

Mountain Goat Management Report and Plan, Game Management Unit 11:

Report Period 1 July 2013–30 June 2018, and

Plan Period 1 July 2018–30 June 2023

Heidi L. Hatcher



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Plan Period 1 July 2018–30 June 2023

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Species management reports and plans provide information about species that are hunted or trapped and management actions, goals, recommendations for those species, and plans for data collection. Detailed information is prepared for each species every 5 years by the area management biologist for game management units in their areas, who also develops a plan for data collection and species management for the next 5 years. This type of report is not produced for species that are not managed for hunting or trapping or for areas where there is no current or anticipated activity. Unit reports are reviewed and approved for publication by regional management coordinators and are available to the public via the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's public website.

This species management report and plan was reviewed and approved for publication by Todd Rinaldi, Management Coordinator for the Division of Wildlife Conservation.

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Purpose of this Report

This report provides a record of survey and inventory management activities for mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*) in Unit 11 for the 5 regulatory years 2013–2017 and plans for survey and inventory management activities in the following 5 regulatory years, 2018–2022. A regulatory year (RY) begins 1 July and ends 30 June (e.g., RY14 = 1 July 2014–30 June 2015). This report is produced primarily to provide agency staff with data and analysis to help guide and record agency efforts but is also provided to the public to inform it of wildlife management activities. In 2016 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADF&G, the department) Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) launched this 5-year report to more efficiently report on trends and to describe potential changes in data collection activities over the next 5 years. It replaces the mountain goat management report of survey and inventory activities that was previously produced every 2 years.

I. RY13–RY17 Management Report

Management Area

Game Management Unit 11 (12,784 mi²) consists of that area draining into the headwaters of the Copper River south of Suslota Creek, and the area drained by all tributaries into the east bank of the Copper River between the confluence of Suslota Creek with the Slana River and Miles Glacier (Fig. 1). Most of Unit 11 is included in the Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve (WRST). Unit 11 includes portions of 3 of Alaska's 32 ecoregions: the Wrangell Mountains, the Chugach-St. Elias Mountains, and the Copper River Basin. Maps for Unit 11 boundaries and special management areas can be found at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=maps.main>.

Summary of Status, Trend, Management Activities, and History of Mountain Goats in Unit 11

Mountain goats are recognized as a valuable part of the ecosystem in alpine and subalpine areas in Unit 11 and are managed to provide for a wide variety of human uses and values including hunting, photography, and viewing (ADF&G 2002). Prior to 1976, most goats harvested in Unit 11 were taken as alternative or additional game by sheep hunters (ADF&G 1976). From 1972–1974 an average of 61 goats were harvested each year. Hunting pressure in the McCarthy area was considered excessive and in 1974 the bag limit was reduced from 2 goats to 1 goat and the season opening was delayed from 10 August to 1 September. These restrictions reduced the harvest to 17 goats in 1975. The state bag limit has remained 1 goat and the state season now begins annually on 1 September. Access to most of the area is by fixed-wing aircraft, using lakes and unimproved airstrips or gravel bars for landing sites. Construction of the Chitina bridge across the Copper River in 1973 provided increased access for road-based hunters in the McCarthy area.

