

Appendix H-2002: Nisga'a Annual Wildlife Management Plan for 2002

Summary of the 2002 Wildlife Management Plan

- All Nisga'a hunters must carry a Nisga'a Hunting License.
- Legal and illegal harvest methods are defined in the Annual Management Plan.
- Nisga'a hunters can hunt anywhere in the NWA that is not closed by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife or where hunting is prohibited by the province of British Columbia due to public health or public safety reasons (See Schedule A).
- A permit is required to harvest designated species in the NWA.
- Nisga'a Lisims Government will promote support for annual harvest plans through Annual Hunter Awareness and Orientation meetings
- The Nisga'a allocation of moose is 126 animals.
- The goal of the 2002-03 moose harvest season will be to maintain the cow harvest below 37 animals.
- The Nisga'a allocation of grizzly bears is 2 animals.
- The Nisga'a allocation of mountain goats is 34 animals.
- Hunters are required to submit teeth and uteri of designated species for management purposes.
- A permit is required to transport meat outside of Nisga'a Lands.
- Angling guiding management plans are still being developed

Identification of Nisga'a Harvesters

According to the Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Act, Nisga'a citizens who wish to harvest wildlife in the Nass Wildlife Area (NWA) must obtain an annual harvest license from Nisga'a Lisims Government. The license must be carried by the hunter when actively engaged in hunting activities, carrying a firearm or transporting meat. The harvest license confirms the individual's right to harvest wildlife in the NWA according to the terms of the Final Agreement and protects Nisga'a rights to hunt from abuse by unauthorized hunters. Nisga'a hunters must also carry their Nisga'a citizenship card which validates the hunting licence.

The harvest license may be obtained for a fee of \$25 in each community and is valid for the period from 1 April to 31 March of the year purchased. In order to renew a harvest license, the previous license must be turned in and a Nisga'a Harvest Report completed. This ensures complete coverage of all hunters by the Nisga'a Harvest Survey and is a component of harvest monitoring as required by the Final Agreement.

Harvest Methods

Modern and traditional methods of harvesting wildlife will continue to be used by Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife in the NWA for food, social and ceremonial purposes. Harvest methods used by Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife in the NWA may differ from

those permitted under federal or provincial laws, but only to the extent that they do not compromise public safety. Provincial restrictions on hunting methods that also apply to Nisga'a hunters are listed in Schedule A of Appendix H-2002. Nisga'a harvest methods that differ from Provincial harvest method restrictions are as follows:

1. Migratory game birds may be hunted using more than one shotgun. Only one shotgun may be loaded.
2. It is legal to shoot at wildlife from a boat propelled by a motor, but not while the boat is under power.
3. It is legal to use a power boat to drive seals and sea lions for the purpose of hunting.
4. It is legal to hunt migratory game birds only from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.
5. It is legal to shoot a big game animal while it is swimming provided that there is a reasonable certainty that it can be retrieved.
6. It is legal to take the eggs of gulls and geese for domestic purposes.
7. It is legal to hunt black bear or grizzly bear by placing bait or using dead wildlife or parts as bait. When using bait the hunter must post at the location of the bait a clearly visible sign that contains that person's name and Nisga'a hunting licence number, and post clearly visible signs that give reasonable warning to individuals who might enter the

area that bait for hunting bears has been placed in that area.

8. It is illegal to use more than one dog off leash to hunt moose.
9. A big game animal that was killed unintentionally by accident or collision may be taken and used for domestic purposes (as part of the Nisga'a allocation) provided that it is reported within 24 hours to Nisga'a Lisims Government.
 - Any big game animal killed unintentionally in the NWA must be reported to a provincial Conservation Officer or Nisga'a Lisims Government.

The Director of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for providing the details of all accidental kills reported to Nisga'a Lisims Government to the BC Government. The BC Government in return will provide the details of all accidental kills within the NWA reported to them to the Director of Fish and Wildlife.

Regulation of the Harvest

The Nisga'a Final Agreement allows all Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife from anywhere in the Nass Wildlife Area that is open for hunting. Previously, the Nisga'a system of Ango'oskw was a method of resource management which distributed the harvest and enabled each Sim'oogit to manage wildlife resources based on availability within the Ango'oskw. Traditionally hunters other than the family members of the Sim'oogit could hunt or trap on an Ango'oskw, but such hunting and trapping was done only with the permission of the Sim'oogit and in the

company of a family member. Under the Nisga'a Final Agreement, the harvest of wildlife will be monitored and regulated by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife. Hunting is permitted on fee simple lands only with permission of the registered owner. In addition, the BC provincial Wildlife Act and its regulations apply with respect to hunting closure and firearms restrictions to those areas in the Nass Wildlife Area where hunting is restricted or closed for public health or public safety reasons.

As of 1 April 2001, Nisga'a hunters that harvest designated species (moose, grizzly bears and mountain goats) are required to have a valid permit for each animal killed. The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife will consider the Nisga'a allocation for each designated species and determine the number of permits to be issued.

Each community will determine the method of distributing permits to hunters in their community (and their urban counterparts). Some permits may be reserved for community use. This proposal puts the onus of distribution upon the individual communities. Some communities may not be prepared to distribute permits. In the event that a community does not wish to take on the task of distributing permits, then the "default" distribution procedure will be as follows: between April and June of each year, all families wishing to acquire a designated species will place their request and designate a hunter who would harvest the animal. A lottery will then be held by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife, if necessary, to issue the available permits to those requesting permits.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife may cancel any or all permits for designated species or restrict the harvest of non-designated species at any time. Notice of cancellation of permits will be delivered to the existing permit holders. Restrictions on non-designated species will be posted locally.

Compliance with harvest regulations will largely be on a co-operative, voluntary basis by the majority of Nisga'a hunters. However, because it is mandatory that the Nisga'a Lisims Government ensure compliance with the Final Agreement and this plan, enforcement will be by persons authorized to enforce federal, provincial or Nisga'a laws in respect of wildlife or migratory birds in British Columbia. It is envisioned that Nisga'a conservation officers will take over the lead role in enforcement when an adequate number of officers is trained and employed.

Nisga'a Lisims Government will promote support for annual harvest plans through Annual Hunter Awareness and Orientation meetings held in each village. The purpose of these meetings will be to involve the hunting community in information sharing and the development of harvest plans. Hunters will be provided with information obtained in the harvest monitoring and will help to determine methods for reducing the harvest when that becomes necessary. Young hunters will receive training and traditional Nisga'a values concerning respect for wildlife and conservation values will be emphasized. Periodic newsletters will also be delivered to all Nisga'a citizens.

Moose**Harvest Timing**

Although moose may be harvested at any time of the year, the primary harvest seasons for moose is from mid-September to the end of February. Bulls tend to be harvested earlier in the “season” before, during and after the “rut” or breeding season. A larger percentage of the harvest consists of cow moose during January and February than during the September to December period.

Harvest Allocation

According to the 2001 Nass Wildlife Management Plan, the total allowable harvest of moose is based on a population of approximately 1350 moose wintering in the NWA. The Committee recommended a total harvest of 225 moose consisting of 135 to 150 bulls, 50 to 55 cows and 25 to 40 calves. If this total allowable harvest amount is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement, a total annual harvest of 225 moose results in an allocation of 126 moose to Nisga’a hunters.

Permits issued to Nisga’a hunters for moose during the fall will expire on the 15th of January the following year. The Director of Fish and Wildlife can then determine the number of animals remaining to be harvested and re-issue the necessary number of permits to harvest those animals. The Director will determine the appropriate distribution of those re-issued permits. Re-issued permits for moose will be valid until the 28th of February of the year of issue. If there is still some of the moose allocation that remains unharvested, the

Director may issue further permits valid until the end of March in the year of issue.

The first issuance of permits will be for any sex animal and the cow season will be closed if the Nisga’a allocation of cow moose is reached. Re-issued permits may be for either bull moose only, or for any sex moose depending upon the number of cows remaining in the Nisga’a allocation.

Harvest Locations

Most moose are harvested from the eastern portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the Nass Valley including the upper reaches, the Cranberry River area and the Meziaden Lake area.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

If the Nisga’a allocation consists of 126 moose, the Nass Wildlife Committee recommends that up to 33-37 can be cows (given that other First Nations appear to harvest 17-18 cows per year) and the remaining number can be bulls and calves without negatively affecting the moose population according to the assumptions and results of modelling exercises conducted by the Committee. Many Nisga’a hunters avoid taking cow moose in order to preserve the potential productivity of the herd. Between September 1998 to March 1999, the ratio of bulls to cows to calves in the Nisga’a harvest was 65:32:23. Therefore, it is likely that the sex composition of the Nisga’a harvest of 126 moose will likely be about 68 bulls, 34 cows and 24 calves without intervention. Nisga’a Lisims Government will encourage Nisga’a hunters to select bull moose.

Grizzly Bear

Harvest Timing

Grizzly bears are harvested primarily during the fall period, from mid-September until they den in late November. The spring bear hunt usually concentrates on black bears, but the occasional grizzly bear may be taken during mid-March until mid May.

Harvest Allocation

According to the 2001 Nass Wildlife Management Plan, the total allowable harvest of grizzly bears is based on a population of approximately 400 bears in the NWA. The Committee recommended a total harvest of 12 bears per year. However, three bears per year must be allowed for to account for poached bears, and three bears may be killed each year as part of animal control. Therefore, the allowable harvest for hunting is 5 bears per year.

If this total allowable harvest amount is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement, a total annual allowable harvest of 5 grizzly bears results in an allocation of 2 grizzly bears to Nisga'a hunters.

Permits to harvest the Nisga'a allocation of grizzly bear will be obtained by application to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Harvest Locations

Most grizzly are harvested from the central portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the Nass Valley, and the Meziaden Lake area.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

The Nisga'a allocation consists of two grizzly bears of which up to one can be female. It is believed that one female can be harvested without negatively affecting the grizzly bear population according to the assumptions of population size made by the Nass Wildlife Committee. While Nisga'a hunters do not normally shoot sows with cubs, it is possible that hunters may take a young, non-breeding female or the rare breeding female that has lost her cubs or has been separated from her cubs. Nisga'a hunters are not permitted to knowingly kill a sow with cubs. Nisga'a harvest data for grizzly bears are very sparse. Of the grizzly bears harvested between 1991 and 1995, only four were reported during a preliminary harvest survey. All of those animals were males. Therefore, it is likely that the large majority of grizzly bears harvested by Nisga'a hunters over time will be male bears.

Very few cubs are killed by Nisga'a hunters. Although Nisga'a Lisims Government believes that the harvest of cubs is biologically sound, The Province of British Columbia does not allow the harvest of grizzly bears under 2 years of age or any bear in their company. Nisga'a citizens are required to comply with this regulation.

