



# Southern Ute Indian Tribe - The Brunot Area -

Council Member Andrew Gallegos  
Colorado Parks & Wildlife Commission Meeting  
May 1, 2024

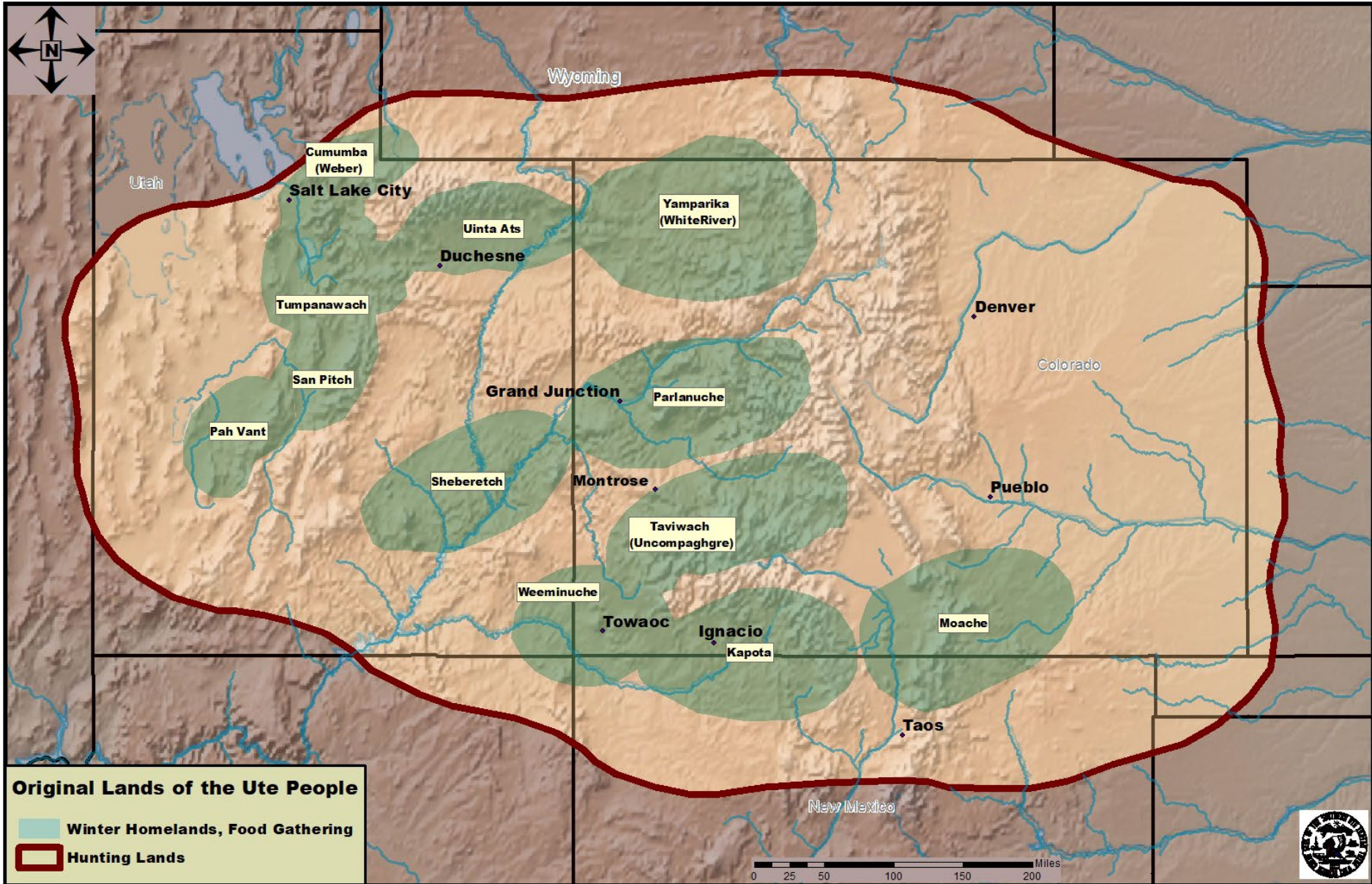
# Presentation Outline

- + History and Establishment of the Ute Reservations
- + What is the Brunot Area?
- + Southern Ute Division of Wildlife
- + Southern Ute Brunot Hunting Program
- + Southern Ute Wildlife Advisory Board



