

# Dolores River Desert Bighorn Sheep Herd

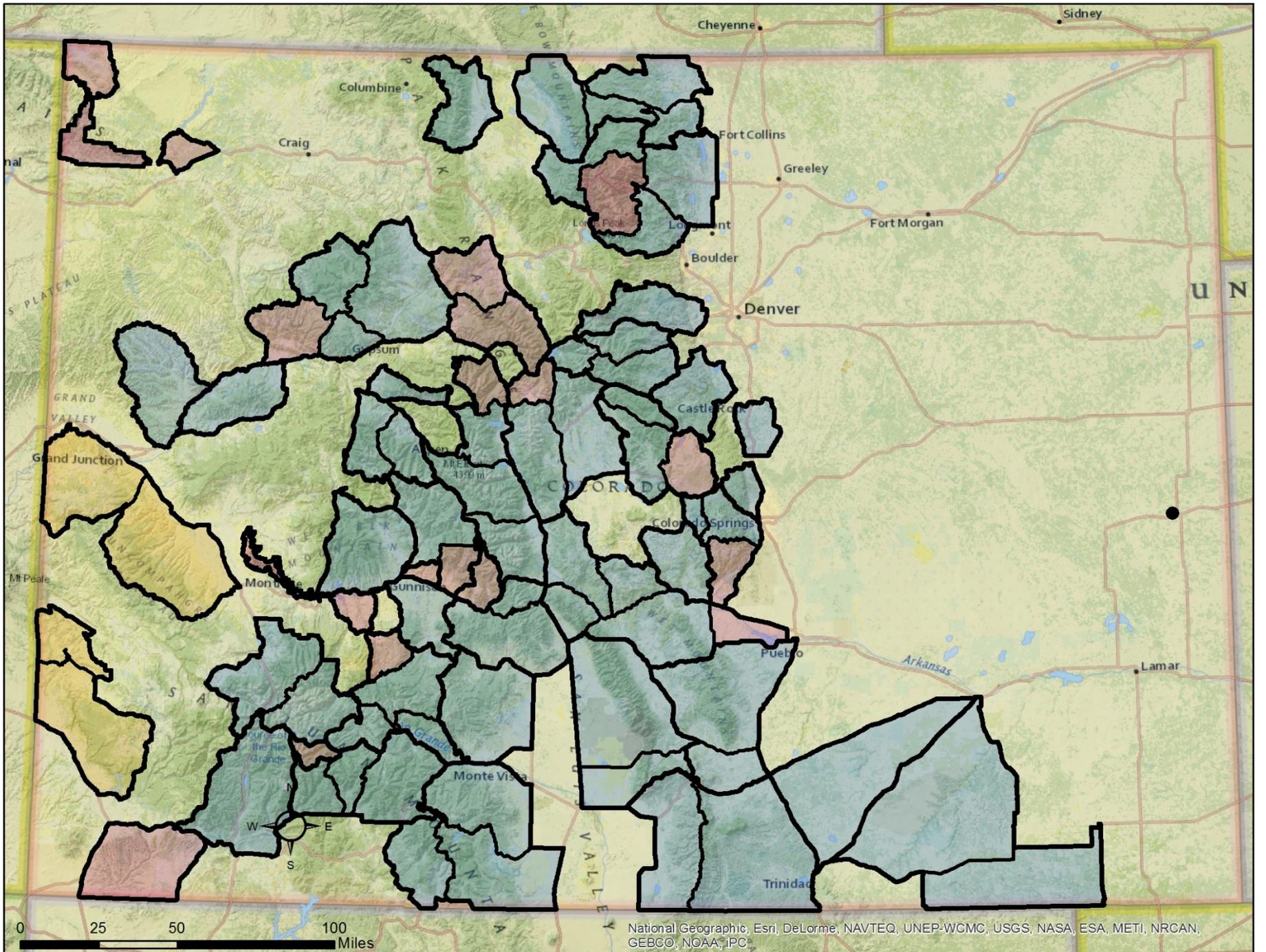
Brad Banulis  
Wildlife Biologist



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National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, IPC

# Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep

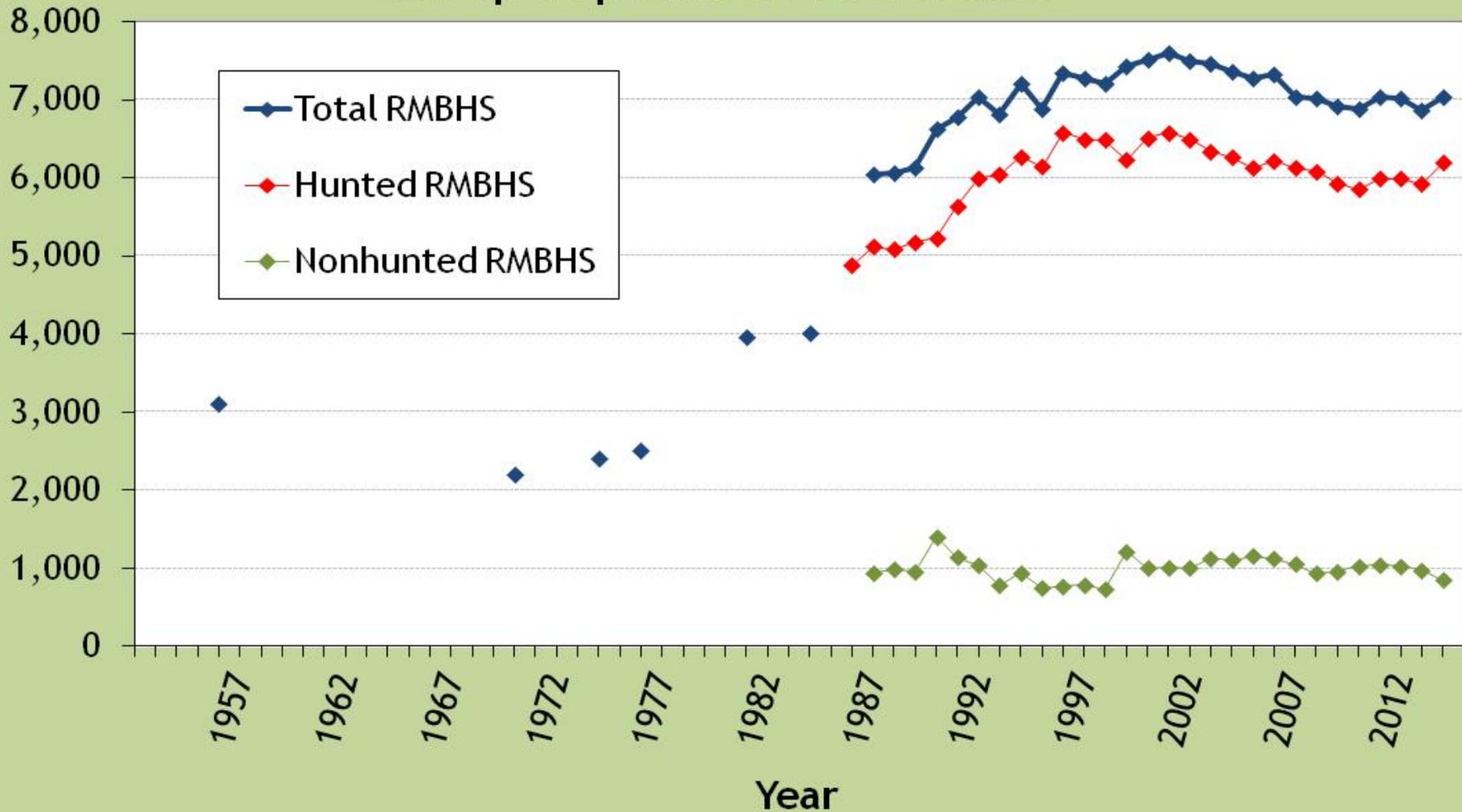


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# Colorado Statewide Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Population Estimates



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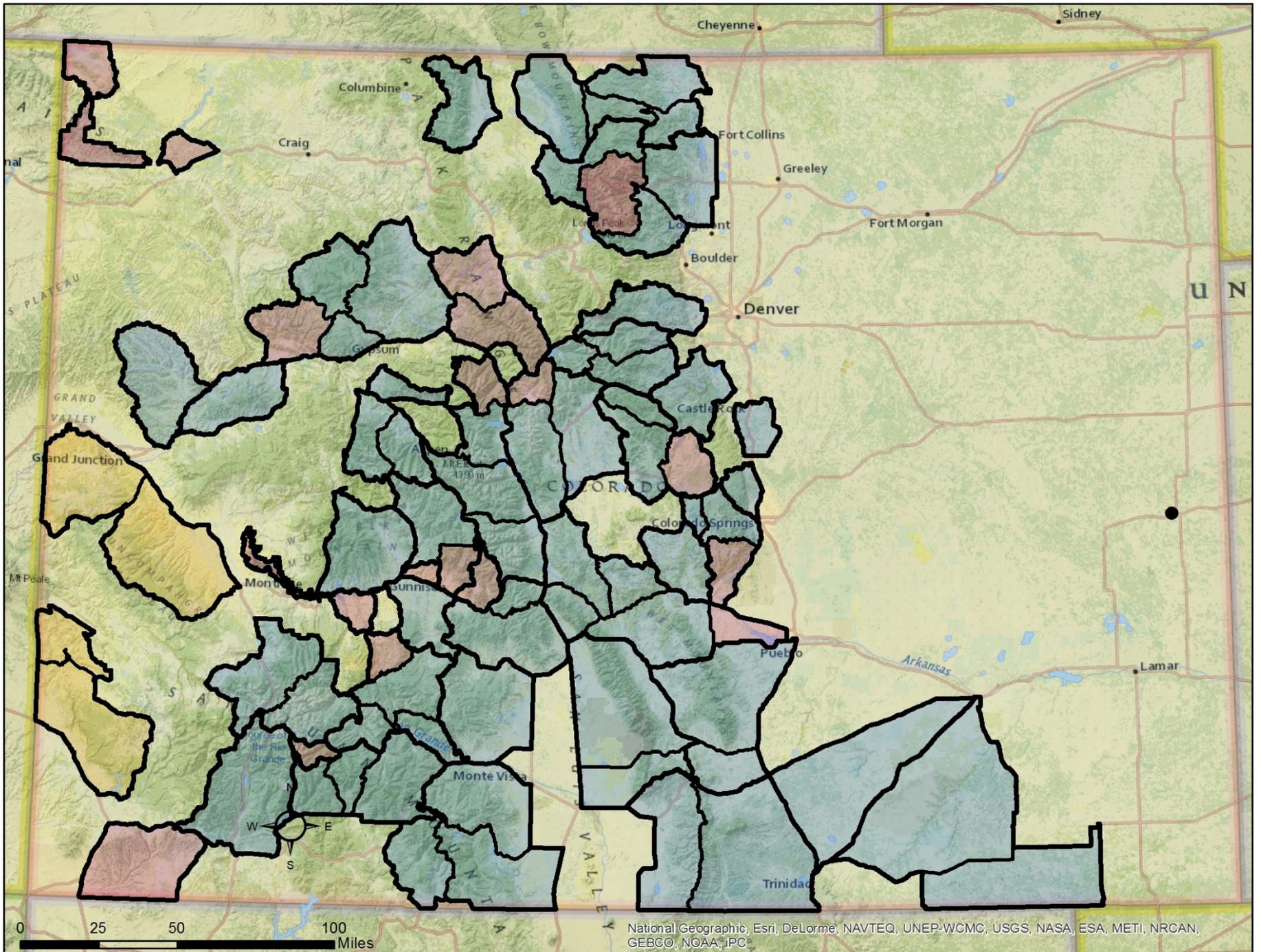
# Desert Bighorn Sheep