Mountain Goat

Harvest Timing

Although some mountain goats are harvested during the spring (April to mid-May), the primary harvest season for mountain goats is from early September to the end of December. The

harvest during the later months of this period is focused on coastal animals that have been driven to lower elevations by heavy snowfall and are thus more accessible to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Allocation

According to the 2001 Nass Wildlife Management Plan, the total allowable harvest of mountain goats is based on a population of approximately 3400 mountain goats in the NWA. The Nass Wildlife Committee recommended a total annual allowable harvest of 137 goats. If this total allowable harvest amount is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement, a total annual harvest of 137 mountain goats results in an allocation of 34 mountain goats to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Locations

Most mountain goats are harvested from the western portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the coastal mountain ranges. Because the mountain ranges behind New Aiyansh have been closed to the hunting of mountain goats for a number of years due to conservation concerns, Nisga'a hunters have shifted their harvests to other areas. It may be some years before Nisga'a hunters return to these previously closed areas to resume their harvest of mountain goats there.

In order to protect an isolated, low-elevation herd of mountain goats, the Director of Fish and Wildlife has closed Block 34 to the hunting of mountain goats (see Figure H-2002-1). This is a permanent closure.

There is little historical harvest data available to determine the specific locations where mountain goats have

been harvested. However, the Nisga'a recognize that it is necessary to distribute the hunt over a large geographic area in order to refrain from having an adverse impact on local groups of mountain goats occupying specific mountain blocks. For planning purposes, the following table is put forward as an approximation of the distribution of the Nisga'a harvest. The actual distribution will be documented in future years as detailed harvest data are collected. The blocks referred to in Table H-2002-1 are depicted in Figure H-2002-1.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

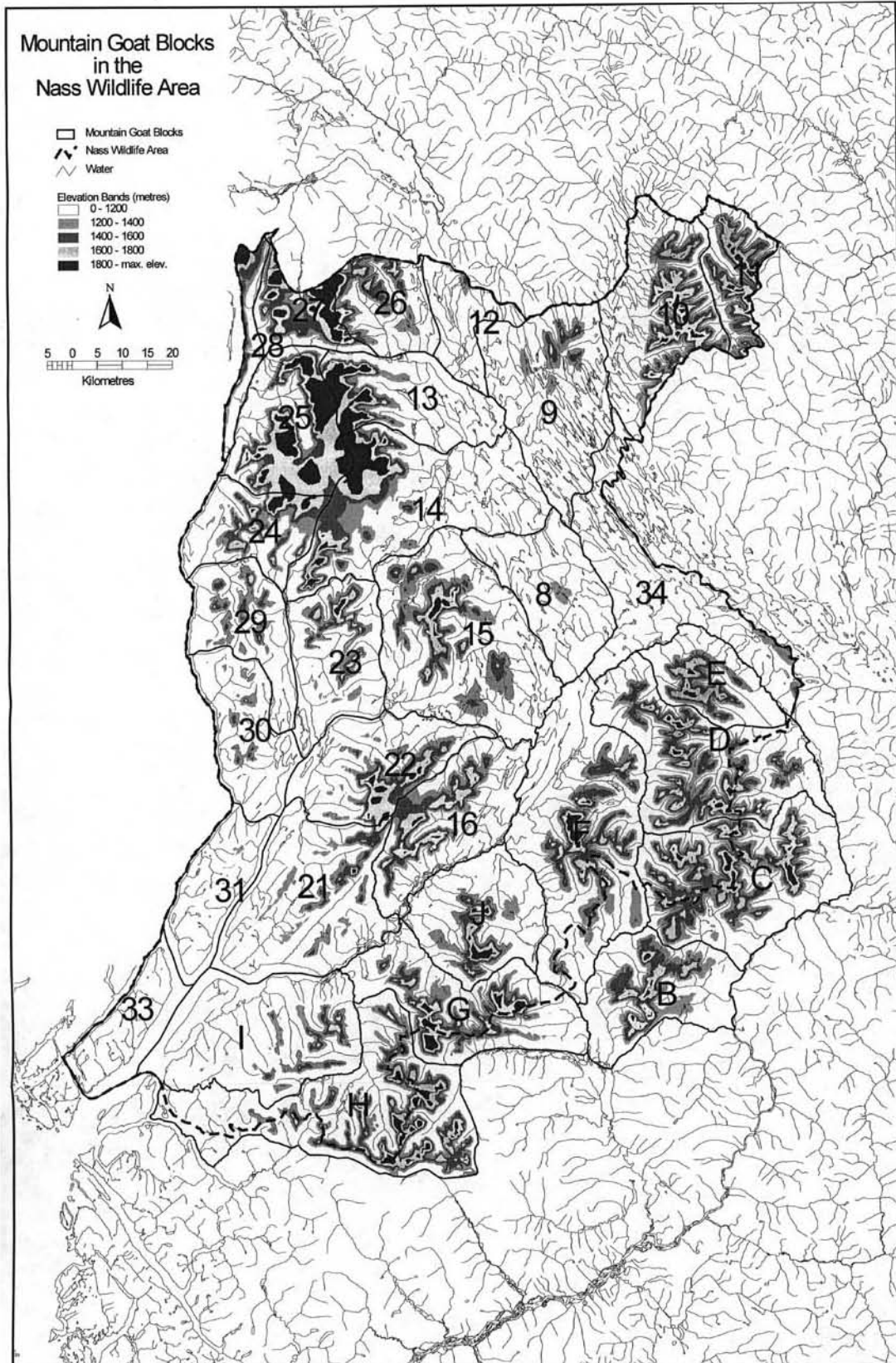
Mountain goats are harvested according to their accessibility. However, generally females with kids are not harvested. As a result, the harvest is strongly biased towards males.

There is little selectivity for ages with the possible exception that kids may be preferred by some hunters over adults.

Table H-2002-1. Hypothetical distribution of annual Nisga'a mountain goat harvest.*

Mountain Goat	Population	Total Allowable	Nisga'a	% of Allowable
C	156	6	1	17
D	240	10	3	30
E	37	1	1	100
F	273	11	2	18
G	79	3	1	33
H	270	11	1	10
I	415	17	1	6
J	121	5	3	60
8	5	0	0	0
9	44	2	0	0
10	219	9	0	0
11	133	5	0	0
12	5	0	0	0
13	86	3	1	33
14	143	6	0	0
15	169	7	1	14
16	135	5	1	20
21	89	4	3	75
22	108	4	3	75
23	101	4	3	75
24	108	4	3	75
25	161	7	1	14
26	89	4	1	25
27	94	4	1	25
28	33	1	0	0
29	63	3	2	67
30	29	1	1	100**
31	5	0	0	0
33	0	0	0	0
34	8	0	0	0
All Blocks	3418	137	34	25

Figure H-2002-1. Mountain goat blocks in the Nass Wildlife Area.



Harvest Monitoring

Harvest monitoring in 2002 will be conducted by mandatory reporting of designated species supplemented with periodic interviews. Harvest monitoring will be facilitated with mandatory return of permits and biological samples to an appointed individual in each community. All used permits and biological samples must be returned within 7 days of harvest.

Nisga'a harvests in individual blocks are not specific allocations, but are used for initial planning purposes. Harvests by Nisga'a, other First Nation and licenced hunters will be monitored and block-specific harvest allocations made as required.

Harvests will be monitored over a 3-5 year period in order to determine if harvest allocation is required.

The following biological samples are required.

- Hunters are required to remit a lower mandible (jaw) or incisor (front) tooth of each moose or mountain goat killed.
- Hunters are required to remit a lower mandible (jaw) or vestigial premolar tooth of each grizzly bear killed.
- Hunters are required to remit a segment of hide of each grizzly bear killed for DNA analysis.
- Hunters are required to submit the head of each grizzly bear killed for measurement of the skull.
- Hunters are required to remit the uterus (reproductive tract) of all

female moose, mountain goat or grizzly bear killed.

- Hunters are required to submit the horns of each mountain goat killed for inspection and measurement.

In the above list, the "remit" is used to indicate that the biological sample required will not be returned to the hunter. The word "submit" indicates that the hunter must provide the required body part or animal for inspection only and the body part or animal will then be returned to the hunter.

Possession and Transportation of Wildlife and Wildlife Parts

Sharing of wildlife and wildlife parts is an integral part of Nisga'a culture and heritage. The trade and barter of wild meat and wildlife parts amongst and between family members and the use of wildlife at ceremonies and feasts is a cherished part of life among Nisga'a in the Nass Valley and extends to Nisga'a living outside the Nass Valley. Therefore, it is imperative that regulations concerning the possession and transportation of wildlife and wildlife parts reflect the customs and culture of Nisga'a society.

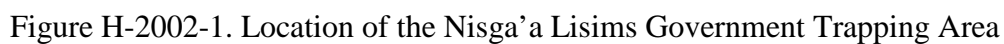
Nisga'a living in the Nass Valley may be in possession of wildlife and wildlife parts and may transport wildlife and wildlife parts throughout Nisga'a Lands without a harvest license. However, Nisga'a wishing to transport or possess wildlife or wildlife parts from Nisga'a Lands must obtain a wildlife possession and transportation certificate from Nisga'a Lisims Government.

Angling Guiding

An angling guiding annual plan is currently being developed by Nisga'a Lisims Government. Until such time as the plan has been completed and approved by Nisga'a Lisims Government and the Province of British Columbia, no angling guiding by Nisga'a citizens in the NWA will be allowed except under current provincial regulations.

Trapping

Nisga'a Lisims Government currently holds Trapping Area 0606P014 (Figure H-2002-2). The Director of Fish and Wildlife intends to invite applications for the use of this area. Possible uses include running a trapper training program for youth, individual trapping area, and trapping research area.