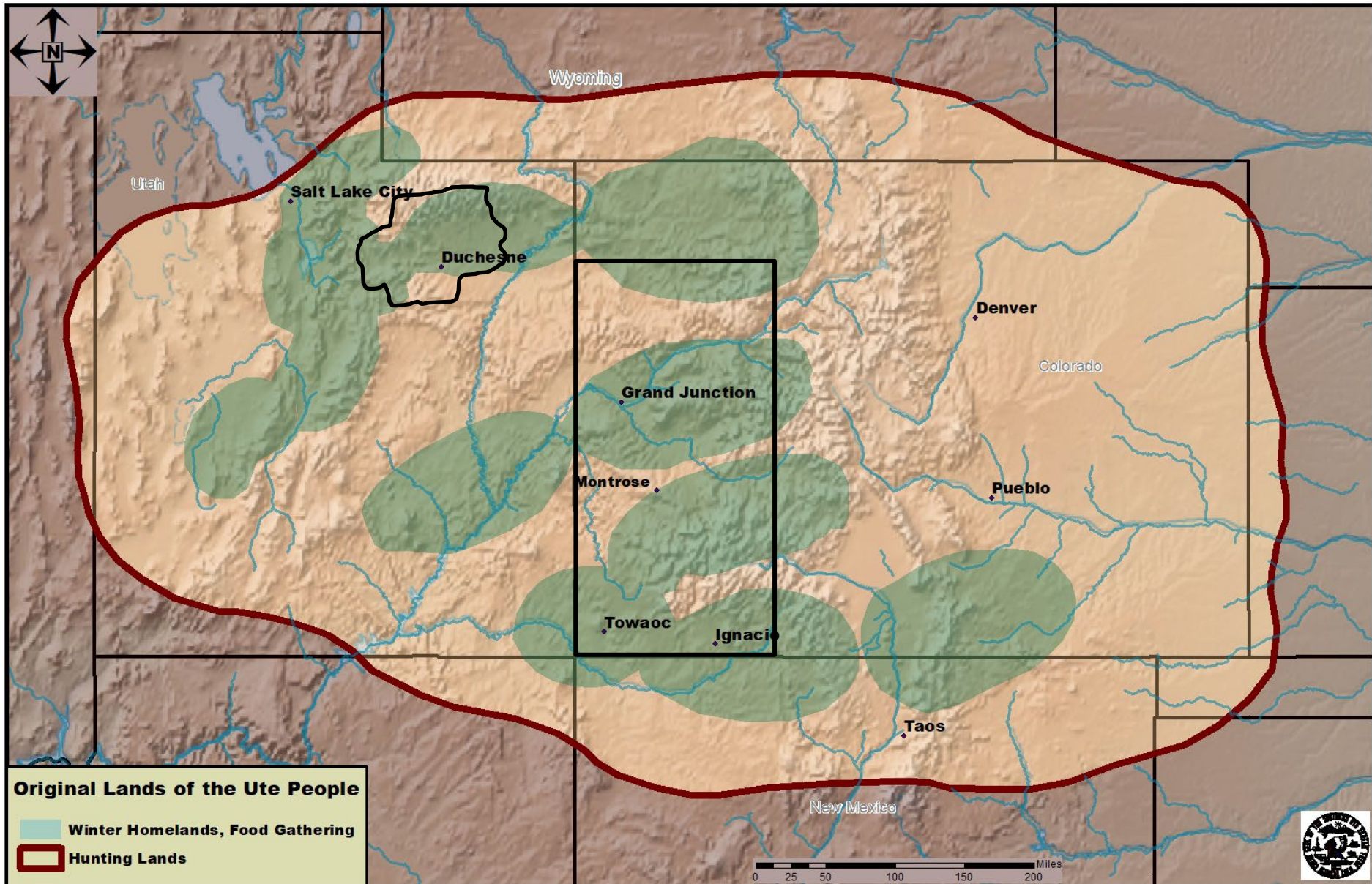
# Original Ute Territory

Multiple bands residing in nearly all of Utah & Colorado and extending into neighboring states, "from time immemorial"



