



## BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAIN GOAT SOCIETY

SMITHERS BC CANADA

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Newsletter #20

June 26, 2021

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Greetings Members

### **New video**

We have produced a new video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zo1rcR6v4ml>  
There is a lack of research about the mountain goat rut because of the poor weather during the rut at the end of November, as well as a lack of good places to view the rut. This video solves that problem. You will view the entire rut from less than 2 meters distance. And the voices of the goats are impressive – they are literally talking together.



BC Mountain Goat Society  
June 7, 2021

A new kid for 2021 – less than two weeks old

## **Second new video**

Within days of birth, a mountain goat kid follows the nanny everywhere. After a year of learning, the kid is on its own. We watch three young goats master the art of staying safe on a cliff. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmDSmgR6G6g>

## **Photo Hunt**

The following is a brief rationale for an alternative mountain goat hunt. Would hunters be willing to leave their guns at home? Could a photo hunt be marketed successfully? Is the world ready for a photo hunt?

The traditional lethal hunt for mountain goats is no longer a necessity. There is another way – the photo hunt. When you can video a target animal for all the world to see on the Internet, there is no need to shoot the quarry and carry it home. There is no longer a need to mount a trophy head to remember the goat, the mountain, and the thrill of the hunt. No need to regret killing the object of the hunter's admiration. No need to affect the herd by removing a vital member.

Loss of species around the world has forced many people to question the wisdom of trophy or commercial hunting. Hunting of whales in many areas of the world has ended, but whale-watching has become a vibrant industry. Hunting of grizzlies in British Columbia has stopped and been replaced by grizzly bear-watching. Catch and release has replaced traditional fishing for many species. Many people wish to observe wildlife close without harming the animal.

Hunting guides are expert at finding and approaching wildlife without causing an extreme flight response. Hunting guides know their guiding territory and how to navigate very challenging terrain. They are the most qualified professionals to guide a photo hunt for the same reasons they excel at guiding traditional hunts. In fact, a guide needs more skill to guide a photo hunt. A skilled shooter should be able to kill a mountain goat at 500 meters. In contrast, a photo hunter must be within 100 to 200 meters to get the very best video trophy image. It will take every skill a guide can muster to get a hunter close enough to video the target animal.

At the same time, guiding a photo hunt frees the guide from being a backup shooter. Now the guide can devote time to recording the excitement shown by the photo hunter. The guide holds a video camera rather than a rifle. After the hunt, the guide can spend time producing a video for the client rather than packing a heavy head or cape off the mountain. A successful photo hunt can result in a high-resolution video with scenes from the photo hunter's camera, the guide's camera and other GoPro-type cameras worn by the participants. The hunter's camera can be mounted on a gun stock to make the hunt feel more authentic.

The video can show the entire hunt from basecamp through the stalk, the final video of the target wildlife and back down to basecamp. Video can show the thrill of the stalk and can be displayed at home for friends, using large posters, photos or video displays. The video can include footage of all the surrounding mountain to show the natural home of the target wildlife. A trophy head on a wall only tells half the story. A mountain goat seen separate from its mountain home is less than authentic.

Photo hunts allow hunters to participate in a guided hunt at less expense. No need to pay to pack an animal off the mountain. No need for the expense of a taxidermist or the freight cost of transporting a large trophy. Less expense means that people can afford a photo hunt and more guide/outfitters are needed.



This billy is starting the molt of his winter coat





The rut is the only time of year that a nanny and billy would stand this close  
Note that the billy's face profile is convex, the nanny's concave

Until the next time

Cheers

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