

**FEDERAL AID  
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

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

**MOUNTAIN GOAT  
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY**

**STATE:** Alaska

**GRANT AND SEGMENT NO.** W-33-7

**PROJECT NO.** 12.0

**PERIOD:** 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Statewide

**PROJECT TITLE:** The Status of Mountain Goats 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.

---

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

**Regionwide Activities:**

**ACTIVITY 1:** Conduct mountain goat surveys, including sex and age composition in key management areas within the region.

*Unit 1A:* The Ketchikan area staff conducted two mountain goat surveys, Deer Mountain (88 goats, 61 adults, 27 kids) and the Cleveland Peninsula (18 goats, 11 adults, 7 kids).

*Unit 1B:* The Petersburg staff conducted aerial surveys in 5 of 27 established trend-count areas during the report period. Aerial surveys were concentrated in those trend count areas that typically receive the highest levels of hunting pressure. A total of 144 goats were observed, including 117 adults and 27 kids.

*Unit 1C:* Staff conducted aerial surveys of the area between Tracy and Endicott Arm (221 goats: 183 adults and 38 kids).

*Unit 1D:* Staff conducted aerial surveys in two count areas in this unit, (Skagway Pie: 118 goats: 99 adults and 19 kids), and (Takhin Ridge: 103 goats: 84 adults and 19 kids).

*Unit 4:* The Sitka staff conducted aerial surveys in just a small portion of the goat range, near Green Lake. Forty seven goats were observed with 40 adults and 7 kids.

*Unit 5:* Staff conducted surveys throughout Unit 5A, from Nunatak Bench to Gateway Knob (286 goats: 238 adults and 48 kids).

ACTIVITY 2: Collect biological samples, horn measurements, and age data from harvested animals.

*Unit 1A:* 23 goats were harvested and all were sampled.

*Unit 1B:* 7 goats were harvested and all were sampled.

*Unit 1C:* 42 goats were harvested, and approximately 50% were sampled.

*Unit 1D:* 26 goats were harvested and all were sampled.

*Unit 4:* 32 goats were harvested and all were sampled.

*Unit 5:* 4 goats were harvested and all were sampled.

ACTIVITY 3: Monitor results from registration permit hunts and analyze the data.

*Unit 1A:* The Ketchikan Area office collected hunter information through a mandatory registration permit report. Fifty three permittees participate in the hunt.

*Unit 1B:* Petersburg Area staff collected hunter information from goat hunters via a mandatory registration permit reporting requirement. The mandatory hunt reports include information on successful and/or unsuccessful hunt locations, method of transportation, days of effort and commercial services used. Thirty two permittees participated in the hunt.

*Units 1C, 1D & 5:* The Douglas Area office collected hunter information through a mandatory registration permit report. Hunt report data included location of hunt, mode of access used, days hunted, and commercial services used. If the hunter was successful the report also queried the location of the kill. One hundred eighty seven permittees participated in the hunts.

*Unit 4:* Hunt report data included location of hunt, mode of access used, days hunted, and commercial services used. If the hunter was successful the report also queried the location of the kill. One hundred twenty two permittees participated in the hunt.

ACTIVITY 4: Update guideline harvest level objectives for selected goat herds based on a review of long-term harvest trends.

Harvest guidelines were discussed among staff, with Forest Service personnel, and guides during the year. Units 1A, 1B, 1C, and 4 have all experienced a rising interest in goat hunting especially by commercial guides. This has intensified the department's efforts to minimize the harvest of females in order to avoid population level concerns due to loss in productivity.

Efforts continue across the region to manage goats at finer scales dictated by hunter access. This has become necessary to prevent an overharvest at these access points.

### **Unit 1C:**

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor the Lake Dorothy hydro project area for mountain goat activity through site visits and aerial surveys.

A survey was completed at the Lake Dorothy hydro site, 8 adults and 4 kids were observed. Dialog with construction workers at the hydro site was maintained to keep us abreast of any goat sign or activity seen.

**Unit 1C and 1D:**

ACTIVITY 1: Capture, radio-collar, and monitor a sample of goats in areas adjacent to the proposed Juneau access project and the Kensington Mine site.

Area staff participated in the capture and fitting of radio-collars to approximately 25 goats during this report period. In addition to the collaring, aerial surveys were used to count goats in this area and radio-collars were used to determine sightability of goats during aerial surveys. The collars also allowed us to estimate survival of goats in this area.

**Submitted by:** Neil L. Barten, Region I Management Coordinator

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

**Regionwide Activities:**

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare a biennial regional mountain goat management report.

The next biennial mountain goat management report is due to DWC HQ on 1 April 2010.

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

*Unit 6:* Five hunt areas were surveyed during the reporting period. Most areas were down by 10-15% because of winter severity.

*Units 7 and 15:* Eleven areas were surveyed with 648 goats counted (503 adults and 108 kids).

*Unit 8:* In August 2007, we surveyed about 80% of the goat habitat on Kodiak Island counting 1,674 goats (1,390 adults, 284 kids). The kid:adult ratio (20:100) decreased from the average ratio noted during the previous five years (24:100). These data suggest the island-wide goat productivity was stable, with localized fluctuations. The estimated island-wide goat population was 1,910 during this reporting period, up from the 2006 estimate of 1,780 goats.

*Unit 11:* In June 2008, a survey in Count Area 21 found 57 adults, 11 kids.

*Unit 13:* In June and July 2008 surveys were conducted in eight count areas in 13D as summarized in the table:

Count area	Adults	Kids
1	0	0
2	26	10
16	12	0
17	4	0
18	31	9
11,12,13	33	3

*Unit 14C:* No surveys conducted due to poor weather during the optimum survey window.

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

*Unit 6:* We issued 356 permits and 176 hunters reported taking 58 goats, including 44 billies, 12 nannies and two of unknown gender.

*Units 7 and 15:* The preliminary harvest was 50 goats (42 male and eight female) during the reporting period.

*Unit 8:* Expansion of goat populations into all available habitats on Kodiak Island allowed us to increase hunter opportunity. We issued 500 drawing permits during the 2007/08 season. Registration hunts were conducted after the drawing hunts in the nine hunt areas where an allowable surplus remained. Preliminary data indicate hunters harvested 148 goats (101 males, 46 females and one unknown), down from the 2006/07 harvest of 172 goats, and above the 5-year average of 140.8 goats. There were 262 hunters that went into the field during the drawing hunts, and hunter success was 50%. During the registration hunt, we issued 178 permits and 34 hunters went into the field, and hunter success was 32%. The harvest ranged from 3-38 goats for each of the nine permit hunt areas.

*Unit 11:* We issued 86 permits. Forty hunters reported taking 15 goats, 10 of them billies.

*Unit 13:* We issued 10 permits for DG718 in 13D. Only one hunter reported going afield and did not kill a goat. We issued 25 permits for DG719 in 13D. Eleven hunters reported taking four goats, two each billies and nannies.

*Unit 14C:* We issued 72 permits. Forty-one hunters reported taking 23 goats, 21 of them billies.

## **Units 7 & 15**

ACTIVITY 1: In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service Chugach National Forest capture and radio collar up to 10 mountain goats to determine habitat use and movements.

Six goats were captured during the reporting period.

**Submitted by:** Gino DelFrate, Region II Management Coordinator