

**FEDERAL AID  
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY**

**STATE:** Alaska

**GRANT AND SEGMENT NO.** W-33-9

**PROJECT NO.**

**PERIOD:** July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Statewide

**PROJECT TITLE:** The Status of Alaska Mountain Goats and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region II

**REPORT DESCRIPTION:** This performance report describes Mountain Goat survey and inventory activities. Activities are listed by game management unit.

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**Region 1**

**Regionwide Activities**

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare biennial goat management reports.

Management reports were not due during this report period and therefore they were not completed.

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

*Unit 1A:* The Ketchikan area staff conducted two mountain goat surveys, Deer Mountain (88 goats, 61 adults, 27 kids)

Cleveland Peninsula (18 goats, 11 adults, 7 kids).

*Unit 1B:* The Petersburg staff conducted aerial surveys in 12 of 27 established trend-count areas during the report period. Fall aerial surveys were concentrated in those trend count areas that typically receive the highest levels of hunting pressure. A total of 464 goats were observed, including 365 adults and 99 kids. Additionally, a spring aerial kidding survey was conducted in the vicinity of proposed hydroelectric development at Cascade Creek (56 goats, 42 adults, 14 kids).

*Unit 1C:* Staff conducted aerial surveys in several areas:

North Tracy Arm (66 goats: 56 adults and 10 kids.),

Between Tracy and Endicott Arms (106 goats: 85 adults and 21 kids),

Mount McGinnis to Eagle Glacier (95 goats: 75 adults and 20 kids),

Taku Glacier to Mount Bullard (302 goats: 253 adults and 67 kids).

*Unit 1D:* Staff conducted aerial surveys in seven count areas in this unit,

Tahkin Ridge: (123 goats: 94 adults and 29 kids),

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Porcupine/Flower Mtn (90 goats: 71 adults and 19 kids),  
Takshanuk Range (384 goats: 311 adults and 73 kids),  
Upper Chilkoot (175 goats: 134 adults and 41 kids),  
Ferebee Glacier/Halutu Ridge(36 goats: 28 adults and 8 kids),  
Nourse River (33 goats: 30 adults and 3 kids),  
Katzehin/Kasidaya (85 goats: 66 adults and 19 kids).

*Unit 4:* The Sitka staff conducted aerial surveys in just a small portion of the goat range, near Green Lake. Forty seven goats were observed with 40 adults and 7 kids.

*Unit 5:* Staff conducted three surveys in Unit 5A:  
Nunatak Fiord to Harlequin Lake (2 adult goats),  
Harlequin Lake to Alsek River (43 goats: 34 adults and 9 kids),  
Nunatak Bench to Hubbard Glacier (28 goats: 22 adults and 6 kids).

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

Unit 1A: 14 goats were harvested and all were sampled.  
Unit 1B: 11 goats were harvested and nine were sampled.  
Unit 1C: 41 goats were harvested, and approximately 75% were sampled.  
Unit 1D: 38 goats were harvested and all were sampled.  
Unit 4: 32 goats were harvested and all were sampled.  
Unit 5: 1 goat was harvested and 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. Thirty-six permittees participated 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. Thirty two 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 ninety two 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 continue 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 USFS 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.

Harvest guidelines were discussed among staff, with Forest Service personnel, and guides during the year. Units 1A, 1B, 1C, and 4 have all experienced a rising interest in goat hunting especially by commercial guides. This has intensified the department's efforts to minimize the harvest of females in order to avoid population level concerns due to loss in productivity.

Douglas Area Office staff worked with U.S. Forest Service commercial use permitting personnel to identify areas of high commercial use of mountain goats to prepare for a future prospectus regarding commercially guided mountain goat hunts; and to identify areas of interest to both ADFG and USFS, for aerial goat surveys in regulatory year 2011.

**Unit 1C:**

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

Surveys were not completed at Lake Dorothy during this report period.

**Unit 1D:**

ACTIVITY 1: Work with USFS, Haines City and Borough, BLM, and helicopter operators to address concerns about helicopter tourism on mountain goats.

Efforts continued in this arena with continued communication with these entities to assure goat populations were considered when making decisions on helicopter skiing activities.

