

2013 - JCR Evaluation Form

SPECIES: Mountain Goat

PERIOD: 6/1/2013 - 5/31/2014

HERD: MG201 - BEARTOOTH

HUNT AREAS: 1, 3, 514

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MCWHIRTER

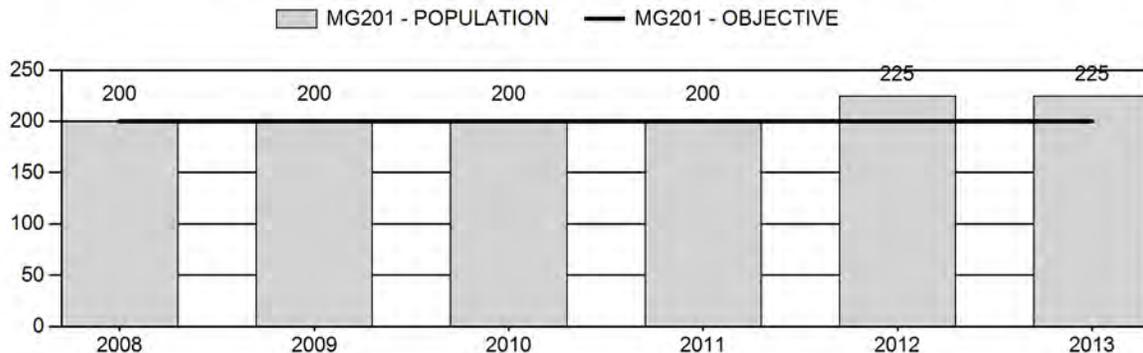
	<u>2008 - 2012 Average</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014 Proposed</u>
Population:	205	225	225
Harvest:	14	17	17
Hunters:	15	20	20
Hunter Success:	93%	85%	85%
Active Licenses:	15	20	20
Active License Percent:	93%	85%	85%
Recreation Days:	80	99	100
Days Per Animal:	5.7	5.8	5.9
Males per 100 Females	0	0	
Juveniles per 100 Females	29	40	

Population Objective:	200
Management Strategy:	Special
Percent population is above (+) or below (-) objective:	12%
Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend:	0
Model Date:	None

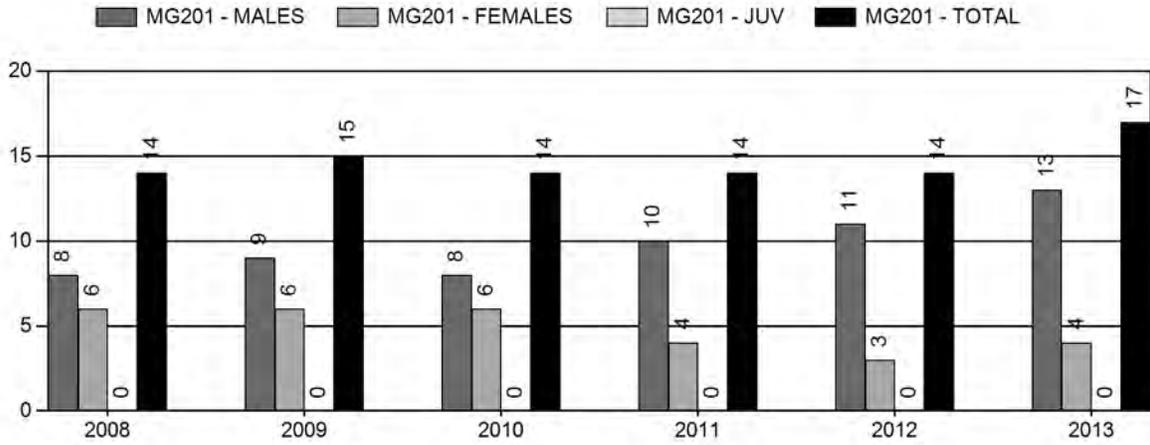
Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):

	<u>JCR Year</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Females ≥ 1 year old:	N/A%	N/A%
Males ≥ 1 year old:	N/A%	N/A%
Juveniles (< 1 year old):	N/A%	N/A%
Total:	N/A%	N/A%
Proposed change in post-season population:	N/A%	N/A%

