

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration

Wild Sheep Conservation and Enhancement

In North America and Beyond



Federal Wildlife Laws



1900 – Lacey Act - First US wildlife protection law

1918 – Migratory Bird Treaty Act

1972 – Marine Mammal Protection Act

1980 – Fish & Wildl.
Conservation Act

1969 - NEPA

1973 – Endangered Species Act

1973 – Convention on Intern. Trade in Endg. Species (CITES)

1989 – North American Wetlands Conservation Act

Most Important of All

1937 – Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act
(Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration)



1950 – Dingell-Johnson or Wallop-Breaux Act
(Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration)

WHAT IS FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION?

(PITTMAN-ROBERTSON ACT)

- **11% excise tax**
- **Matched by State source
(25% State qualifies for 75% Federal)**
- **Dollars can be used for.....**
- **Dollars can NOT be used for.....**
- **Illegal diversion clause....**



Montana Is Its Own Country Regarding Fish and Wildlife Policy



The System It Created



- Science based fish and wildlife conservation, restoration and management at the STATE level
- Created fish and wildlife biology programs at Universities in all States
- Federal Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Units at Universities
- Created the biological expertise that is present in all STATE Fish and Wildlife agencies



Economics

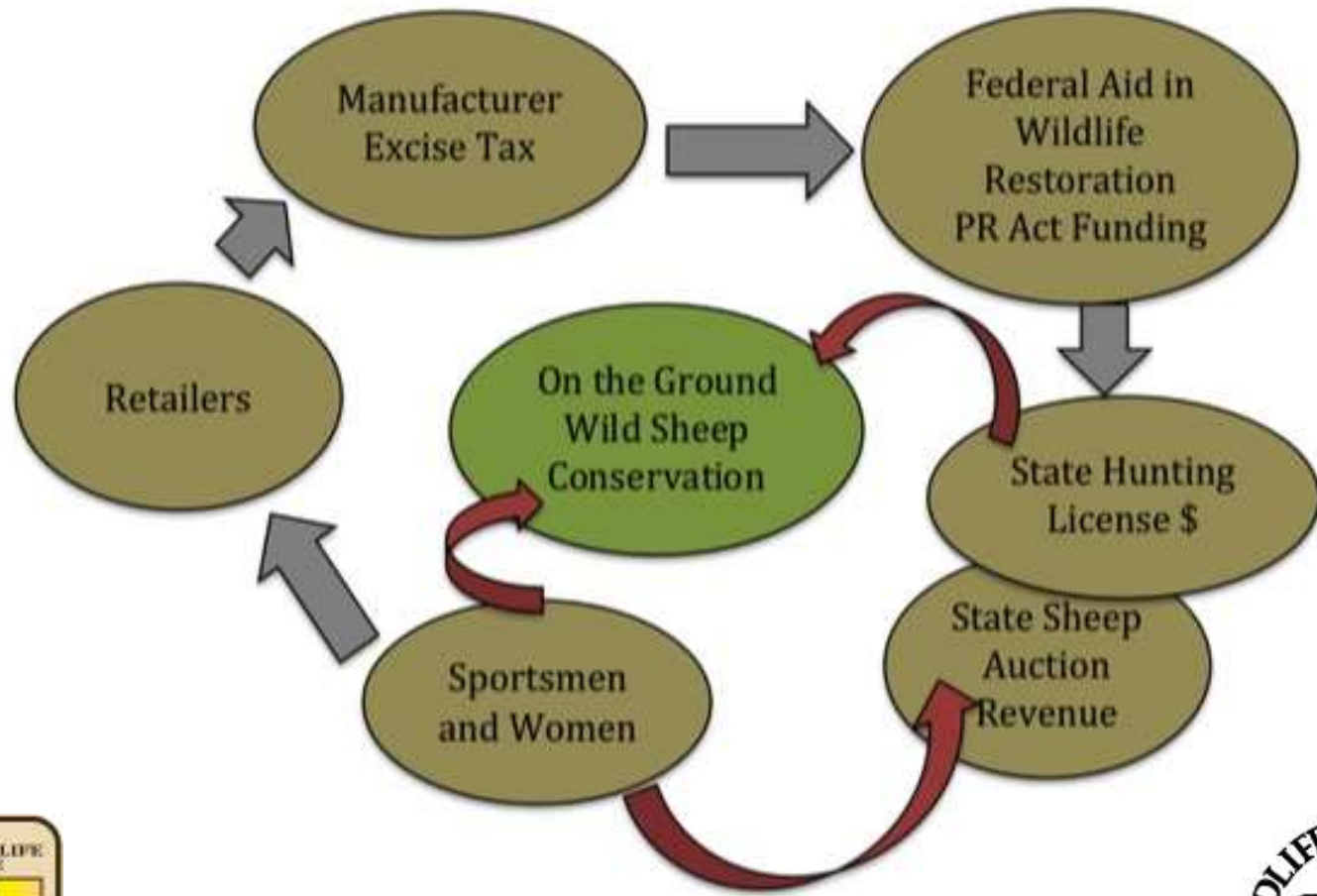
Political Will

Cultural and
Institutionalized
Conservation Ethic
Based on Good Science

Sense of Ownership

Wild Sheep in western North America: 1800s – Present Challenges and Opportunities

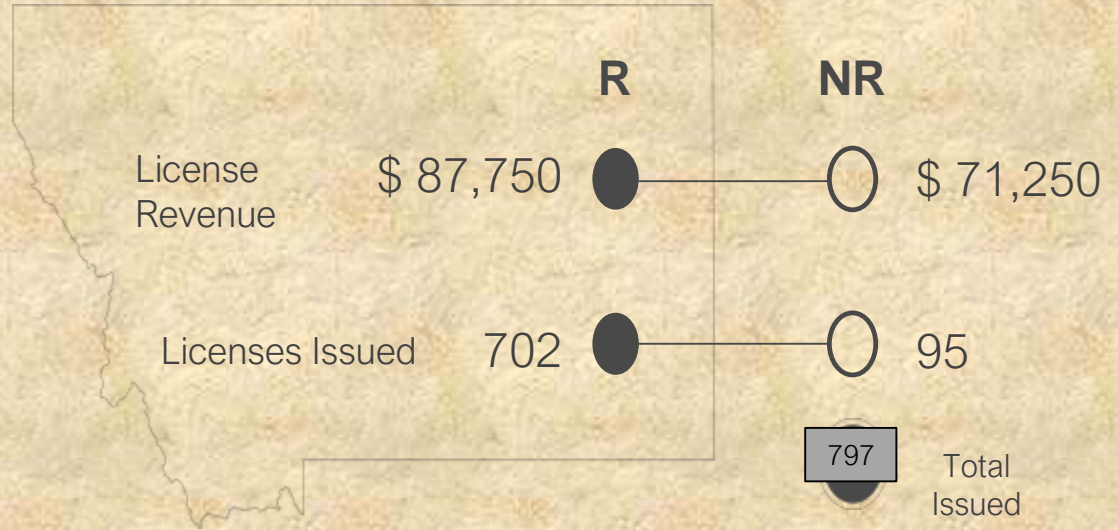
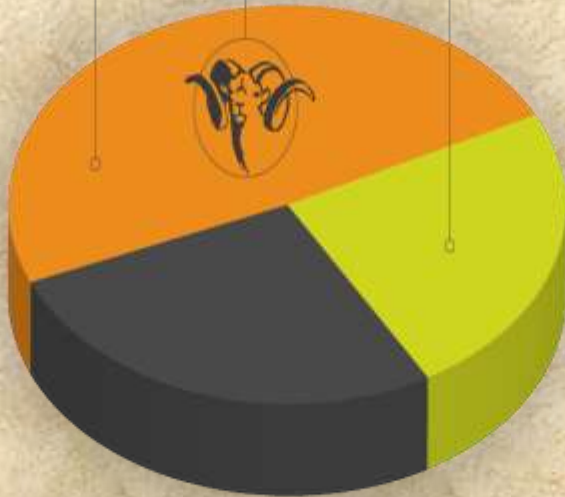
- **Partners include: State, Provincial and Federal Agencies**
- **Indigenous People, First Nations, Tribes**
- **Community based hunting and non-hunting organizations**
- **Private Landowners**
- **National and International NGO's, both hunting and non-hunting based**



