

Dolores River Desert Bighorn Sheep Herd

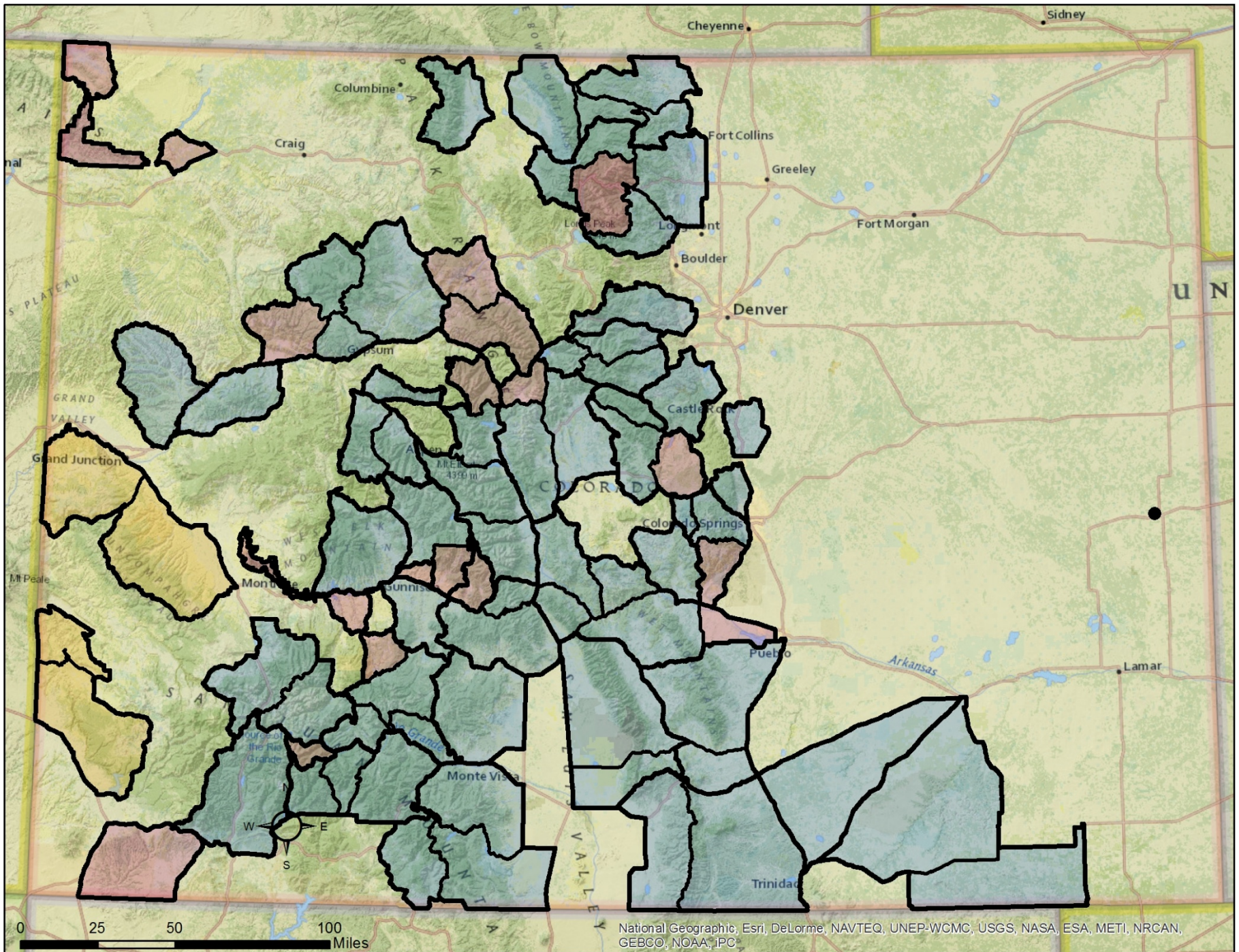
Brad Banulis
Wildlife Biologist



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources



Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep

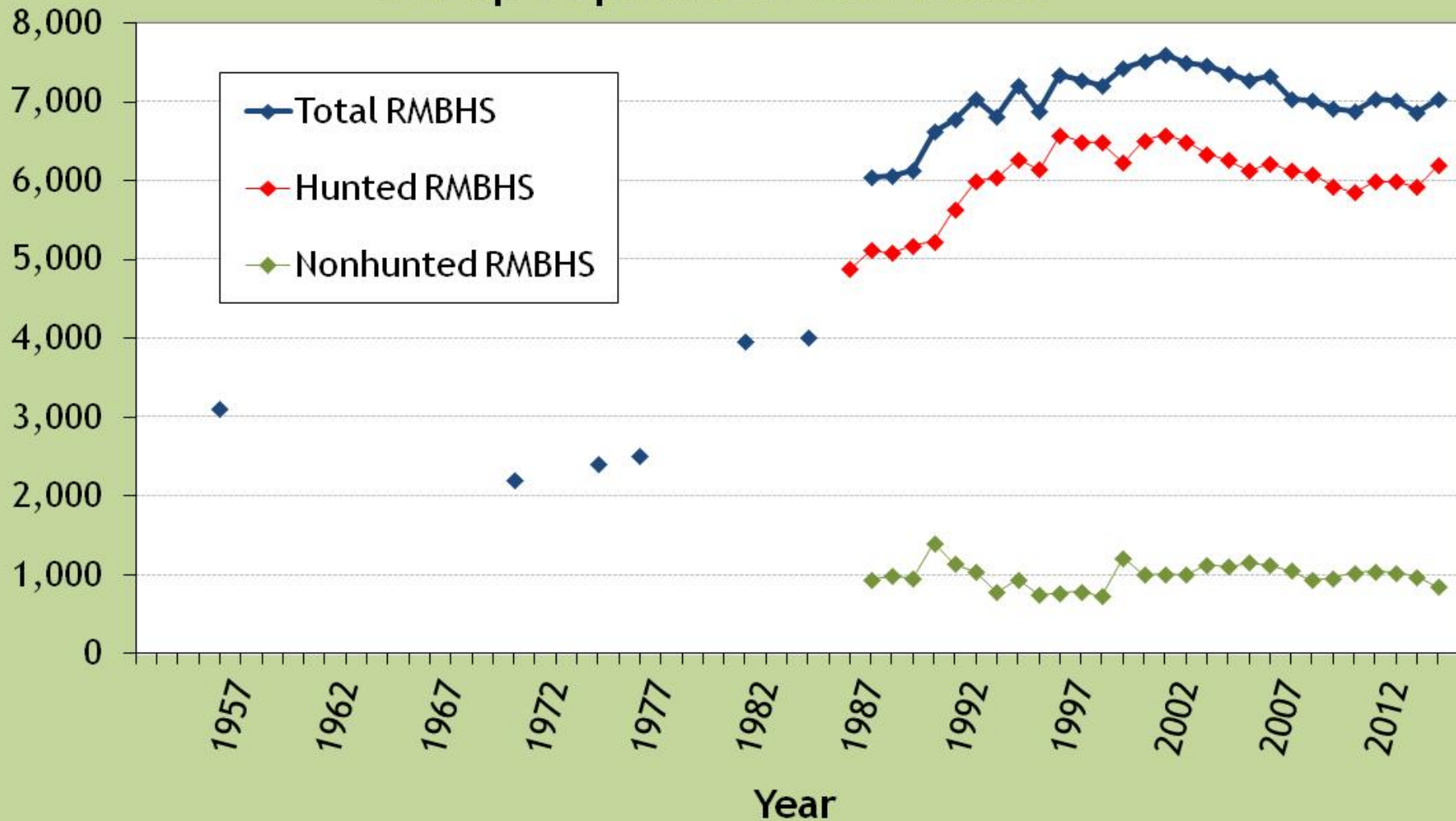


COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Statewide Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Population Estimates