Schedule A. Provincial wildlife regulations pertaining to harvest methodology that are accepted by Nisga'a Lisims Government as applying to Nisga'a hunters hunting in the Nass Wildlife Area under the terms of the Final Agreement

- It is unlawful to hunt moose, mountain goat or grizzly bear with a shotgun.
- Shotguns may be used to hunt deer, black bear, cougar, coyote, wolf, game birds and small game.
- When using shotguns to hunt deer, black bear, cougar, and wolf, the bore size must be 20 gauge or larger and shells of shot size 1 Buck or larger.
- It is illegal to hunt game birds with a rifle except grouse or ptarmigan.
- It is illegal to hunt migratory game birds using a shotgun loaded with a single bullet or any other weapon except a bow and arrow or a shotgun not larger than 10 gauge.
- It is illegal to hunt with a set gun, or to hunt wildlife with a pump, repeating or auto-loading shotgun with a magazine capable of holding more than 2 shells.
- It is illegal to use full-metal jacket, non-expanding, tracer, incendiary or explosive bullets for hunting game.
- It is illegal to use rimfire cartridges for hunting big game.
- It is illegal to shoot wildlife from a motor vehicle.
- It is illegal to discharge, carry, or have in possession a firearm containing live ammunition in its breech or in its magazine attached to the firearm, in or on a railway car, motor vehicle, sleigh, aircraft, or bicycle.
- It is illegal to carry a cocked crossbow in or on a vehicle, or to discharge a bow from a vehicle of any kind.
- It is illegal to hunt wildlife by the use or with the aid of a light or an illuminating device.
- It is illegal to hunt or transport hunters or wildlife by helicopters.
- It is illegal to hunt from an aircraft.
- It is illegal to hunt wildlife within 6 hours of being airborne in an aircraft other than a regularly scheduled commercial aircraft.
- With the exception of using a power boat to drive seals or sea lions for the purposes of hunting, it is illegal to use a power boat, aircraft, or motor vehicle to disturb game for the purpose of driving them towards another hunter.
- It is illegal to hunt game, except migratory game birds, from 1 hour after sunset to 1 hour before sunrise.
- It is illegal to use poison for the taking or killing of any wildlife.
- It is illegal to use recorded or electronic calls to hunt wildlife (no exemption for trappers).
- It is illegal to possess or keep in captivity any live wildlife without a permit.
- It is illegal to possess or wantonly take, injure or destroy a bird, egg (except gull or goose eggs), or the nest of a bird except those designated by regulations (i.e., crows, English

sparrows, cowbirds, magpies, Rock doves, and European starlings or their egg or nest).

- It is illegal to use lead shot for hunting waterfowl.
- It is illegal to hunt big game, other than deer, with a crossbow having a pull of less than 150 lbs or a broadhead bolt of less than 7/8 inch at the widest point or weighing less than 16.2 grams.
- It is illegal to hunt deer, small game, or game birds with a crossbow having a pull of less than 120 lbs or a bolt weighing less than 16.2 grams.
- It is illegal to hunt wildlife with a compound crossbow having a pull of less than 100 lbs at a peak weight or a bolt weighing less than 16.2 grams.
- It is illegal to hunt big game with a long bow having a pull of less than 40 lbs within the archer's draw length or using an arrow other than one having a broadhead at least 7/8 inch at the widest point.
- It is illegal to hunt small game with a long bow having a pull of less than 40 lbs within the archer's draw length.
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- The use of dogs is permitted in the hunting of all game, but dogs must be on a leash when used to hunt deer, wolf, mountain goat and caribou.
- It is illegal to unintentionally kill a big game animal and fail to report it promptly to a Conservation Officer or Nisga'a Lisims Government.
- It is illegal to hunt within 15m either side of the centre of the Nisga'a Highway, Cassiar Highway (Highway 37) or the Stewart Highway (Highway 37A). In addition, hunting with single projectile weapons is prohibited within 400 m of Highway 37 south of its intersection with Highway 37A and within 400 m of Highway 37A between its intersection with Highway 37 and where it crosses Bitter Creek
- It is illegal to hunt within 100 m of a church, school building or school yard, playground, or building occupied by people or animals.

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Nisga'a Wildlife

Wildlife Management Newsletter

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Harvest Survey Results April 2000 – March 2001

111 MOOSE HARVESTED BY NISGA'A HUNTERS

The Nisga'a harvest was monitored for the third year. The 2000-01 harvest year was the first year of harvesting following the signing of the Final Agreement. As a transition year between pre and post implementation of the treaty, most harvest management controls were not yet in place. Because the Nass Wildlife Plan and the Nisga'a Annual Wildlife Management Plan were not approved by the B.C. Minister of Environment until after the harvest was complete, the total allowable harvest and Nisga'a allocation for designated species were not in place. Nevertheless, as part of the Nass Wildlife Committee, Nisga'a government agreed to total allowable harvests (TAH) and Nisga'a allocations (NA) of the three designated species as follows – moose: TAH of 125, NA of 70; grizzly bear: TAH of 5, NA of 2; mountain goat: TAH of 137, NA of 34. In January 2001, an intensive aerial survey was flown to obtain an accurate count of moose in the Nass Wildlife Area. The population estimate was approximately 1350 moose representing a 45% increase in the population estimate upon which the initial TAH was made. The new TAH for moose is 225 and the Nisga'a allocation is 126 moose. This newsletter reports on the information collected for April 2000 to March 2001. Moose is the main wildlife species hunted by Nisga'a in the Nass Valley, but the survey attempted to identify all animals harvested in the Nass Wildlife Area.

APPROACH

The harvest survey was conducted by one person in each of the four villages in the Nass

Valley. A list of hunters or potential hunters in every village was compiled and an attempt was made to interview each hunter. The interviewer asked when, where and how long each person hunted since April 2000 and how many animals they killed as well as the sex and age of each animal. Because the survey was conducted during the harvest season in order to monitor the harvest of designated species so that the allocation was not exceeded, most hunters were contacted repeatedly during the main harvest period.

SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 191 hunters or potential hunters in the Nass Valley were interviewed or approached to be interviewed. Of these 52 hunters did not hunt during 1999 and 8 others had stopped hunting altogether. Of the remaining 131 hunters, 85 were interviewed (65%), and 37 hunters (28%) were not interviewed, but hunted with an interviewed hunter. Only 2 hunters (2%) refused to be interviewed. Seven other hunters (5%) were not interviewed. No attempt was made to interview Nisga'a hunters living outside of the Nass Valley. However, an additional 3 Nisga'a hunters living outside of the Nass Valley were interviewed.

MOOSE

An estimated total of 111 moose were killed by Nisga'a hunters in the Nass Wildlife Area between April 2000 and March 2001. This is based on 102 moose killed by 122 interviewed hunters and hunting partners comprising 93% of

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the Nisga'a that hunted in the Nass Valley. The known kill of moose consisted of 52 adult and yearling bulls, 27 adult and yearling cows, 18 bull calves and 5 cow calves. Estimated total kill for moose is as follows:

57 adult and yearling bulls
29 adult and yearling cows
20 bull calves
5 cow calves.

The 2000-2001 harvest of moose is the lowest harvest during the 3 years in which the harvest was monitored. The harvests are shown in Table 1. The harvest monitoring is beginning to show a consistent pattern of moose harvest at about the new Nisga'a allocation level of 126 moose.

Year	Adult Bulls	Adult Cows	Bull Calves	Cow Calves	Total
1998	65	32	19 (16%)	4 (3%)	120
1999	(54%)	(27%)			
1999	65	32	24 (19%)	8 (6%)	129
2000	(50%)	(25%)			
2000	57	29	20 (18%)	5 (5%)	111
2001	(51%)	(26%)			

Most moose were killed during December and January (61%). However, unlike previous years, considerable hunting occurred during February. Only 52% of all adult bulls were harvested before the end of January 2001. However, the 78% of cows and calves harvested before February was similar to previous years (Figure 1). The lateness of the harvest was due to poor weather conditions for hunting during the fall and early winter period. Many hunters did not even attempt to hunt until January.

MAY 2001

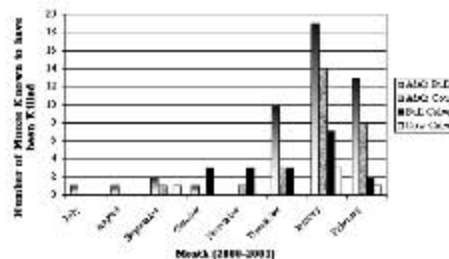
OTHER SPECIES

Nisga'a hunters did not harvest mountain goats or grizzly bears during the 2000-2001 harvest year. Other species harvested and reported included 2 deer, 9 black bears, 1 beaver, 1 marten and 73 ducks.

MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Although it is likely that the Nisga'a Nation would contain its harvest of moose within the agreed allocation without controls, Nisga'a Lisims Government is responsible for continued monitoring the harvest of wildlife in the Nass Wildlife Area by Nisga'a citizens. In order to effectively manage and monitor the wildlife harvest, designated species (moose, mountain goat and grizzly bear) can be hunted only with a permit issued by the Director of Fish and Wildlife. This will reduce the costs of harvest monitoring and improve the data upon which management decisions are made. It is expected that there will be sufficient permits available to support the current level of harvest. Permits will be issued beginning on 1 April 2001 and must be obtained in order to hunt designated species.

Figure 1. Timing of Moose Kill by Nisga'a Hunters



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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provincial laws, but only to the extent that they do not compromise public safety. Provincial restrictions on hunting methods that also apply to Nisga'a hunters are listed in Schedule A of Appendix H-2002. Nisga'a harvest methods that differ from Provincial harvest method restrictions are as follows:

1. Migratory game birds may be hunted using more than one shotgun. Only one shotgun may be loaded.
2. It is legal to shoot at wildlife from a boat propelled by a motor, but not while the boat is under power.
3. It is legal to use a power boat to drive seals and sea lions for the purpose of hunting.
4. It is legal to hunt migratory game birds only from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.
5. It is legal to shoot a big game animal while it is swimming provided that there is a reasonable certainty that it can be retrieved.
6. It is legal to take the eggs of gulls and geese for domestic purposes.
7. It is legal to hunt black bear or grizzly bear by placing bait or using dead wildlife or parts as bait. When using bait the hunter must post at the location of the bait a clearly visible sign that contains that person's name and Nisga'a hunting licence number, and post clearly visible signs that give reasonable warning to individuals who might enter the

area that bait for hunting bears has been placed in that area.

8. It is illegal to use more than one dog off leash to hunt moose.
9. A big game animal that was killed unintentionally by accident or collision may be taken and used for domestic purposes (as part of the Nisga'a allocation) provided that it is reported within 24 hours to Nisga'a Lisims Government.
 - Any big game animal killed unintentionally in the NWA must be reported to a provincial Conservation Officer or Nisga'a Lisims Government.

The Director of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for providing the details of all accidental kills reported to Nisga'a Lisims Government to the BC Government. The BC Government in return will provide the details of all accidental kills within the NWA reported to them to the Director of Fish and Wildlife.

Regulation of the Harvest

The Nisga'a Final Agreement allows all Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife from anywhere in the Nass Wildlife Area that is open for hunting. Under the Nisga'a Final Agreement, the harvest of wildlife will be monitored and regulated by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife. Hunting is permitted on fee simple lands only with permission of the registered owner. In addition, the BC provincial Wildlife Act and its regulations apply with respect to hunting closure and firearms restrictions to those areas in the Nass Wildlife Area where hunting is

restricted or closed for public health or public safety reasons.