Montana

73%

49%



WSF Auction License Net Proceeds \$ 288,000

• One auction license sold by WSF

Raffle License Revenue \$ 136,870

Total Sheep Revenue \$ 583,870



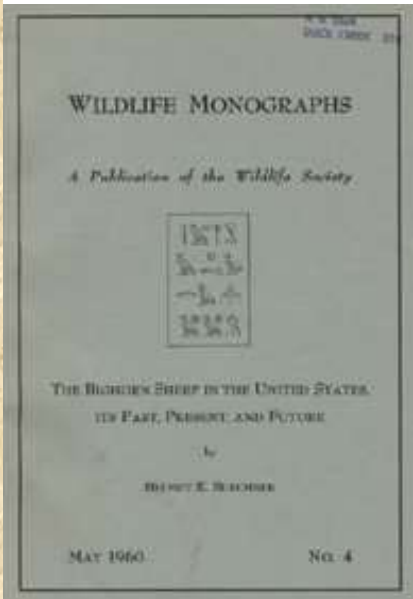


**Early Naturalist Ernest Thompson Seton (1929):
“estimated 1.5 to 2 million BHS in western U.S., circa 1800”
(exclusive of Canada & Mexico)**

NORTH AMERICAN BIGHORN SHEEP DISTRIBUTION

CIRCA 1960

≤ 25,000 BHS, range-wide



RECORDS OF WILD SHEEP TRANSLOCATIONS
UNITED STATES AND CANADA
1922-PRESENT

WILD SHEEP WORKING GROUP



≈22,000 translocated

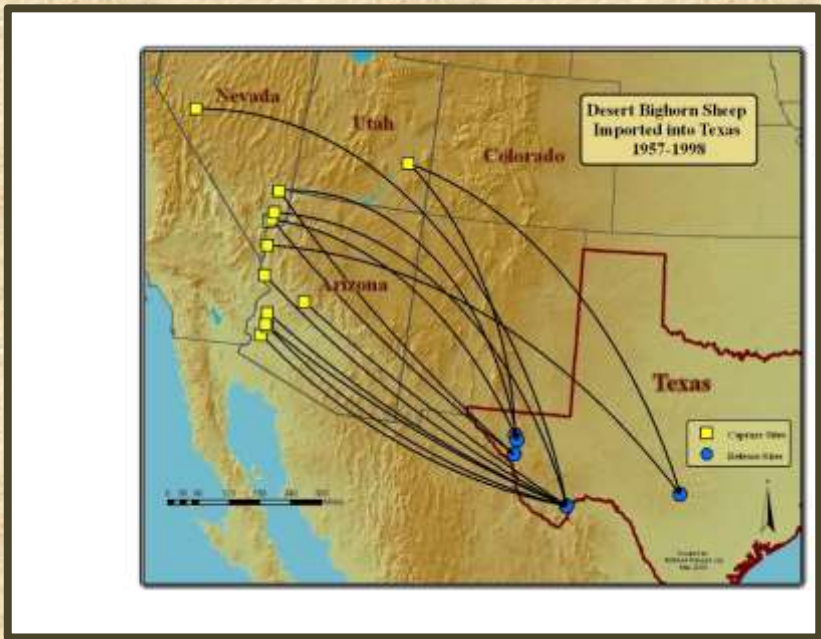
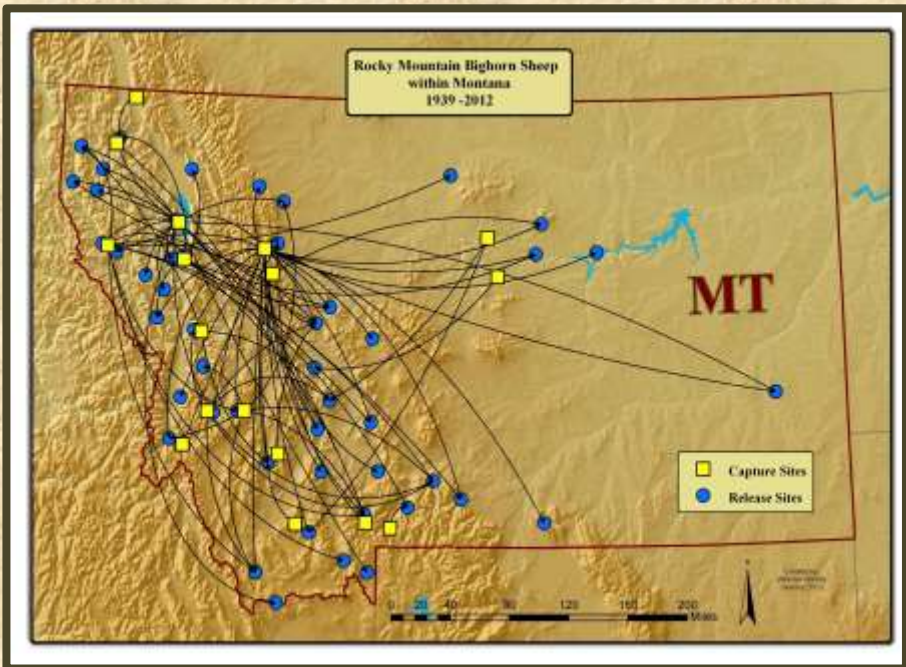


