

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

**MOUNTAIN GOAT
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY
PERFORMANCE REPORT**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.: W-33-1

PROJECT NR.: 12.0

WORK LOCATION: Statewide

PERIOD: 1 July 2002–30 June 2003

PROJECT LOCATIONS: Game Management Regions 1 and 2

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Alaska Mountain Goats and Factors Influencing Their Populations

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This statewide performance report includes the two regions involved in mountain goat survey and inventory activities. Statewide and regional activities are listed before specific activities by herd and game management unit.

**The Status of Alaska Mountain Goats and
Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region I**

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

This draft satisfies the activity as described.

Activity 2: Provide information to the Board of Game on mountain goat management.

During the report period, staff testified before the Board of Game regarding 3 regulatory proposals specific to Region I goats.

Activity 3: Draft a mountain goat management report.

Area biologists collected data to be used in the final report, due to headquarters in spring of 2004.

Activities by Unit

Unit 1A

Activity 1: Conduct population trend and composition counts.

The Sitka Area biologist conducted one August aerial survey in two established trend count areas. A total number of 599 goats was counted; 498 adults and 101 kids. These are similar values to the previous survey in 2001. The Ketchikan Area biologist conducted aerial surveys in seven trend count areas in Unit 1A. A total of 548 goats were counted, 435 adults and 113 kids. The Douglas Area Biologist conducted aerial surveys along Takhin Ridge and Porcupine Peak and counted 152 goats in 3 hours and 40 minutes of flight time.

Activity 2: Monitor results from the registration permit hunt and analyze the data.

Area office staff collected hunt-based information through the use of registration permit reports and analyzed the data. Staff continued to analyze horn growth characteristics.

Unit 1C

Activity 1: Monitor, as information becomes available while talking to people traveling in goat habitat, the impact of sightseeing helicopter flights on selected populations.

Although USFS staff continued to monitor helicopter flights near goat habitat, there was little progress on interagency study development.

Activity 2: Monitor, as information becomes available, the course of contagious ecthyma (ORF) in northern southeast populations in case we want to develop a separate research study.

Staff queried goat hunters and big game guides about any evidence of ORF observed in the field. No cases of ORF were documented in Unit 1C during this report period.

Unit 5

Activity 1: Work on developing population objectives.

Douglas Area staff met with other Region I managers in Ketchikan in winter 2002 and established management objectives for Unit 5 mountain goats.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$30.8

Submitted by: Dale Rabe, Management Coordinator

The Status of Alaska Mountain Goats and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region II

Regionwide Activities

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

Surveys were conducted in all mountain goat ranges in Region 2 during this reporting period

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

Registration and drawing permit results were tabulated and are presented.

Activity 3: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

Activity 4: Draft a mountain goat management report.

Final mountain goat management reports were submitted during fall 2003.

Activity 5: Provide information to the Board of Game on mountain goat management.

Region 2 mountain goat regulations were addressed during the spring 2003 Board of Game meeting.

Activities by Unit

Unit 6

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

ADF&G and the U.S. Forest Service Cordova Ranger District conducted surveys in 9 of 16 active hunt areas during August and September 2002. Estimated number of goats in Unit 6 was 3650 with 17% kids.

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

Hunters killed 71 goats including 58 males, 10 females and 3 unrecovered for a total of 82 goat units. Total allowable harvest was 124 goat units.

Units 7 and 15

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

Eleven count areas were surveyed resulting in the classification of 549 goats. The composition was 417 adults/subadults, and 132 kids. Kids totaled 24 % of the surveyed goats.

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

The preliminary 2002–03 harvest for all permit hunts was:

Billies 59	Nannies 36	Total 95
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Activity 3: Provide information to the Board of Game on mountain goat management.

The Board of Game reviewed proposals in March 2003 and did not authorize any changes.

Unit 8

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

Results: During August 2002, we surveyed about 70% of the goat habitat on Kodiak Island. We counted 965 goats, all of which were classified (762 adults, 203 kids). The kid:adult ratio (27:100) was higher than the average ratio noted during the previous 5 years (19:100). These data suggest the islandwide goat population was stable to increasing during this reporting period, with localized declines and increases.

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 habitat around Kodiak Island allowed us to expand hunt areas significantly and increase the number of permits from 195 to 230 during 2002–03 season. Preliminary data indicate that in 2002–03 hunters harvested 93 goats (61 males, 32 females), up from the 2001–02 harvest of 70, and above the 5 year average of 64.4 goats. We issued 230 drawing permits, 138 hunters went into the field, and hunter success was 67%. The harvest ranged from 1–20 goats from each of the 9 permit hunts.

Activity 3: Provide information to the Board of Game on mountain goat management.

The Board approved a higher number of drawing permits and authorized a registration hunt in areas where harvest quotas are not met. The drawing hunt seasons will be open from August 20 to October 25. Hunt areas will remain the same as last year, but the number of permits will be increased from 230 to 338. The bag limit will remain one goat - either sex.

Units 11 and 13

Activity 1: Conduct summer aerial sex and age population surveys on established trend count areas to determine status, trend, and productivity.

Results:

Unit 11

Count area 21, June 2003
48 adults 13 (21%) kids.

Unit 13

No Surveys conducted

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

Preliminary harvest:

Unit 11

Males 3	Females 1	Sex unk 0	Total harvest 4
Number of hunters = 28			

Unit 13

Males 3	Females 2	Sex unk 0	Total harvest 5
Number of hunters = 12			

Unit 14

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

Goats were counted incidental to sheep surveys in Unit 14C

Adults/yearlings 130 (87%)	Kids 20 (13%)	Total 150
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Goats were counted incidental to sheep surveys in Unit 14A (count areas A-F)

Adults/yearlings 106 (79%)	Kids 29 (21%)	Total 135
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Activity 2: Monitor the goat harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

The preliminary Unit 14 harvest was:

Males 27 Females 5 Total 33

Activity 3: Provide information to the Board of Game on mountain goat management.
Board of Game met in March 2003. The Board did not adopt any new goat proposals.

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project:

None

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$40.3

Submitted by: Michael G. McDonald, Assistant Management Coordinator

Statewide Project Costs (in thousands):

State Share = \$17.78 Federal Share = \$53.33 Total Costs = \$71.1