

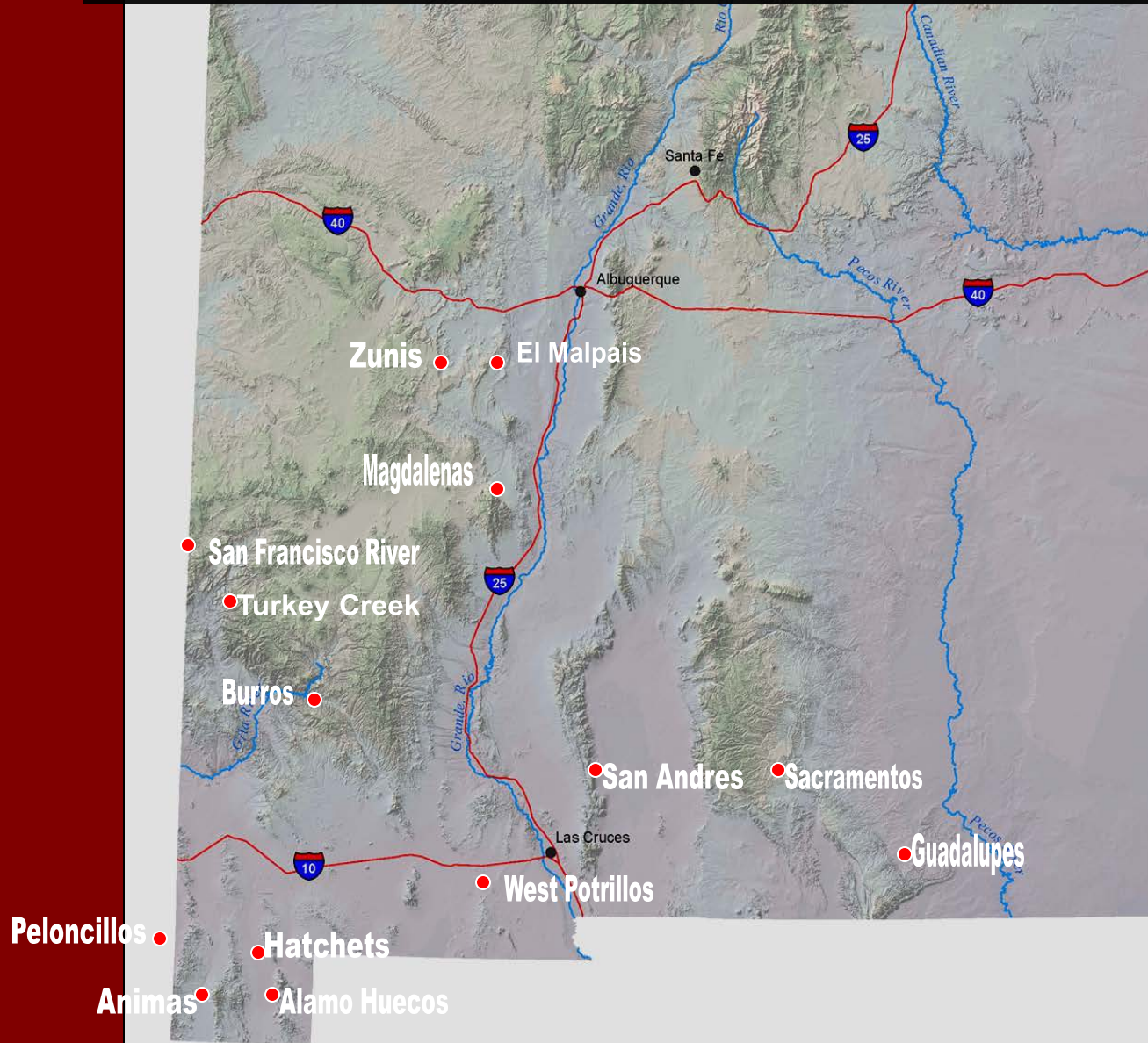
Proposal to De-list Desert Bighorn Sheep From the State Threatened and Endangered Species List



Actions Taken Towards Delisting Desert Bighorn Sheep, as Required by the WCA

- Peer review panel and public repository established
- Draft Delisting Investigation report completed
- Notice of the delisting proposal sent
- Peer review panel submitted comments
- Final Delisting Report submitted to the Director

Historic desert bighorn sheep populations in New Mexico



Red Rock Captive Breeding Facility



Recovery Criteria

- **Threatened**: ≥ 250 bighorn in at least 2 populations or metapopulations, each containing ≥ 100 bighorn.
- **Delisted**: ≥ 500 bighorn in at least 3 populations or metapopulations, each containing ≥ 100 bighorn.