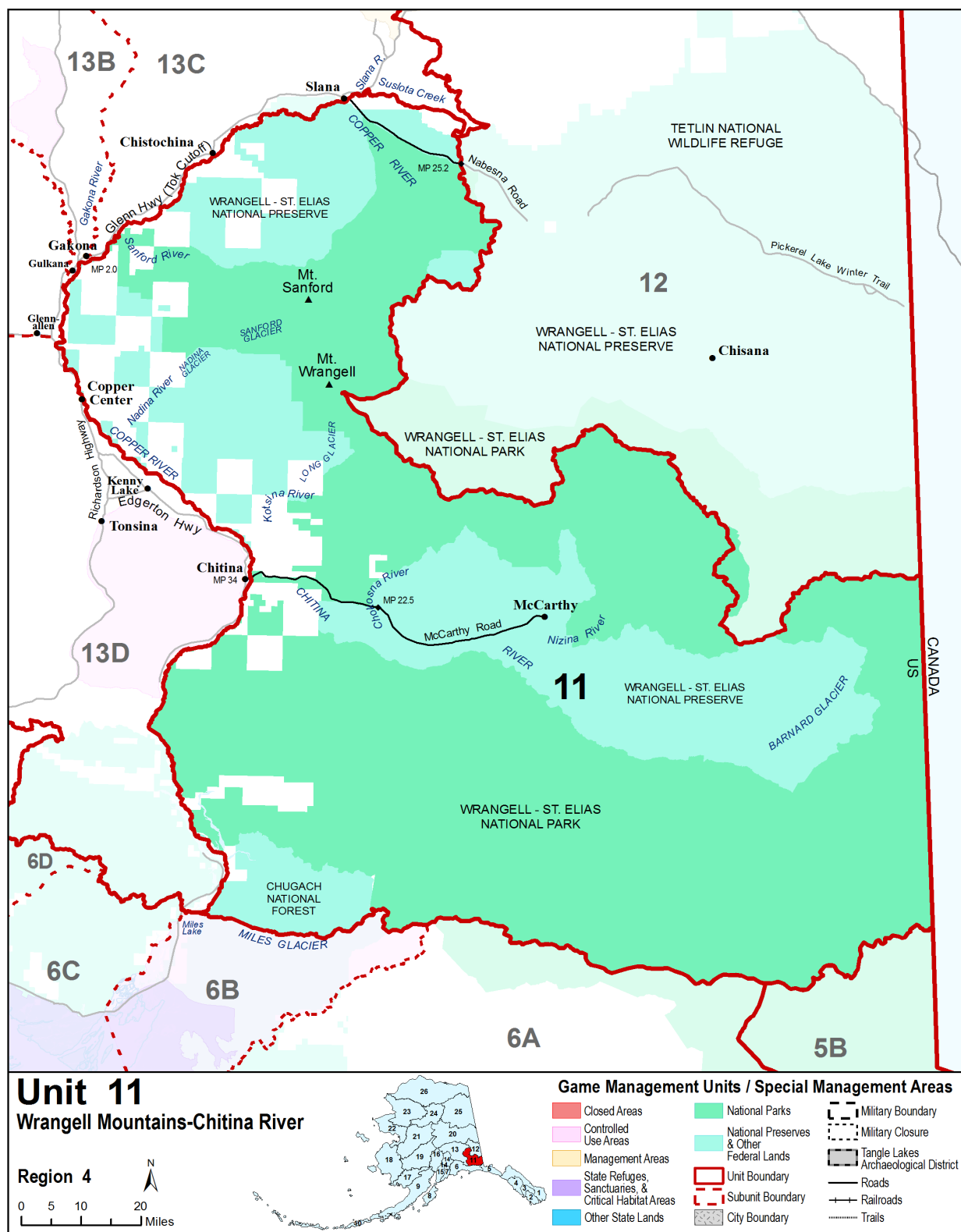


Figure 1. Map showing Unit 11 boundaries, Southcentral Alaska.

In December 1978, the establishment of the Wrangell-Saint Elias National Monument encompassed most of Unit 11. In 1980, the status of Wrangell-Saint Elias was changed from a monument to a park and preserve with passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). This development limited access and opportunity for Alaska state hunters and prohibited the use of aircraft for hunting in the National Park.

Due to the extent of National Park Service (NPS) land and the limited access available for resource users, the state adopted a passive approach to goat management in Unit 11. As a result, goat management in Unit 11 is reflective of NPS policy, which largely strives to allow for natural ecosystem processes without human interference and thereby allow the goat populations to fluctuate as influenced by available habitat, winter severity, and predation.

The harvest of mountain goats on park lands is limited to federal subsistence hunting by rural residents of designated communities in Units 11, 13, and a portion of 12. Federally qualified hunters can also hunt under federal subsistence regulations on preserve lands. State hunting regulations provide opportunity for residents and nonresidents to hunt goats on preserve lands, as well as state and private lands in Unit 11.

From the inception of federal subsistence hunt opportunity in 1998 through 2011 the average federal harvest was 2 goats per year. Federal hunters have not successfully harvested goats in Unit 11 since 2011. From 1980 through 2011, the average state harvest was 14 goats annually. Since 2012 the average annual state harvest has dropped to 6 goats. This trend coincides with a decrease from an average of 60 permits issued annually, from 1980 through 2011, to an average of 41 permits issued annually since 2012. During this time state hunters increasingly chose to hunt in 13D rather than in Unit 11; the state registration goat hunt offers opportunity in portions of both units.

Management Direction

EXISTING WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Management direction set in the mountain goat management plan for the Wrangell-Chugach (ADF&G 1976) has been modified through public comments, staff recommendations, and Board of Game (BOG) actions over the years. A record of these changes can be found in the division's previous species management reports. The plan portion of this report contains the current management plan for mountain goats in Unit 11.

GOALS

Provide an opportunity to hunt mountain goats under aesthetically pleasing conditions.

CODIFIED OBJECTIVES

Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses

The Alaska Board of Game made a negative finding for customary and traditional uses for mountain goats in Unit 11.