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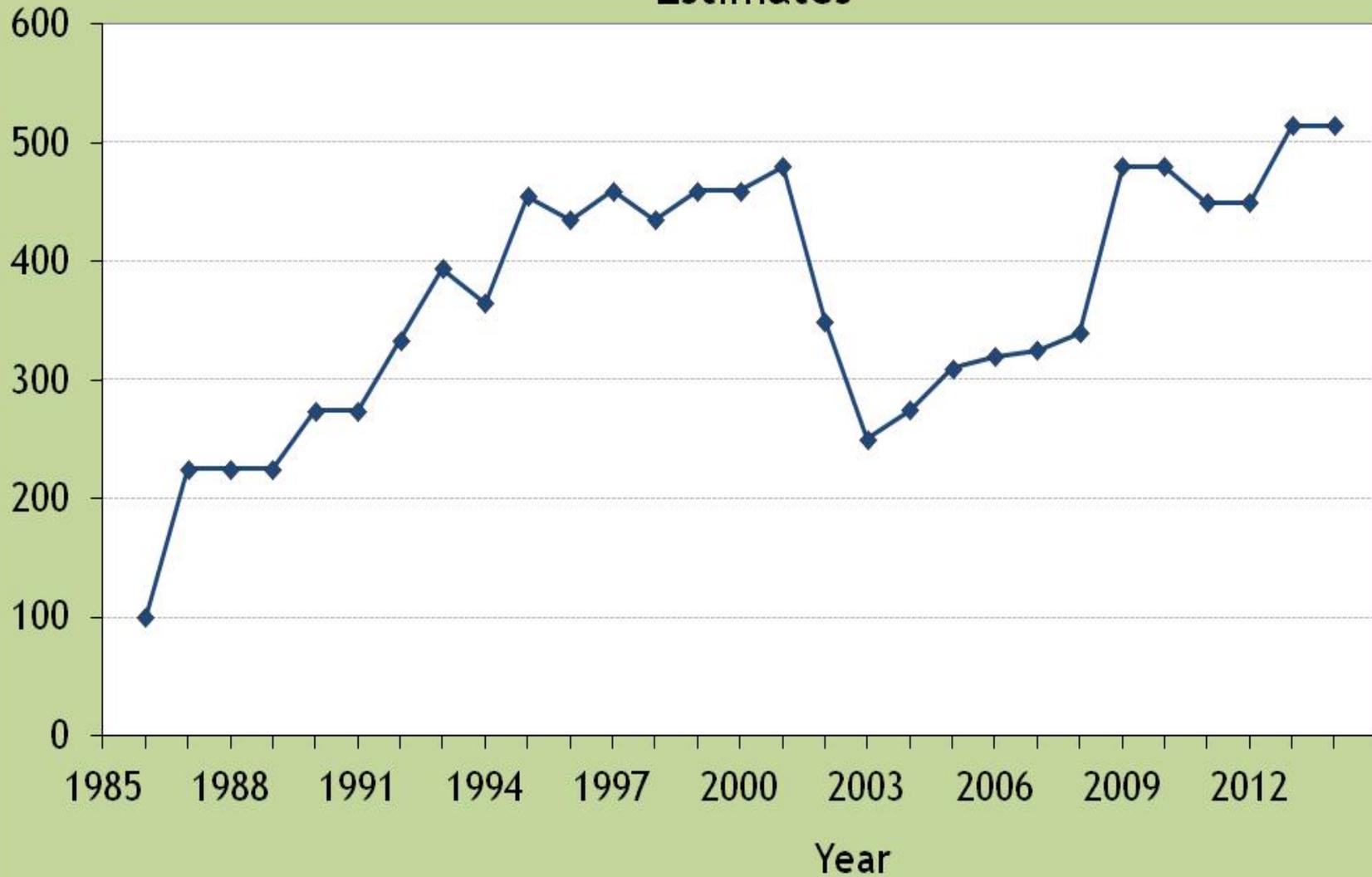
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# Colorado Statewide Desert Bighorn Sheep Population Estimates