A Word From Our Sponsors!

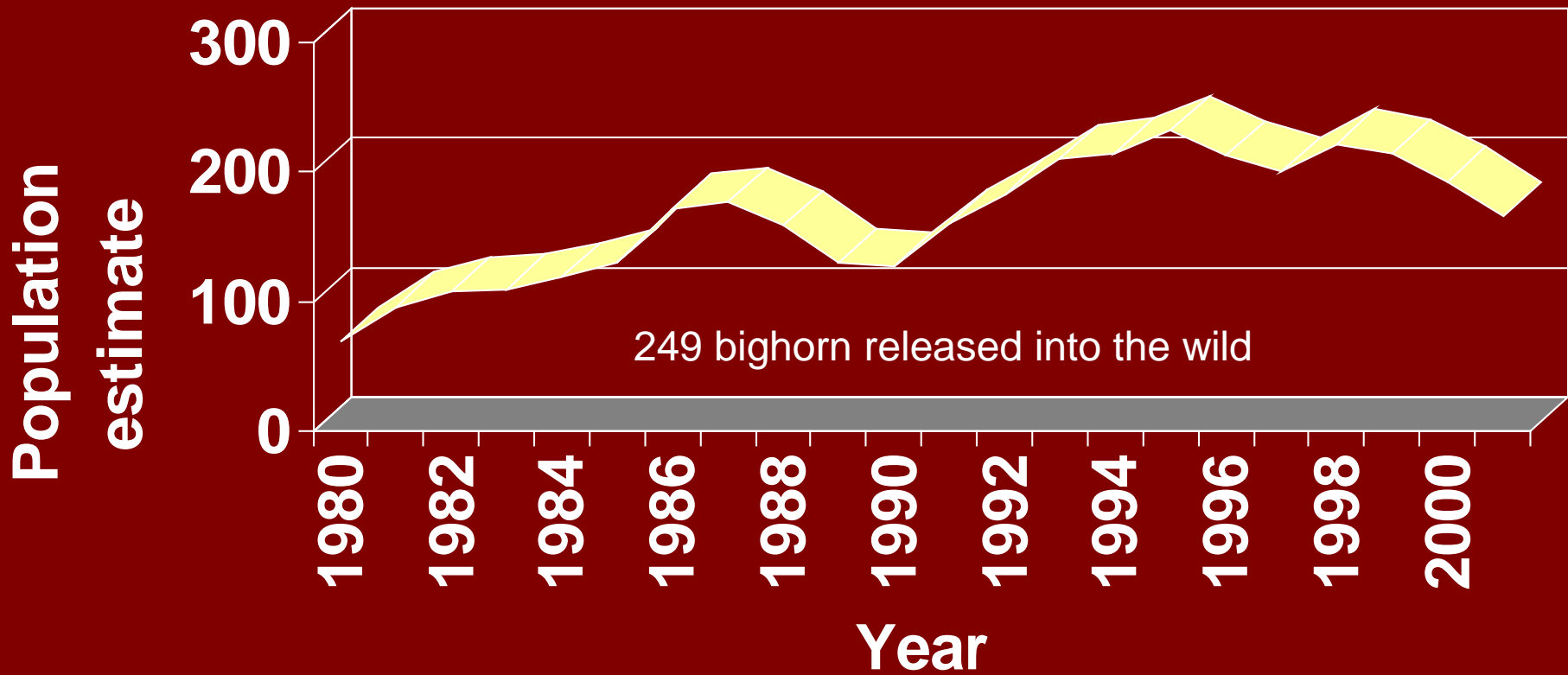
- In the past 20 years, sportsmen have spent over \$5 million on bighorn sheep management and restoration in New Mexico, and have been their sole funding source.