June 2015



Examples of Translocation Efforts

Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis*)



NORTH AMERICAN BIGHORN SHEEP DISTRIBUTION

CIRCA 2012



**≥ 85,000 range-wide...
3X the estimate from
≈50 years earlier**



...a long way from 1.5-2M...



Clay Brewer , BHS
Conservation Director

Mexico - Desert Bighorn Sheep Restoration & Management



**2017 ≈12,500
Free Range**

**WORKING WITH FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS,
PRIVATE LANDOWNERS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE TO
RESTORE AND ENHANCE FREE RANGING DESERT
BIGHORNSHEEP TO 6 MEXICAN STATES**

Thinhorn Sheep (*Ovis dalli*)



Conservation Challenges and Management Strategies for the 21st Century



Kevin Hurley, THS
Conservation Director





Stone's Sheep (*O. dalli stonei*)

2016 ≈ 13,000

Dall's Sheep (*O. dalli dalli*)

2016 ≈ 90,000



Central Asia Initiatives

- **Support Community based conservancies**
- **Initiatives to reduce illegal harvest**
- **Determine ways to insure hunting revenue goes towards Conservation**
- **Support reliable surveys and science base harvest strategies**
- **Work with Panthera, WCS and SCI Foundation**
- **Wildlife disease surveillance**



SUSG's VISION

The conservation of Markhor and Urial, through sustainable use is the first step to conserving the overall biodiversity of Torghar.

