

**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-27-5

PROJECT NR.: 12.0

WORK LOCATION: Statewide

PERIOD: 1 July 2001–30 June 2002

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 the Board of Game did not consider Region I mountain goat issues.

Activity 3: Draft a mountain goat management report.

The 2-year mountain goat management report was completed in spring 2002 and submitted to headquarters.

Activities by Unit

Unit 1A

Activity 1: Conduct population trend and composition counts.

The Ketchikan Area Biologist conducted aerial surveys in 9 established trend count areas, enumerating 644 goats.

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

Staff in the Ketchikan area office collected hunt-based information through use of registration permit reports and analyzed the data. A total of 23 goats were killed in Unit 1A. A total of 45 registered hunters went afield.

Unit 1B

Activity 1: Conduct population trend and composition counts.

Aerial surveys were conducted in two trend count areas during the regulatory year, enumerating and age-classifying over 100 goats.

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

Staff in the Petersburg area office collected hunt-based information through use of registration permit reports and analyzed the data. Staff issued 134 registration permits, and 68 hunters took a total of 24 goats. The hunt on the Cleveland Peninsula was closed by emergency order on October 22, 2001.

Unit 1C

Activity 1: Conduct population trend and composition counts.

Douglas Area staff conducted one aerial survey in the Tracy/Endicott trend count areas, enumerating a total of 599 goats.

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

Staff in the Douglas area office collected hunt-based information through use of registration permit reports and analyzed the data. A total of 59 goats were harvested in the unit.

Activity 3: 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 4: Monitor the course of contagious ecthyma (ORF) in northern Southeast populations as information becomes available.

These observations are not part of a separate current research study (Study 18.71) that is examining wildlife diseases from a statewide perspective. Staff queried goat hunters and big game guides

about any evidence of ORF observed in the field. Two cases of ORF were documented along the Juneau road system.

Unit 1D

Activity 1: Conduct population trend and composition counts.

The Douglas Area Biologist conducted aerial surveys along the Takshanuk Mountains along the Haines Highway, enumerating 189 goats. A survey was also conducted of the closed area near Skagway, where 39 goats were counted. A third survey was flown of the goat habitat east of the Skagway River, where 77 goats were observed.

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

Staff in the Douglas area office collected hunt-based information through use of registration permit reports and analyzed the data. About 24 goats were harvested in the unit.

Unit 4

Activity 1: Conduct population size and composition trend counts.

The Sitka Area Biologist conducted one August aerial survey in two established trend count areas, showing similar values to the previous survey in 2000.

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

Staff in the Sitka area office collected hunt-based information through use of registration permit reports and analyzed the data. Staff continued to analyze horn growth characteristics. Hunters obtained 322 registration permits, and 149 hunters killed 54 goats.

Unit 5

Activity 1: Conduct population trend and composition counts.

The Douglas Area Biologist conducted aerial surveys in two trend count areas. From Harlequin Lake west to Nunatak Bench a total of 48 goats were counted, and between Nunatak Bench and Harlequin Lake a total of 122 goats were observed.

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

Staff in the Douglas area office collected hunt-based information through use of registration permit reports and analyzed the data. Although no goats were taken from the Nunatak Bench area due to emergency order closure, total of 5 goats were harvested in Unit 5.

Activity 3: Develop 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): \$42.4

Submitted by: Bruce Dinneford, Wildlife Biologist IV

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.

Draft mountain goat management reports were completed during spring 2002.

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

Provided information at the spring 2001 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 6 of 16 active hunt areas during August and September 2001. Estimated number of goats in Unit 6 was 3450 with 19% kids.

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

Hunters killed 55 goats including 44 males, 9 females and 2 unrecovered for a total of 65 goat units. Total allowable harvest was 117 goat units.

Units 7 and 15

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

Table 1 Kenai Peninsula mountain goat surveys, 2001

Area	Date	Adults	Kid	Total	Kid/100 Adult	% Kids
336	8/10/01	109	26	135	24	19.3
337	7/27/01	18	0	18	0	0
338	8/21/01	24	5	29	21	17.2
339	8/13/01	71	8	79	11	10.1
341	8/06/01	30	9	39	30	23.1
344	8/06/01	45	10	55	22	18.2
346	8/6,11/01	252	51	303	20	16.8
351	8/13/00	14	7	21	50	33.0
353	7/27/01	0	0	0		
363	8/6,9/25/01	135	24	159	18	15.1
365	8/01/01	147	51	198	35	25.8
Totals		845	191	1036	22.6	18.4

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

Table 2. Kenai Peninsula mountain goat drawing permit hunt summary, 2001.