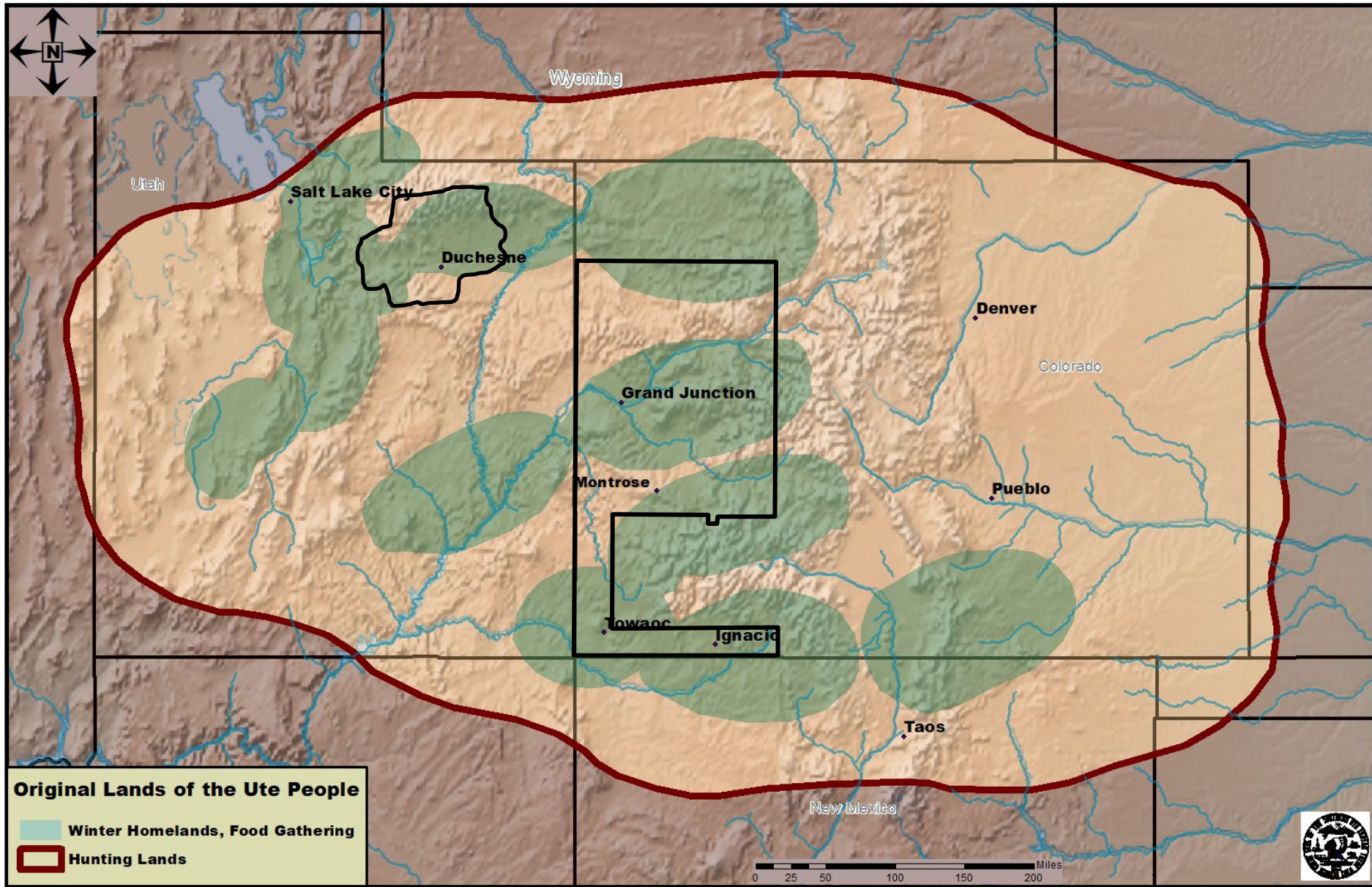
# Treaty of March 2, 1868

Established roughly 16.5-million-acre Ute Reservation, encompassing the western one-third of Colorado, for the "absolute and undisturbed use and occupation" of the Ute Indians



