

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

Project Title: Nabesche River mountain goats and mineral licks, north-eastern BC

1. Project Leader(s): Mari Wood

2. Project Team Members: Mari Wood (John Elliott, via proposal to PFWWCP)

3. Project contact information: Phone: 2505654191 Fax: 2505656629
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4. Project location: Nabesche River drainage, north Peace Arm Williston Reservoir, north-eastern BC
Coastal: Transition: Interior:

5. Project timeframe: Start (month/year): July 1998 End (month/year): Ongoing

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

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

- To expand the current range and population size of mountain goats in the Nabesche River drainage through the establishment of artificial mineral licks.

8. Project descriptors (select all that apply):

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| Research <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Habitat Use: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Forestry Interactions: <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Management <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> | Population Dynamics: <input checked="" 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):

Mountain goats are known for their strong mineral demands during the summer months which can be a primary factor in their distribution. Goats in the Nabesche River drainage are primarily restricted to the Mt. Brewster range which has a low-elevation mineral lick at its south end. An aerial inventory in July 1998 confirmed the lack of goats in mountainous areas surrounding Mt. Brewster, and the lack of visible low-elevation clay-bank mineral licks similar to that at Mt. Brewster. It was thought that the lack of mountain goats in these surrounding areas was potentially due to a lack of natural mineral licks in those areas, and that artificial mineral licks should be established in an attempt to expand the current range of goats into these surrounding areas (WLAP, Ft. St. John).

Fifteen 50-lb. sodium chloride blocks were placed out at each of 10 treatment sites, and 3 blocks at each of 3 control sites in August 1999. The control sites were established on Mt. Brewster to ensure

goats would utilize this particular form of salt. Use of the treatment and control sites was evaluated in August 2001: high use of the control sites was noted and no to low use of the treatment sites. Eight of the 10 treatment sites were replenished with 25 salt blocks/site in May 2003; the remaining 2 sites were not re-supplied. The sites were re-assessed for use by goats in September 2003, with no to low use observed again. All goats sighted during a helicopter inventory of the Nabesche River drainage in Sep 2003 were located on Mt. Brewster; no goats were observed in the salt block treatment areas. Plans are to replenish the 8 treatments sites again in spring 2005 and 2007, with a final population survey to occur in summer 2008. If goats are found to have colonized the treatment site areas, more permanent solutions to creation of a mineral lick will be investigated (e.g. blasting to expose a known mineral vein).

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

Wood, M.D. 2002. Summer inventory of mountain goats and Stone's sheep in the Nabesche River drainage, north-eastern British Columbia, 1998. Peace/Williston Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program Report No. 265. 14pp plus appendices