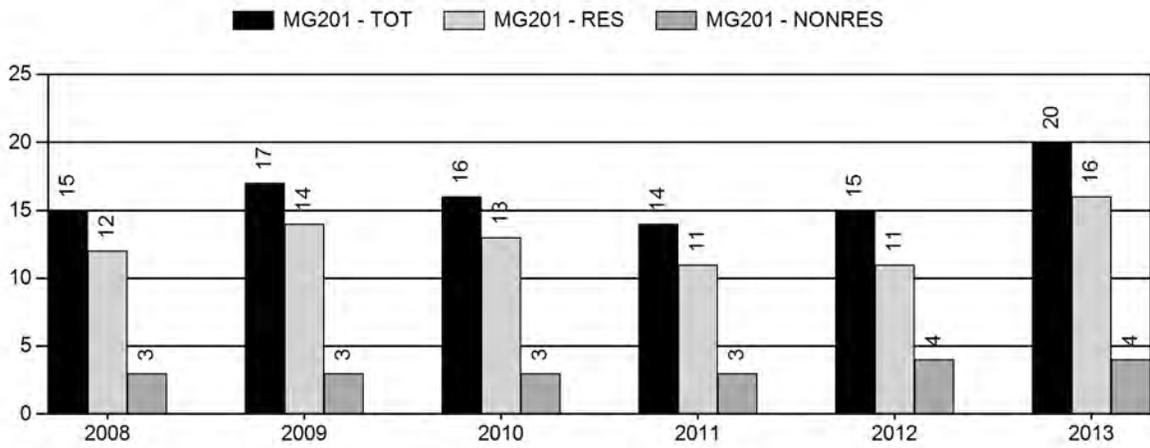
Population Size - Postseason



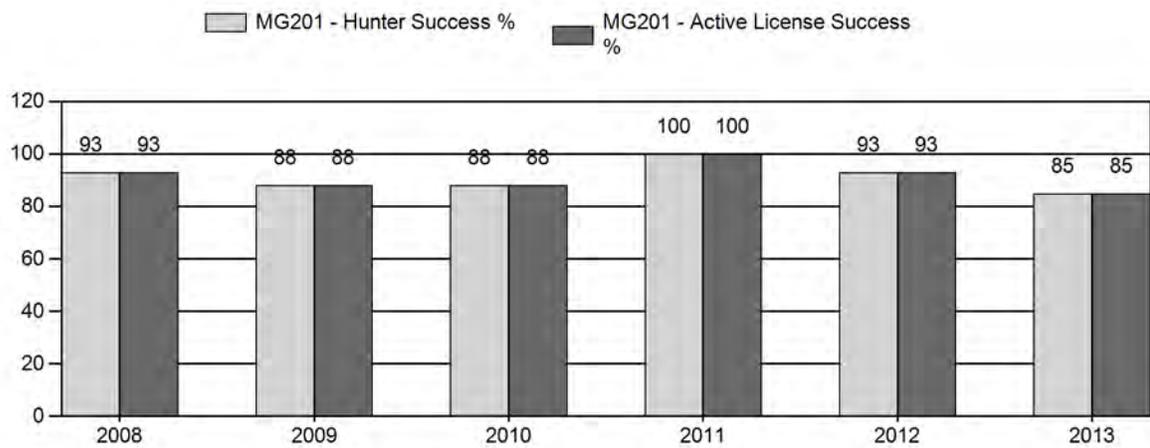
Harvest



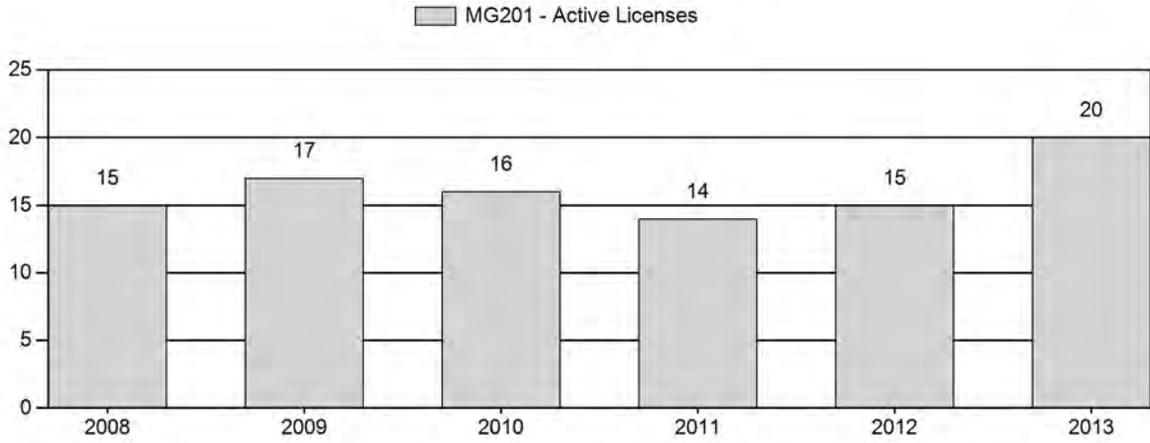
Number of Hunters



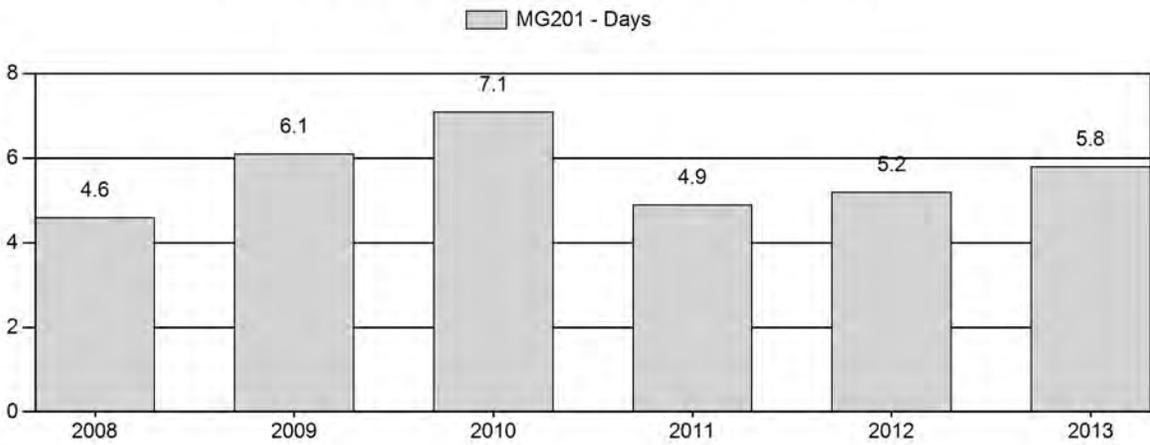
Harvest Success



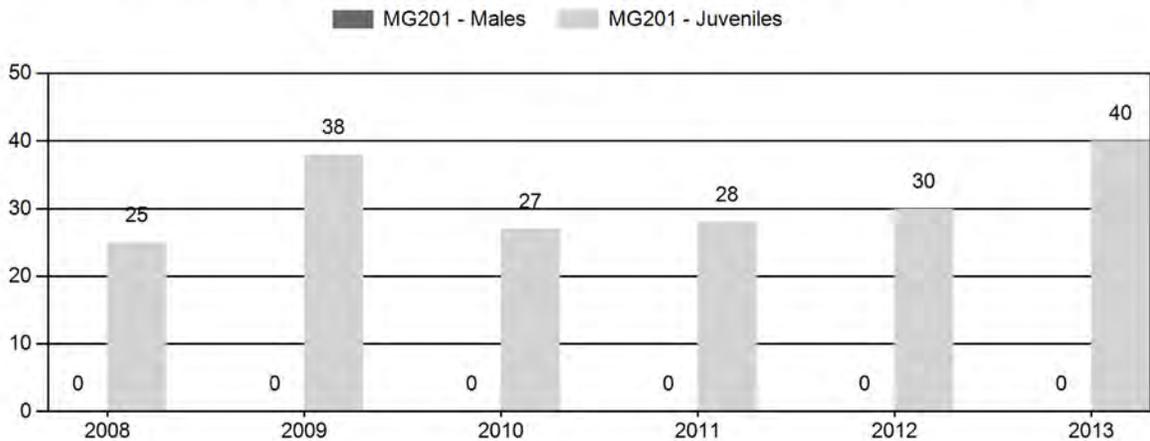
Active Licenses



Days Per Animal Harvested



Preseason Animals per 100 Females



2008 - 2013 Preseason Classification Summary

for Mountain Goat Herd MG201 - BEARTOOTH

Year	Pre Pop	MALES				FEMALES		JUVENILES		Tot Cls	Cls Obj	Males to 100 Females				Young to		
		Ylg	Adult	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%			YIng	Adult	Total	Conf Int	100 Fem	Conf Int	100 Adult
2008	225	0	0	0	0%	141	80%	35	20%	176	131	0	0	0	± 0	25	± 0	25
2009	225	0	0	0	0%	86	72%	33	28%	119	159	0	0	0	± 0	38	± 0	38
2010	225	0	0	0	0%	37	79%	10	21%	47	165	0	0	0	± 0	27	± 0	27
2011	225	0	0	0	0%	76	78%	21	22%	97	179	0	0	0	± 0	28	± 0	28
2012	250	0	0	0	0%	60	77%	18	23%	78	179	0	0	0	± 0	30	± 0	30
2013	250	0	0	0	0%	125	71%	50	29%	175	167	0	0	0	± 0	40	± 0	40