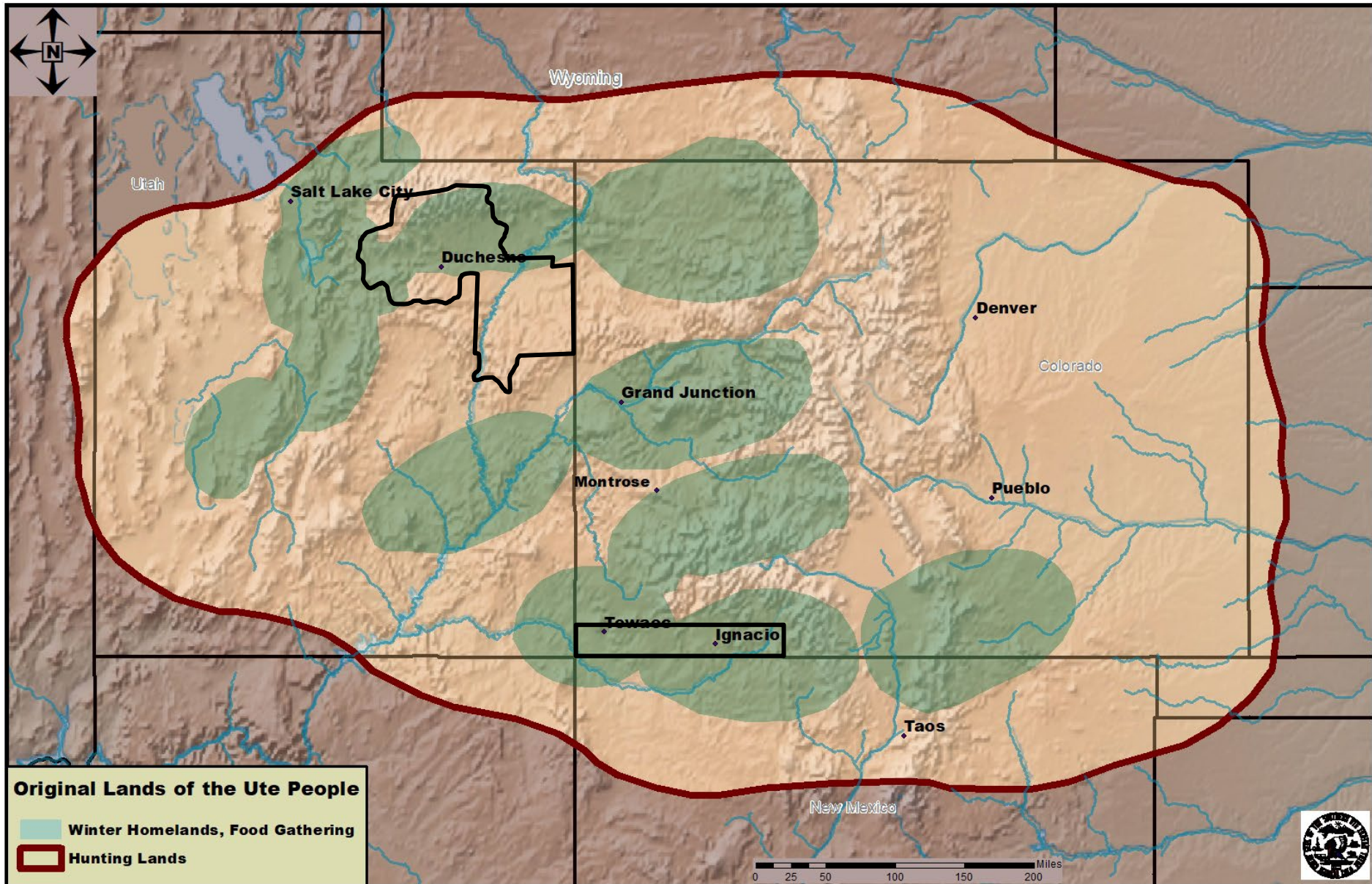
# Brunot Agreement of April 24, 1874

Cession of roughly 3.7 million acres of the San Juan Mountains region



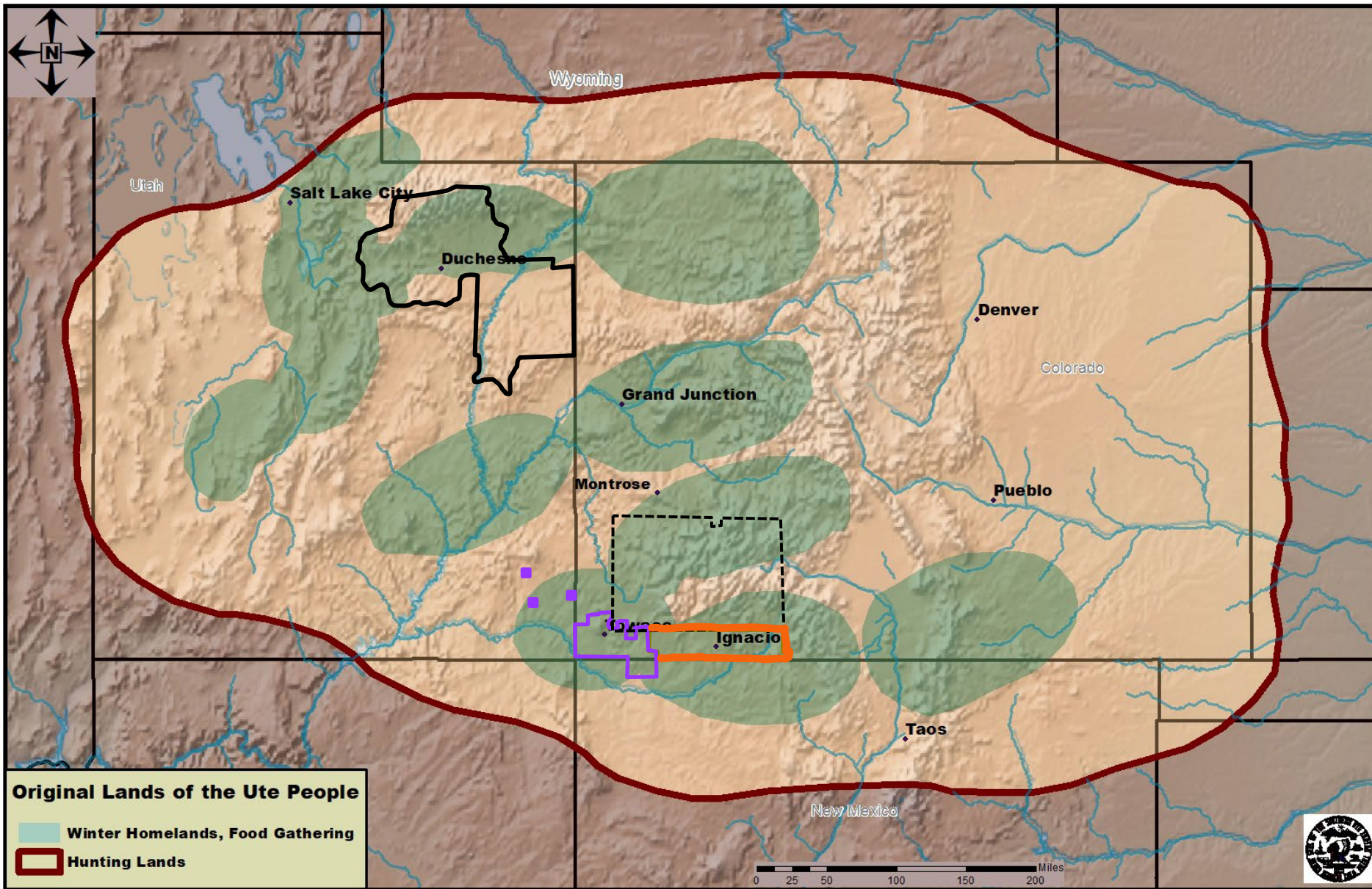
# 1879-1880

Following the 1879 Battle at Milk Creek, the northern bands were removed from Colorado to Utah. The "Ouray Reservation" was established directly south of the Uintah reservation. The remaining Southern Ute bands were forced onto the "Ute Strip"



# The Present-Day Ute Indian Reservations following various Congressional actions through 1895

Uintah and Ouray Tribe (Utah) | Southern Ute Indian Tribe (Colorado) | Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (Colorado/NM/UT)



# Brunot Agreement of 1874

152 PART II. LAWS GOVERNING VARIOUS TRUSTS.

point ten miles north of the point where said line intersects the thirty-eighth parallel of north latitude; thence east to the eastern boundary of the Ute Reservation; thence south along said boundary to the place of beginning; *Provided*, That if any part of the Uncompagne Park country shall be found to extend south of the north line of said described country, the same is not intended to be included therein, and is hereby reserved and retained as a portion of the Ute Reservation.

ARTICLE II. The United States shall permit the Ute Indians to hunt upon said lands so long as the game lasts and the Indians are at peace with the white people.

ARTICLE III. The United States agrees to set apart and hold, as a perpetual trust for the Ute Indians, a sum of money, or its equivalent in bonds which shall be sufficient to produce the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars per annum; which sum of twenty-five thousand dollars per annum shall be disbursed or invested at the discretion of the President, or as he may direct, for the use and benefit of the Ute Indians annually forever.

ARTICLE IV. The United States agrees, so soon as the President may deem it necessary or expedient, to erect proper buildings and establish an agency for the Westwattle, Munch, and Capote bands of Ute Indians at some suitable point, to be hereafter selected, on the southern part of the Ute Reservation.

ARTICLE V. All the provisions of the treaty of eighteen hundred and sixty-eight not altered by this agreement shall continue in force; and the following words, from article two of said treaty, viz: "The United States now solemnly agrees that no persons, except those herein authorized to do so, and except such officers, agents, and employees of the Government as may be authorized to enter upon Indian reservations in discharge of duties enjoined by law, shall ever be permitted to pass over, settle upon, or reside in the territory described in this article, except as herein otherwise provided," are hereby expressly re-affirmed, except so far as they applied to the country herein relinquished.

ARTICLE VI. In consideration of the services of Ouray, head-chief of the Ute Nation, he shall receive a salary of one thousand dollars per annum for the term of ten years, or so long as he shall remain head-chief of the Utes and at peace with the people of the United States.

ARTICLE VII. This agreement is subject to ratification or rejection by the Congress of the United States and of the President.

{SEAL.} FELIX R. BRUNOT,  
*Commissioner.*

Attest:  
THOMAS K. CREE, Secretary;  
JAMES PHILLIPS, M. D.,  
JOHN LAWRENCE,  
*Interpreters.*

[Here follows the signature of Ouray, principal chief, and others.]

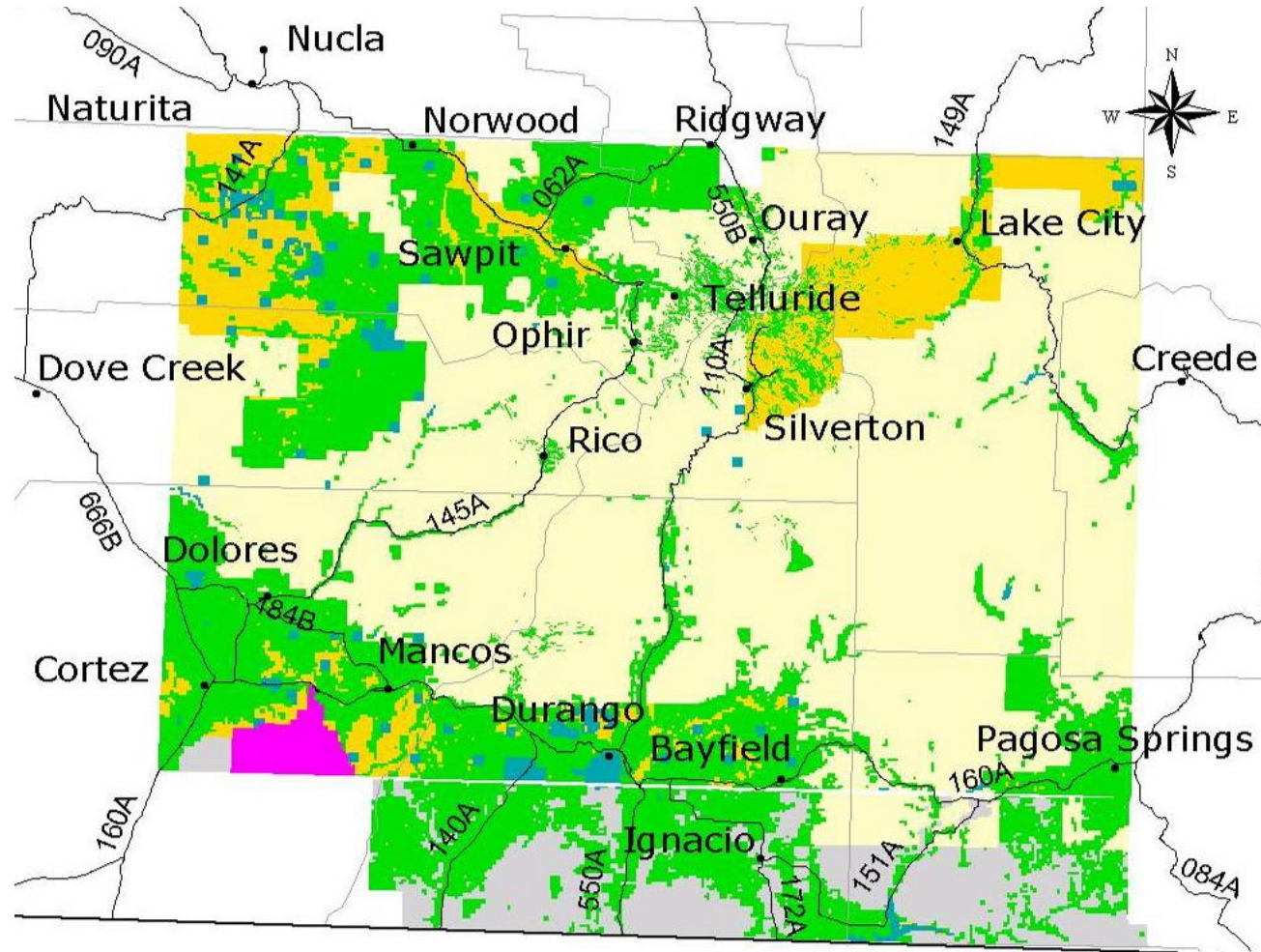
SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue, set apart, and hold, as a perpetual fund, in trust for the Ute Indians, a sufficient amount of five-per-centum bonds of the United States, the interest on which shall be twenty-five thousand dollars per annum; which interest shall be paid annually, as the President of the United States may direct, for the benefit of said Indians.

SEC. 3. That the Secretary of the Treasury shall cause to be paid to Ouray one thousand dollars, as the first installment due him annually, so long as he shall be chief of said Ute Indians; and there is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, one thousand dollars for that purpose.

Approved, April 29, 1874.

ARTICLE II. The United States shall permit the Ute Indians to hunt upon said lands so long as the game lasts and the Indians are at peace with the white people.

## The "Brunot Area"



Land Status	Acres
USFS	2.25 million
Private	1.00 million
BLM	394,000
State	77,000
Park Service	38,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>≈ 3.7 million</b>



# Recent History on Southern Ute Brunot Hunting

## **1972 Southern Ute – State of Colorado Settlement**

- + District Court settlement between Southern Ute and State regarding on-reservation hunting jurisdiction
- + SUIT agreed to NOT exercise its Federal-reserved Brunot Rights, but did NOT “give up” these rights

## **2008 Southern Ute – State of Colorado MOU**

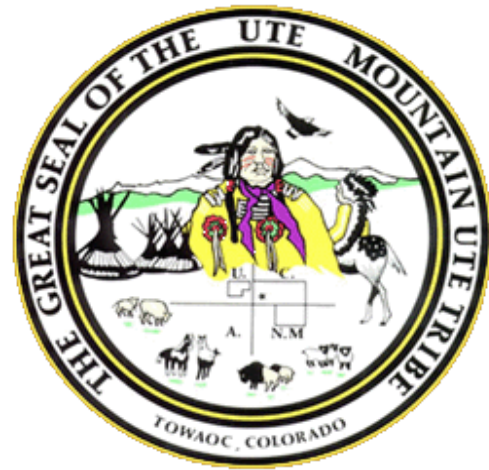
- + Signed by Chairman Frost and Governor Ritter and effective on September 22<sup>nd</sup>
- + Details the terms of cooperation between SUIT and State on Brunot Area wildlife management and enforcement
- + Recognizes SUIT as an equal partner in managing wildlife, and emphasizes a strong conservation philosophy

## **2009 – Southern Ute continues exercising Brunot Agreement Rights**

# MOU between the Southern Ute Indian Tribe & State of Colorado

**A co-management/enforcement agreement with the State of Colorado.**

- + Explicitly does not replace or diminish the 1874 Brunot Agreement with the United States
- + Promotes equal roles between the Tribe and State and preserves Tribal sovereign jurisdiction
- + Broadly interprets right to “hunt” to also include fishing and gathering
- + Emphasizes a strong conservation philosophy and information sharing



# Southern Ute Division of Wildlife

**Vision:** To provide professional stewardship of the fish, wildlife, bison, and parks and outdoor recreation resources of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation for the cultural, ecological, and socio-economic benefit of the Southern Ute people.

