100:48
July 2019	48	1	32		15		1					A	55-60	100:47
Aug 2019	48	9	22	4	10	4	1	2	1	1	3	G	55-60	100:38

\*3 unclassified rams, likely CII or bigger, 2 unknown ewe/yearling