

B.C. Mountain Goat Workshop, Prince George, BC 2005

Project Title: Mountain Goat Inventory in the Nass Wildlife Area Region A

1. **Project Leader(s):** Mike W. Demarchi; Steve R. Johnson; Gary F. Searing
2. **Project Team Members:** Same
3. **Project contact information:** Phone: 2506560127 Fax: 2506554761
Email: demarchi@lgl.com Web page: www.lgl.com
4. **Project location:** Nass and Kitimat ranges ecosections, BC
Coastal: Transition: Interior:
5. **Project timeframe:** Start (month/year): 09/96 End (month/year, or ongoing): 10/98
6. **Project status:** Data collection Analysis Write-up Publication
7. **Project objectives:** (briefly describe the primary objectives of your project)
Determine distribution and abundance of mountain goats and habitat in a portion of the Nass Wildlife Area to assist in treaty-related wildlife management decisions.

8. Project descriptors (select all that apply):

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|---|--|--|
| Research <input type="checkbox"/> | Habitat Use: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Forestry Interactions: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Management <input type="checkbox"/> | VHF collars: <input type="checkbox"/> | Oil & Gas Interactions: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Inventory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | GPS collars: <input type="checkbox"/> | Mineral Exploration: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Predation: <input type="checkbox"/> | Harvest: <input type="checkbox"/> | Aerial Disturbance: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Habitat Modeling: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Population Dynamics: <input type="checkbox"/> | Human Disturbance: <input type="checkbox"/> |
- Other:

9. Project description (provide a brief description of your project including methods and main findings or results to date):

During autumn 1996 and 1997, we surveyed eight inventory blocks covering 6427 km² in west-central British Columbia for Mountain Goats (*Oreamnos americanus*) and estimated that a minimum of 2272 individuals occupied the area. Totals were not adjusted for sightability. For areas above the minimum elevations of goat sightings, the overall population density was 0.70 goats • km⁻². Mountain Goats occurred in groups of 1-33 animals and at elevations ranging from 500 to 2050 m. Most (87.3%) were observed in alpine or cliff areas, but many (10.7%) were observed in timbered areas, especially near the coast. The present Mountain Goat population appears healthy, but expanding forestry operations in Mountain Goat habitat and increased road access will necessitate more refined management in the near future. Additional winter survey work documented goat distribution during winter; habitat suitability modelling of the Nass Wildlife Area was completed.

10. Project documentation (provide a list of citations for all progress, final, or published reports)

Demarchi, M. W., S. R. Johnson, and G. F. Searing. 1997. Mountain goat inventory in the Nisga'a Wildlife Management Area, Region A. Final 1996 Annual Report prepared for Forest Renewal BC by Nisga'a Tribal Council, New Aiyansh, BC, and LGL Limited, Sidney, BC. 13 p.

Demarchi, MW, SR Johnson. 1998. Mountain goat inventory in the Nisga'a Wildlife Management Area, Region A. Report prepared for Forest Renewal BC by Nisga'a Tribal Council, New Aiyansh, BC, and LGL Limited, Sidney, BC. 26 p.

Demarchi, MW, SR Johnson, GF Searing. 2000. Mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*) distribution and abundance in westcentral British Columbia. *Canadian Field Naturalist* 114(2) 301-306.

Yazvenko, SB, GF Searing, MW Demarchi. 2002. Wildlife habitat assessment in the Nass Wildlife Area. LGL Report EA1097. Prepared for Forest Renewal BC by Nisga'a Tribal Council, New Aiyansh, BC, and LGL Limited, Sidney, BC.