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# Dolores River Desert bighorn herd (GMUs S-63 & S-64)



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# Dolores River Desert bighorn herd

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S-63

S-64

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UTAH

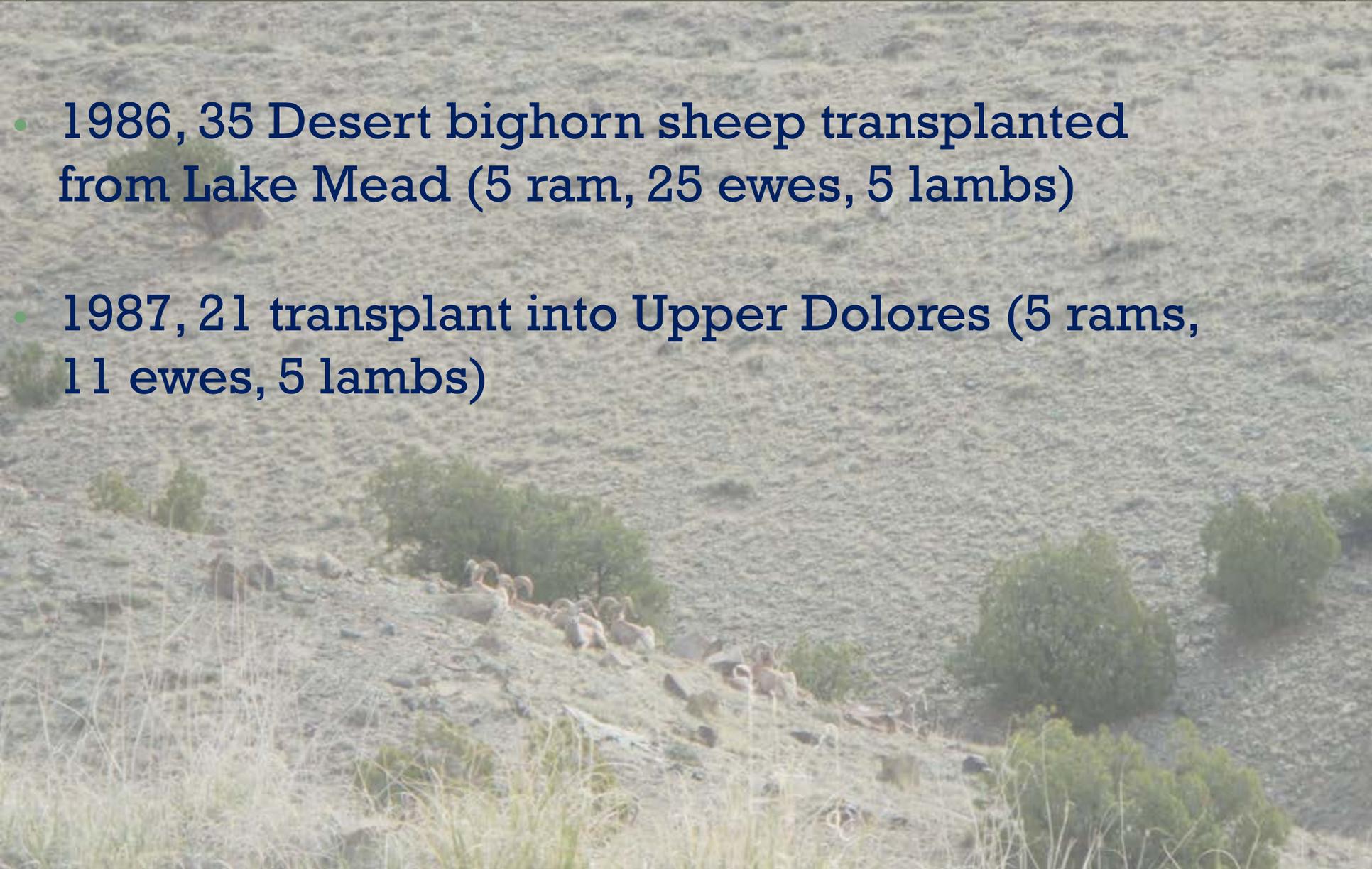