Nisga'a hunters that harvest designated species (moose, grizzly bears and mountain goats) are required to have a valid permit for each animal killed. The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife will consider the Nisga'a allocation for each designated species and determine the number of permits to be issued.

Permits are available on a first-come-first-served basis from the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife, Nisga'a Lisims Government in New Aiyansh. Permits are valid only for the period indicated on the permit.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife may cancel any or all permits for designated species or restrict the harvest of non-designated species at any time. Notice of cancellation of permits will be delivered to the existing permit holders. Restrictions on non-designated species will be posted locally.

Because it is mandatory that the Nisga'a Lisims Government ensure compliance with the Final Agreement and this plan, enforcement of Nisga'a harvest regulations will be by persons authorized to enforce federal, provincial or Nisga'a laws in respect of wildlife or migratory birds in British Columbia. It is envisioned that Nisga'a conservation officers will take over the lead role in enforcement when an adequate number of officers is trained and employed.

Moose

Harvest Timing

Although moose may be harvested at any time of the year, the primary harvest seasons for moose is from mid-

September to the end of February. Bulls tend to be harvested earlier in the "season" before, during and after the "rut" or breeding season. A larger percentage of the harvest consists of cow moose during January and February than during the September to December period.

Harvest Allocation

According to the 2002 Nass Wildlife Management Plan, the total allowable harvest of moose is based on a population of approximately 1350 moose wintering in the NWA. The Committee recommended a total harvest of 225 moose consisting of 135 to 150 bulls, 50 to 55 cows and 25 to 40 calves. If this total allowable harvest amount is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement, a total annual harvest of 225 moose results in an allocation of 126 moose to Nisga'a hunters.

Permits issued to Nisga'a hunters for moose during the fall will expire on the 15th of January the following year. The Director of Fish and Wildlife can then determine the number of animals remaining to be harvested and re-issue the necessary number of permits to harvest those animals. The Director will determine the appropriate distribution of those re-issued permits. Re-issued permits for moose will be valid until the 28th of February of the year of issue. If there is still some of the moose allocation that remains unharvested, the Director may issue further permits valid until the end of March in the year of issue.

The first issuance of permits will be for any sex animal and the cow season will be closed if the Nisga'a allocation of

cow moose is reached. Re-issued permits may be for either bull moose only, or for any sex moose depending upon the number of cows remaining in the Nisga'a allocation.

Harvest Locations

Most moose are harvested from the eastern portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the Nass Valley including the upper reaches, the Cranberry River area and the Meziaden Lake area.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

If the Nisga'a allocation consists of 126 moose, the Nass Wildlife Committee recommends that up to 33-37 can be cows (given that other First Nations appear to harvest 17-18 cows per year) and the remaining number can be bulls and calves without negatively affecting the moose population according to the assumptions and results of modelling exercises conducted by the Committee. Many Nisga'a hunters avoid taking cow moose in order to preserve the potential productivity of the herd. Between September 1998 to March 1999, the ratio of bulls to cows to calves in the Nisga'a harvest was 65:32:23. Therefore, it is likely that the sex composition of the Nisga'a harvest of 126 moose will likely be about 68 bulls, 34 cows and 24 calves without intervention. Nisga'a Lisims Government will encourage Nisga'a hunters to select bull moose.

Grizzly Bear

Harvest Timing

Grizzly bears are harvested primarily during the fall period, from mid-

September until they den in late November. The spring bear hunt usually concentrates on black bears, but the occasional grizzly bear may be taken during mid-March until mid May.

Harvest Allocation

According to the 2002 Nass Wildlife Management Plan, the total allowable harvest of grizzly bears is based on a population of approximately 400 bears in the NWA. The Committee recommended a total harvest of 12 bears per year. However, three bears per year must be allowed for to account for poached bears. Beginning in 2003, all grizzly bears killed by Nisga'a hunters or caused to be killed by Nisga'a in the NWA will be considered as grizzly bears harvested by Nisga'a citizens under the Nass Wildlife Management Plan. Therefore, distinction is made for grizzly bears killed as part of animal control or traffic accidents *versus* hunting.

Permits to harvest the Nisga'a allocation of grizzly bear will be obtained by application to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Harvest Locations

Most grizzly bears are harvested from the central portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the Nass Valley, and the Meziaden Lake area.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

The Nisga'a allocation consists of two grizzly bears of which up to one can be female. It is believed that one female can be harvested without negatively affecting the grizzly bear population according to the assumptions of population size made by the Nass

Wildlife Committee. While Nisga'a hunters do not normally shoot sows with cubs, it is possible that hunters may take a young, non-breeding female or the rare breeding female that has lost her cubs or has been separated from her cubs. Nisga'a hunters are not permitted to knowingly kill a sow with cubs. Nisga'a harvest data for grizzly bears are very sparse. Of the grizzly bears harvested between 1991 and 1995, only four were reported during a preliminary harvest survey. All of those animals were males. Therefore, it is likely that the large majority of grizzly bears harvested by Nisga'a hunters over time will be male bears.

Very few cubs are killed by Nisga'a hunters. Although Nisga'a Lisims Government believes that the harvest of cubs is biologically sound, The Province of British Columbia does not allow the harvest of grizzly bears under 2 years of age or any bear in their company. Nisga'a citizens are required to comply with this regulation.

Mountain Goat

Harvest Timing

Although some mountain goats are harvested during the spring (April to mid-May), the primary harvest season for mountain goats is from early September to the end of December. The harvest during the later months of this period is focused on coastal animals that have been driven to lower elevations by heavy snowfall and are thus more accessible to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Allocation

According to the 2002 Nass Wildlife Management Plan, the total allowable

harvest of mountain goats is based on a population of approximately 3400 mountain goats in the NWA. The Nass Wildlife Committee recommended a total annual allowable harvest of 137 goats. If this total allowable harvest amount is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement, a total annual harvest of 137 mountain goats results in an allocation of 34 mountain goats to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Locations

Most mountain goats are harvested from the western portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the coastal mountain ranges. Because the mountain ranges behind New Aiyansh have been closed to the hunting of mountain goats for a number of years due to conservation concerns, Nisga'a hunters have shifted their harvests to other areas. It may be some years before Nisga'a hunters return to these previously closed areas to resume their harvest of mountain goats there.

In order to protect an isolated, low-elevation herd of mountain goats, the Director of Fish and Wildlife has closed Block 34 to the hunting of mountain goats (see Figure H-2002-1). This is a permanent closure.

There is little historical harvest data available to determine the specific locations where mountain goats have been harvested. However, the Nisga'a recognize that it is necessary to distribute the hunt over a large geographic area in order to refrain from having an adverse impact on local groups of mountain goats occupying specific mountain blocks. For planning purposes, the following table is put forward as an approximation of the distribution of the

Nisga'a harvest. The actual distribution will be documented in future years as detailed harvest data are collected. The blocks referred to in Table H-2002-1 are depicted in Figure H-2002-1.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

Mountain goats are harvested according to their accessibility. However, generally females with kids are not harvested. As a result, the harvest is strongly biased towards males.

There is little selectivity for ages with the possible exception that kids may be preferred by some hunters over adults.

Harvest Monitoring

Harvest monitoring in 2002-2003 will be conducted by periodic interviews.

Harvest monitoring will be facilitated with mandatory return of permits and biological samples to the harvest surveyor in each community. All used permits and biological samples must be returned within 7 days of harvest.

Nisga'a harvests in individual blocks are not specific allocations, but are used for initial planning purposes. Harvests by Nisga'a, other First Nation and licenced hunters will be monitored and block-specific harvest allocations made as required.

Harvests will be monitored over a 3-5 year period in order to determine if harvest allocation is required.

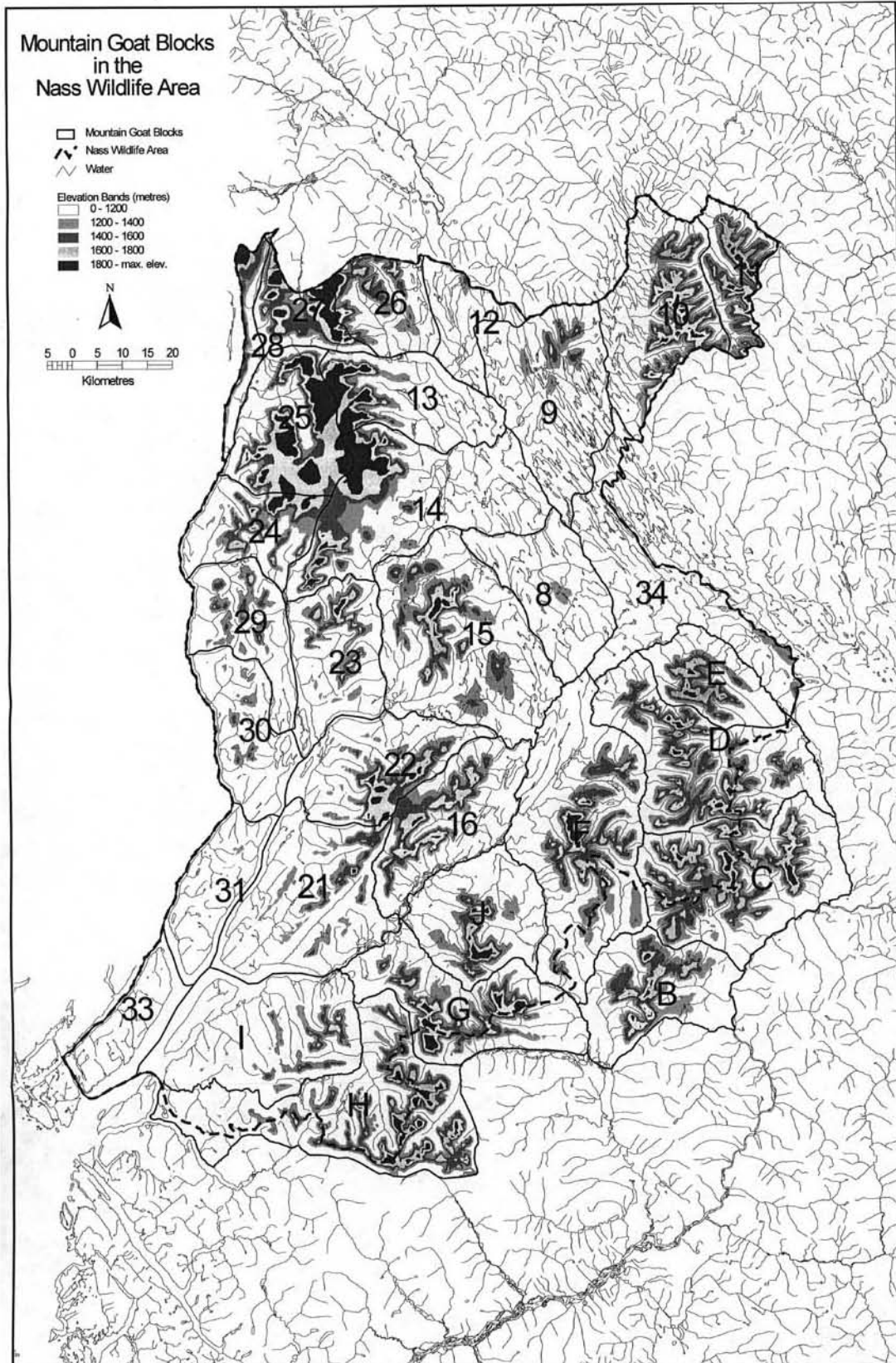
The following biological samples are required.