**2014 HUNTING SEASONS
BEARTOOTH MOUNTAIN GOAT HERD (MG201)**

Hunt Area	Type	Dates of Seasons		Quota	Limitations
		Opens	Closes		
1	1	Sept. 1	Oct. 31	14	Limited quota; any goat (10 residents, 4 nonresidents)
3	1	Sept. 1	Oct. 31	6	Limited quota; any goat (5 residents, 1 nonresident)
Archery		Aug. 15	Aug. 31		Refer to Section 3 of this Chapter

Hunt Area	Type	Quota change from 2013
1	1	No Change
3	1	No Change
Total		No Change

Management Evaluation

Current Management Objective: 200

2012 Postseason Population Estimate: ~225

2013 Proposed Postseason Population Estimate: ~225

Herd Unit Issues

Mountain goats were introduced into the Rock Creek drainage of the Beartooth Mountains of Montana, adjacent to the Wyoming border, in 1942. The first hunting season in Wyoming was in 1969. Since then mountain goats populated all available habitat in the Beartooth Mountains of Wyoming, and have colonized portions of the Absaroka Mountains as well, presumably from the Absaroka Mountains in Montana. To accommodate this expansion, Hunt Area 1 was enlarged in 1996 (to include the Sunlight Creek drainage) and again in 2009 (to include the area south to the North Fork of the Shoshone River). In 2011, Hunt Area 3 was carved out of Hunt Area 1 to direct hunting pressure at goats that inhabited the more remote areas of the Absaroka Mountains. In addition, some expansion has taken place in Yellowstone National Park, where currently about 10% of the goats in this herd unit reside. Hunting of this population of goats also occurs in Montana (Hunt District 514) adjacent to the Wyoming portion of the Beartooth Mountains. Both of these factors (Montana harvest and goats unavailable for harvest in YNP) must be taken into account when managing this herd.

Weather

Weather conditions during the summer of 2013 were favorable throughout the Absaroka and Beartooth Mountains, with normal to near normal precipitation to promote forage growth. However, kid survival could be adversely affected by the above average snow accumulations of the 2013-2014 winter.

Habitat

No habitat monitoring data is collected in this herd unit. More severe winter conditions during the 2013-2014 winter may result in higher than normal mortality of both kids and adults.

Field Data

A preseason classification and trend survey conducted in August 2013 yielded a total of 175 mountain goats. A total of 124 (71%) of these were seen in Area 1, while 34 (19%) were seen in Area 3. Another 10 were seen in Yellowstone National Park, and 1 goat was seen in Montana Hunt District 514. The kid:adult ratio was 40:100, which is higher than the long-term (1986-2012) average of 34.9 kids:100 adults.

Harvest Data

A total of 17 goats were harvested by 20 hunters in Wyoming in 2013, including 11 males and 6 females (85% success). Two hunters in Area 1 and 1 hunter in Area 3 were not successful. Two licenses were issued in Montana for Hunt Area 514 in 2012, and 1 billy was taken. Hunter effort for Wyoming goat hunters in 2013 was 5.8 days per goat harvested, which is slightly greater than the average for goat hunters in this area, as the long-term average (1970-2012) average is 4.5 days per goat taken.

The average age of all harvested goats in 2013 was 5.3 years for billies and 4.7 years for nannies, compared to the long-term average of 4.6 years (for both billies and nannies) since age records were first kept in 1998. The total number of goats seen by hunters in 2013 (avg – 25.7) was less than the most recent 10-year average of 30.8 goats seen.

Various studies have shown that goat populations are sensitive to female harvest. The 3 nannies killed in 2008 represented 55% of the total Wyoming harvest for Hunt Area 1, which is considered high. In 2009 and 2010, nannies comprised 38.5% and 45.5% of the harvest, respectively. Three of the six highest nannie harvest percentages recorded for this herd unit have been recorded in the last 5 years (2008, 2009, 2010). In 2011 and 2012, the percentage of nannies in the Area 1 harvest was 36.4% and 27.3%, respectively. In 2013, nannies comprised 35% of the total harvest in this herd unit.

Population

Due to the difficulty of distinguishing males and females during aerial surveys, mountain goats are classified as either kids or non-kids. Only from close observation can males and yearlings be determined. Therefore, preseason classification information for this herd unit (although graphed as juveniles:100 females) is actually kids:100 non-kids. Due to the inability to distinguish between males and females, construction and validation of a functional population model is difficult.

Based on an evaluation of recent trend counts and productivity estimates, the Beartooth Mountain Goat Herd is currently estimated to be near or slightly above the postseason population objective of 200 goats. It is recommended that 14 licenses be issued in Area 1 and 6 licenses be issued in Area 3 for the 2014 season, which should result in the harvest of 18 goats.