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

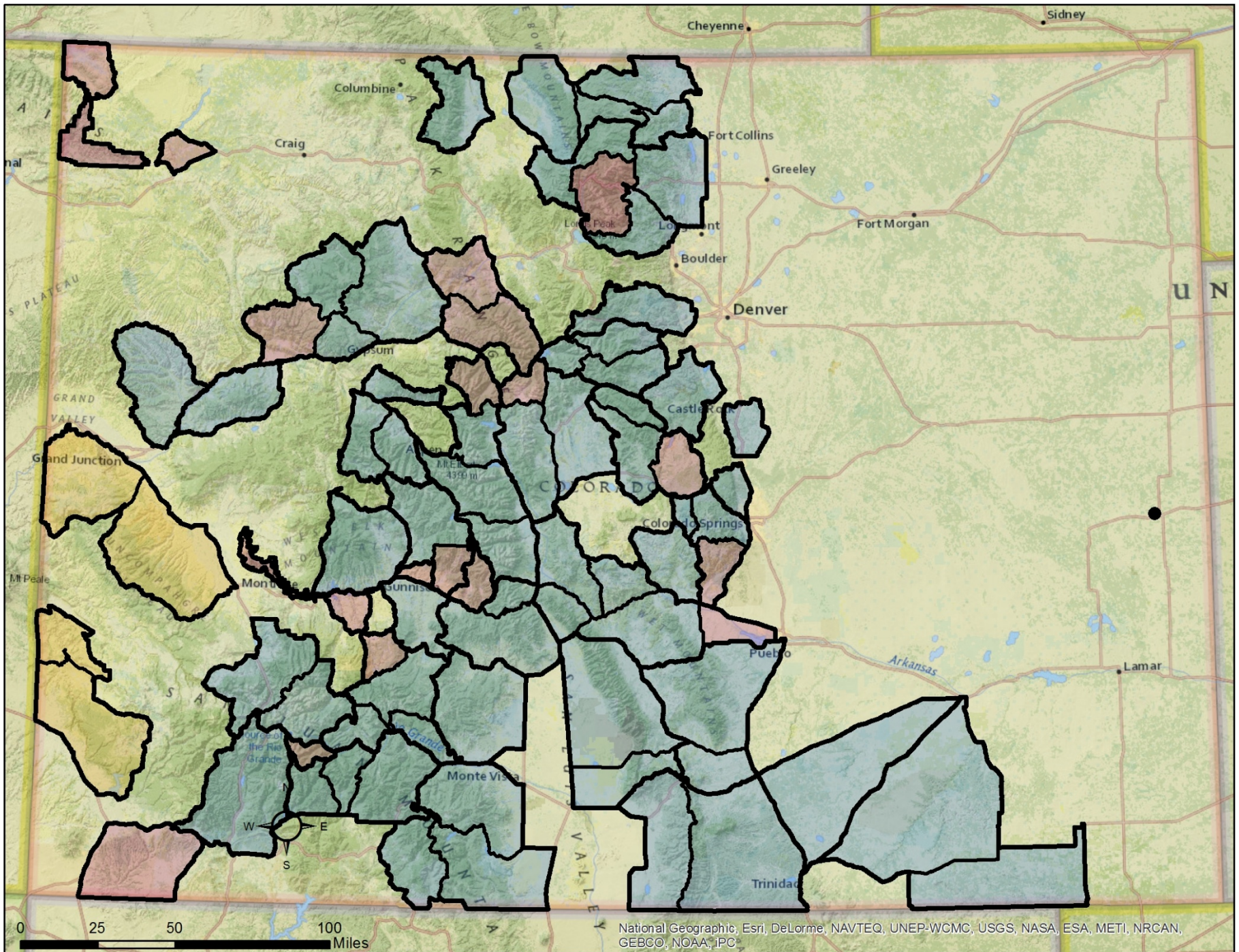
Department of Natural Resources

Desert Bighorn Sheep

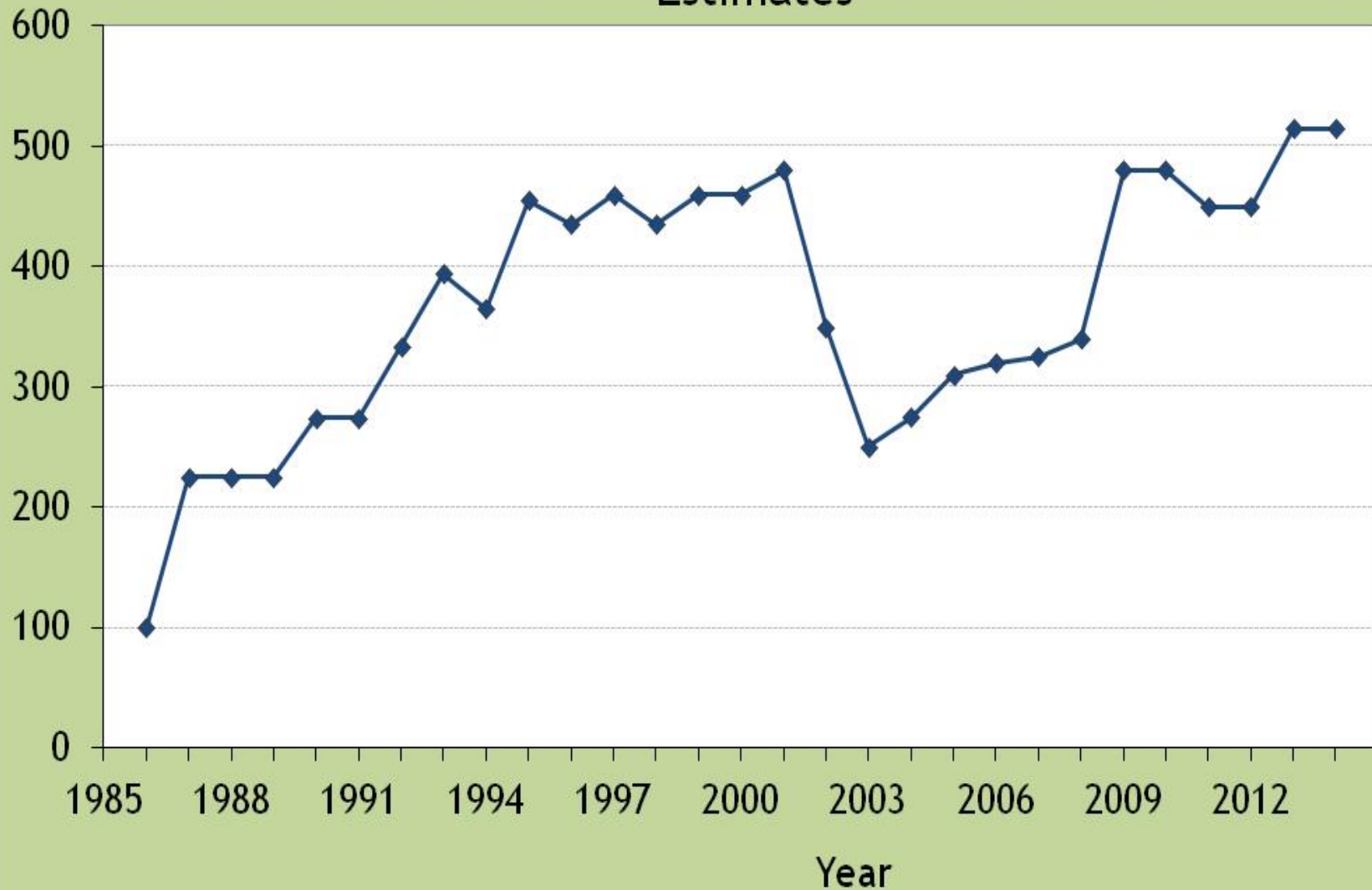


COLORADO
Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources



Colorado Statewide Desert Bighorn Sheep Population Estimates



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

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



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Dolores River Desert bighorn herd

COLORADO

Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, Inc.

