

## 2014 - JCR Evaluation Form

SPECIES: Mountain Goat

PERIOD: 6/1/2014 - 5/31/2015

HERD: MG201 - BEARTOOTH

HUNT AREAS: 1, 3, 514

PREPARED BY: DOUG  
MCWHIRTER

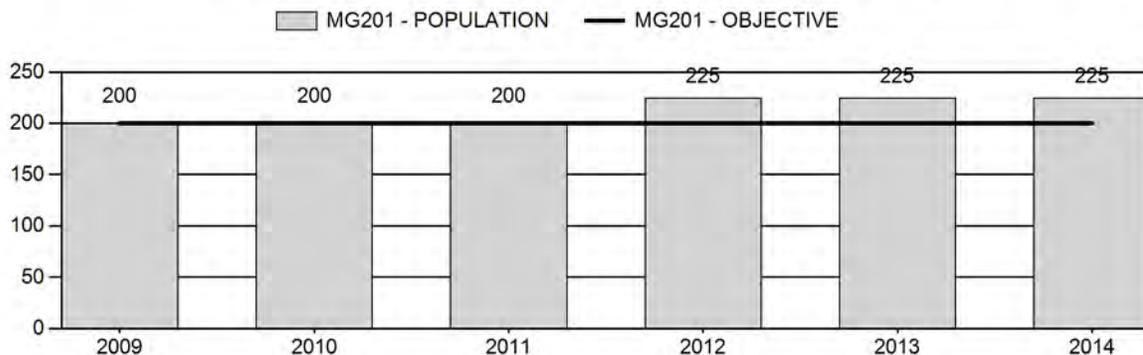
	<u>2009 - 2013 Average</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015 Proposed</u>
Population:	210	225	225
Harvest:	15	19	19
Hunters:	16	20	20
Hunter Success:	94%	95%	95 %
Active Licenses:	16	20	20
Active License Success:	94%	95%	95 %
Recreation Days:	87	116	110
Days Per Animal:	5.8	6.1	5.8
Males per 100 Females	0	0	
Juveniles per 100 Females	34	29	

Population Objective (± 20%) :	200 (160 - 240)
Management Strategy:	Special
Percent population is above (+) or below (-) objective:	12%
Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend:	5
Model Date:	None

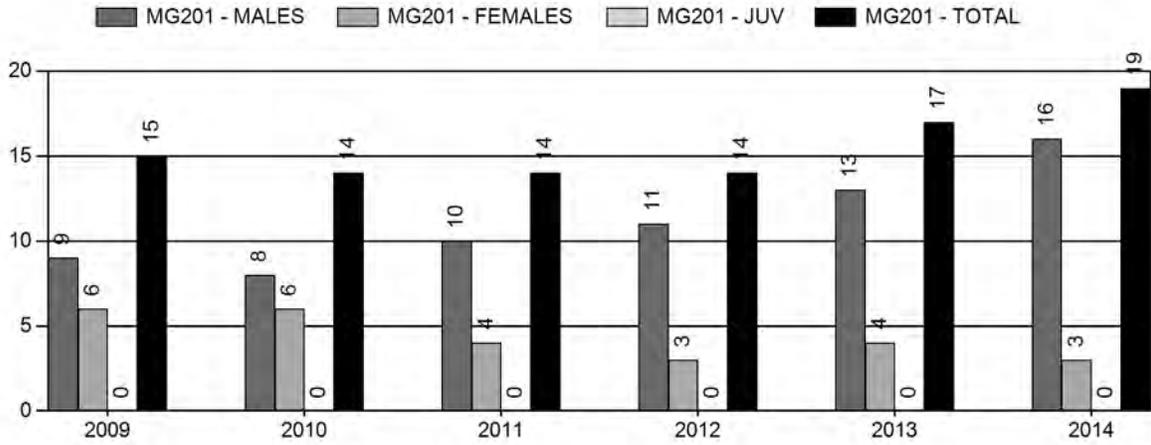
**Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):**