0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Miles

National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA, iPC

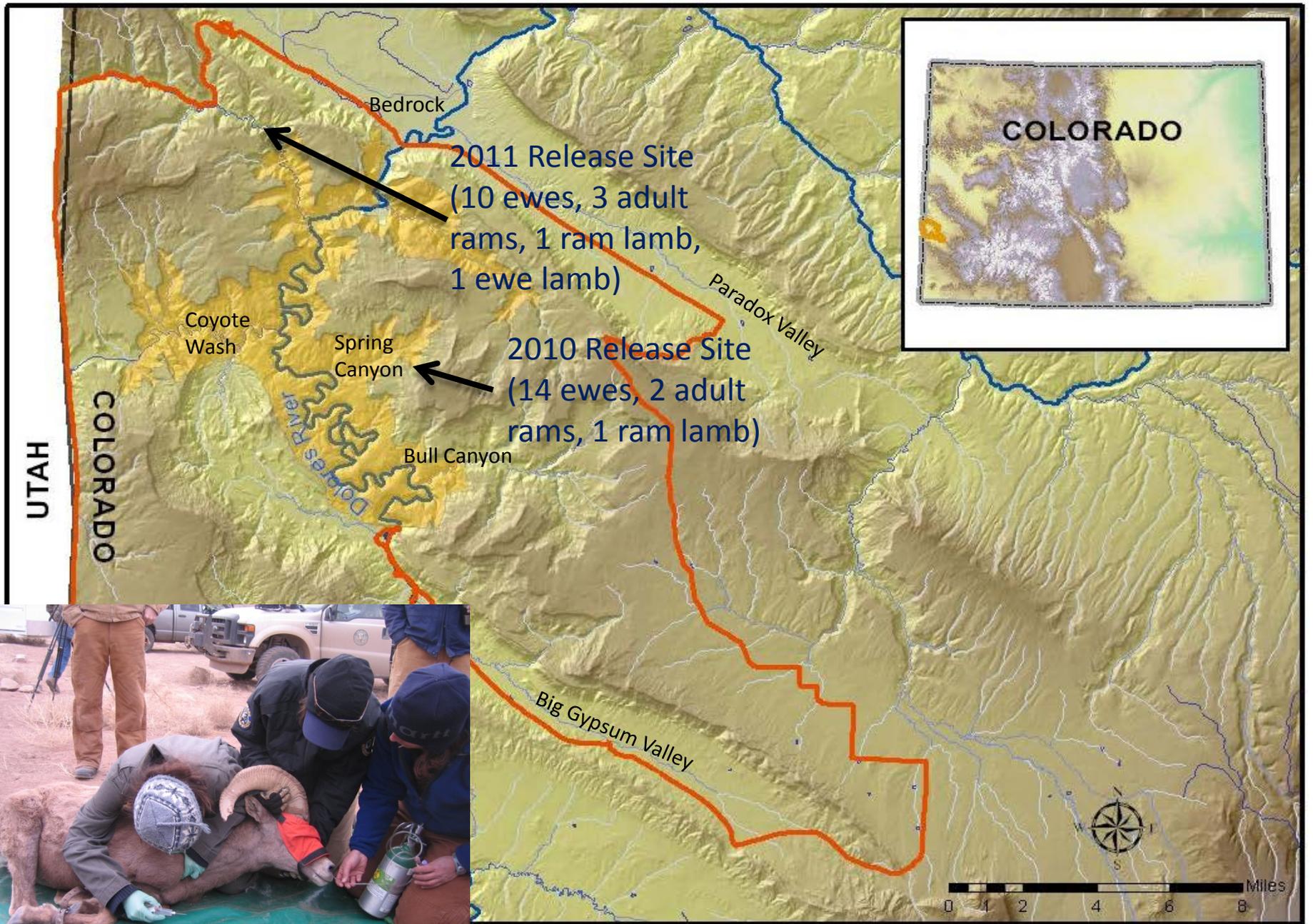
# Upper Dolores Desert Bighorns

- 1986, 35 Desert bighorn sheep transplanted from Lake Mead (5 ram, 25 ewes, 5 lambs)
- 1987, 21 transplant into Upper Dolores (5 rams, 11 ewes, 5 lambs)