Intensive Management

Mountain goats have not been identified by BOG as important for providing high levels of harvest for human consumptive use.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Maintain an annual harvest of up to 10% of the estimated goat population.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Assessing population trends and monitoring harvest are integral components of management programs in Unit 11. Survey and inventory (S&I) management activities used to monitor goat populations in Unit 11 are described below.

1. Population Status and Trend

ACTIVITY 1.1. Monitor goat abundance and population composition.

Data Needs

Trends in goat abundance and composition data are necessary to determine population status in relation to management objectives. These data inform an index of annual productivity and sustainable harvest potential and provide insight into population trends and fluctuations that occur due to factors such as increased predation, icing events, severe winters, or changes in habitat, including nutritional availability.

Methods

Aerial surveys using fixed-wing aircraft are conducted in established sheep/goat trend count areas (CAs) to determine goat population trends and age composition (Fig. 2; Appendix A). Surveys are generally conducted in early June, prior to leaf-out, as goats in Unit 11 often frequent brushy and even timbered areas. An experienced pilot/observer team flies geographic contours systematically within a CA at 70–80 mph searching for goats and recording data. Goat observations are also recorded when encountered during sheep surveys. Each goat or group of goats that is observed during the survey is circled to determine age classification and number of animals present. A waypoint is recorded for each observation and a digital photograph may be taken to confirm goat numbers and classification for that waypoint upon return to the office. In some years, surveys are not possible due to poor survey conditions (e.g., high winds or low visibility) or limited resources. Surveys are usually conducted annually in CA21 and once every few years in CA22. Other CAs are surveyed occasionally as weather and resources allow. Survey timing and CAs are coordinated with NPS to maximize resources.

Results and Discussion

Recent trend counts conducted in CA21 (MacColl Ridge) suggest that the goat population in the southern Wrangell mountains may be increasing (Table 1). The 87 total goats and 69 adults observed in RY17 represent the highest counts observed in CA21 since surveys began in 1970. The relatively high kids-to-100 adults ratios observed during this reporting period, combined with the steady increase in total goats observed annually, suggest that recruitment may be