	<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%

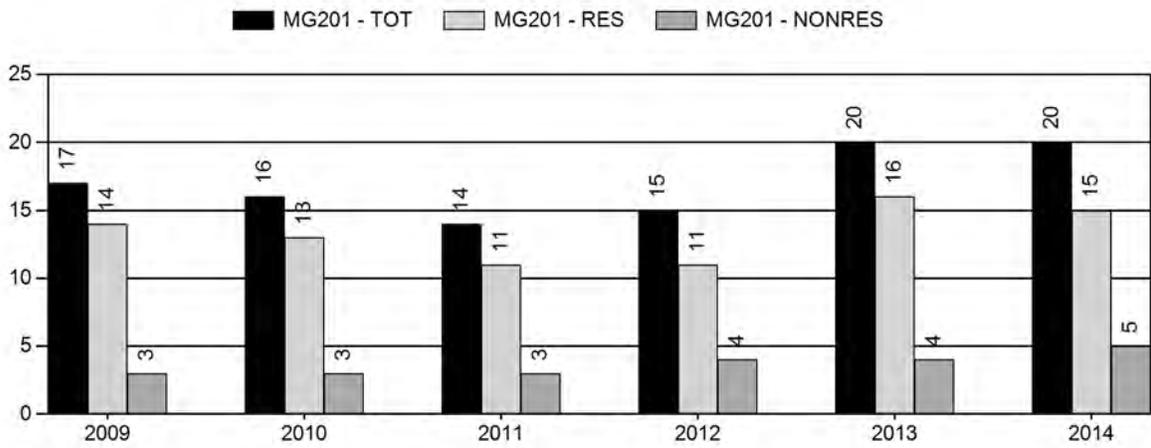
## Population Size - Postseason



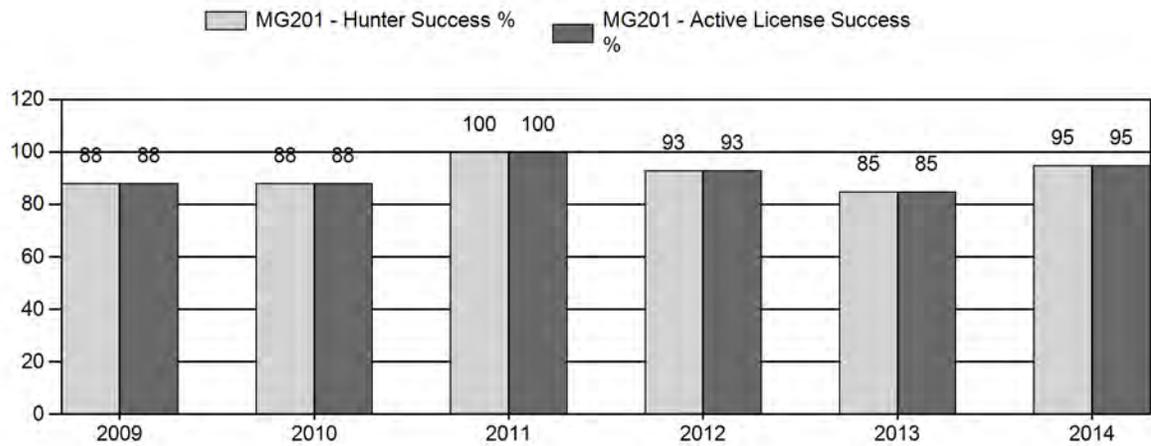
# Harvest



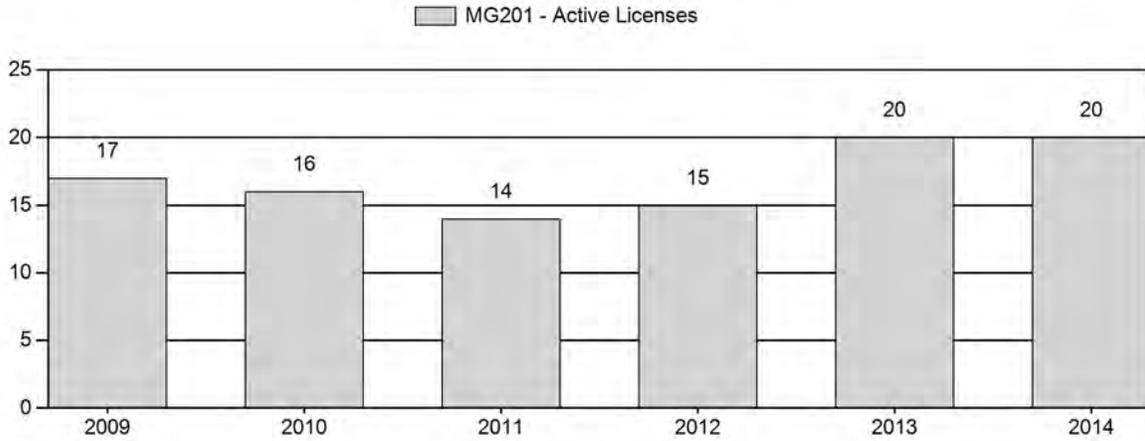
# Number of Hunters



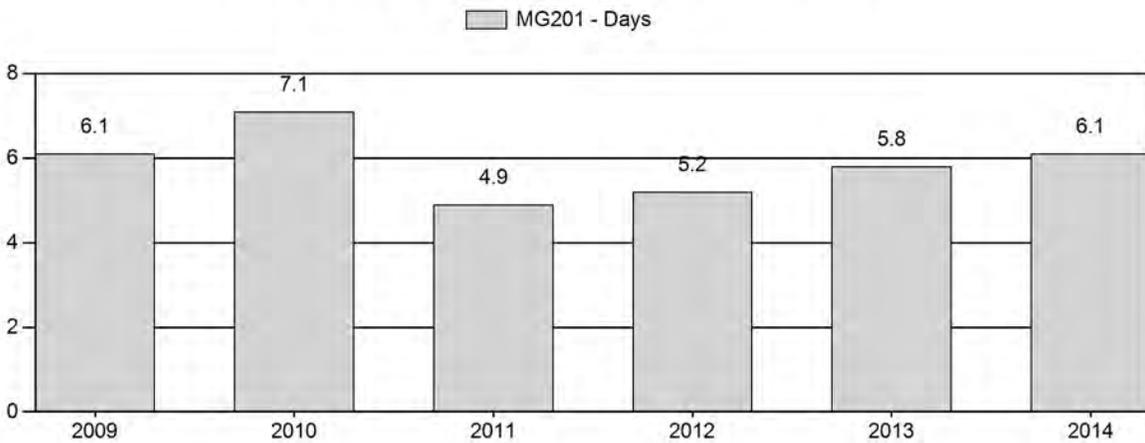
# Harvest Success



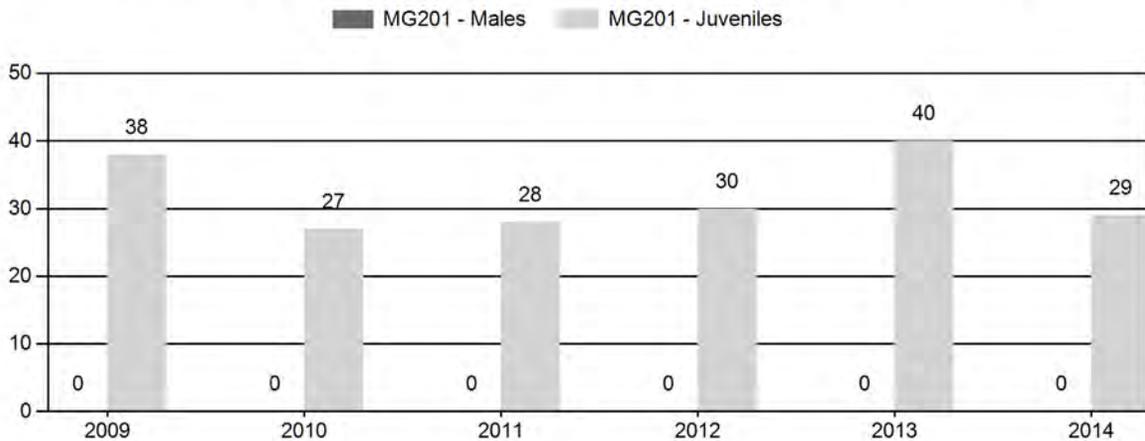
# Active Licenses



# Days Per Animal Harvested



# Preseason Animals per 100 Females



## 2009 - 2014 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
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	250	0	0	0	0%	56	78%	16	22%	72	155	0	0	0	± 0	29	± 0	29

**2015 HUNTING SEASONS  
BEARTOOTH MOUNTAIN GOAT HERD (MG201)**

Hunt Area	Type	Dates of Seasons		Quota	Limitations
		Opens	Closes		
1	1	Sep. 1	Oct. 31	12	Limited quota; any goat