Tahir Rasheed



Funded by trophy hunting fees

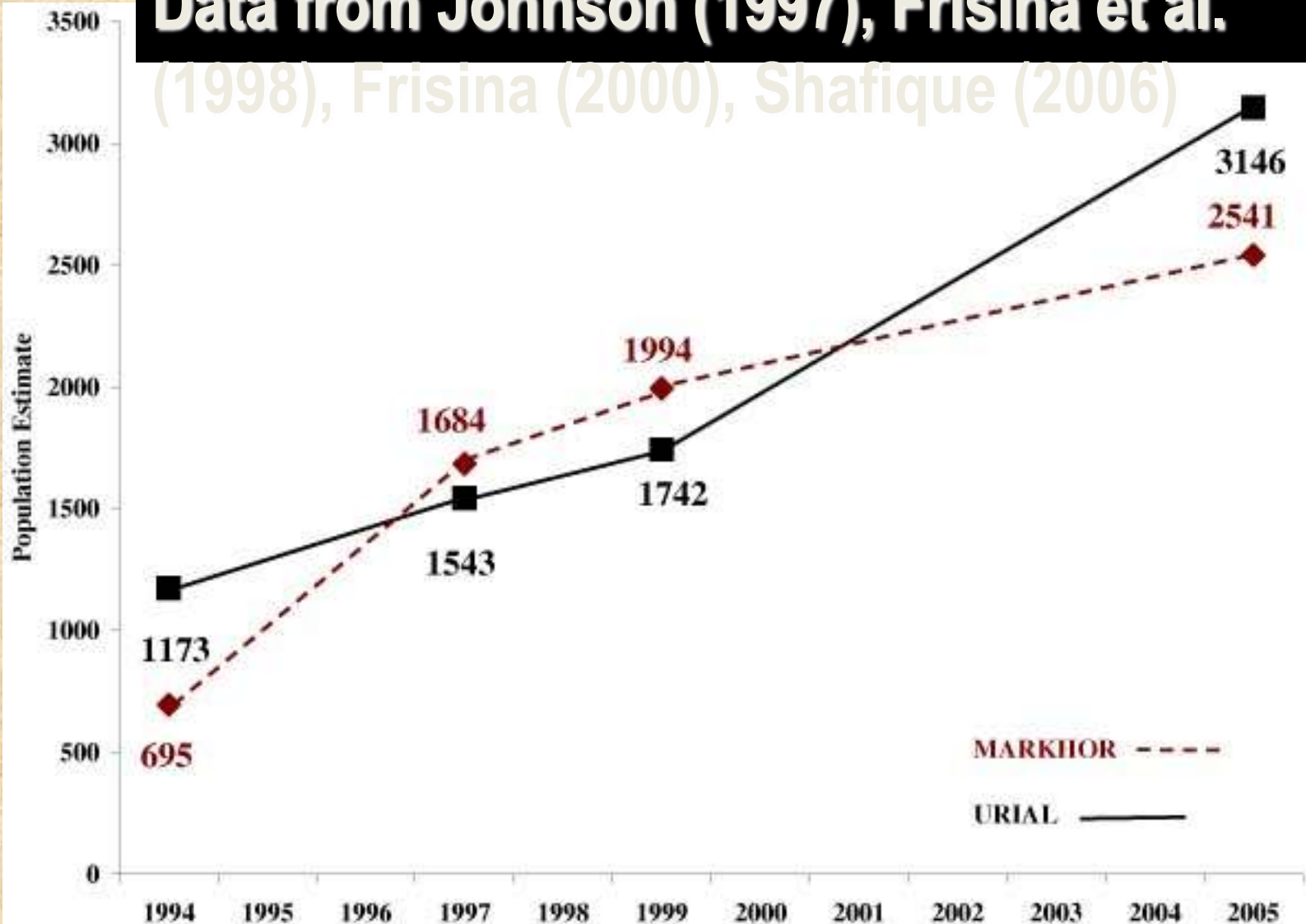


Trophy hunting is not a goal, but a means to fund the conservation program.



Data from Johnson (1997), Frisina et al.