S-63

S-64

COLORADO
UTAH

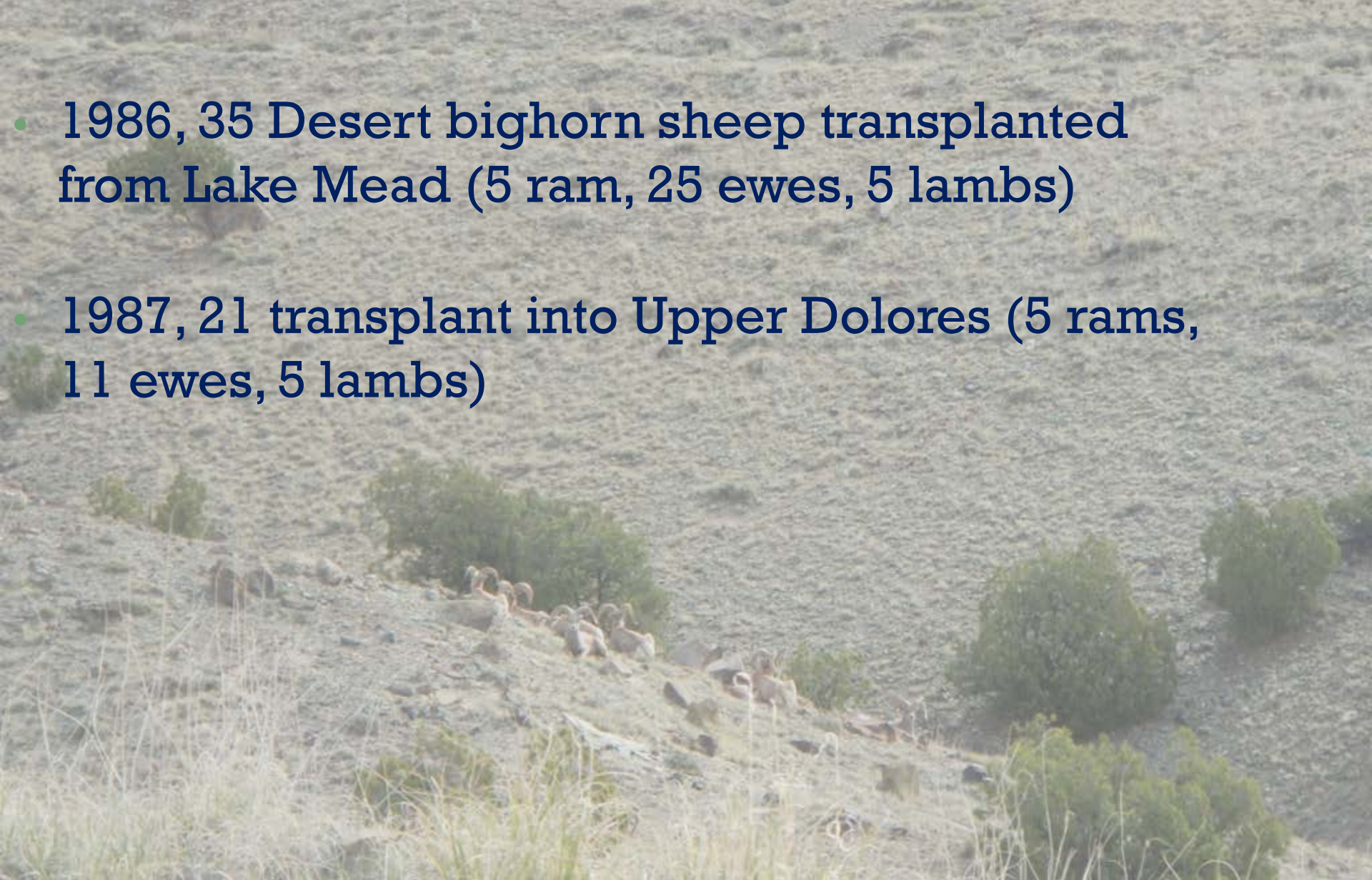


0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Miles

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

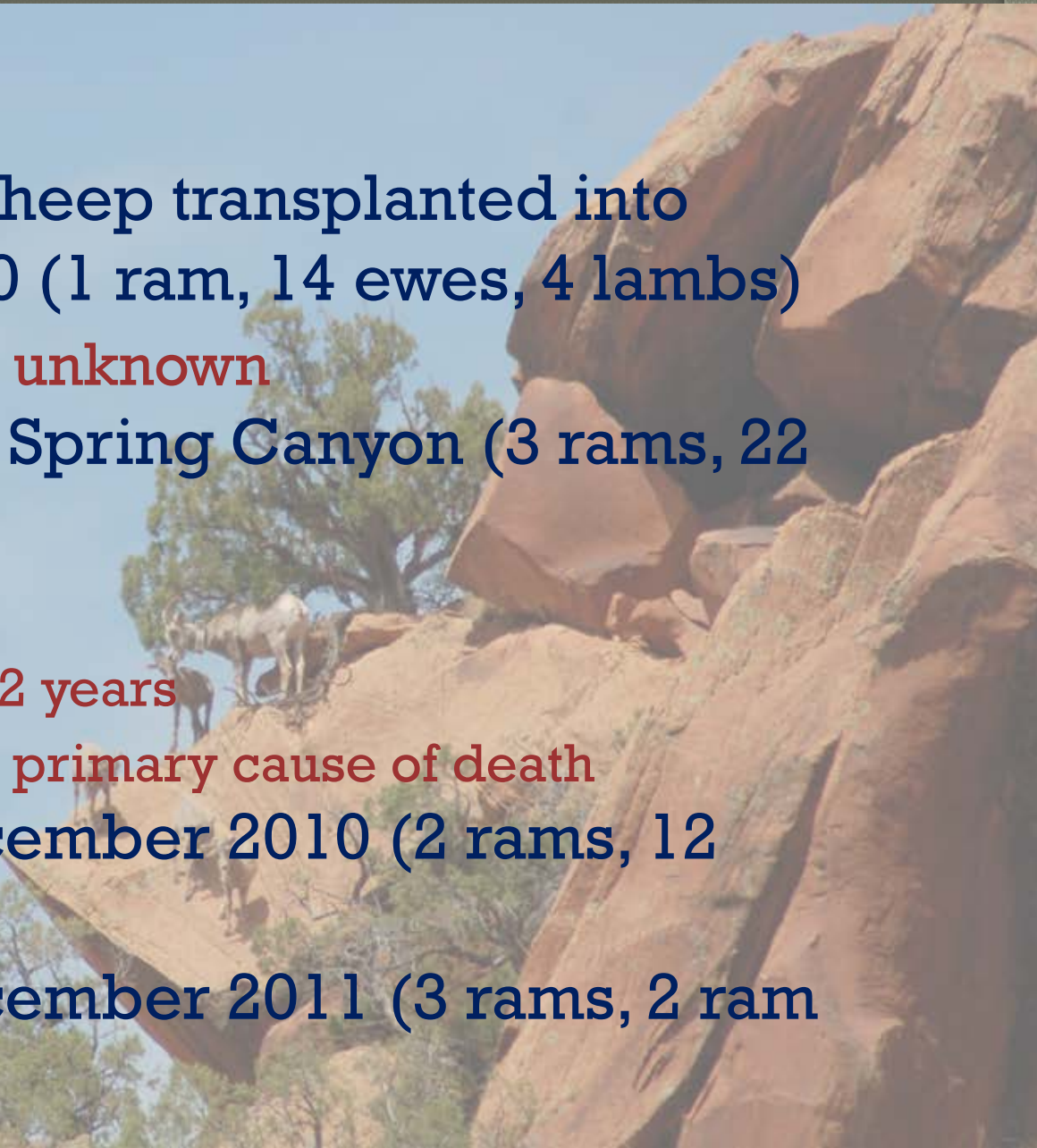