Hunt area	Permits issued	Number		Percent success	Harvest			Total
		of hunters			Male	Female	Unknown	
DG331	3	2		100%	0	2	0	2
DG332	4	2		0%	0	0	0	0
DG333	22	14		14%	1	1	0	2
DG334	10	6		33%	1	1	0	2
DG335	5	4		25%	1	0	0	1
DG336	25	10		20%	1	1	0	2
DG339	20	17		53%	6	3	0	9
DG340	20	4		0%	0	0	0	0
DG341	6	4		75%	1	2	0	3
DG342	12	7		29%	2	0	0	2
DG343	8	5		40%	2	0	0	2
DG344	10	1		0%	0	0	0	0
DG345	30	14		14%	2	0	0	2
DG346	30	19		32%	4	2	0	6
DG347	20	12		33%	2	2	0	4
DG351	5	3		0%	0	0	0	0
DG352	25	15		53%	3	5	0	8
Unit 7	255	139		32%	26	19	0	45
DG354	8	2		50%	1	0	0	1
DG355	4	3		0%	0	0	0	0
DG356	5	1		100%	1	0	0	1
DG357	10	6		17%	1	0	0	1
DG358	12	8		38%	0	3	0	3
DG359	10	3		0%	0	0	0	0
DG360	25	10		20%	2	0	0	2
DG361	15	6		33%	1	1	0	2
DG362	22	14		36%	5	0	0	5
DG363	30	15		27%	4	0	0	4
Unit 15	136	68		28%	15	4	0	19
Totals	391	207		31%	41	23	0	64

Season Dates: 10 August – 15 October.

Table 3. Kenai Peninsula mountain goat registration permit hunt summary, 2001

Hunt area	Permits issued	Number		Percent Success	Harvest			Total
		of hunters			Male	Female	Unknown	
RG332	8	5		20%	1	0	0	1
RG334	33	20		0%	0	0	0	0
RG336	19	8		0%	0	0	0	0
RG340	4	2		50%	1	0	0	1
RG342	3	3		0%	0	0	0	0
RG343	34	22		14%	1	1	1	3
RG344	5	1		0%	0	0	0	0
RG345	5	0		0%	0	0	0	0
RG346	52	29		10%	2	1	0	3
Unit 7	163	90		9%	5	2	1	8
RG360	7	5		20%	1	0	0	1
RG363	6	3		0%	0	0	0	0
RG365	5	5		60%	2	1	0	3
Unit 15	18	13		31%	3	1	0	4
Totals	181	103		12%	8	3	1	12

General Registration Season Dates: 1- 30 November.

Hunt area RG343 closed by emergency order November 28, 2001.

Hunt areas RG332, RG334 and RG342 were Archery Only hunts

Table 4. Kenai Peninsula mountain goat Tier II permit hunt summary, 2001.

Hunt area	Permits issued	Number		Percent Success	Harvest			Total
		of hunters			Male	Female	Unknown	
TG364	12	6		17%	1	0	0	1
TG365	30	9		33%	2	1	0	3
Totals	42	15		27%	3	1	0	4

Season Dates: 1 August - 15 October.

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

Provided information at the Board of Game meeting in March, 2001, as the board reviewed proposals to change goat hunting regulations on the Kenai Peninsula.

Unit 8

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

During August 2001, we surveyed about 85% of the goat habitat on Kodiak Island. We counted 1,114 goats, 833 of which were classified (760 adults, 123 kids). The kid:adult ratio (16:100) was lower than the average ratio noted during the previous 5 years (19:100). These data suggest the

island-wide 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.

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 161 to 195 during 2001/02 season. Preliminary data indicate that in 2001-02, hunters harvested 70 goats (50 males, 17 females, and 3 unknown). This harvest figure is up from the 2000-01 harvest of 54, and above the 5 year average of 62.2 goats. Hunters obtained 195 drawing permits, 119 hunters went into the field, and hunter success was 58%. The harvest ranged from 2-14 goats from each of the 9 permit hunts.

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:

GMU 11

Count areas 11,12,21,22,23 June/July 2002
156 adults 25(19%) kids.

GMU 13

Count areas 16,17,18 June 2002
45 adults 5 (10%) kids.

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

Preliminary harvest:

GMU 11

Males 4 Females 7 Sex Unk 0 Total harvest 11
Number of hunters = 32

GMU 13

Males 5 Females 1 Sex Unk 0 Total harvest 6
Number of hunters = 8

Unit 14

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

Partial survey flown in Unit 14C (Complete survey of the Lake George Area, and goats counted incidental to sheep surveys, Twentymile River area not counted):

Adults/yearlings 204(83%) Kids 42 (17%) Total 246

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

The preliminary Unit 14 harvest was:

Males 18 Females 7 Total 25

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

Provided information to the Board of Game as needed.

Other activities funded by federal aid on this project: None

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$41.8

Submitted by: Michael G. McDonald, Assistant Management Coordinator

Statewide Project Costs (in thousands):

State Share = \$21.1 Federal Share = \$63.1 Total Costs = \$84.2