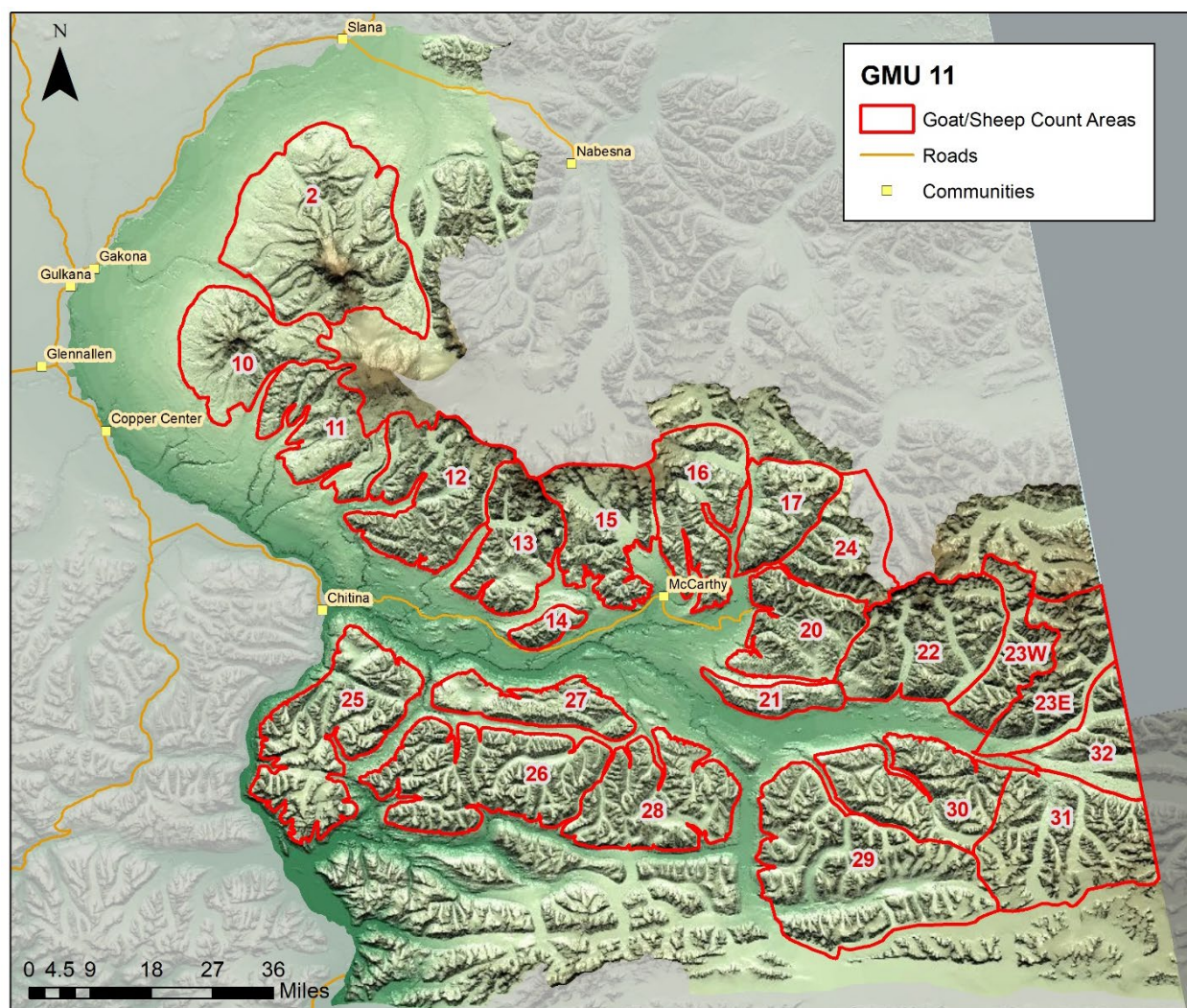


Figure 2. Map showing Unit 11 mountain goat and Dall sheep trend count areas used during regulatory years 2013–2017, Alaska.

relatively high for goats in Unit 11, although immigration may also occur from surrounding areas. Overall, the goat population in CA21 has remained relatively stable since the mid- to late 1990s. This reporting period shows a 5-year average of 51 adults observed annually, while the previous 10-year average was also 51 adults, and the overall average from RY95 until RY13 was 51.5 adults. This is an increase from a relatively stable population with an average of 37 adults observed annually prior to RY95.

The number of goats observed in CA22 during RY13 were incidental to a sheep survey in that area and may not represent an accurate portrayal of the number of goats in the area. The most recent count prior to RY13 was conducted in RY11, when 48 adults and 13 kids were observed.

Recommendations for Activity 1.1

Continue.

Table 1. Unit 11 mountain goat counts, Alaska, regulatory years 2013–2017.

| Trend count area | Regulatory year | Adults (%) | Kids (%) | Kids:100 adults | Total goats observed |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------|----------|-----------------|----------------------|
| CA21 | 2013 | 31 (80) | 8 (20) | 26 | 39 |
| | 2014 | 44 (77) | 13 (23) | 30 | 57 |
| | 2015 | 47 (92) | 4 (8) | 9 | 51 |
| | 2016 | 66 (84) | 13 (16) | 20 | 79 |
| | 2017 | 69 (79) | 18 (21) | 26 | 87 |
| CA22 ^a | 2013 | 25 (78) | 7 (22) | 28 | 32 |

^a Goat counts in CA22 are incidental during sheep surveys.

2. Mortality-Harvest Monitoring and Regulations

ACTIVITY 2.1. Monitor and evaluate goat harvest through hunter harvest reports.

Data Needs

It is critical in sustained yield management to understand hunter effort and success through monitoring and analyzing harvest data in Unit 11 on an annual basis.

Methods

Individuals who obtain a registration goat permit (RG580) from ADF&G are required to return their hunt report after a successful harvest, or after the end of the season. RG580 permit holders may hunt in Unit 11, a portion of Unit 13D, or both areas. Unit 11 hunt information is only available for hunters who reported hunting or harvesting in Unit 11.

Unit 11 hunters participating in the federal subsistence goat hunt (FG1101) are required to report to NPS. ADF&G receives basic hunt statistics (number of permits issued, number of hunters, days hunted, and success) from the federal subsistence hunt database.

Hunters are encouraged to harvest males, while the harvest of nannies with kids is prohibited. Nonresident hunters are required to hunt with a guide or a resident next-of-kin hunter. Current season and bag limits are located online at

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildliferegulations.hunting>.