# Middle Dolores Desert Bighorns

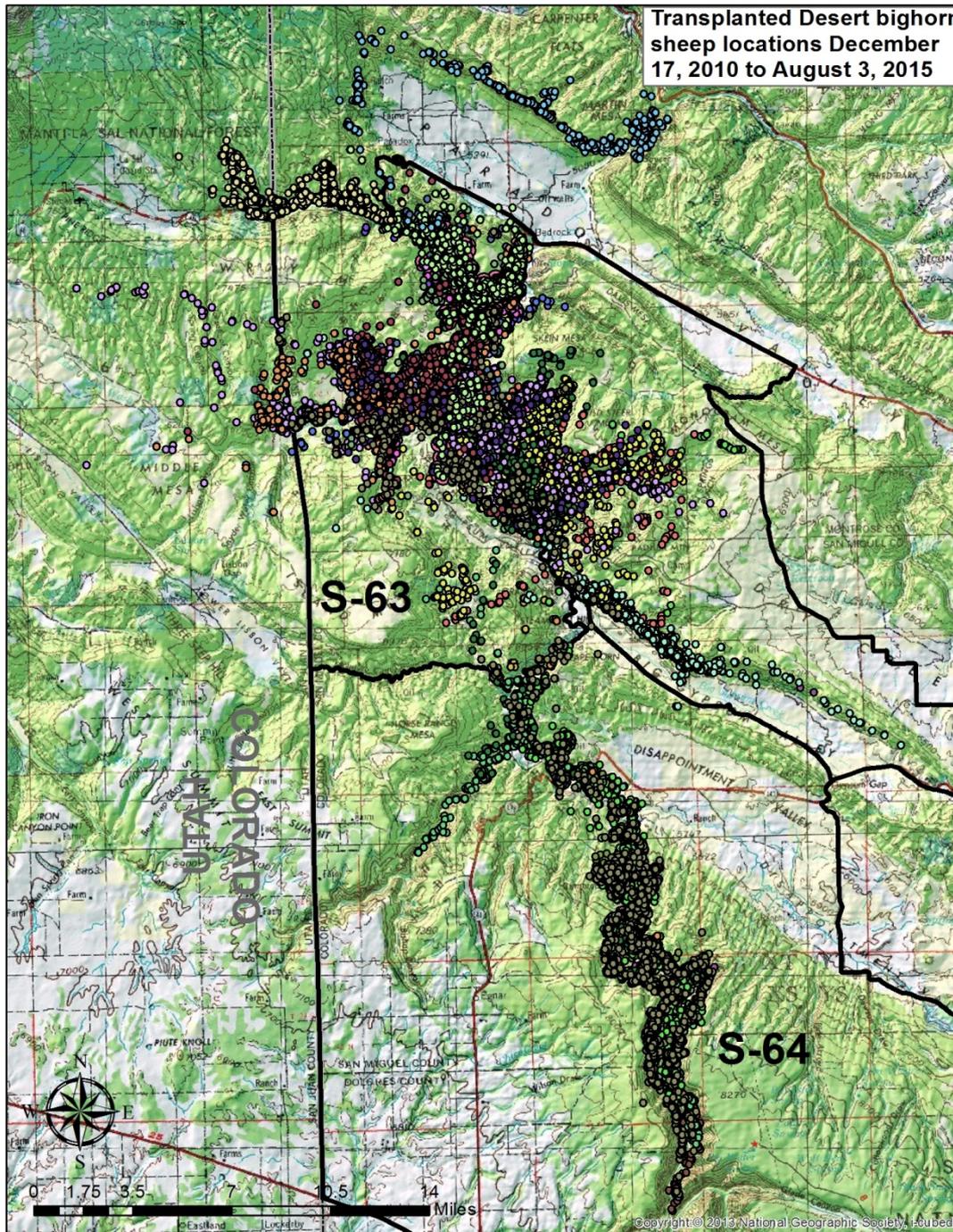
- 19 Desert bighorn sheep transplanted into Coyote Wash in 1990 (1 ram, 14 ewes, 4 lambs)
    - No collars, survival unknown
  - 2001 transplant into Spring Canyon (3 rams, 22 ewes)
    - 12 radio-collared
      - 11 of 12 died within 2 years
      - Puma predation was primary cause of death
  - 15 transplanted December 2010 (2 rams, 12 ewes, 1 ram lamb)
  - 15 transplanted December 2011 (3 rams, 2 ram lambs, 10 ewes)
- 