Upper Dolores Desert Bighorns

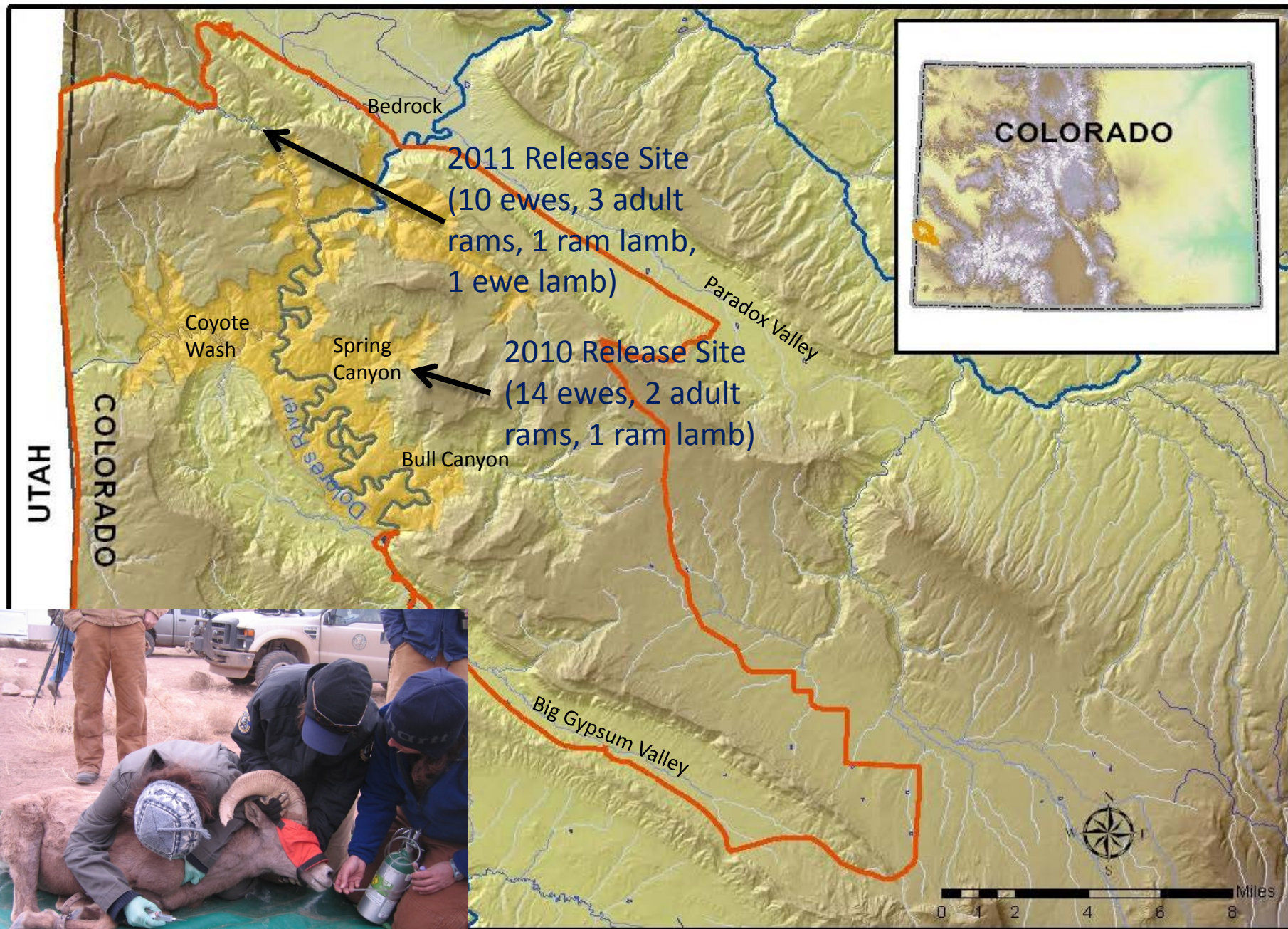
- 1986, 35 Desert bighorn sheep transplanted from Lake Mead (5 ram, 25 ewes, 5 lambs)
- 1987, 21 transplant into Upper Dolores (5 rams, 11 ewes, 5 lambs)