Seasons and Bag Limits

State hunt in Unit 11, a portion of Unit 12, and a portion of 13D (Fig. 3)

| State hunts | Bag limit | Open season | |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Resident | Nonresident |
| RG580 | 1 goat | 1 Sep–30 Nov | 1 Sep–30 Nov |

Federal hunt in Unit 11 — that portion within Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve that is bounded by the Chitina and Nizina rivers on the south, the Kennicott River and glacier on the southeast, and the Root Glacier on the east.

| Federal hunt | Qualifying hunters | Bag limit | Open seasons |
|--------------|---|-----------|---------------|
| FG1101 | Residents of Unit 11, Chitina, Chistochina, Copper Center, Dot Lake, Gakona, Glennallen, Gulkana, Kenny Lake, Mentasta Lake, Slana, Tazlina, Tok Cutoff Road (mile posts 79–110 Mentasta Pass), Nabesna Road (mileposts 25–46) and Tonsina. | 1 goat | 25 Aug–31 Dec |

Federal hunt in Unit 11 — the remainder of the Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park and Preserve.

| Federal hunt | Qualifying hunters | Bag limit | Open seasons |
|--------------|---|-----------|------------------|
| FG1101 | Residents of Unit 11, Chitina, Chistochina, Copper Center, Dot Lake, Gakona, Glennallen, Gulkana, Kenny Lake, Mentasta Lake, Slana, Tazlina, Tok Cutoff Road (mile posts 79–110 Mentasta Pass), Nabesna Road (mileposts 25–46) and Tonsina. | 1 goat | 10 Aug 10–31 Dec |

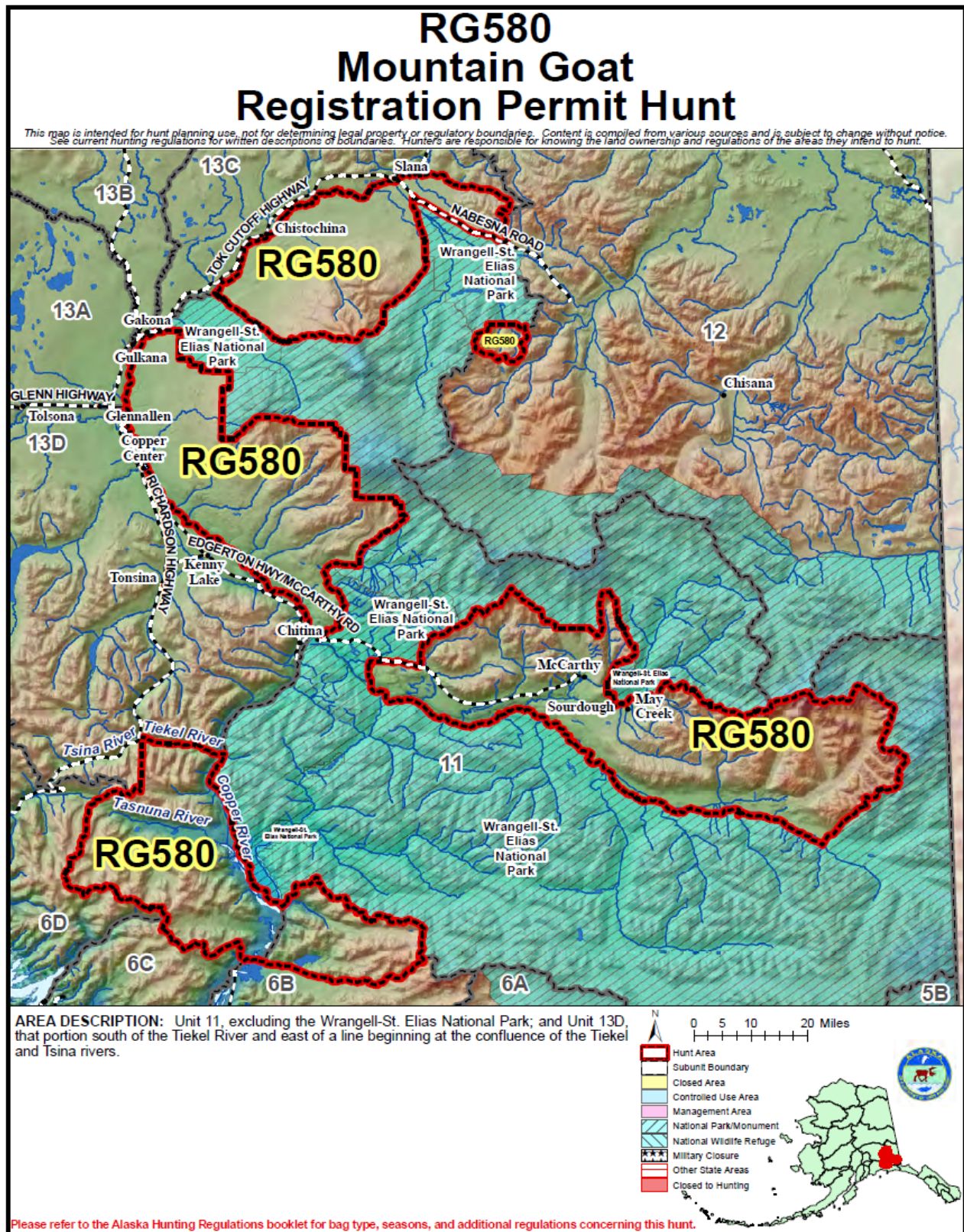


Figure 3. Map showing the RG580 mountain goat registration permit hunt area as found in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