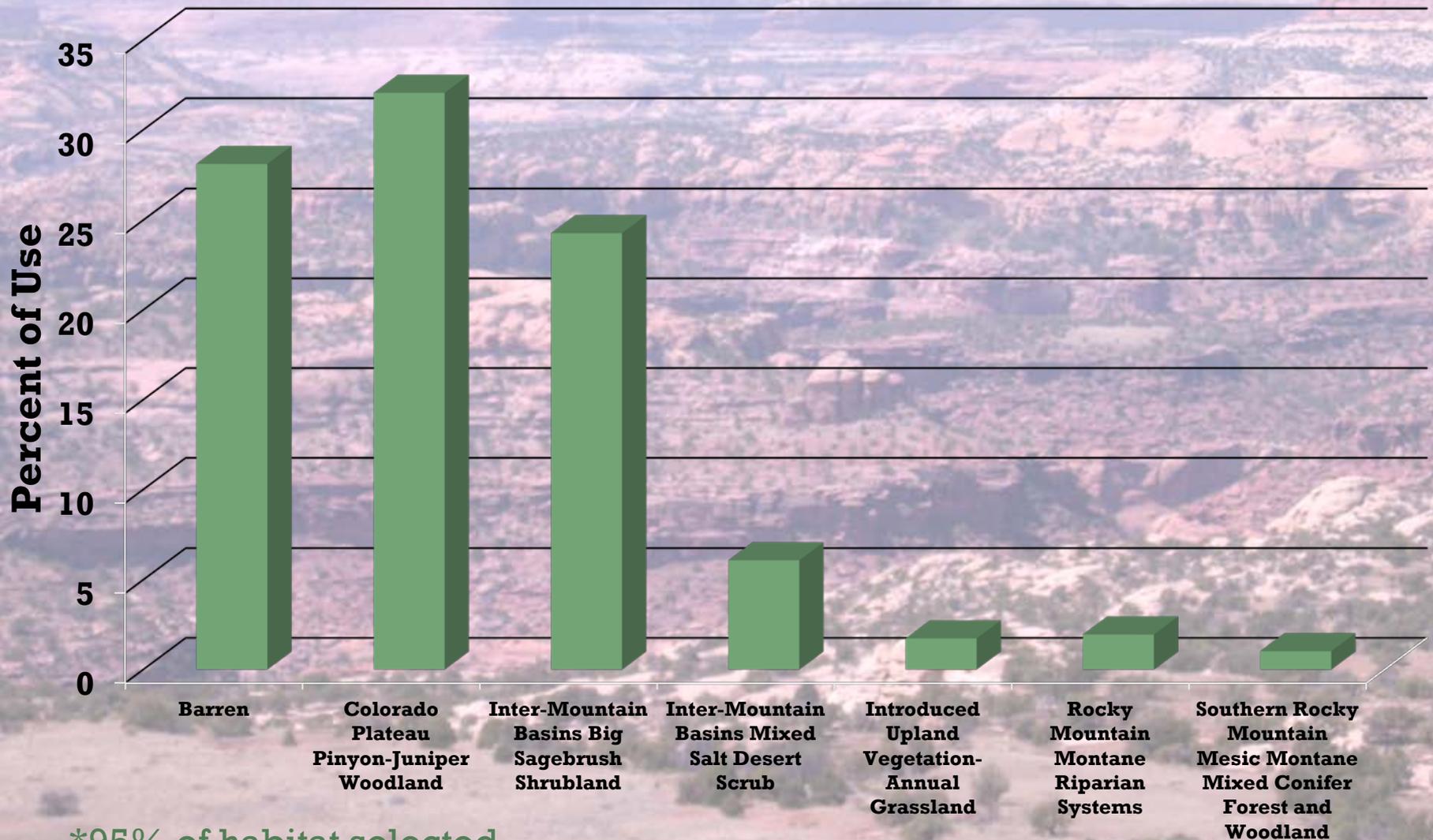
# Monitoring

- ◎ 27 of 30 with Vectronic Satellite GPS collars
  - Acquiring GPS points 6 times daily for 3 years
  - Mortality sensor set for 4 hours
  - VHF beacon
  - Waypoints and mortality data being sent from collar via email
  - Collars should drop off in 3 years post-release
- ◎ Ground and helicopter surveys to determine reproductive success

