

THE ARMY IS HELPING TO RESTORE DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP TO NEW MEXICO. LAST YEAR THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH RELEASED 51 BIGHORN SHEEP IN THE SAN ANDRES MOUNTAINS, WHICH ARE LOCATED ON THE ARMY'S WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE. THE SAN ANDREAS MOUNTAINS ARE THE LARGEST STRETCH OF SHEEP HABITAT IN NEW MEXICO AND ARE CONSIDERED CRITICAL TO THE RECOVERY EFFORT. THE ARMY IS SUPPORTING THE STATE WITH PERSONNEL AND ASSISTANCE WITH LONG RANGE PLANNING. IN 1997 THE SAN ANDREAS SHEEP POPULATION WAS DOWN TO A SINGLE EWE, BUT NOW 66 BIGHORN SHEEP ROAM THE AREA. IT IS THE SECOND LARGEST FREE ROAMING POPULATION IN THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.