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)

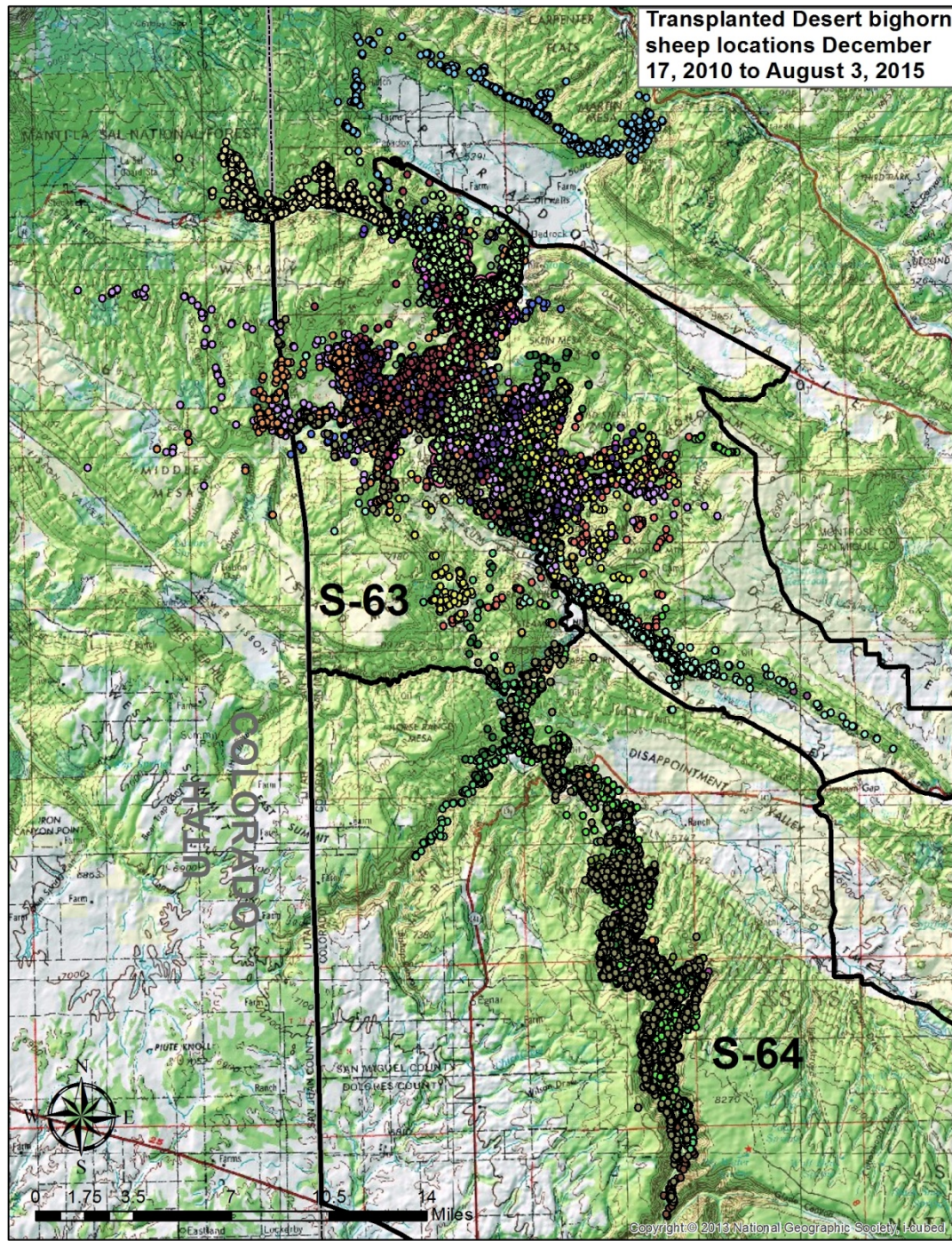




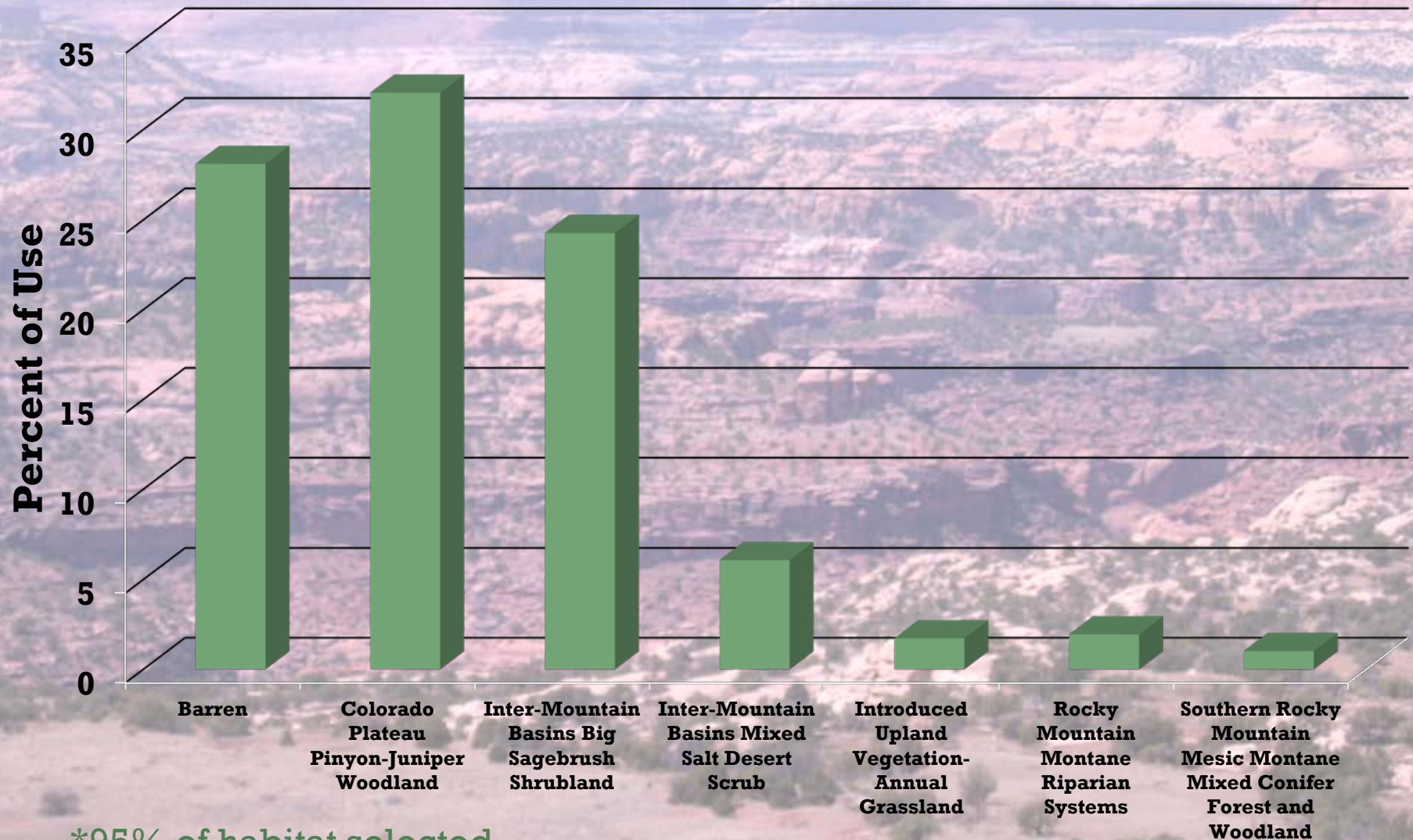
Monitoring

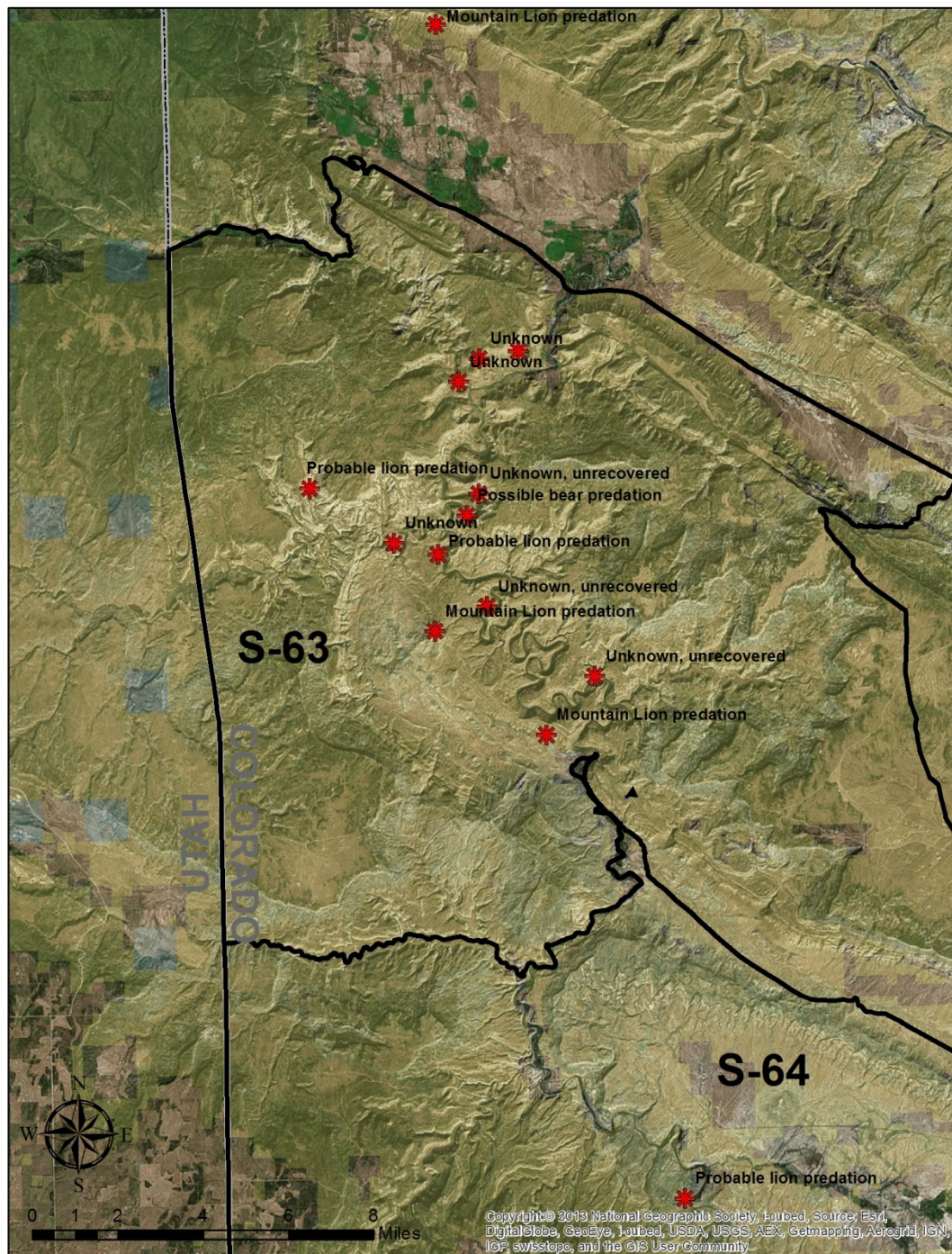
- ◎ 27 of 30 with Vectronic Satellite GPS collars
 - Acquiring GPS points 6 times daily for 3 years
 - Mortality sensor set for 4 hours
 - VHF beacon
 - Waypoints and mortality data being sent from collar via email
 - Collars should drop off in 3 years post-release
- ◎ Ground and helicopter surveys to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



