

HISTORY OF TRANSPLANTING ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP – NEW MEXICO

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Historically, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis canadensis*) occupied 6 ranges in northern New Mexico (Bailey 1931, Buechner 1960). Distribution was limited because New Mexico represents the southern most extension of this subspecies. Native bighorn were extirpated by 1903, and present populations are the result of transplants.

A total of 194 Rocky Mountain bighorns was transplanted between 1932 and 1993. Of these, 77 bighorn originated from out of state and included bighorn from Banff National Park (N=50), Waterton Lakes National Park (N=7), and Whiskey Basin, Wyoming (N=20). After the Sandia and Pecos bighorn populations were established with bighorn from Banff, they became sources of transplants for establishing additional populations. In 1996, an estimated 570 bighorn occur in 5 ranges in the state. New Mexico's long range plan calls for increasing the number of populations to 7 with 1000-1350 bighorn (Dunn 1996).

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Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis canadensis*) transplanted in New Mexico, 1932-1993.

Range	Date	Source	No. Released	References
Pecos Wilderness	1932	Banff Natl. Park, Canada	6	Sands 1967
	1965	Banff Natl. Park, Canada	15	Sands 1967
	1966	Sandia Mountains, NM	9	Larsen 1967
Sandia Mountains	1940	Banff Natl. Park, Canada	3	Sands 1967
	1941	Banff Natl. Park, Canada	3	Sands 1967
	1942	Banff Natl. Park, Canada	3	Sands 1967
	1970	Whiskey Basin, WY	1	Larsen 1970b
Turkey Creek	1964	Banff Natl. Park, Canada	10	Sands 1967
San Francisco River	1964	Sandia Mountains, NM	16	Sands 1967
	1965	Sandia Mountains, NM	2	Sands 1967
Wheeler Peak	1966	Banff Natl. Park, Canada	10	Larsen 1970a
	1970	Whiskey Basin, WY	19	Larsen 1970b
	1993	Pecos Wilderness	33	Fisher 1993
Fort Wingate	1973	Waterton Lakes Natl. Park, Canada	7	Sandoval 1987
Manzano Mountains	1977	Pecos Wilderness, NM	16	Donaldson 1978
	1978	Pecos Wilderness, NM	16	Donaldson 1978
Latir Wilderness	1978	Pecos Wilderness, NM	20	Donaldson 1979
Cimarron Canyon	1978	Pecos Wilderness, NM	5	Donaldson 1979