- Hunters are required to remit a lower mandible (jaw) or vestigial premolar tooth of each grizzly bear killed.
 - Hunters are required to remit a segment of hide of each grizzly bear killed for DNA analysis.
 - Hunters are required to submit the head of each grizzly bear killed for measurement of the skull.
 - Hunters are required to remit the uterus (reproductive tract) of all
- Hunters are required to remit a lower mandible (jaw) or incisor (front) tooth of each moose or mountain goat killed.

Table H-2003-1. Hypothetical distribution of annual Nisga'a mountain goat harvest.*

Mountain Goat	Population	Total Allowable	Nisga'a	% of Allowable
C	156	6	1	17
D	240	10	3	30
E	37	1	1	100
F	273	11	2	18
G	79	3	1	33
H	270	11	1	10
I	415	17	1	6
J	121	5	3	60
8	5	0	0	0
9	44	2	0	0
10	219	9	0	0
11	133	5	0	0
12	5	0	0	0
13	86	3	1	33
14	143	6	0	0
15	169	7	1	14
16	135	5	1	20
21	89	4	3	75
22	108	4	3	75
23	101	4	3	75
24	108	4	3	75
25	161	7	1	14
26	89	4	1	25
27	94	4	1	25
28	33	1	0	0
29	63	3	2	67
30	29	1	1	100**
31	5	0	0	0
33	0	0	0	0
34	8	0	0	0
All Blocks	3418	137	34	25

Figure H-2003-1. Mountain goat blocks in the Nass Wildlife Area.



female moose, mountain goat or grizzly bear killed.

- Hunters are required to submit the horns of each mountain goat killed for inspection and measurement.

In the above list, the “remit” is used to indicate that the biological sample required will not be returned to the hunter. The word “submit” indicates that the hunter must provide the required body part or animal for inspection only and the body part or animal will then be returned to the hunter.

Possession and Transportation of Wildlife and Wildlife Parts

Sharing of wildlife and wildlife parts is an integral part of Nisga’a culture and heritage. The trade and barter of wild meat and wildlife parts amongst and between family members and the use of wildlife at ceremonies and feasts is a cherished part of life among Nisga’a in the Nass Valley and extends to Nisga’a living outside the Nass Valley. Therefore, it is imperative that regulations concerning the possession and transportation of wildlife and wildlife parts reflect the customs and culture of Nisga’a society.

Nisga’a living in the Nass Valley may be in possession of wildlife and wildlife parts and may transport wildlife and wildlife parts throughout Nisga’a Lands without a harvest license. However, Nisga’a wishing to transport or possess wildlife or wildlife parts from Nisga’a Lands must obtain a wildlife possession and transportation certificate from Nisga’a Lisims Government.

Transportation permits are attached to each designated species permit and

authorize the holder of the permit to transport meat from the animal harvested under the permit off Nisga’a Lands. The hunter is responsible to provide copies of his designated species permit and the transportation permit to all Nisga’a citizens with whom he/she shares meat and who will be in possession of that meat off Nisga’a Lands.

Angling Guiding

An angling guiding annual plan is currently being developed by Nisga’a Lisims Government. Until such time as the plan has been completed and approved by Nisga’a Lisims Government and the Province of British Columbia, no angling guiding by Nisga’a citizens in the NWA will be allowed except under current provincial regulations.

Trapping

Nisga’a Lisims Government currently holds Trapping Area 0606P014 (Figure H-2002-2). The Director of Fish and Wildlife may invite applications for the use of this area in the future. Possible uses include running a trapper training program for youth, individual trapping area, and trapping research area.

Schedule A. Provincial wildlife regulations pertaining to harvest methodology that are accepted by Nisga'a Lisims Government as applying to Nisga'a hunters hunting in the Nass Wildlife Area under the terms of the Final Agreement..

- It is unlawful to hunt moose, mountain goat or grizzly bear with a shotgun
- Shotguns may be used to hunt deer, black bear, cougar, coyote, wolf, game birds and small game.
- When using shotguns to hunt deer, black bear, cougar, and wolf, the bore size must be 20 gauge or larger and shells of shot size 1 Buck or larger.
- It is illegal to hunt game birds with a rifle except grouse or ptarmigan.
- It is illegal to hunt migratory game birds using a shotgun loaded with a single bullet or any other weapon except a bow and arrow or a shotgun not larger than 10 gauge.
- It is illegal to hunt with a set gun, or to hunt wildlife with a pump, repeating or auto-loading shotgun with a magazine capable of holding more than 2 shells.
- It is illegal to use full-metal jacket, non-expanding, tracer, incendiary or explosive bullets for hunting game.
- It is illegal to use rimfire cartridges for hunting big game.
- It is illegal to shoot wildlife from a motor vehicle.
- It is illegal to discharge, carry, or have in possession a firearm containing live ammunition in its breech or in its magazine attached to the firearm, in or on a railway car, motor vehicle, sleigh, aircraft, or bicycle.
- It is illegal to carry a cocked crossbow in or on a vehicle, or to discharge a bow from a vehicle of any kind.
- It is illegal to hunt wildlife by the use or with the aid of a light or an illuminating device.
- It is illegal to hunt or transport hunters or wildlife by helicopters.
- It is illegal to hunt from an aircraft.
- It is illegal to hunt wildlife within 6 hours of being airborne in an aircraft other than a regularly scheduled commercial aircraft.
- With the exception of using a power boat to drive seals or sea lions for the purposes of hunting, it is illegal to use a power boat, aircraft, or motor vehicle to disturb game for the purpose of driving them towards another hunter.
- It is illegal to hunt game, except migratory game birds, from 1 hour after sunset to 1 hour before sunrise.
- It is illegal to use poison for the taking or killing of any wildlife.
- It is illegal to use recorded or electronic calls to hunt wildlife (no exemption for trappers).
- It is illegal to possess or keep in captivity any live wildlife without a permit.

- It is illegal to possess or wantonly take, injure or destroy a bird, egg (except gull or goose eggs), or the nest of a bird except those designated by regulations (i.e., crows, English sparrows, cowbirds, magpies, Rock doves, and European starlings or their egg or nest).
 - It is illegal to use lead shot for hunting waterfowl.
 - It is illegal to hunt big game, other than deer, with a crossbow having a pull of less than 150 lbs or a broadhead bolt of less than 7/8 inch at the widest point or weighing less than 16.2 grams.
 - It is illegal to hunt deer, small game, or game birds with a crossbow having a pull of less than 120 lbs or a bolt weighing less than 16.2 grams.
 - It is illegal to hunt wildlife with a compound crossbow having a pull of less than 100 lbs at a peak weight or a bolt weighing less than 16.2 grams.
 - It is illegal to hunt big game with a long bow having a pull of less than 40 lbs within the archer's draw length or using an arrow other than one having a broadhead at least 7/8 inch at the widest point.
 - It is illegal to hunt small game with a long bow having a pull of less than 40 lbs within the archer's draw length.
 - The use of dogs is permitted in the hunting of all game, but dogs must be on a leash when used to hunt deer, wolf, mountain goat and caribou.
 - It is illegal to unintentionally kill a big game animal and fail to report it promptly to a Conservation Officer or Nisga'a Lisims Government.
 - It is illegal to hunt within 15m either side of the centre of the Nisga'a Highway, Cassiar Highway (Highway 37) or the Stewart Highway (Highway 37A). In addition, hunting with single projectile weapons is prohibited within 400 m of Highway 37 south of its intersection with Highway 37A and within 400 m of Highway 37A between its intersection with Highway 37 and where it crosses Bitter Creek
 - It is illegal to hunt within 100 m of a church, school building or school yard, playground, or building occupied by people or animals.
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Nisga'a Wildlife

Wildlife Management Newsletter

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1 JULY 2002



Harvest Survey Results April 2001 – March 2002

147 MOOSE HARVESTED BY NISGA'A HUNTERS

The Nisga'a harvest was monitored for the fourth year. The 2001-02 harvest year was the second year of harvesting following the signing of the Final Agreement, and the first year during which harvest management controls were in place, albeit only partially implemented. The Nass Wildlife Plan and the Nisga'a Annual Wildlife Management Plan were approved by the B.C. Minister of Environment resulting in agreement between Nisga'a Lisims Government and the Province of B.C. that the total allowable harvest (TAH) and Nisga'a allocations (NA) of the three designated species were as follows – moose: TAH of 225, NA of 126; grizzly bear: TAH of 5, NA of 2; mountain goat: TAH of 137, NA of 34. The population estimate of moose in the Nass Wildlife Area remains at 1350 moose. This newsletter reports on the information collected from April 2001 to March 2002. Moose is the main wildlife species hunted by Nisga'a in the Nass Valley, but the survey attempted to identify all animals harvested in the Nass Wildlife Area.

APPROACH

As in past years, the harvest survey was conducted by one person in each of the four villages in the Nass Valley. A list of hunters or potential hunters in every village was compiled and an attempt was made to interview each hunter. The interviewer asked when, where and how long each person hunted since April 2001 and how many animals they killed as well as the sex and age of each animal. Because the survey was conducted

during the harvest season in order to monitor the harvest of designated species so that the allocation was not exceeded, most hunters were contacted repeatedly during the main harvest period.

SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 139 of 266 hunters or potential Nisga'a hunters were interviewed or approached to be interviewed. Of these 48 hunters did not hunt during 2001 and 15 others had stopped hunting altogether. Of the remaining 203 potentially active hunters, 136 were interviewed (67%), and 21 hunters (10%) were not interviewed, but hunted with an interviewed hunter. Only 3 hunters (2%) refused to be interviewed. 79 other hunters (39%) were not interviewed. No attempt was made to interview Nisga'a hunters living outside of the Nass Valley where many of these un interviewed hunters reside. Only one Nisga'a hunters living outside of the Nass Valley was interviewed.

