

**FEDERAL AID  
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
PO Box 115526  
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**MOUNTAIN GOAT  
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY**

**STATE:** Alaska

**GRANT AND SEGMENT NO.** W-33-8

**PROJECT NO.** 12.0

**PERIOD:** July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

**Report Due to HQ:** September 1, 2010

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Statewide

**PROJECT TITLE:** Mountain Goat S&I

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**The Status of Mountain Goats and Factors Influencing Their Populations**

**Region 1**

**Regionwide Activities:**

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare biennial goat management reports.

Staff in Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sitka, and Douglas accomplished this objective.

ACTIVITY 2: Conduct mountain goat surveys, including sex and age composition in key management areas within the region.

*Unit 1A:* Staff flew 8.5 survey hours and counted 385 adult and 132 kids for a total count of 517 total goats.

*Unit 1B:* The Petersburg staff conducted aerial surveys in 7 of 27 established trend-count areas during the report period. Aerial surveys were concentrated in those trend count areas that typically receive the highest levels of hunting pressure. A total of 271 goats were observed, including 211 adults and 60 kids.

*Unit 1C:* Staff conducted two aerial surveys of the area between Tracy and Endicott Arm, (251 goats: 214 adults, 37 kids) and (368 goats: 306 adults, 62 kids).

*Unit 1D:* Staff conducted aerial surveys in three count areas in this unit: Takshanuk Mountains, (205 goats: 168 adults and 37 kids); Takhin Ridge, (60 goats: 49 adults and 11 kids); and in the Skagway area from Dewey Lake north to the Canadian Border, (49 goats: 41 adults and 8 kids).

*Unit 4:* The Sitka staff conducted aerial surveys in the northern portion of Baranof Island south to Green Lake, (348 goats: 283 adults, 65 kids).

*Unit 5:* No surveys were conducted by staff.

ACTIVITY 3: Collect biological samples, horn measurements, and age data from harvested animals.

Unit 1A: 35 goats were harvested and 32 were sampled.

Unit 1B: 13 goats were harvested and all were sampled.

Unit 1C: 30 goats were harvested, and approximately 50% were sampled.

Unit 1D: 31 goats were harvested and all were sampled.

Unit 4: 31 goats were harvested and all were sampled.

Unit 5: 6 goats were harvested and all were sampled.

ACTIVITY 4: Monitor results from registration permit hunts and analyze the data.

*Unit 1A:* The Ketchikan Area office collected hunter information through a mandatory registration permit report. Fifty permittees participate in the hunt.

*Unit 1B:* Petersburg Area staff collected hunter information from goat hunters via a mandatory registration permit reporting requirement. The mandatory hunt reports include information on successful and/or unsuccessful hunt locations, method of transportation, days of effort and commercial services used. Fifty three permittees participated in the hunt.

*Units 1C, 1D & 5:* The Douglas Area office collected hunter information through a mandatory registration permit report. Hunt report data included location of hunt, mode of access used, days hunted, and commercial services used. If the hunter was successful the report also queried the location of the kill. One hundred seventy eight permittees participated in the hunts.

*Unit 4:* Hunt report data included location of hunt, mode of access used, days hunted, and commercial services used. If the hunter was successful the report also queried the location of the kill. One hundred twenty two permittees participated in the hunt.

ACTIVITY 5: Update guideline harvest level objectives for selected goat herds based on a review of long-term harvest trends.

Efforts continued across the region to manage goats at finer scales dictated by hunter access. This has become necessary to prevent an overharvest at these access points.

ACTIVITY 6: Coordinate with the United States Forest Service permitting authorities to ensure the goat harvest associated with big game guiding activities remains within sustainable levels and maintains adequate harvest opportunity for local subsistence users.

Staff in Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sitka, and Douglas participated in discussions with the USFS regarding guiding and goat harvest.

**Unit 1C:**

ACTIVITY: Monitor the Lake Dorothy hydro project area for mountain goat activity through site visits and aerial surveys.

Monitoring activities in conjunction with the development of the Dorothy Lake Hydroelectric project have concluded. No surveys were flown during this report period.

**Unit 1D:**

ACTIVITY: Work with USFS, Haines City and Borough, BLM, and helicopter tourism on mountain goats.

Area staff participated in planning meetings with Bureau of Land Management staff in preparation for mountain goat capture operations in Unit 1D. Goats will be fitted with GPS equipped collars to collect data to validate habitat selection models. Habitat selection data will be used to evaluate possible impacts to goats by commercial helicopter activities.

**Submitted by:** Neil L. Barten, Region I Management Coordinator

**Region II: Game Management Units 6–8, 11, 13–15**

**Regionwide:**

**Activity: Prepare a biennial regional mountain goat management report.**

Prepared and submitted biennial mountain goat management report

**Activity: Conduct summer aerial sex and age population composition surveys to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality.**

*Unit 6:* No surveys were conducted because of persistent poor flying conditions during the fall.

*Units 7 & 15:* 7 areas were surveyed with 727 goats counted (595 adults and 132 kids).

*Unit 8:* During August 2009, we surveyed about 40% of the goat habitat on Kodiak Island. We counted 1,028 goats, all of which were classified (814 adults, 214 kids). The kid: adult ratio (26:100) increased from the average ratio noted during the previous 5 years (22:100). This data suggests the island-wide goat productivity was stable during this reporting period, with localized declines and increases. The estimated island wide goat population was 2,371 during this reporting period, up from the 2008 estimate of 2,145 goats.

*Unit 11:* June/July 2009, Count area 21: 78 adults, 11 kids

*Unit 13D: June/July 2009,*

Count area	Adults	Kids
3	21	7
5	11	3
16	9	2
17	4	1
1	0	0
2	24	4

*Unit 14A: Summer survey in 2009 identified: Adults 74, Yearlings 25, Kids 24.*

**Activity: Monitor the goat harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.**

*Unit 6:* We issued 424 goat hunt permits. Harvest was 65 males, 21 females, and 2 unknown goats for a total of 88 goats.

*Units 7 & 15:* The preliminary harvest was 80 goats during the reporting period.

*Unit 8:* Expansion of goat populations into virtually all available habitats around Kodiak Island allowed us to increase hunter opportunity. The number of drawing permits stayed the same during the 2009/10 season at 500. Registration hunts also occurred after the drawing hunt season in the 9 hunt areas where an allowable surplus remained. Preliminary data indicate that in 2009/10 hunters harvested 191 goats (120 males, 68 females, 2 unknown and 1 illegal), up from the 2008/09 harvest of 154 goats, and above the 5-year average of 154.2 goats. We issued 500 drawing permits, 226 hunters went into the field, and hunter success was 65%. During the registration hunt, we issued 375 permits and 153 hunters went into the field, and hunter success was 29%. The harvest ranged from 2-38 goats for each of the 9 permit hunt areas.

*Unit 14:* Goats Harvested in Drawing Permit Hunts: 4 nannies, 13 billies. Goats Harvested in Registration Permit Hunts: 5 nannies, 5 billies.

**Submitted by:** Mark Burch

**Date:** September 14, 2010