ACTIVITY 2: Radio collar mountain goats on Takhin Ridge in Unit 1D to assess spatial and temporal habitat use, and to monitor the goat population dynamics on Takhin Ridge. Use this data to help address concerns with helicopter skiing activity in this area.

Five goats were collared on Takhin Ridge to address these concerns.

**Unit 4:**

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor the Blue Lake and Takatz Lakes hydro project area mountain goat activity through site visits and aerial surveys. Use this data to help guide seasonal construction activity.

Aerial surveys were conducted in these two areas. A total of 513 goat were counted in these and adjacent areas, with 80 kids.

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

**Region II**

**Regionwide:**

Activity: Prepare a biennial regional mountain goat management report.

Area staff continue to collect information in preparation for drafting report in 2012.

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

Surveys were completed in selected hunt areas within individual GMUs. See Area specific activities.

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

These are standard activities accomplished in each office. See Area specific activities.

### **Activities by Unit:**

#### **Unit 6**

ACTIVITY 1: Conducted surveys in 9 survey units.

ACTIVITY 2: We issued 315 goat hunt permits. Harvest was 55 males, 13 females, and 2 unknown goats for a total of 70 goats.

#### **Units 7&15**

ACTIVITY 1: Conduct summer aerial sex and age population composition surveys to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality.

Eleven areas were surveyed with 1200 goats counted (987 adults and 213 kids).

ACTIVITY 2: Monitor the goat harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

The preliminary harvest was 54 goats during the reporting period.

#### **Unit 8**

Activity 1: Conduct summer aerial sex and age population composition surveys to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality.

Results: During August 2010, we surveyed about 40% of the goat habitat on Kodiak Island. We counted 950 goats, all of which were classified (804 adults, 146 kids). The kid:adult ratio (18:100) decreased from the average ratio noted during the previous 5 years (23:100). This suggests the islandwide goat productivity was stable during this reporting period, with localized declines and increases. The estimated island wide goat population was 2,320 during this reporting period, down slightly from the 2009 estimate of 2,371 goats.

Activity 2: Monitor the goat harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

Results: Expansion of goat populations into virtually all available habitats around Kodiak Island allowed us to increase hunter opportunity. The number of drawing permits decreased from 500 to 237 due to the conversion of 2 of the largest drawing hunt areas into registration hunts. Seven registration hunts occurred after the drawing hunt season in the 7 hunt areas and a new registration hunt was created and occurred during the drawing and registration hunting season. Preliminary data indicate that in 2010/11 hunters harvested 148 goats (98 males, 49 females, 1 unknown), down from the 2009/10 harvest

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of 191 goats, and above the 5-year average of 161.6 goats. We issued 237 drawing permits, 121 hunters went into the field, and hunter success was 44%. During the registration hunt, we issued 627 permits and 278 hunters went into the field, and hunter success was 34%. The harvest ranged from 2-64 goats for each of the 7 permit hunt areas.

**Unit 14C**

ACTIVITY 1: Prepared biannual management report.

ACTIVITY 2: Summer aerial sex and age population composition surveys were not conducted due to inclement weather.

ACTIVITY 3: Goat harvest was monitored through harvest reports and contacts with hunters.  
Goats Harvested in Drawing Permit Hunts: 1 nannies, 7 billies  
Goats Harvested in Registration Permit Hunts: 4 nannies, 16 billies

**Submitted by:** Gino Del Frate

**Date:** 2 September 2011

**Region IV**

**Project Location:** Game Management Units 11, 13, and 14A

**Regionwide:**

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare biennial regional mountain goat management report.

The next biennial mountain goat management report is due to DWC HQ on 1 April 2012.

ACTIVITY 2: Conduct summer aerial sex and age composition surveys to determine status, trend, productivity, and mortality.

*Unit 11:* Count area 21: 51 adults, 14 kids

*Unit 13D:* No surveys were flown due to poor weather

*Unit 14A:* Chugach: 166 adults, 47 kids

ACTIVITY 3: Monitor the goat harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports, and contact with hunters.

<i>Unit</i>	Male	Female	Unknown	Total Harvest
<i>11:</i>	14	3	0	17
<i>13D:</i>	21	0	0	21
<i>14A:</i>	1	1	0	2

**Submitted by:** Lem Butler, Region IV Management Coordinator