MOOSE

An estimated total of 147 moose were killed by Nisga'a hunters in the Nass Wildlife Area between April 2001 and March 2002. This is based on 86 moose killed by 157 interviewed hunters and hunting partners comprising 77% of the Nisga'a that hunted in the Nass Valley. The estimated kill is thought to be an overestimate because it is believed that many of the hunters that were not

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interviewed did not hunt during 2001-02 yet over 40% of the total Nisga'a moose harvest has been attributed to them. This is an artifact of the estimation process and will be significantly reduced once all Nisga'a hunters purchase hunting licences and carry tags. The known kill of moose consisted of 50 adult and yearling bulls, 20 adult and yearling cows, 9 bull calves and 7 cow calves. Estimated total kill for moose is as follows:

84 adult and yearling bulls
33 adult and yearling cows
15 bull calves
11 cow calves
4 unknown sex and age.

The 2001-2002 harvest of moose is the highest harvest during the 4 years in which the harvest was monitored. The harvests are shown in Table 1. The harvest monitoring is beginning to show a consistent pattern of moose harvest at about 69% adult and juvenile bulls, 23-27% adult cows and 3-8% juvenile cows.

Year	Adult Bulls	Adult Cows	Bull Calves	Cow Calves	Total
1998	65	32	19	4	120
1999	(54%)	(27%)	(16%)	(3%)	
1999	65	32	24	8	129
2000	(50%)	(25%)	(19%)	(6%)	
2000	57	29	20	5	111
2001	(51%)	(26%)	(18%)	(5%)	
2001	84	33	15	11	147*
2002	(59%)	(23%)	(10%)	(8%)	

* includes 4 moose of unknown sex and age

As during previous years, most moose were killed during December and January (67%).

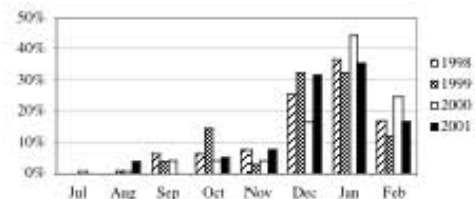
OTHER SPECIES

Nisga'a hunters harvested 2 male mountain

MAY 2001

goats in Block J. No grizzly bears were reported to surveyors during the 2001-2002 harvest year, but is widely known that 3 grizzly bears were harvested by Nisga'a hunters in the lower Nass Valley during August 2001. Other species harvested and reported included 1 deer, 1 adult male black bear, and 18 ducks.

Moose Harvest Timing

**MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Because management controls were not fully in place during the 2001-02 harvest year, the Nisga'a Nation was not able to contain its harvest of moose within the agreed allocation. However, the moose harvest by Nisga'a hunters has averaged 127 moose during the 4-year period in which harvest monitoring has been conducted. This is only slightly in excess of the Nisga'a allocation of moose. Nisga'a Lisims Government is responsible for continued monitoring of the harvest of wildlife in the Nass Wildlife Area by Nisga'a citizens. In order to effectively manage and monitor the wildlife harvest, designated species (moose, mountain goat and grizzly bear) can be hunted only with a permit issued by the Director of Fish and Wildlife. Once this management program is fully implemented, it will reduce the costs of harvest monitoring and improve the data upon which management decisions are made.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

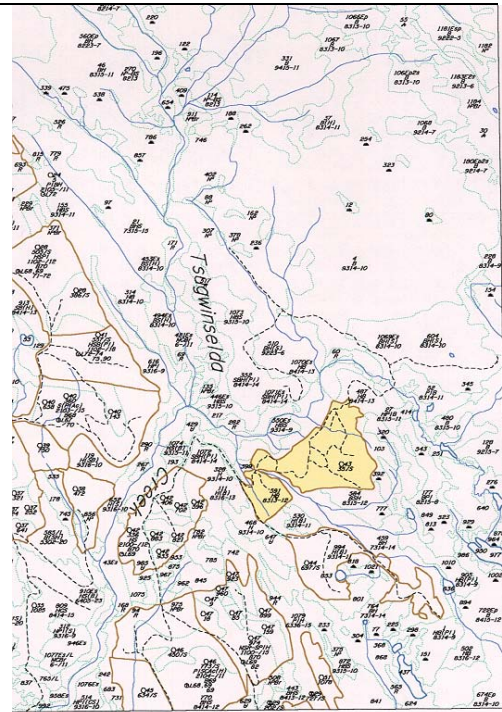
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Appendix I: Information for Nass Wildlife Committee Use Only

Location of low elevation mountain goat herd in NWA



Low elevation mountain goat habitat



ED ON THIS MAP IS STORED
AND IS STRUCTURED TO SUPPORT
INTECTIONS OF THE FOREST
ATION SYSTEM.

PRODUCED BY
INVENTORY BRANCH
MINISTRY OF FORESTS
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

103P.059

Appendix H
Nisga'a Annual Wildlife Management Plans
2004 - 2005

by

Nisga'a Lisims Government
Box 231, New Aiyansh
British Columbia, Canada V0J 1A0

Appendix H-2004 - 2005: Nisga'a Annual Wildlife Management Plan for 2004 -2005

Summary of the 2004 -2005 Wildlife Management Plan

- All Nisga'a hunters must carry a Nisga'a Hunting License.
- Legal and illegal harvest methods are defined in the Annual Management Plan.
- Nisga'a hunters can hunt anywhere in the NWA that is opened for hunting by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife or that is not closed for by the province of British Columbia due to public health or public safety reasons (See Schedule A).
- A permit is required to harvest designated species in the NWA.
- Nisga'a Lisims Government will promote support for annual harvest plans through Annual Hunter Awareness and Orientation meetings
- The Nisga'a allocation of moose is 126 animals.
- The goal of the 2004-05 moose harvest season will be to maintain the cow harvest below 37 animals.
- The Nisga'a allocation of grizzly bears is 2 animals.
- The Nisga'a allocation of mountain goats is 34 animals.
- Hunters are required to submit teeth and uteri of designated species for management purposes.
- A transportation permit is required to transport wildlife or

wildlife parts outside Nisga'a Lands for trade or barter.

- A Nisga'a hunter may transport wildlife that he killed if the wildlife is in his possession and he has with him his hunting licence and designated species permit, if applicable.
- A receipt is required to transport wildlife if the transporter is not the hunter who killed the wildlife.
- Angling guiding management plans are still being developed

Identification of Nisga'a Harvesters

According to the Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Act, Nisga'a citizens who wish to harvest wildlife in the Nass Wildlife Area (NWA) must obtain a Nisga'a Hunting Licence from Nisga'a Lisims Government for a \$25.00 fee. The license must be carried by the hunter when actively engaged in hunting activities. The harvest license confirms the individual's right to harvest wildlife in the NWA according to the terms of the Final Agreement and protects Nisga'a rights to hunt from abuse by unauthorized hunters.

All licence holders may be required to provide accurate information on their hunting activities and harvested animals to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife when applying for a licence. This is a component of harvest monitoring as required by the Final Agreement.

Harvest Methods

Modern and traditional methods of harvesting wildlife will continue to be used by Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife in the NWA for food, social and ceremonial purposes. Harvest methods used by Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife in the NWA may differ from those permitted under federal or provincial laws, but only to the extent that they do not compromise public safety. Nisga'a harvest methods that differ from Provincial harvest method restrictions are as follows:

1. Migratory game birds may be hunted using more than one shotgun. Only one shotgun may be loaded.
2. It is legal to shoot at wildlife from a boat propelled by a motor, but not while the boat is under power.
3. It is legal to use a power boat to drive seals and sea lions for the purpose of hunting at times and locations specified by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.
4. It is legal to hunt migratory game birds only from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.
5. It is legal to shoot a big game animal while it is swimming provided that there is a reasonable certainty that it can be retrieved.
6. It is legal to take the eggs of gulls, geese and migratory birds for domestic purposes.
7. It is legal to hunt black bear or grizzly bear by placing bait or using dead wildlife or parts as

bait. When using bait the hunter must post at the location of the bait a clearly visible sign that contains that person's name and Nisga'a hunting licence number, and post clearly visible signs that give reasonable warning to individuals who might enter the area that bait for hunting bears has been placed in that area.

8. It is illegal to use any dog off leash to hunt moose.
9. A big game animal that was killed unintentionally by accident or collision may be taken and used for domestic purposes (as part of the Nisga'a allocation) provided that it is reported within 24 hours to Nisga'a Lisims Government.
 - Any big game animal killed unintentionally in the NWA must be reported to a provincial Conservation Officer or Nisga'a Lisims Government.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife is responsible for providing the details of all accidental kills reported to Nisga'a Lisims Government to the BC Government. The BC Government in return will provide the details of all accidental kills within the NWA reported to them to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Regulation of the Harvest

The Nisga'a Final Agreement allows all Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife from anywhere in the Nass Wildlife Area that is open for hunting. Under the Nisga'a Final Agreement, the harvest of wildlife will be monitored and regulated by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Nass Wildlife Management Plan

Hunting is permitted on cultivated land, Crown land that is subject to a grazing lease while the land is occupied by livestock or on enclosed land as defined in the *Trespass Act* of BC if the hunter has the consent of the owner, lessee or occupier of that land. In addition, the BC provincial Wildlife Act and its regulations apply with respect to hunting closure and firearms restrictions to those areas in the Nass Wildlife Area where hunting is restricted or closed for public health or public safety reasons.

Nisga'a hunters that harvest designated species (moose, grizzly bears and mountain goats) must have a designated species permit authorizing the hunting of animals of that species. The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife will consider the Nisga'a allocation for each designated species, will determine the number of permits to be issued, may specify the sex of the animals to be harvested and the locations from which they may be harvested.

Permits are available on a first-come-first-served basis from the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife, Nisga'a Lisims Government in New Aiyansh. Permits are valid for the period indicated on the permit.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife will specify the term of each designated species permit issued. When the number of harvests of each designated species reported to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife reaches the Nisga'a allocation for that species or reaches the number of permitted kills of a particular sex of that species, the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife will cancel all outstanding permits for the harvest of that species or for the harvest of a particular sex of that species, as the case may be.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife may cancel any outstanding permits for designated species or restrict the harvest of non-designated species at any time. Notice of cancellation of permits will be delivered to the existing permit holders. Hunters will be notified of any restrictions on non-designated species by one of the following methods: posting; transmission by electronic mail; publishing under Nisga'a laws; written or oral notice.

Because it is mandatory that the Nisga'a Lisims Government ensure compliance with the Final Agreement and this plan, enforcement of Nisga'a harvest regulations will be by persons authorized to enforce federal, provincial or Nisga'a laws in respect of wildlife or migratory birds in British Columbia. It is envisioned that Nisga'a conservation officers will take over the lead role in enforcement when an adequate number of officers is trained and employed.

Moose

Harvest Timing

Although moose may be harvested at any time of the year, the primary harvest seasons for moose is from mid-September to the end of February. Bulls tend to be harvested earlier in the "season" before, during and after the "rut" or breeding season. A larger percentage of the harvest consists of cow moose during January and February than during the September to December period.

Harvest Allocation

According to the 2004- 2005 Nass Wildlife Management Plan, the total allowable harvest of moose is based on a

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population of approximately 1350 moose wintering in the NWA. The Committee recommended a total harvest of 225 moose consisting of 135 to 150 bulls, 50 to 55 cows and 25 to 40 calves. If this total allowable harvest amount is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement, a total annual harvest of 225 moose results in an allocation of 126 moose to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Locations

Most moose are harvested from the eastern portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the Nass Valley including the upper reaches, the Cranberry River area and the Meziaden Lake area.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

If the Nisga'a allocation consists of 126 moose, the Nass Wildlife Committee recommends that up to 33-37 can be cows (given that other First Nations appear to harvest 17-18 cows per year) and the remaining number can be bulls and calves without negatively affecting the moose population according to the assumptions and results of modeling exercises conducted by the Committee. Many Nisga'a hunters avoid taking cow moose in order to preserve the potential productivity of the herd. Between September 1998 to March 1999, the ratio of bulls to cows to calves in the Nisga'a harvest was 65:32:23. Therefore, it is likely that the sex composition of the Nisga'a harvest of 126 moose will likely be about 68 bulls, 34 cows and 24 calves without intervention. Nisga'a Lisims Government will encourage Nisga'a hunters to select bull moose.

Grizzly Bear

Harvest Timing

Grizzly bears are harvested primarily during the fall period, from mid-September until they den in late November. The spring bear hunt usually concentrates on black bears, but the occasional grizzly bear may be taken during mid-March until mid May.

Harvest Allocation

According to the 2004 2005 Nass Wildlife Management Plan, the total allowable harvest of grizzly bears is based on a population of approximately 400 bears in the NWA. The Committee recommended a total harvest of 12 bears per year. However, three bears per year must be allowed for to account for poached bears, and three bears may be killed each year as part of animal control. Therefore, the allowable harvest for hunting is 5 bears per year.

If this total allowable harvest amount is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement, a total annual allowable harvest of 5 grizzly bears results in an allocation of 2 grizzly bears to Nisga'a hunters.

Permits to harvest the Nisga'a allocation of grizzly bear will be obtained by application to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Harvest Locations

Most grizzly bears are harvested from the central portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the Nass Valley, and the Meziaden Lake area.

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Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

The Nisga'a allocation consists of two grizzly bears of which up to one can be female. It is believed that one female can be harvested without negatively affecting the grizzly bear population according to the assumptions of population size made by the Nass Wildlife Committee. While Nisga'a hunters do not normally shoot sows with cubs, it is possible that hunters may take a young, non-breeding female or the rare breeding female that has lost her cubs or has been separated from her cubs. Nisga'a hunters are not permitted to knowingly kill a sow with cubs. Nisga'a harvest data for grizzly bears are very sparse. Of the grizzly bears harvested between 1991 and 1995, only four were reported during a preliminary harvest survey. All of those animals were males. Therefore, it is likely that the large majority of grizzly bears harvested by Nisga'a hunters over time will be male bears.

The Province of British Columbia does not allow the harvest of grizzly bears under 2 years of age or any bear in their company. Nisga'a citizens are required to comply with this regulation.

Mountain Goat

Harvest Timing

Although some mountain goats are harvested during the spring (April to mid-May), the primary harvest season for mountain goats is from early September to the end of December. The harvest during the later months of this period is focused on coastal animals that have been driven to lower elevations by

heavy snowfall and are thus more accessible to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Allocation

According to the 2004 2005 Nass Wildlife Management Plan, the total allowable harvest of mountain goats is based on a population of approximately 3400 mountain goats in the NWA. The Nass Wildlife Committee recommended a total annual allowable harvest of 137 goats. If this total allowable harvest amount is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement, a total annual harvest of 137 mountain goats results in an allocation of 34 mountain goats to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Locations

Most mountain goats are harvested from the western portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the coastal mountain ranges. Because the mountain ranges behind New Aiyansh have been closed to the hunting of mountain goats for a number of years due to conservation concerns, Nisga'a hunters have shifted their harvests to other areas. It may be some years before Nisga'a hunters return to these previously closed areas to resume their harvest of mountain goats there.

In order to protect an isolated, low-elevation herd of mountain goats, the Director of Fish and Wildlife has closed Block 34 to the hunting of mountain goats (see Figure H-2002-1). This is a permanent closure.

There is little historical harvest data available to determine the specific locations where mountain goats have been harvested. However, the Nisga'a recognize that it is necessary to distribute the hunt over a large geographic area in

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order to refrain from having an adverse impact on local groups of mountain goats occupying specific mountain blocks. For planning purposes, the following table is put forward as an approximation of the distribution of the Nisga'a harvest. The actual distribution will be documented in future years as detailed harvest data are collected. The blocks referred to in Table H-2002-1 are depicted in Figure H-2002-1.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

Mountain goats are harvested according to their accessibility. However, generally females with kids are not harvested. As a result, the harvest is strongly biased towards males.

There is little selectivity for ages with the possible exception that kids may be preferred by some hunters over adults.

Harvest Monitoring

Harvest monitoring in 2004-2005 will be conducted by periodic interviews. Harvest monitoring will be facilitated with mandatory return of permits and biological samples to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife or authorized Nisga'a wildlife official in each community. All used permits and biological samples must be returned within 3 business days of harvest.

Nisga'a harvests in individual blocks are not specific allocations, but are used for initial planning purposes. Harvests by Nisga'a, other First Nation and licenced hunters will be monitored and block-specific harvest allocations made as required.

Harvests will be monitored over a 3-5 year period in order to determine if harvest allocation is required.

The following biological samples are required.

- Hunters are required to remit a lower mandible (jaw) or incisor (front) tooth of each moose or mountain goat killed.
- Hunters are required to remit a lower mandible (jaw) or vestigial premolar tooth of each grizzly bear killed.
- Hunters are required to remit a segment of hide of each grizzly bear killed for DNA analysis.
- Hunters are required to submit the head of each grizzly bear killed for measurement of the skull.
- Hunters are required to remit the uterus (reproductive tract) of all

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female moose, mountain goat or grizzly bear killed.

- Hunters are required to submit the horns of each mountain goat killed for inspection and measurement.

In the above list, the “remit” is used to indicate that the biological sample required will not be returned to the hunter. The word “submit” indicates that the hunter must provide the required body part or animal for inspection only and the body part or animal will then be returned to the hunter.

Possession and Transportation of Wildlife and Wildlife Parts

Nisga’a living in the Nass Valley may be in possession of wildlife and wildlife parts without a Nisga’a hunting license.

Under the Treaty Nisga’a have the right to trade or barter wildlife or wildlife parts among themselves or with other aboriginal people.

A transportation permit issued by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife is required to transport wildlife or wildlife parts outside Nisga’a Lands for trade or barter.

A hunter may transport wildlife and wildlife parts he has killed if he

- personally accompanies them, and
- has in his possession his hunting license and applicable designated species permit authorizing the kill.

A person, other than the hunter, may transport wildlife or wildlife parts killed

by the hunter if he is in possession of a receipt that shows

- when and where he received the wildlife or parts,
- who killed them or gave them to him,
- the hunting license number and applicable designated species permit number of the person who killed them,
- where the wildlife or parts are being taken, and
- the species and sex of the wildlife if a big game animal.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife may specify and make available form receipts for such use.

Angling Guiding

An angling guiding annual plan is currently being developed by Nisga’a Lisims Government. Until such time as the plan has been completed and approved by Nisga’a Lisims Government and the Province of British Columbia, no angling guiding by Nisga’a citizens in the NWA will be allowed except under current provincial regulations.

Trapping

Nisga’a Lisims Government currently holds Trapping Area 0606P014 (Figure H-2002-2). The Director of Fish and Wildlife may invite applications for the use of this area in the future. Possible uses include running a trapper training program for youth, individual trapping area, and trapping research area.

Appendix H-2006: Nisga'a Annual Wildlife Management Plan for 2006

Summary of the 2006 Wildlife Management Plan

- All Nisga'a hunters must comply with the Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Act and Nisga'a Wildlife Regulations.
- All Nisga'a hunters must carry a Nisga'a Hunting Licence.
- Legal and illegal harvest methods are defined in the Annual Management Plan.
- Nisga'a hunters can hunt anywhere in the NWA that is opened for hunting by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife or that is not closed by the province of British Columbia due to public health or public safety reasons.
- A permit is required to harvest designated species in the NWA.
- Designated species in the Nass Wildlife Area are Moose, Mountain Goat and Grizzly Bear.
- The Nisga'a allocation of moose is 126 animals.
- The goal of the 2006-07 moose harvest season will be to maintain the cow harvest below 34 animals.
- The Nisga'a allocation of grizzly bears is 4 animals.
- The Nisga'a allocation of mountain goats is 33 animals.
- Hunters are required to submit biological samples of designated species for management purposes
- A transportation permit is required to transport wildlife or wildlife part outside of Nisga'a Lands for trade or barter

- A Nisga'a hunter may transport wildlife that he killed if the wildlife is in his possession and he has with him his hunting licence and designated species permit, if applicable
- A receipt is required to transport wildlife if the transporter is not the hunter who killed the wildlife.
- Angling guiding management plans are still being developed.

Nisga'a Wildlife Regulations

All Nisga'a hunters are required to comply with the Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Act, Nisga'a Wildlife Regulations, and this Annual Wildlife Management Plan.

Identification of Nisga'a Harvesters

According to the Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Act, Nisga'a citizens who wish to harvest wildlife in the Nass Wildlife Area (NWA) must obtain a Nisga'a Hunting Licence from Nisga'a Lisims Government for a \$25.00 fee. The licence must be carried by the hunter when actively engaged in hunting activities. The harvest licence confirms the individual's right to harvest wildlife in the NWA according to the terms of the Final Agreement and protects Nisga'a rights to hunt from abuse by unauthorized hunters.

