

**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**

**GRANT AND SEGMENT NO.** AKW-20 Wildlife Restoration FY2017

**PROJECT NO.** 12.0 Mountain Goat

**PERIOD:** July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Region I

**PROJECT TITLE:** The Status of Mountain Goat and Factors Influencing Their Populations

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

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

**Region I:** Units 1, 4, and 5

**Region-wide:**

**Activity 1:** Provide information to state and federal regulatory processes on mountain goat management.

**Accomplishments:** Information on mountain goat harvest and management was provided to state and federal regulatory bodies as requested.

**Activity 2:** Survey goat populations including adult/kid composition in key management areas within the region.

**Accomplishments:** We flew annual population surveys including adult/kid composition in key management areas.

**Activity 3:** Monitor results from the registration and draw permit hunts and analyze the data.

**Accomplishments:** All mountain goat hunts in Region I require hunters to obtain a registration or draw permit. We monitored hunter interest through issuing permits and documented hunter effort and harvest through the required permit reporting process.

**Activity 4:** Update guideline harvest level objectives for selected goat populations based on a review of long-term harvests of goats in these areas.

**Accomplishments:** Region I management biologists reviewed findings of aerial surveys against current guideline harvest levels for selected mountain goat populations and where deemed necessary to maintain a sustainable harvest or allow additional hunter opportunity, adjusted guideline harvest levels.

**Activity 5:** Monitor cases of contagious ecthyma (ORF) and other diseases in goat populations.

**Accomplishments:** Region I managers monitored for contagious ecthyma (ORF) and other diseases in goat populations through reports from hunters and mountain goat researchers and through observations during aerial surveys.

**Activity 6:** Work with relevant agencies (USFS and BLM), community leaders and helicopter operators to address concerns about helicopter tourism on mountain goats.

**Accomplishments:** Region I managers continued ongoing efforts to minimize disturbance of mountain goats by helicopters primarily through federal and borough permitting processes. Habitat use data gathered by ADF&G researchers informed comments on helicopter access to flightseeing, skiing, and mining activities.

## **Activities by Unit:**

### **Unit 1A**

**Activity 1:** Recover remaining mountain goat collars on the Cleveland Peninsula and assist in data analysis and management recommendations.

**Accomplishments:** No activity. No collars were scheduled to release during this report period. However, two remaining collars will release during the FY2018 report period.

### **Unit 1B**

**Activity 1:** Conduct aerial surveys to establish the minimum number of goats needed to maintain harvest opportunities for the LeConte Bay management area.

**Accomplishments:** Surveys were completed and the harvest limit was set at a sustainable level based on those surveys.

**Activity 2:** Conduct aerial surveys to establish the minimum number of goats needed to maintain harvest opportunities for the Thomas Bay management area.

**Accomplishments:** Surveys were completed and the harvest limit was set at a sustainable level based on those surveys.

**Activity 3:** Conduct aerial surveys to establish the minimum number of goats needed to maintain harvest opportunities for the Cleveland Peninsula management area.

**Accomplishments:** Surveys were completed and the harvest limit was set at a sustainable level based on those surveys.

### Unit 1C

**Activity 1:** Monitor, the potential impact of sightseeing helicopter flights on selected populations, through aerial survey trend counts as well as taking into account observations from members of the public that suggest goats are being disturbed by helicopter activity.

**Accomplishments:** Management biologists completed trend counts in areas with high potential for helicopter disturbance and reviewed findings against previous counts and other information to assess effects of helicopters on mountain goat populations.

**Activity 2:** Monitor populations through aerial surveys in areas where road construction, mining, or hydroelectric development may occur.

**Accomplishments:** Management biologists continued to monitor goat populations in areas potentially affected by development projects and to make recommendations based on those observations.

### Unit 1D

**Activity 1:** Conduct aerial surveys throughout the unit to compile data on population trends as well as adult/kid composition for long term monitoring; use this data to adjust guideline harvest levels in discrete management areas.

**Accomplishments:** Surveys were completed and the harvest limit was set at a sustainable level.

**Activity 2:** Assist research biologist with capturing and radio-collaring mountain goats in Unit 1D to assess population sightability, habitat use, and survival.

**Accomplishments:** Management biologists continued to collaborate with research biologists on goat collaring projects.

### Unit 4

**Activity 1:** Assist in the capture and radio-collaring of mountain goats on Baranof Island to study movements and habitat utilization.

**Accomplishments:** Management biologists continued to collaborate with research biologists on goat collaring projects.

**Activity 2:** Continue to work closely with the hunting community to address high female harvest.

**Accomplishments:** The Sitka management biologist in cooperation with the US Forest Service held public meetings and published news releases to inform hunters about the most recent

information on mountain goat population levels and sustainable harvest levels. The number of female goats taken has declined, so ongoing education efforts appear to be effective. During this report period the Sitka management biologist cooperated with an ADF&G researcher and the US Forest Service to develop a new hunt strategy designed to provide additional hunting opportunity by encouraging hunters to access more remote areas where few goats are harvested. That strategy will go into effect during the FY2018 reporting period.