Results and Discussion

Harvest by Hunters

No mountain goats were harvested on federal permits in Unit 11 during RY13–RY17 (Table 2). Harvest on RG580 permits in Unit 11 during RY13–RY17 ranged from 3 to 8 goats annually (average 6.4 goats), with only 1 nanny harvested annually except for when 2 nannies were harvested in RY14 (Table 3). The 5-year average harvest from RY13–RY17 is below the previous average of 9.6 goats. The average number of permits decreased from 58 permits (RY08–RY12) to 43 permits (RY13–RY17), which may account for the decrease in harvest.

Table 2. Federal FG1101 permits, hunters, effort, and harvest, regulatory years 2013–2017.

| Regulatory year | Total permits | Hunted (%) | Days hunted | Total harvest |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|-------------|---------------|
| 2013 | 30 | 7 (23) | 58 | 0 |
| 2014 | 31 | 10 (32) | 46 | 0 |
| 2015 | 29 | 6 (21) | 29 | 0 |
| 2016 | 22 | 4 (18) | 27 | 0 |
| 2017 | 26 | 3 (12) | 16 | 0 |

Table 3. Alaska permit RG580 hunters and harvest reported in Unit 11, regulatory years 2013–2017.

| Regulatory year | Total hunters | Successful hunters (%) | Males harvested (%) | Females harvested (%) | Total harvest |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 2013 | 18 | 8 (44) | 7 (88) | 1 (12) | 8 |
| 2014 | 15 | 7 (47) | 5 (71) | 2 (29) | 7 |
| 2015 | 14 | 3 (21) | 2 (67) | 1 (33) | 3 |
| 2016 | 14 | 7 (50) | 6 (86) | 1 (14) | 7 |
| 2017 | 9 | 7 (78) | 6 (86) | 1 (14) | 7 |

Hunter Residency and Success

Hunter residency information for goat hunters in Unit 11 is only available for RG580 hunters who reported hunting or harvesting in Unit 11. Only nonresidents harvested nannies during this reporting period. Nonresident success is often high due to the requirement for nonresidents to be guided in order to harvest mountain goats in Alaska (Table 4). Local hunter participation and success are both very low, and nonlocal resident success oscillated between 0–33% during this reporting period.

Table 4. Permit RG580 residency and success reported in Unit 11, Alaska, regulatory years 2013–2017.

| Regulatory year | Local hunters | | Nonlocal residents | | Nonresidents | | Total hunters |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Hunted (% of total) | Success rate | Hunted (% of total) | Success rate | Hunted (% of total) | Success rate | |
| 2013 | 2 (11) | 0% | 10 (56) | 20% | 6 (33) | 100% | 18 |
| 2014 | 1 (7) | 0% | 4 (27) | 0% | 10 (67) | 70% | 15 |
| 2015 | 0 (0) | – | 12 (86) | 17% | 2 (14) | 50% | 14 |
| 2016 | 0 (0) | – | 6 (43) | 33% | 8 (57) | 63% | 14 |
| 2017 | 0 (0) | – | 2 (22) | 0% | 7 (78) | 100% | 9 |

Harvest Chronology

Most goat harvest in Unit 11 generally occurs during the first half of September although a greater number of goats are harvested in the second half of September in RY13 and RY14 (Table 5). Very few, if any, goats are harvested in October, and no goats were harvested in November during this reporting period. Snow typically blankets both alpine and lowland terrain by November, making goats very difficult to access.

Table 5. Permit RG580 harvest chronology by week in Unit 11, Alaska, regulatory years 2013–2017.

| Regulatory year | September | | | | October | | | | November |
|-----------------|-----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|------|-------|-------|----------|
| | 1–7 | 8–15 | 16–23 | 24–30 | 1–7 | 8–15 | 16–23 | 24–31 | 1–30 |
| 2013 | 2 (25) | 0 | 1 (12.5) | 4 (50) | 1 (12.5) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2014 | 1 (14) | 2 (29) | 4 (57.0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2015 | 2 (67) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 (33.0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2016 | 2 (29) | 4 (57) | 1 (14.0) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2017 | 3 (43) | 1 (14) | 2 (29.0) | 1 (14) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Note: Numbers in parentheses represent percent of total harvest.

Transport Methods

Goat habitat is very remote, high in elevation, and typically difficult to access by means other than aircraft. Therefore, most goat hunters in Unit 11 use airplanes to access the hunt area (Table 6). Hunt success is low for hunters using other methods of transportation, but this is also reflective of the nonresident requirement of using a guide, which almost exclusively results in airplane access for nonresidents in Unit 11.

Table 6. Permit RG580 harvest by transportation method in Unit 11, Alaska, regulatory years 2013–2017.

| Regulatory years | Airplane | | Horse | | Boat | | ATV | | Highway vehicle | | No transport, other, or unknown | |
|---------------------|----------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| | Hunted | Success rate | Hunted | Success rate | Hunted | Success rate | Hunted | Success rate | Hunted | Success rate | Hunted | Success rate |
| 2013 | 15 | 53% | 0 | – | 0 | – | 0 | – | 2 | 0% | 1 | 0% |
| 2014 | 8 | 63% | 1 | 100% | 3 | 33% | 1 | 0% | 2 | 0% | 0 | – |
| 2015 | 9 | 22% | 0 | – | 1 | 100% | 0 | – | 3 | 0% | 1 | 0% |
| 2016 | 12 | 58% | 0 | – | 1 | 0% | 0 | – | 1 | 0% | 0 | – |
| 2017 | 8 | 88% | 0 | – | 0 | – | 0 | – | 0 | – | 1 | 0% |

Other Mortality

Little is known about other sources of mortality on mountain goats in Unit 11 other than natural predation. Wolves and golden eagles (especially for kids) are the most frequent predators of goats in the area.

Alaska Board of Game Actions and Emergency Orders

The most recent Board of Game (BOG) action relative to Unit 11 added a portion of Unit 13D to the RG580 hunt area starting in RY07. No BOG actions took place during this reporting period.

Recommendations for Activity 2.1

Continue.

3. Habitat Assessment-Enhancement

No activities.

NONREGULATORY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OR NEEDS

Data Recording and Archiving

- State goat harvest data is stored on ADF&G's Wildlife Information Network (WinfoNet) (<http://winfonet.alaska.gov/index.cfm>). Federal mountain goat harvest data must be obtained from NPS or the federal subsistence database and is stored electronically on the Glennallen Shared Drive (O:\DWC\BGDIF\Goat\Goatharvest\Critical Goat Files).
- Goat survey data forms (Appendix A) are stored in the filing cabinet labeled "Goat" located in the area biologist's office in Glennallen.
- Data are entered and stored electronically with survey waypoints, survey tracks, and PDF files of the scanned data sheets on the Glennallen Shared Drive (O:\DWC\BGDIF\Goat\Goatcomp).
- All electronic files are backed-up nightly to offsite storage maintained on State of Alaska (SOA) servers.
- A report on survey results including cost, conditions, dates flown, and count information is written and transmitted to appropriate staff and supervisors in memorandum format.

Agreements

A data sharing agreement is in place to provide goat (and other species) harvest data to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve for RY90 through RY20 (Appendix B). Goat surveys are coordinated with NPS; as a result, total counts for individual CAs are received from or shared with NPS as needed.

Permitting

Not applicable.

Conclusions and Management Recommendations

Mountain goat surveys indicate that the population in Unit 11 remains fairly stable and may be gradually increasing. Harvest pressure remains low despite liberal state and federal harvest opportunities. Low harvest pressure is largely due to the difficulty in accessing goat habitat in Unit 11, land status restrictions that limit nonfederally qualified hunters to state and preserve lands, as well as WRST restrictions that prohibit airplane access for federal hunters on park lands. Given these restrictions, there is currently no conservation concern for mountain goats in Unit 11.

The existing management objectives for mountain goats in Unit 11 are difficult to assess due to our limited ability to accurately estimate mountain goat abundance within the entire Unit. Objectives for goats in Unit 11 should be concrete, yet adaptable. Harvest numbers, based on the history of sustainable harvest in the area, as well as harvest thresholds, that limit nanny harvest to preserve the biological integrity of the population, are more appropriate and measurable metrics. These objectives should be reassessed for each new planning period to ensure that harvest pressure and/or population trends have not shown significant changes since the previous reporting period.

II. Project Review and RY18–RY22 Plan

Review of Management Direction

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

The management direction for Unit 11 should be modified to reflect meaningful and realistic goals and objectives that are appropriate in the context of current access, hunting pressure, and goat populations in Unit 11. The following modifications are recommended for Unit 11 and coincide with statewide goals within the frameworks of sustained yield and species conservation (ADF&G 2002).