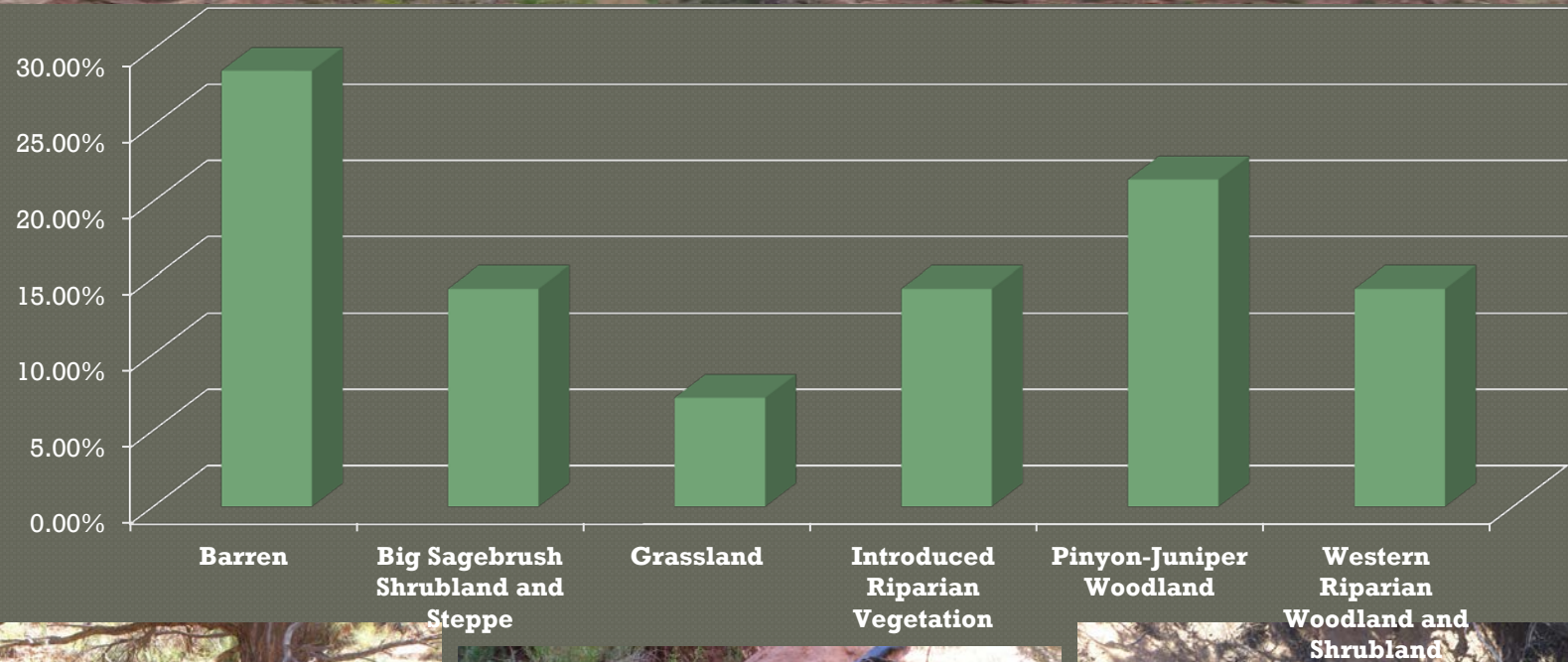


Desert bighorn habitat use*





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



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources