

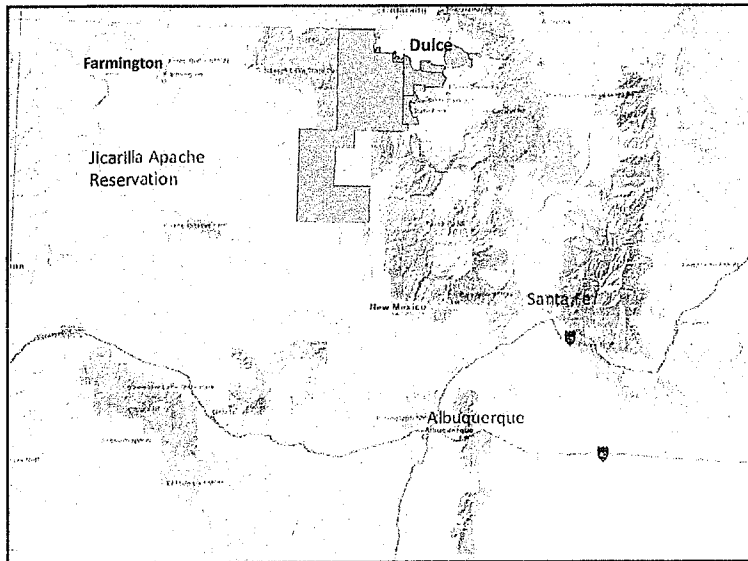
## Jicarilla Apache Nation Wildlife Program

New Mexico Legislature  
Economic and Rural Development Committee  
Chama Senior Citizen Center  
October 3, 2017

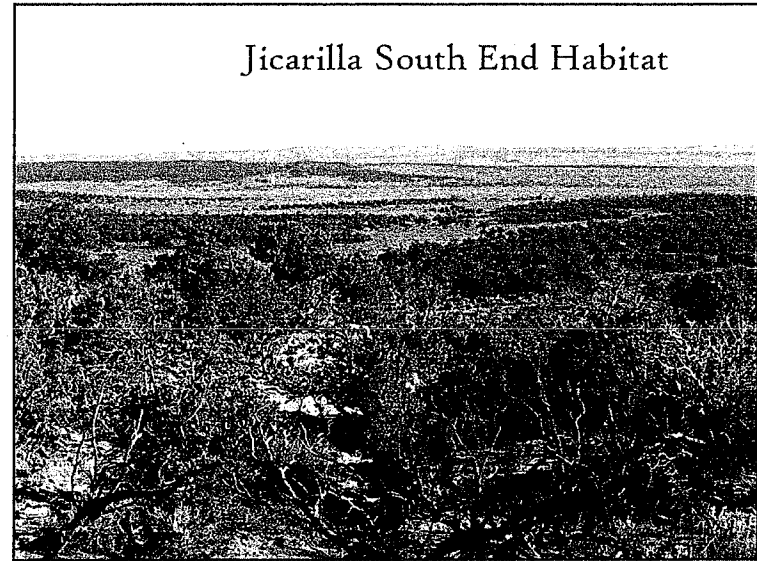


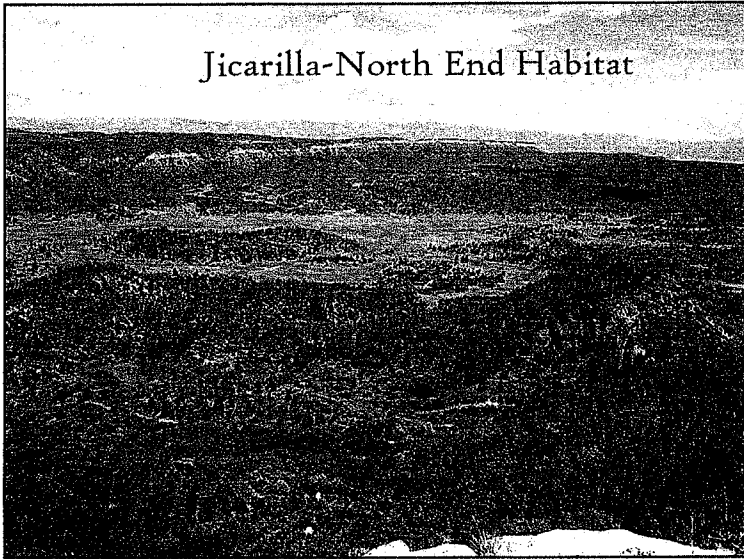
## JGFD Mission Statement

To conserve, enhance and protect wildlife, fish and their habitat using science-based management and conservation law enforcement ensuring healthy and sustainable wildlife populations for the benefit of the Jicarilla Apache people, while perpetuating Jicarilla Apache sovereign rights and traditional values.



## Jicarilla South End Habitat





Jicarilla-North End Habitat

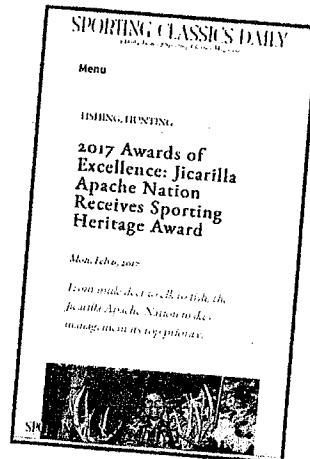
## JICARILLA APACHE NATION GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

- Manage Big-Game Populations for:
  - Quality Hunting Opportunity
    - (vs. quantity)
- Proud Hunting Heritage
- Strong public support-tribal members
- Consistent long-term support from Jicarilla Apache Leadership
  - Legislative Council
  - Executive Branch



## JGFD: A Premier Native American Wildlife Management Program

- Tribal Wildlife Program of the Decade from the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (1994)
- High Honors Recipient from the Harvard University's Honoring Contributions in the Governance of American Indian Nations program (1999)
- Sporting Heritage Award of Excellence from Sporting Classics Daily (2017)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Nation to Partner with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Nation to conduct in-house wildlife management-based research



## Department History

- Established 1957
  - 1957-1980 Cooperative Wildlife Management with NMDGF
- 1982: U.S. Supreme Court Decision, Mescalero v. NMDGF → Professional Wildlife Program Initiated
- 1983: Title 10 and BIA P.L. 93-638 Wildlife and Parks



## JGFD- Present Day

- **4 Divisions:** Law Enforcement, Parks and Recreation, Biological (Wildlife and Fisheries Management), Administration
- **Responsibilities:** Conservation, Management, Hunting/Fishing, Law Enforcement
- JGFD has habitat and wildlife management jurisdiction, which is an uncommon situation in the west
  - coordinate big game habitat and herd management strategies, resulting in spectacular hunting opportunities

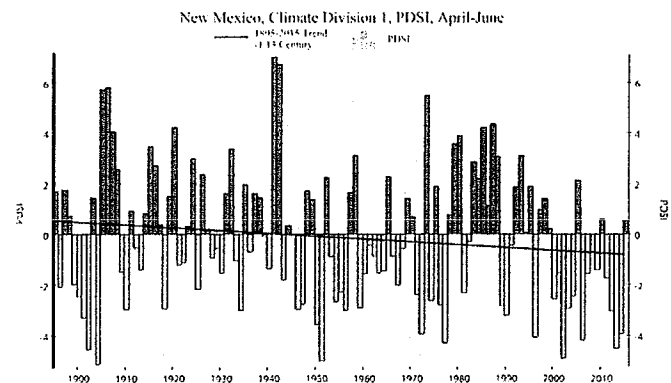
## Non-Game Management Threatened/Endangered, Protected and Sensitive Species



## Fisheries Management

- **Sport Fishing**
  - Mundo, Embom, Stone Lakes,
  - Navajo River
  - Drought!
- **Native Fish Management**
  - Only viable population of Roundtail Chub remaining in NM
  - Range-wide Three Species Conservation Agreement
  - Range-wide Rio Grande Cutthroat Conservation Agreement
  - Preliminary Rio Grande Sucker and Chub
  - Innovative Management Program
    - Habitat Enhancements
    - Telemetry
    - 5 year Sampling Design

## Palmer Drought Severity Index: 1895-2015



## Game Parks

- Horse Lake Mesa
  - North America's largest (14,500 acre) high-fence hunting park managed for trophy elk
- Chama Land and Cattle
  - Award Winning Lodge
  - Trophy Elk Program

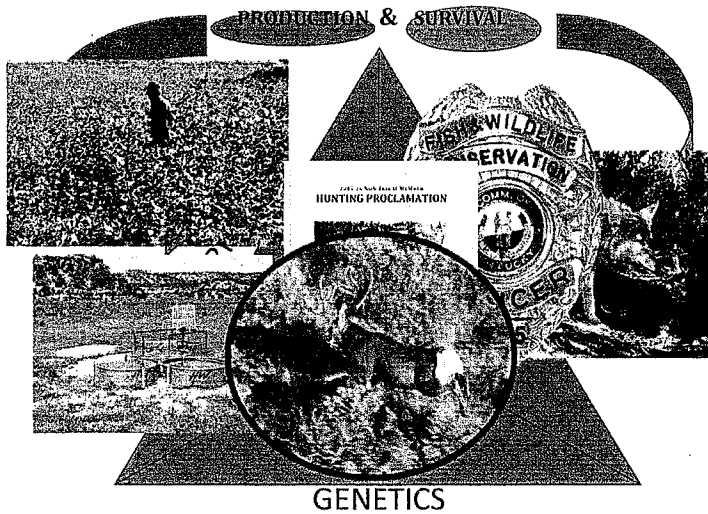


## Jicarilla Big-Game Management



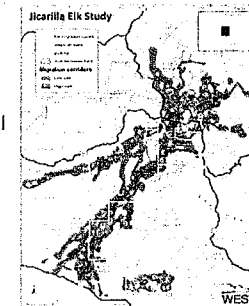
- Big-Game Conservation and Management Programs
  - Mule deer ★
  - Elk
  - Black bear
  - Mountain lion
  - Pronghorn
  - Merriam turkey
- Horse Lake Mesa Game Park: Trophy Elk
- Hunting Program