**Major Programs:** + Administration + Bison Management  
+ Game Management + Lake Capote Recreation Area  
+ Fisheries Management

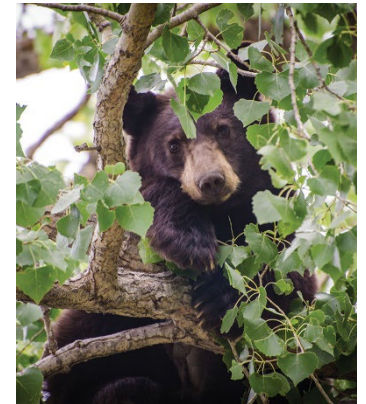
**Staff:** Division Head Administrative Assistant Lake Manager  
Wildlife Biologist Fish & Wildlife Technicians (x2) Lake Maintenance Crew (x2)  
Fisheries Biologist Bison Manager



# Southern Ute Wildlife Advisory Board

**Purpose:** To work in an advisory capacity to the Tribal government on the development of wildlife regulations, including, but not limited to, the establishment of all hunting and fishing seasons, bag limits, species restrictions, guiding and outfitting rules, and other regulations related to the harvest of game animals under the jurisdiction of the Tribe.

**Board:** Adrian Abeyta      Lance Taylor  
Julian Baker              Elliot Hendren  
Samantha Maez         Hanley Frost  
Raymond Baker         Alyas Maez  
Henry Whiteskunk II



# Brunot Area Season & Regulation Setting

## 2024 – 2025 Brunot Area Hunting & Fishing Proclamation

For Brunot Area Hunting & Fishing by Southern Ute Tribal Members



Ambrose Valdez 2023 Bull Moose

### Includes information on:

- *Season dates for Tribal Member Brunot Area hunting & fishing*
- *Hunting and fishing regulations and permitting requirements*
- *General maps of hunting and fishing areas*
- *Helpful tribal, state, and federal contact information*



*Southern Ute Indian Tribe  
Division of Wildlife Resource Management  
P.O. Box 737 / 116 Memorial Drive  
Ignacio, Colorado 81137  
Phone: (970) 563-0130  
<http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/WRMweb/>*

### Annual Process Followed:

January



February



March

- + SUIT and CPW biologists review game populations and previous year harvest results.
- + Tribal Wildlife staff develop a draft Tribal Brunot Area Proclamation.
- + The draft proclamation is reviewed with with the Tribal Member Wildlife Advisory Board.
- + Proclamation is presented to Tribal Council for formal approval.
- + Following Council approval, the Proclamation is printed and made available to the Tribal membership.

# Brunot Permitting Process & Bag Limits

- + Brunot Area is treated as a “second reservation” in terms of permitting by the Tribe
- + Members have a choice of permits for either or both the Brunot Area and the Reservation
- + Members pick up Brunot Area permits only through the SUIT Wildlife Office
- + Brunot Area permits are non-interchangeable with Reservation permits
- + Brunot Area permits are available to Southern Ute Members ONLY and are non-transferrable

<u>Hunt Type</u>	<u>Season Limit (per hunter)</u>
Mule Deer	2 (1 buck and 1 doe)
Rocky Mtn. Elk	2 (1 bull and 1 cow)
Mountain Lion	1 (either sex) * <i>QUOTA SYSTEM</i> *
Fall Turkey	1 (either sex)
Spring Turkey	1 (bearded gobbler)
Small Game	Unlimited

## 2024 Rare Game Total Available Permits

Rocky Mtn. Bighorn Sheep - 3 (either sex)  
Mountain Goat - 2 (either sex)  
Moose - 2 (either sex)

