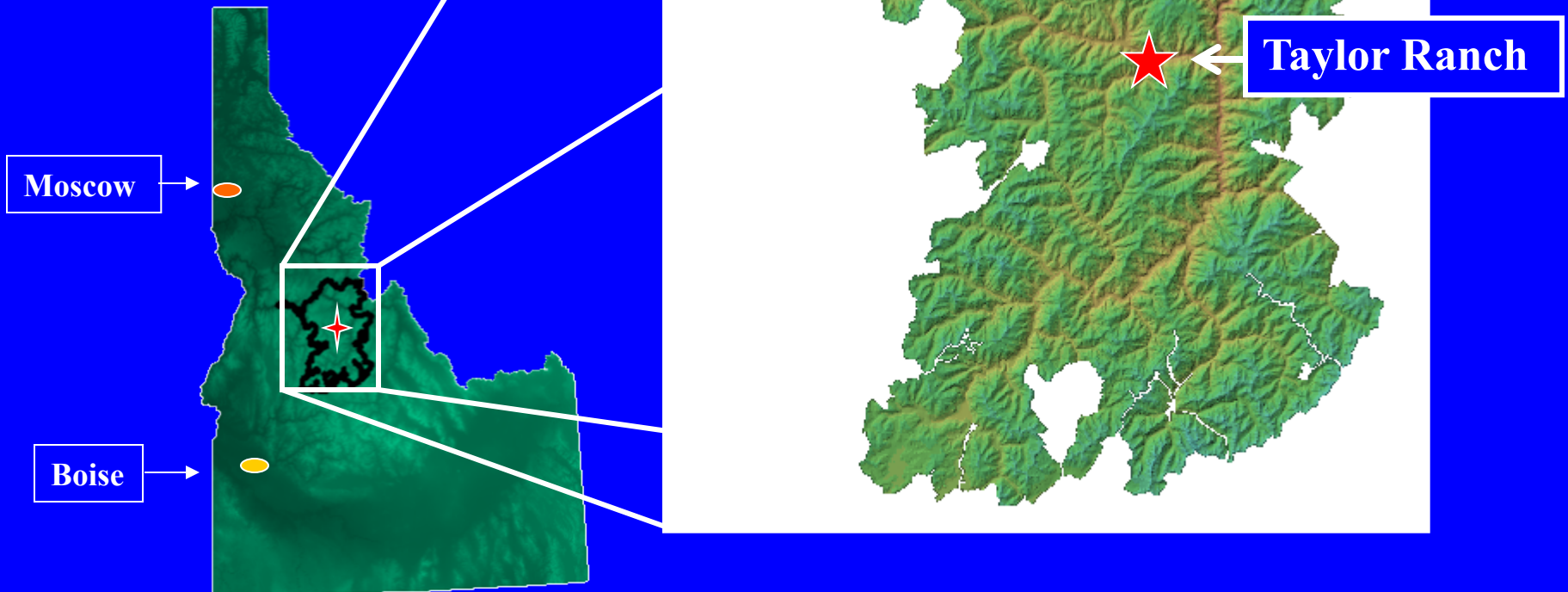


Big Creek Bighorns, 2006 Status Report



Taylor Ranch Field Station on Big Creek, Unit 26



FNAWS Bighorn Sheep Counts

2001 crew: T. Heinrickson, D. Nachbar, J&H Akenson

2002 crew: C. Middleton, E. VanGrouw, Neil Paynter, J&H Akenson

2003 crew: T. Schommer, B. Burrows, D. Toweill, C. McDaniel, J&H Akenson

2004 crew: J&H Akenson

2005 crew: C. Middleton, L. Brightwell, J&H Akenson

| Year | Total | Ewes | Lambs | L:E Ratio | I Ram | II Ram | III Ram | IV Ram | Total Rams | R:E Ratio |
|------|-------|------|-------|-----------|-------|--------|---------|--------|------------|-----------|
| 2001 | 110 | 58 | 34 | 58:100 | 7 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 18 | 31:100 |
| 2002 | 98 | 41 | 23 | 56:100 | 9 | 15 | 9 | 1 | 34 | 83:100 |
| 2003 | 94 | 47 | 17 | 36:100 | 3 | 9 | 16 | 2 | 30 | 64:100 |
| 2004 | 104 | 58 | 15 | 26:100 | 9 | 6 | 15 | 1 | 31 | 53:100 |
| 2005 | 60 | 33 | 11 | 33:100 | 0 | 4 | 12 | 0 | 16 | 48:100 |

2005-6 Bighorn Survey Comparison

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ground Count: 60 sheep | Heli Count: 133 sheep |
| Ewes: 33 | Ewes: 78 |
| Rams I's & II's: 4 | Rams I's & II's: 6 |
| Rams III's & IV's: 12 | Rams III's & IV's: 32 |
| 48 rams: 100 ewes | 49 rams: 100 ewes |
| Lambs: 11 | Lambs: 17 |
| 33 lambs: 100 ewes | 22 lambs: 100 ewes |

Comparison of Ground and Air Bighorn Ram Composition Counts

| | December Ground Counts | | | March Helicopter Counts | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|------|--------|----------------------------|------|--------|
| Winter | Total Rams | I-II | III-IV | Total Rams | I-II | III-IV |
| 2001-2002 | 31 rams:100 ewes 18 | 12 | 6 | 30 rams:100 ewes 15 | 9 | 6 |
| 2003-2004 | 64 rams:100 ewes 30 | 12 | 18 | 44 rams:100 ewes 27 | 18 | 9 |
| 2005-2006 | 48 rams:100 ewes 16 | 4 | 12 | 49 rams:100ewes 38 | 6 | 32 |



2005 count was too late due to weather...Dec. 17-19. Needs to move 10-14 days earlier.

Even with low counts due to conditions (snow, cold) the ratios for helicopter and ground counts were comparable.

We recognized that survey conditions caused the low ground count total, and we'll improve this in early Dec. '06!