

Mountain Goat, *Oreamnos americanus*



Adult billy (male)



Adult nannie (female)



Stride: 38 cm
Track: 6.5 cm/ 3.5 cm

Occurrence: DCR (CM), DSC

- Present in most mountain ranges except those on VI, the Queen Charlottes and other coastal islands.

Status

BC: Blue-listed (Species of Special Concern) and Identified Wildlife Species in B.C.

Canada: Not listed

Action Required

- Notify BCTS if a goat is within or near the block area between November 15th and April 15th.
- Conventional and helicopter harvesting operations and related activities within 500m (vertical and horizontal) of designated mountain goat winter range polygons should be restricted to a work window of April 15th to November 15th
- Refer to the BCTS SoG Mountain Goat Management Protocol.

Description

- Adult males (billies) weigh on average, 70-120 kg.
- Adult females (nannies) weigh between 55-75 kg.
- Both sexes have thin, black horns up to 30 cm long which grow throughout life and never shed.
- Built to live in steep, rocky terrain. Mountain Goats have very large forequarters, a deep chest and well-developed shoulder muscles, both for climbing and pawing for food in the snow.
- They have rough-textured hooves with traction pads that extend slightly past the rim of the hooves. They can also spread their toes widely to distribute their weight over more ground.

Similar Species

- Female Bighorn Sheep are sometimes confused with Mountain Goat, Bighorn sheep are browner

Biology

- Mating season begins in late Nov to early Dec
- Gestation is 6 months, birthing on secluded ledges in May or early June, (1 kid is common).
- Mountain goats forage on a wide variety of plants, including lichens, ferns, grasses, shrubs and both deciduous and coniferous trees.
- Attracted to mineral licks in the summer.

Habitat

- Occur in wet & dry regions at various elevations.
- Habitat is almost always steep. They often stay in lower elevations in the spring to forage on the earliest green vegetation, and migrate to higher elevations as the new growth develops higher up.
- In winter, they prefer steeper sites, mature cover that shed snow and a warm S to W exposure.
- Elevations: Higher elevations in the summer; will winter at lower elevations down to sea level.