

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

Project Title: The Effects of Helicopter Logging on Mountain Goat Behaviour in Coastal British Columbia

1. Project Leader(s): Steve Gordon

2. Project Team Members: Steve Gordon, Steve Wilson

3. Project contact information: Phone: 2508477298 Fax: 250 847 7728

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Web page: N/A

4. Project location: Powell River, BC

Coastal: Transition: Interior:

5. Project timeframe: Start (month/year): April 2001 End (month/year, or ongoing): September 2002

6. Project status: Data collection Analysis Write-up Publication

7. Project objectives: (briefly describe the primary objectives of your project)

To document the effects of helicopter logging activity on mountain goat behaviour.

8. Project descriptors (select all that apply):

Research

Habitat Use:

Forestry Interactions:

Management

VHF collars:

Oil & Gas Interactions:

Inventory

GPS collars:

Mineral Exploration:

Predation:

Harvest:

Aerial Disturbance:

Habitat Modeling:

Population Dynamics:

Human Disturbance:

Other:

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

We examined the effect of helicopter activity associated with industrial forestry on the behaviour of coastal mountain goats (*Oreamnos americanus*) during spring, summer and autumn 2001 and 2002. We collected 959 hours of instantaneous scan data on 2 herds over 95 field days in the upper Powell River watershed in south-western BC. The proportion of time adult females and kids spent engaged in different behaviours differed among disturbance phases and year. No obvious pattern was observed in 2001 but both age-sex classes spent less time bedded during phases associated with helicopter activity than during other phases in 2002. Overt changes in behaviour were also observed anecdotally during helicopter yarding activities in both 2001 and 2002.

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

Gordon, S.M and S.F. Wilson, 2004. Effect of helicopter logging on mountain goat behaviour in coastal British Columbia. Proceedings, Proceedings of the 14th Biennial Symposium of the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council 14. In press.

Gordon, S.M., 2003. The effects of helicopter logging activity on mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*) behaviour. MSc. thesis, Royal Roads University. 75 pp.