3	1	Sep. 1	Oct. 31	8	Limited quota; any goat
Archery		Aug. 15	Aug. 31		Refer to Section 8 of this Chapter

Hunt Area	Type	Quota change from 2014
1	1	-2
3	1	+2
<b>Total</b>		<b>No Change</b>

**Management Evaluation**

**Current Management Objective: 200**

**2014 Postseason Population Estimate: ~225**

**2015 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 2014 were favorable throughout the Absaroka and Beartooth Mountains, with normal to near normal precipitation to promote forage growth. However, kid survival could have been adversely affected by the above average snow accumulations of the 2013-2014 winter. Winter conditions during the 2014-2015 winter have been considerably more mild.

**Habitat.** No habitat monitoring data is collected in this herd unit. More severe winter conditions during the 2013-2014 winter may have resulted in higher than normal mortality of both kids and adults, but this is not expected to have happened in response to the 2014-2015 winter.

**Field Data.** Incidental observations of mountain goats seen while conducting aerial grizzly bear observation flights in summer 2014 yielded 56 adults and 16 kids (29 kids:100 adults). A National Park Service classification/trend survey flown on August 18, 2014 along the eastern boundary of Yellowstone National Park, produced 67 goats (50 adults, 17 kids), and a kid:adult ratio of 34:100.

The most recent comprehensive aerial survey in Hunt Areas 1 and 3 was conducted in August 2013 and 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 (1986-2013) average of 34.9 kids:100 adults.