**Activity 3:** Conduct aerial surveys throughout the unit to compile data on population trends as well as adult/kid composition for long term monitoring; use this data to adjust guideline harvest levels in discrete management areas. Monitor habitat change in high concentration goat areas, as funding and staffing permit

**Accomplishments:** Surveys were completed and harvest limits for each management area were set at sustainable levels.

## **Unit 5**

**Activity 1:** Continue to survey goats in the Nunatak Glacier and Harlequin Lakes area annually to monitor these depleted goat populations.

**Accomplishments:** Surveys were completed.

**Submitted by:** Tom Schumacher, Management Coordinator

**Date:** September 2017

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

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Wildlife Restoration Grant**

**GRANT NUMBER:** AKW-20 Wildlife Restoration FY2017

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 12.0

**PROJECT TITLE:** The Status of Mountain Goat and Factors Influencing Their Populations

**REPORT PERIOD:** July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Region 2

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

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

**Regionwide:**

**ACTIVITY 1:** Prepare information for 5-year regional mountain goat management reports.

Area staff prepared information and produced the 2014 management report and submitted for publication. The department is transitioning to a 5-year report and plan. The next report will be published in 2019.

**ACTIVITY 2:** 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 3:** 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.

**ACTIVITY 4:** Provide information to state and federal regulatory processes on mountain goat management.

Staff routinely interact with federal staff and discuss management of mountain goats relative to the respective regulatory systems. Staff prepared and presented information on the status and management of mountain goats to the Board of Game at the most recent Region II meeting.

### **Activities by Unit:**

#### **Unit 6**

ACTIVITY 1: Surveys were completed and harvest quotas were set at a sustainable level.

ACTIVITY 2: We issued 455 goat hunt permits. Harvest was 89 males, 13 females (12%), and 7 unknown for a total of 109 goats.

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

ACTIVITY 1: Surveys were completed in regular count areas during the performance period. Harvest quotas were set at a sustainable level. Overall goat numbers in Units 7 and 15 appear to be slightly increasing.

ACTIVITY 2: Ninety-two goats were harvested during the reporting period (75 males and 17 females). Four hundred and seventy-four permits were issued of which 212 were hunted.

#### **Unit 8**

ACTIVITY 1: During July and August 2016, aerial surveys were conducted on approximately 50% of known goat habitat on Kodiak Island. The island-wide goat population is estimated to be approximately 2,800 goats.

ACTIVITY 2: During this reporting period all goat hunting in Unit 8 was administered by issuing a drawing or registration permit. We issued 1956 permits in 2016–17 and 317 goats (211 males, 103 females) were harvested. Hunters harvested 383 goats (234 males, 149 females) in 2015–16, and 344 goats (203 males, 141 females) were harvested during the 2014–15 season.

ACTIVITY 3: Thirty-one mountain goats (12 males, 19 females) were captured and radio collared on Kodiak Island from 20–26 July 2015. In RY16, only 6 of those collars are still functioning. Radio collared goats are monitored periodically and location data downloaded opportunistically as time and weather permits. Extensive collar failure will limit data analysis on mountain goat distribution, movements, and resource use, or development of a sightability model.

#### **Unit 14C**

ACTIVITY 1: Goat surveys were flown for all goat hunt areas in Unit 14C.

ACTIVITY 2 : Goat harvest was monitored through harvest reports and contacts with hunters. 224 permits were issued and 34 goats were harvested (29 male and 5 female).

**Submitted by:** Cynthia M. Wardlow, Management Coordinator

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ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
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PO Box 25526  
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**MOUNTAIN GOAT  
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY**

**STATE:** Alaska

**GRANT AND SEGMENT NUMBER:** AKW-20 Wildlife Restoration FY2017

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 12.0

**PERIOD:** 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Region IV (Units 11, 13, and 14A&B)

**PROJECT TITLE:** The Status of Mountain Goat and Factors Influencing Their Populations

**REPORT DESCRIPTION:** This performance report describes mountain goat survey and inventory activities. Regionwide activities are listed before specific activities by game management unit.

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**The Status of Mountain Goat and Factors Influencing Their Populations in  
Region IV**

**Region wide Activities:**

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare biennial regional mountain goat management report.

Biennial goat reports were not due during this reporting period.

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

*Unit 11*(Count area 21): 66 adults, 13 kids; 1 flight in a PA-18; survey time 1.4 hours.

*Unit 14A&B* Chugach Mountains (partial survey): 95 Adults, 7 yearlings, 22 kids; survey was conducted concurrently with a Dall sheep survey and effort cannot be teased out.

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>	6	1	0	7
<i>13D:</i>	10	1	0	11

AKW-20 12.0 Mountain Goat S&I Combined FY2017  
Annual Performance Report

14A: 4 4 0 8

**Submitted by:** Todd A. Rinaldi, Region IV Management Coordinator  
**Date:** 5 August 2016