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NM Statewide Desert Bighorn Sheep Population Estimates 1980- 2001



Causes of Mortality

- Mountain lion predation 76%
- Unknown 13%
- Accidents 4%
- Poaching 3%
- Other predation 2%
- Scientific collection 1%

85% of Known-Caused Mortality was due to mountain lion predation

Mountain Lion Control



Mortality Rates from Lion Predation Only

Pre-Lion Control: 0.17

Post-Lion Control: 0.05

71% decrease in lion-caused mortality

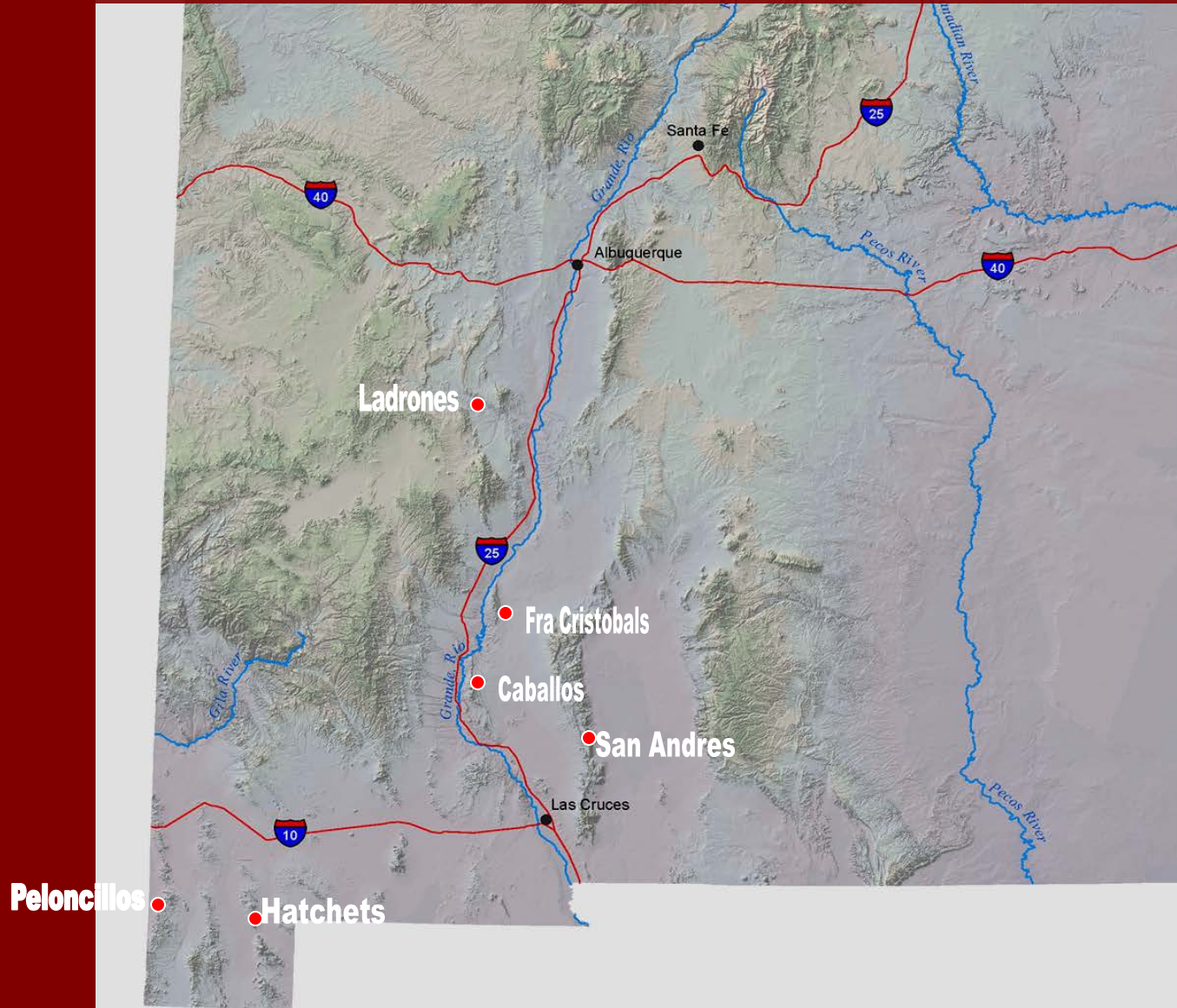
Mortality Rates From All Causes of Mortality