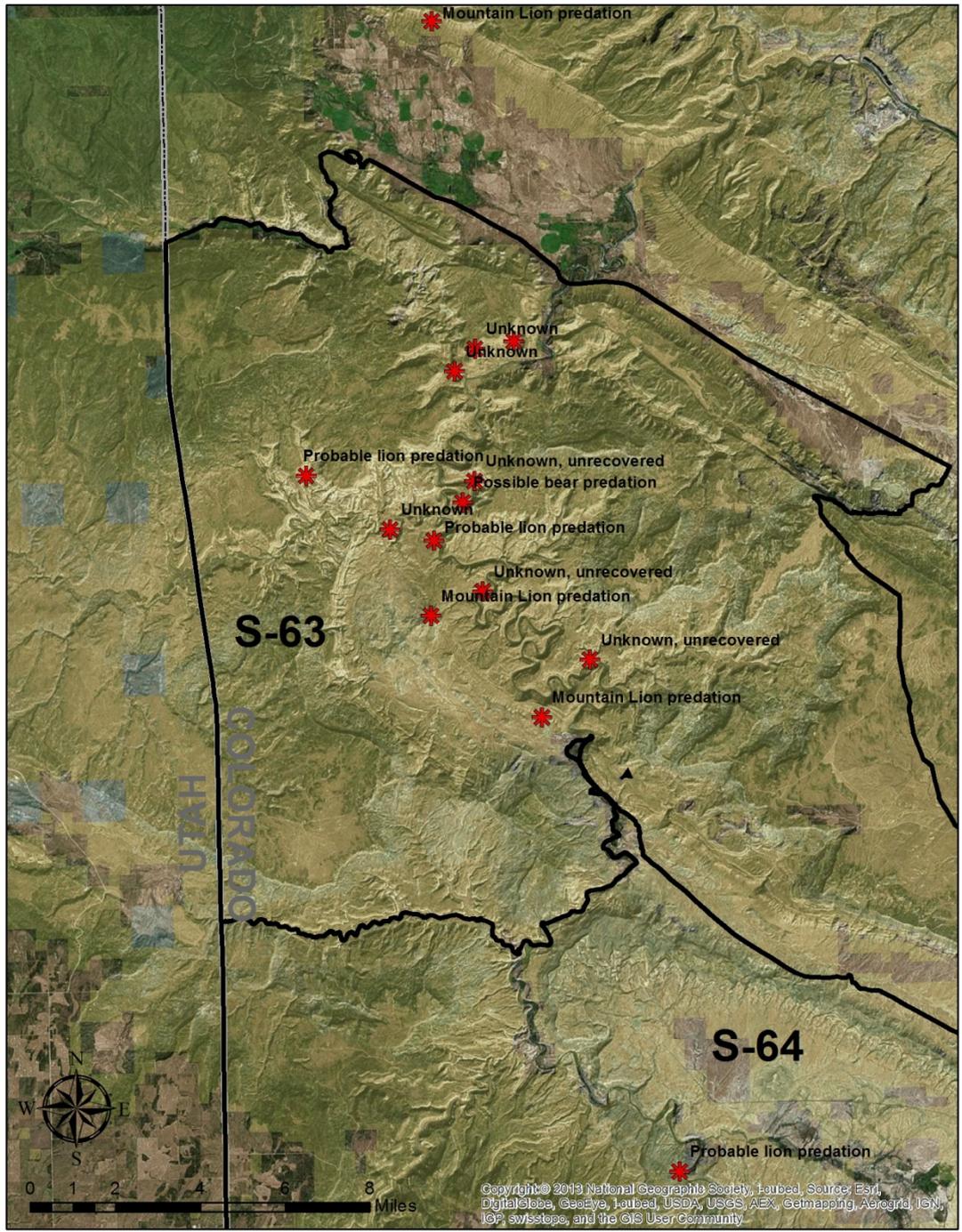




# Desert bighorn habitat use\*

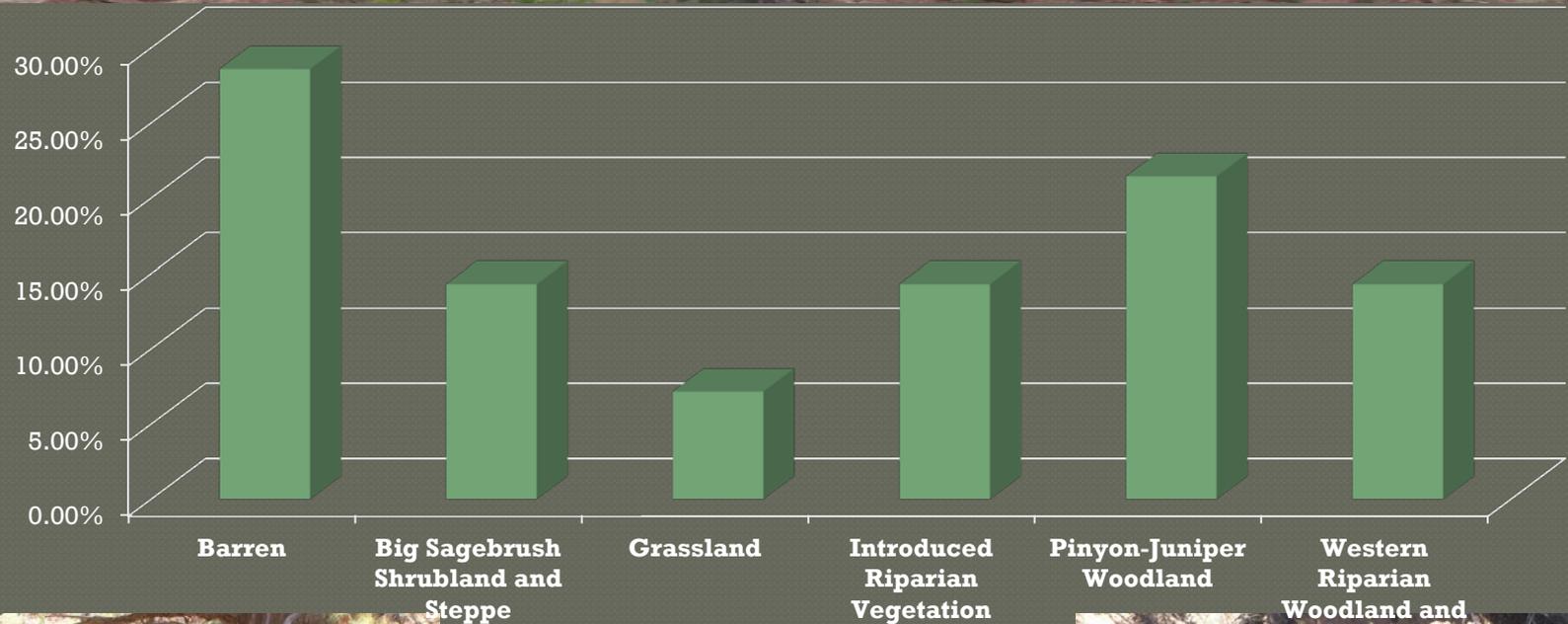


\*95% of habitat selected



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# Percent of habitat where mortalities occurred



# Current Status

- Population stable to growing
- Current population estimate at 60
- Good lamb production
- Documented interchange between Upper and Middle Dolores herds
- Currently hunted
- No domestic sheep allotments in Colorado
  - Still have concern for domestic sheep in Utah
  - Also concerned about 4-H livestock/ small herds





# Questions?



Photo by George VanDenBerg



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