



## BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAIN GOAT SOCIETY

SMITHERS BC CANADA

MTGOATS@BCNORTH.CA

### Newsletter #29

August 2, 2023

---

Greetings

#### New videos

We have added two new videos to our YouTube channel at [\(4\) oreamnos2012 - YouTube](#). The first is *Video Report #9* for McKendrick Mountain. So far we have documented two new kids born in June. We also show a nanny introducing her new kid to the rest of the herd. The second video is just for fun. *Can Goats Fly?* reveals some high-flying mountain goats.

#### Research Grant

We have awarded a research grant to Madeleine (Maddy) Wrazej, a Masters student in the Wildlife Coexistence Lab, University of British Columbia. Maddy and her team are using non-invasive sampling to research the impacts of recreation on mountain goats in Banff and Yoho National Parks. They are employing camera traps and stress hormone analysis. Maddy's project parallels our own concerns with the impacts of recreation on mountain goats. Stay tuned for more details.

We have another grant available for mountain goat research. The project must take place in British Columbia and



*Figure 1 Photo credit - Maddy Wrazej*

all results must be available to the general public. Contact [mtgoats@bcnorth.ca](mailto:mtgoats@bcnorth.ca) to apply.

### **Mountain Goat Video**

A local film company, Out Yonder Films, has produced a documentary on the mountain goats in the Stikine River canyon in northern British Columbia. Excellent videography is combined with an interesting story and the location is spectacular. Order a copy online at [Cliff Hangers - Out Yonder Films | Award Winning Nature Documentaries – Smithers BC Canada](#)

### **Mountain Goat Week**

Let's start something. Let's declare the first week of June as Mountain Goat Week. The last week of May and the first week of June are when most mountain goats are born. It's an exciting time for the goats and we look forward each year to filming the new kids as they literally bounce around the alpine. Mark it on your calendar. Next June you can wish everyone Happy Mountain Goat Week.



*Figure 2 New kid and nanny*

## **Subsistence Hunt**

We have learned that some local hunters are harvesting mountain goats for meat only. They leave the head and hide in the alpine and do not take photos. They are simply providing meat for the table. In addition, they are choosing females or juveniles rather than mature males. The meat is more tender and palatable.

While every hunter has a right to use a harvested animal as they see fit, we can see a problem – demand. The demand for wild meat on the table continues every year. That may mean that a subsistence hunter could harvest one goat each year, potentially for decades. Contrast that with a trophy hunter who should only need a very limited number of mountain goats in a lifetime to come up with the perfect trophy.

We need to know if this is a problem. How many goats are taken for subsistence only? If it is a problem, the obvious solution is to limit the number of mountain goats harvested in a hunter's lifetime. More to come. What do you think?

Until the next time

Jim

Jim Easterday  
Co-founder and director  
British Columbia Mountain Goat Society  
Smithers BC

[mtgoats@bcnorth.ca](mailto:mtgoats@bcnorth.ca)   [www.mtgoats.ca](http://www.mtgoats.ca)   [www.bcmountaingoatsociety.ca](http://www.bcmountaingoatsociety.ca)