Pre-Lion Control: 0.23

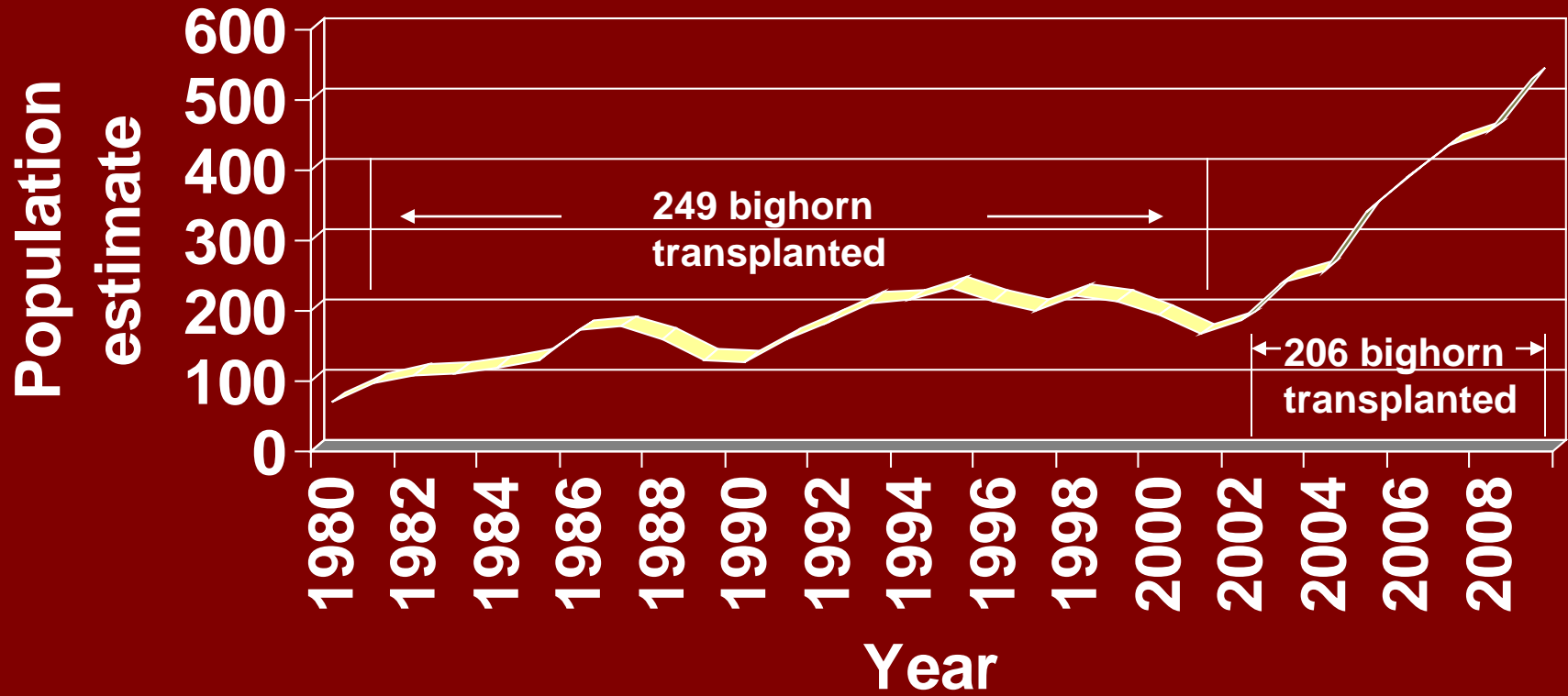
Post-Lion Control: 0.11

*******52% decrease in mortality*******

Current Desert Bighorn Herds In NM



NM Statewide Desert Bighorn Sheep Population Estimates 1980- 2009





ANDERSONS.COM

"There's forty-three of us! Now go to sleep!"

Meeting the Recovery Criteria

- Population Estimates

- Fall 2009 530

- San Andres=95, Fras/Caballos=178, Bootheel=220

- Spring 2010 630

- San Andres=128, Fras/Caballos=223, Bootheel=240

- Fall 2010 projection 573

- San Andres=107, Fras/Caballos=194, Bootheel=231

- Max projection 5200-14000

Recommendation: De-list Desert Bighorn Sheep From the State Threatened and Endangered Species List



Establish Dates for Public Hearings

- Truth or Consequences - Civic Center
October 12, 2010 6:00
- Las Cruces - NMDGF office October 13,
2010 5:30
- Lordsburg – Hidalgo County Court House
October 14, 2010 6:00