(1998), Frisina (2000), Shafique (2006)



BENEFITS TO LOCAL COMMUNITY

**Since 1986 the trophy harvest
has brought in a total income of
*US\$1,716,800***

***US\$ 287,200* paid to the
government of Balochistan.**



NORTH AMERICAN BIGHORN SHEEP DISTRIBUTION



CIRCA 1850



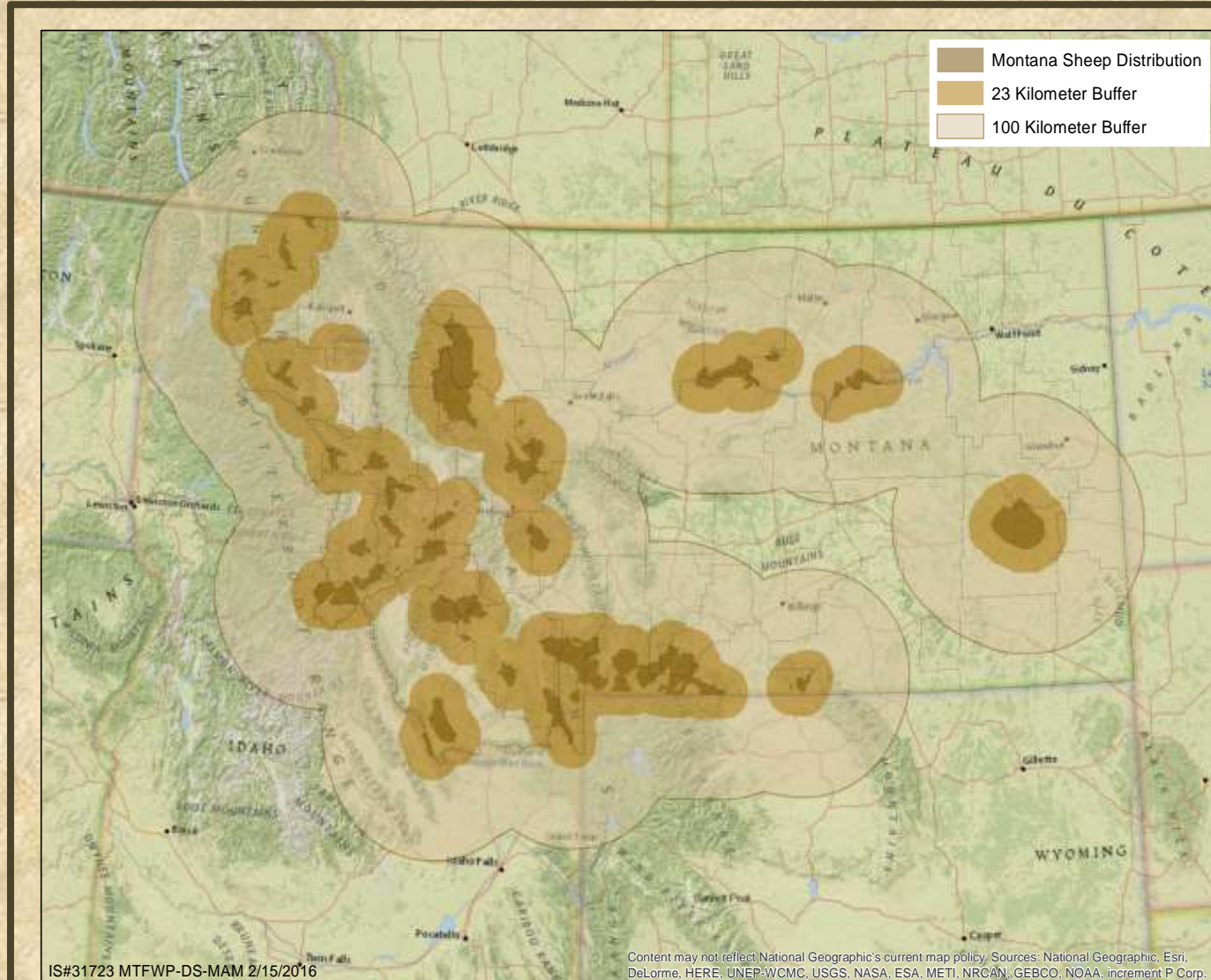
CIRCA 1960



CIRCA 2012

PERSPECTIVES in Montana

- 100 km buffer around existing wild sheep populations



Bison & Bighorns: really are the only 2 N.A. big game animals that have not made a comeback...

Again not the End, but truly a new beginning