## Daily Limits Depending on Species

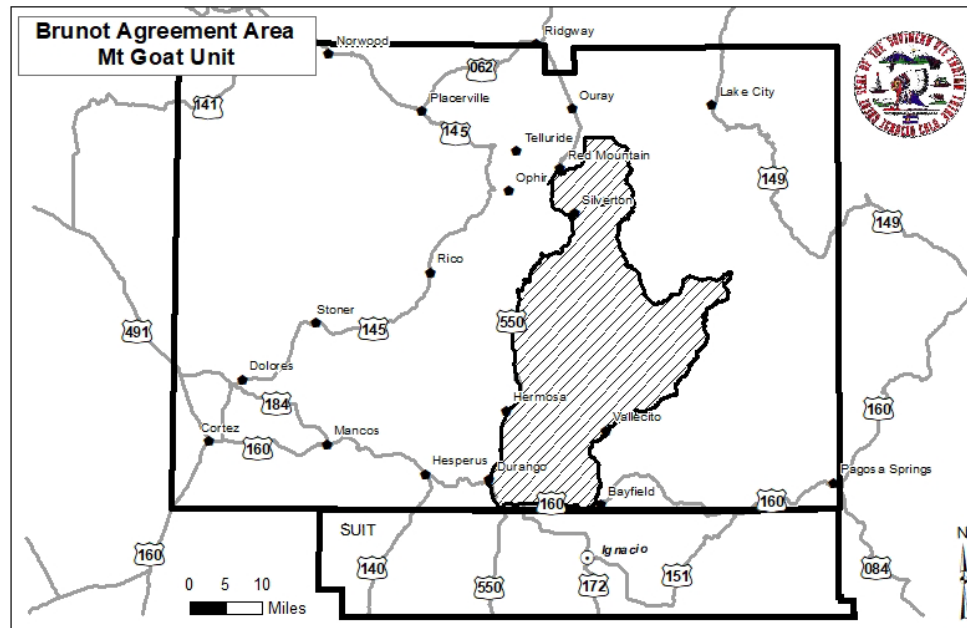
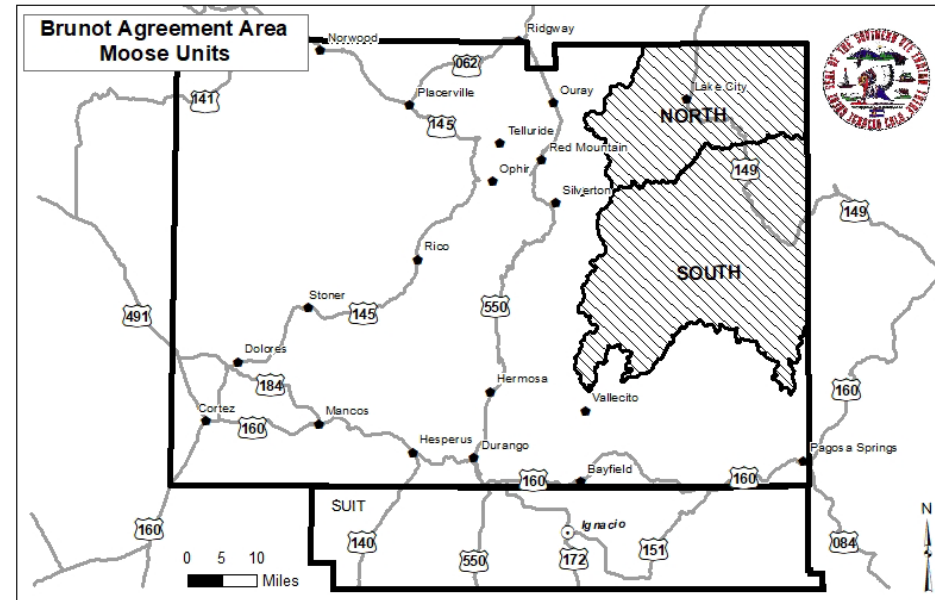
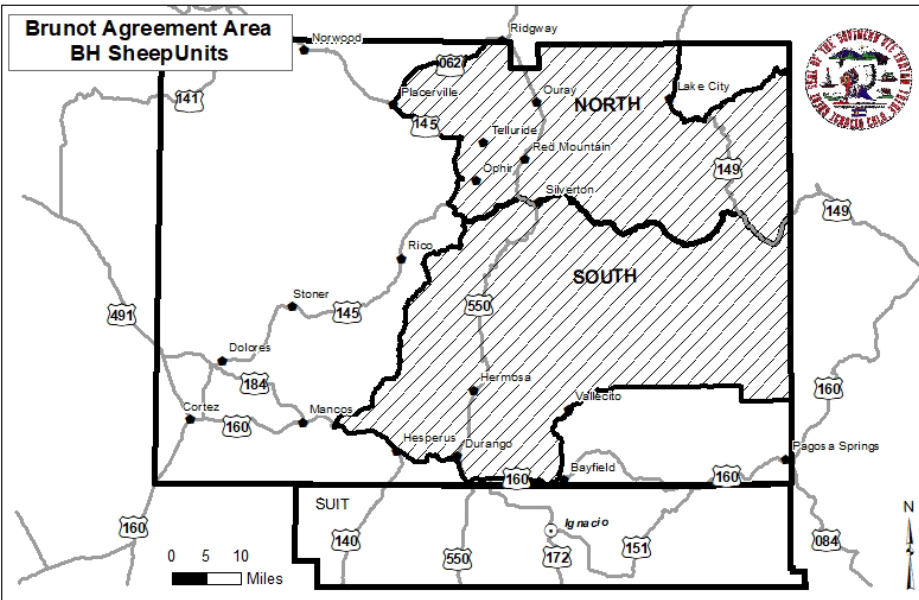
Upland Gamebirds, Waterfowl, Fishing

# Rare Game Permitting Lottery



- + Applies to **bighorn sheep, mountain goat, and moose**
- + Limited annual availability of permits announced in the tribal newspaper
- + 1-month application period every MAY and drawings and notifications every JUNE
- + A hunter can only be drawn for a hunt if they apply in the same year of that hunt
- + Drawings are for 7 winners and successive alternates in case of permit forfeiture before the hunt
- + Bonus points accrue based on application history
- + After drawing out on a species a hunter is not eligible to apply for the same hunt for a 10-year period.

# Proclamation Map: Rare Game Hunting Units





# Key Takeaways

- + Strong Government to Government Relationship
- + Tribes know how to best manage resources
- + Climate change is impacting our environment, creating new challenges for sustaining wildlife populations
- + Engaging the youth in the outdoors





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