## JGFD MANAGEMENT STRATEGY



## Adaptive Population Management

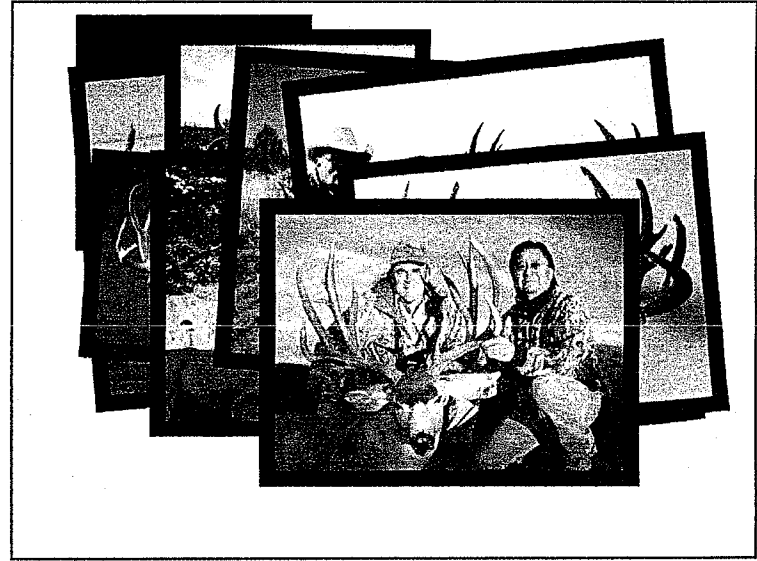
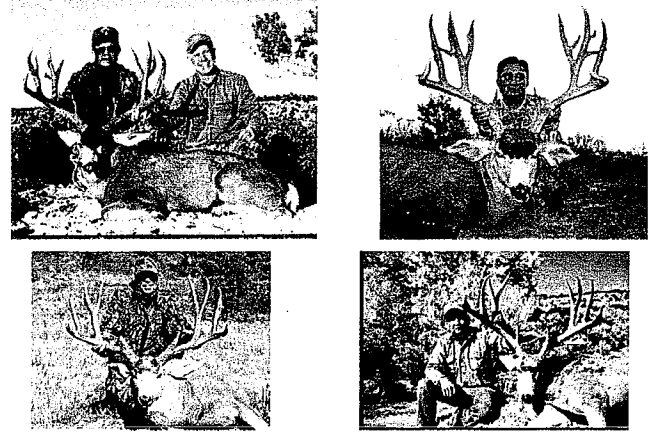
- **Monitoring is key**- Population Demographics, Age:Sex ratios, harvest, success rates, average age, trophy class, Recruitment
- **Ability to adapt critical**
- **Annual Proclamation Process**
  - Dept Mtg → Public Meeting → LC Approval
  - Units/Sub Units
  - Season Dates
  - Harvest Quotas

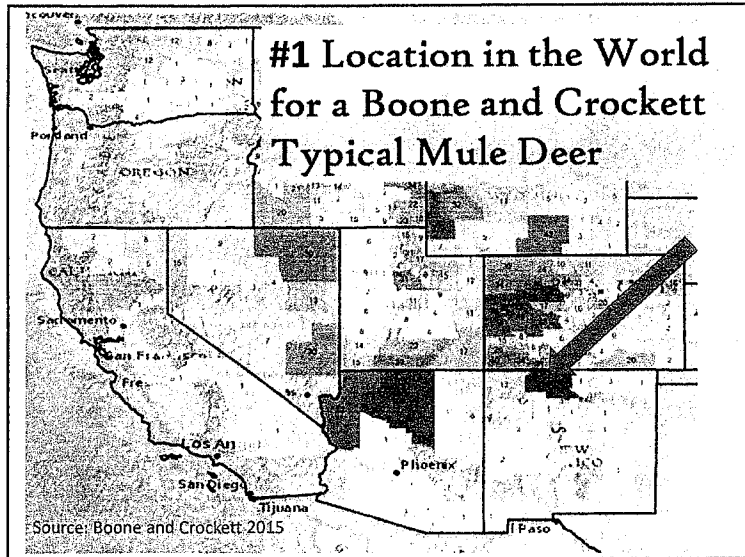


### Measuring Big-Game Management Success and Planning for the Future



### Hunting Quality





## Economic Impact

- The Department effectively competes on a global scale for the Nation's hunting market share
- 300+ Non-Member Hunters and 800+ Fishermen/women come from across the globe to recreate on the Jicarilla Apache lands for high-quality hunting or fishing experience
- The economic 'trickle-down' effect associated with Jicarilla Wildlife Management and Associated Hunting and Fishing is **significant**
  - Tribal member guides
  - Travel/Fuel
  - Lodging and Meals
  - Meat Processing and Taxidermy
  - Regional Tourism
  - Neighboring Property/Ranch Values and Landowner License Values

## Questions

Kyle J. Tator, MS  
Wildlife Biologist JGFD  
[kyle.tator@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.tator@gmail.com)  
575-759-3255 / [jicarillahunt.com](http://jicarillahunt.com)