

**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-33-2

PROJECT NR: 12.0

WORK LOCATION: Statewide

PERIOD: 1 July 2003–30 June 2004

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 Goat
and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region I**

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Provide information to the Board of Game on goat management.

The Board of Game meets on a two-year cycle for the SE Alaska region and did not meet during this reporting period. However, in preparation for the November 2004 meeting, regional staffs have met and discussed ideas may need to be addressed at the next meeting.

Activity 2: Prepare biennial regional report on goat management.

The goat management report was completed during this reporting period and submitted to the Division headquarters.

Activity 3: Conduct population trend and composition counts.

The Petersburg Area Biologist conducted aerial surveys in 12 of 27 established trend count areas during two days in late August and one day in late September. A total of 270 goats were counted, including 216 adults and 54 kids.

Activity 4: Monitor results from 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.

Activity 5 : Update guideline harvest level objectives for selected goat heard based on a review of long-term harvests on the herds.

Discussion on harvest guidelines occurred during the year, but no changes were made to the current objectives.

Activities by Unit

Unit 1C

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

Areas staff continue to gather information on impacts of sightseeing and other human activities in goat habitat. No actions were taken to limit these activities at this time.

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

ADF&G biologists conducted numerous interviews with goat hunters inquiring about any evidence of ORF in goat populations being hunted. All indications are that ORF is rare if present at all.

Unit 4

Activity : Monitor and collect information regarding any occurrence of contagious ecthyma (ORF) in northern southeast populations in case we want develop a separate research study.

As part of the effort to collect horn growth characteristics for all goats harvested, staff conducted interviews regarding evidence of ORF. Although horn deformities were recorded, no presence of ORF was indicated.

Unit 5

Activity : Work on developing population objectives.

Efforts have continued in Unit 5 to develop population objectives by continuing to gather population numbers through aerial surveys. Approximately 30% of unit 5A goat habitat was surveyed in fall 2003.

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project: None

Stewardship Investment items purchased: None

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$36.4

Submitted by: Dale L. Rabe – Region I Management Coordinator

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

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Draft a mountain goat management report.

The goat management report was completed during this reporting period and submitted to the Division headquarters.

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

See below

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

See below

Activity 4: Provide information to the Board of Game on mountain goat management.

There was no board activity in Region 2.

Unit 6

Activity 2: 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 four of 16 active hunt areas during August and September 2002. Estimated number of goats in Unit 6 was 3,750 with 22% kids.

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

Hunters killed 85 goats including 64 males, 18 females and 3 unrecovered for a total of 106 goat units. Total allowable harvest was 145 goat units.

Units 7 and 15

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

Three count areas were surveyed resulting in the classification of 125 goats. The composition was 100 adults/subadults, and 25 kids. Kids totaled 20 % of the surveyed goats.

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

The preliminary 2003/04 harvest for all permit hunts was:

Billies = 55 Nannies = 28 Unknown = 3 Total = 86

Unit 8

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

During August 2003, we surveyed about 60% of the goat habitat on Kodiak Island. We counted 781 goats, all of which were classified (633 adults, 148 kids). The kid:adult ratio (23:100) was higher than the average ratio noted during the previous five years (20:100). These data suggest the island-wide goat population was stable to increasing during this reporting period, with localized declines and increases.

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

Expansion of goat populations into virtually all available habitat around Kodiak Island allowed an increase in hunter opportunity. The number of drawing permits increased from 230 to 337 during the 2003–04 season. Registration hunts also occurred after the drawing hunt season in seven of the nine hunt areas where an allowable surplus remained. Preliminary data indicate that in 2003–04 hunters harvested 142 goats (85 males, 54 females, and 3 unknown), up from the 2002–03 harvest of 93 goats, and above the 5-year average of 70.0 goats. Drawing permits were held by 337 people; 182 hunters went into the field, and hunter success was 64%. During the registration hunt, of 135 permittees, 54 hunters went into the field, and hunter success was 48%. The harvest ranged from 1–46 goats for each of the nine permit hunt areas.

Units 11 and 13

Activity 2: Conduct summer aerial sex and age population surveys on established trend count areas to determine status, trend, and productivity.

Results:

GMU 11

Count area 21, June 2003
37 adults 13 (26%) kids.

GMU 13

No Surveys conducted

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

Preliminary harvest:

GMU 11

Males 7	Females 3	Total harvest 10
Number of hunters = 36		

GMU 13

Males 7	Females 4	Total harvest 11
Number of hunters = 18		

Unit 14

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

The preliminary Unit 14 harvest was:

Males 31 Females 15 Total 46

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project: None

Stewardship Investment items purchased: None

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$40.18

Submitted by: Bruce Bartley, Acting Assistant Management Coordinator

Statewide Project Costs (in thousands):

State Share = \$19.15 Federal Share = \$57.44 Total Costs = \$76.58