GOALS

- Provide a sustainable opportunity to hunt mountain goats under aesthetically pleasing conditions.
- Protect and maintain the goat population and its habitat in concert with other components of the ecosystem.
- Provide an opportunity for nonconsumptive uses such as viewing and photographing goats.

CODIFIED OBJECTIVES

Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses

Same as Section I. RY13–RY17 Management Report, Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses (above).

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The proposed management objective is to maintain Unit 11 goat harvest at or below 15 goats annually with 70% or more of the annual harvest represented by take of males.

REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Population Status and Trend

ACTIVITY 1.1. Monitor goat abundance and population composition.

Data Needs

No change from RY13–RY17 report.

Methods

No change from RY13–RY17 report.

2. Mortality-Harvest Monitoring

ACTIVITY 2.1. Monitor and evaluate goat harvest through hunter harvest reports.

Data Needs

No change from RY13–RY17 report.

Methods

No change from RY13–RY17 report.

3. Habitat Assessment-Enhancement

No change from RY13–RY17 report.

NONREGULATORY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OR NEEDS

Data Recording and Archiving

No change from RY13–RY17 report.

Agreements

No change from RY13–RY17 report.

Permitting

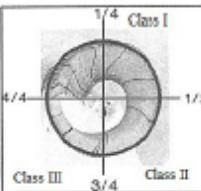
No change from RY13–RY17 report.

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Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 1976. Alaska wildlife management plans: A public proposal for the management of Alaska's wildlife: Southcentral Alaska. Draft proposal subsequently approved by the Alaska Board of Game. Division of Game, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-17-R, Juneau.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2002. Strategic plan. Division of Wildlife Conservation. Juneau.

Appendix A. Goat/Sheep survey data form.

| MOUNTAIN GOAT AND SHEEP SURVEY FORM | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|---------------------|------|---|------------------|----|-----|---|------|-------|-------|
| Area: Chugach / Talkeetna / Alaska Range / Other: _____ (circle one) | | | | | | | | Page _____ of _____ | | | |
| Date: _____ | | Count Area: _____ | | | | | |  | | | |
| Pilot: _____ | | Observer: _____ | | | | | | | | | |
| Time Off: _____ | | Time Landing: _____ | | Total Flight Time: _____ | | | | | | | |
| Light: low / med / bright | | | | Cloud cover: clear / scat / broken / overcast | | | | | | | |
| Snow cover (%) _____ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Start Count Time: _____ | | | | End Count Time: _____ | | | | Total Count Time: _____ | | | |
| Waypoint | Goats | | | Sheep | | | | | | | |
| | Adults | Kids | Unid | Full Curl Rams | < Full Curl Rams | | | Unid Rams | Ewes | Lambs | Unid. |
| | | | | | I | II | III | | | | |
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Appendix B. Data sharing agreement for wildlife data with National Park Service.

**AGREEMENT FOR USE OF WILDLIFE DATA
BETWEEN
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME (ADF&G)
AND
WRANGELL-ST. ELIAS NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE**

This agreement covers the following two files to be transferred to Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve: 1) harvest data files for bison, black bear, brown bear, caribou, moose, mountain goat, sheep, and wolves in Game Management Units 11 and 12 by UCU, including location of kill by major and minor subdivisions, method of take, date of kill, horn, skull, or antler morphometric data, and sex for the regulatory years 1990–1991 through 2014–2015; and 2) a .shp file delineating UCU boundaries. ADF&G will provide harvest data for species listed for regulatory years 2015–2016 through 2020–2021 upon request by Wrangell St Elias National Park.

This information is released to, and may be used by, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve under the following conditions:

1. The information will be used to monitor harvest of bison, black bear, brown bear, caribou, moose, mountain goat, sheep, and wolf populations within the Park boundaries.
2. Harvest information will not be published, publically disseminated, or presented by the NPS or its contractors at the spatial resolution of latitude and longitude of a kill site or by watershed defined as a Uniform Coding Unit (UCU) in ADF&G data.
3. The information will not be released to others except to persons in a contractual relationship with Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve who will be performing work for or on behalf of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, on a need-to-know basis, in which case Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve will require the contractors to agree to and abide by the conditions in this document.
4. The NPS agrees that the harvest location data is protected from disclosure under state law and will make every effort to keep it confidential under federal law, and will notify ADF&G if there is a Freedom of Information Act request for the data.

Under the above conditions, ADF&G agrees to release the attached information, and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve agrees to receive and use it.

Signature on file _____

Date April 4, 2016

Maria Gladyszewski, Deputy Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G

Signature on file _____

Date 4/7/2016

Eric Veach, Acting Superintendent, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