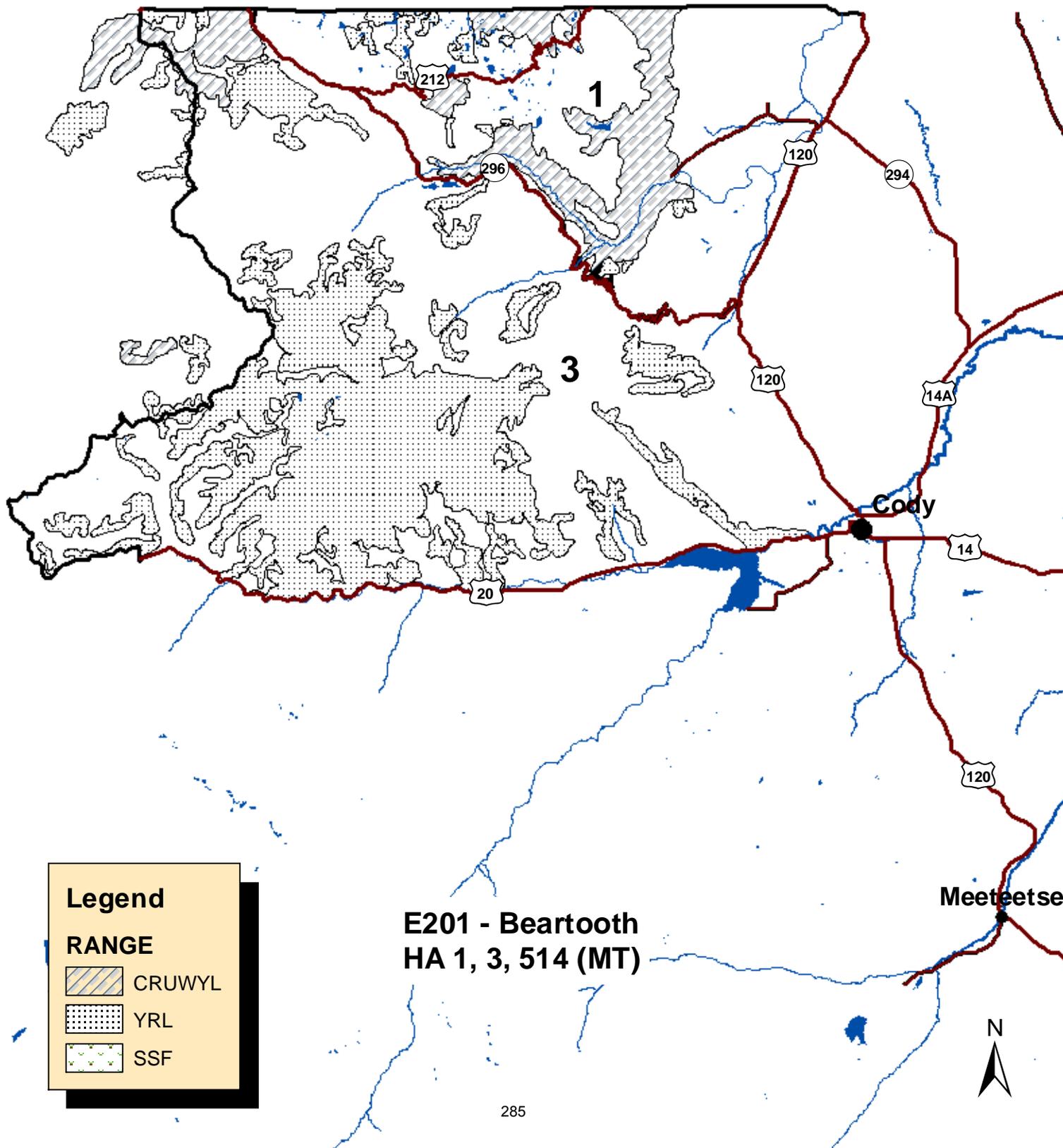
**Harvest Data.** A total of 19 goats were harvested by 20 hunters in the Beartooth Goat Herd Unit in 2014, including 16 males and 3 females (95% success). One hunter in Area 3 was not successful. Hunter effort for Wyoming goat hunters in 2014 was 6.1 days per goat harvested, which is slightly greater than the average for goat hunters in this area, as the long-term average (1970-2013) average is 4.5 days per goat taken.

The average age of all harvested goats in 2014 was 5.7 years for billies and 4.5 years for nannies, compared to the long-term average of 4.7 years for billies and 4.6 years for nannies since age records were first kept in 1998. The total number of goats seen by hunters in 2014 (avg – 23.5) was less than the most recent 10-year average of 31.1 goats seen.

Various studies have shown that goat populations are sensitive to female harvest. Although nannie harvest was substantial in 2008 (55%), 2009 (38.5%), 2010 (45.5%), 2011 (36.4%), and 2013 (35%), it was only 15.8% in 2014.

**Population.** 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. Hunt Area 1 has been relatively stable since managed with 12 licenses and it is felt that additional hunting pressure can be directed to Hunt Area 3. Therefore, 12 licenses will be issued in Area 1 and 8 licenses issued in Area 3 for the 2015 season, which should result in the harvest of 18 goats.

514



**Legend**

**RANGE**

- CRUWYL
- YRL
- SSF

**E201 - Beartooth  
HA 1, 3, 514 (MT)**