All licence holders may be required to provide accurate information on their hunting activities and harvested animals to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife when applying for a licence. This is a

component of harvest monitoring as required by the Final Agreement.

Designated Species

The Nisga'a Final Agreement identified moose, mountain goat, and grizzly bear as designated species in the Nass Wildlife Area. No other species have been designated.

Reporting of Accidental Kills

Any big game animal killed unintentionally in the NWA must be reported to a provincial Conservation Officer or Nisga'a Lisims Government. The Director of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for providing the details of all accidental kills reported to Nisga'a Lisims Government to the BC Government. The BC Government in return will provide the details of all accidental kills within the NWA reported to them to the Director of Fish and Wildlife.

Harvest Methods

Modern and traditional methods of harvesting wildlife will continue to be used by Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife in the NWA for food, social and ceremonial purposes. Harvest methods used by Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife in the NWA may differ from those permitted under federal or provincial laws, but only to the extent that they do not compromise public safety. Nisga'a harvest methods that differ from Provincial harvest method restrictions are as follows:

1. Migratory game birds may be hunted using more than one shotgun. Only one shotgun may be loaded.
2. It is legal to shoot at wildlife from a boat propelled by a motor,

but not while the boat is under power.

3. It is legal to use a power boat to drive seals and sea lions for the purpose of hunting at times and locations specified by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.
4. It is legal to hunt migratory game birds only from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour before sunset.
5. It is legal to shoot a big game animal while it is swimming provided that there is a reasonable certainty that it can be retrieved.
6. It is legal to take the eggs of gulls, geese and migratory birds for domestic purposes.
7. It is legal to hunt black bear or grizzly bear by placing bait or using dead wildlife or parts as bait. When using bait the hunter must post at the location of the bait a clearly visible sign that contains that person's name and Nisga'a hunting licence number, and post clearly visible signs that give reasonable warning to individuals who might enter the area that bait for hunting bears has been placed in the area.
8. It is illegal to use any dog off leash to hunt moose.
9. A big game animal that was killed unintentionally by accident or collision may be taken and used for domestic purposes (as part of the Nisga'a allocation) provided that it is reported within 24 hours to Nisga'a Lisims Government.

Regulation of the Harvest

The Nisga'a Final Agreement allows all Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife from anywhere in the Nass Wildlife Area that is open for hunting. Under the Nisga'a Final Agreement, the harvest of wildlife will be monitored and regulated by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Hunting is permitted on cultivated land, Crown land that is subject to a grazing lease while the land is occupied by livestock or on enclosed land as defined in the Trespass Act of BC if the hunter has consent of the owner, lessee, or occupier of that land. In addition, the BC provincial Wildlife Act and its regulations apply with respect to hunting closure and firearms restrictions to those areas in the Nass Wildlife Area where hunting is restricted or closed for public health or public safety reasons.

Nisga'a hunters that harvest designated species (moose, grizzly bears and mountain goats) must have a designated species permit authorizing the hunting of animals of that species. The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife will consider the Nisga'a allocation for each designated species, will determine the number of permits to be issued, may specify the sex of the animals to be harvested and the locations from which they may be harvested.

Permits are available on a first-come-first-served basis from the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife, Nisga'a Lisims Government in New Aiyansh. Permits are valid for the period indicated on the permit.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife will specify the term of each designated species permit issued. When the number of harvests of each designated species reported to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife reaches the Nisga'a allocation for that species or reaches the permitted

number of kills of a particular sex of that species, the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife will cancel the outstanding permits for the harvest of that species or for the harvest of a particular sex of that species, as the case may be.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife may cancel any outstanding permits for designated species or restrict the harvest of non-designated species at any time. Notice of cancellation of permits will be delivered to the existing permit holders. Hunters will be notified of any restrictions on non-designated species by one of the following methods: posting; transmission by electronic mail; publishing under Nisga'a laws; written or oral notice.

Because it is mandatory that the Nisga'a Lisims Government ensure compliance with the Final Agreement and this plan, enforcement of Nisga'a harvest regulations will be by persons authorized to enforce federal, provincial or Nisga'a laws in respect of wildlife or migratory birds in British Columbia. It is envisioned that Nisga'a conservation officers will take over the lead role in enforcement when an adequate number of officers is trained and employed.

Moose

Harvest Timing

Although moose may be harvested at any time of the year, the primary harvest seasons for moose is from mid-September to the end of February. Bulls tend to be harvested earlier in the "season" before, during and after the "rut" or breeding season. A larger percentage of the harvest consists of cow moose during January and February than during the September to December period.

Harvest Allocation

According to the Nass Wildlife Plan, the total allowable harvest of moose is based on a population of approximately 1350 moose wintering in the NWA. The Committee recommended a total harvest of 225 moose consisting of 135 to 150 bulls, 50 to 55 cows and 25 to 40 calves. If this total allowable harvest amount is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement, a total annual harvest of 225 moose results in an allocation of 126 moose to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Locations

Most moose are harvested from the eastern portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the Nass Valley including the upper reaches, the Cranberry River area and the Meziadin Lake area.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

If the Nisga'a allocation consists of 126 moose, the Nass Wildlife Committee recommends that up to 33-37 can be cows (given that other First Nations appear to harvest 17-18 cows per year) and the remaining number can be bulls and calves without negatively affecting the moose population according to the assumptions and results of modeling exercises conducted by the Committee. Many Nisga'a hunters avoid taking cow moose in order to preserve the potential productivity of the herd. Previous data indicate that the ratio of bulls to cows to calves in the Nisga'a harvest is 65:32:23. Therefore, it is likely that the sex composition of the Nisga'a harvest of 126 moose will likely be about 68 bulls, 34 cows and 24 calves without intervention. Nisga'a Lisims Government will encourage Nisga'a hunters to select bull moose.

Grizzly Bear

Harvest Timing

Grizzly bears are harvested primarily during the fall period, from mid-September until they den in late November. The spring bear hunt usually concentrates on black bears, but the occasional grizzly bear may be taken during mid-March until mid May.

Harvest Allocation

According to the Nass Wildlife Plan, the total allowable harvest of grizzly bears is based on a population of approximately 400 bears in the NWA. The Committee recommended a total harvest of 9 bears per year. If this total allowable harvest is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement the result is an allocation to Nisga'a hunters of four (4) grizzly bears, of which only one can be female.

Permits to harvest the Nisga'a allocation of grizzly bear will be obtained by application to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Harvest Locations

Most grizzly bears are harvested from the central portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the Nass Valley, and the Meziadin Lake area.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

The Nisga'a allocation consists of four grizzly bears of which up to one can be female. It is believed that one female can be harvested without negatively affecting the grizzly bear population according to the assumptions of population size made by the Nass Wildlife Committee. While Nisga'a hunters do not normally shoot sows with cubs, it is possible that hunters may take a young, non-breeding female or the rare breeding female that has lost her cubs or

has been separated from her cubs. Nisga'a hunters are not permitted to knowingly kill a sow with cubs. Nisga'a harvest data for grizzly bears are very sparse. Previously, many of the grizzly bears killed by Nisga'a hunters have been males. Therefore, it is likely that the large majority of grizzly bears harvested by Nisga'a hunters over time will be male bears.

The Province of British Columbia does not allow the harvest of grizzly bears under 2 years of age or any bear in their company. Nisga'a citizens are required to comply with this regulation.

Mountain Goat

Harvest Timing

Although some mountain goats are harvested during the spring (April to mid-May), the primary harvest season for mountain goats is from early September to the end of December. The harvest during the later months of this period is focused on coastal animals that have been driven to lower elevations by heavy snowfall and are thus more accessible to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Allocation

According to the Nass Wildlife Plan, the total allowable harvest of mountain goats is based on a huntable population of approximately 33 mountain goats in the NWA. The Nass Wildlife Committee recommended a total annual allowable harvest of 133 goats. If this total allowable harvest amount is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement, a total annual harvest of 133 mountain goats results in an allocation of 33 mountain goats to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Locations

Most mountain goats are harvested from the western portion of the NWA which

consists primarily of the coastal mountain ranges. Because the mountain ranges behind New Aiyansh have been closed to the hunting of mountain goats for a number of years due to conservation concerns, Nisga'a hunters have shifted their harvests to other areas. It may be some years before Nisga'a hunters return to these previously closed areas to resume their harvest of mountain goats there.

For conservation reasons, in order to protect isolated low elevation herds of mountain goats with small numbers the Director of Fish and Wildlife has closed Block 34 and Block 8 to the hunting of mountain goats (see figure H-2006-2). These are permanent closures.

There is little historical harvest data available to determine the specific locations where mountain goats have been harvested. However, the Nisga'a recognize that it is necessary to distribute the hunt over a large geographic area in order to refrain from having an adverse impact on local groups of mountain goats occupying specific mountain blocks. For planning purposes, the following table is put forward as an approximation of the distribution of the Nisga'a harvest. The actual distribution will be documented in future years as detailed harvest data are collected. The blocks referred to in Table H-2006-1 are depicted in Figure H-2006-1.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

Mountain goats are harvested according to their accessibility. However, generally females with kids are not harvested. As a result, the harvest is strongly biased towards males.

There is little selectivity for ages with the possible exception that kids may be preferred by some hunters over adults.

Harvest Monitoring

Harvest monitoring in 2006-2007 will be conducted by periodic interviews.

Harvest monitoring will be facilitated with mandatory return of permits and biological samples to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife or authorized Nisga'a wildlife official in each community. All used permits and biological samples must be returned within 3 business days of harvest.

Nisga'a harvests in individual blocks are not specific allocations, but are used for initial planning purposes. Harvests by Nisga'a other First Nation and licenced hunters will be monitored and block-specific harvest allocations made as required.

Harvests will be monitored over a 3-5 year period in order to determine if harvest allocation is required.

The following biological samples are required:

- Hunters are required to remit a lower mandible (jaw) or incisor (front) tooth of each moose or mountain goat killed.
- Hunters are required to remit a lower mandible (jaw) or vestigial premolar tooth of each grizzly bear killed.
- Hunters are required to remit a segment of hide of each grizzly bear killed for DNA analysis.
- Hunters are required to submit the head of each grizzly bear killed for measurement of the skull.
- Hunters are required to remit the uterus (reproductive tract) of all female moose, mountain goat or grizzly bear killed.

- Hunters are required to submit the horns of each mountain goat killed for inspection and measurement.

In the above list, the "remit" is used to indicate that the biological sample required will not be returned to the hunter. The word "submit" indicates that the hunter must provide the required body part or animal for inspection only and the body part will then be returned to the hunter.

Possession and Transportation of Wildlife and Wildlife Parts

Nisga'a living in the Nass Valley may be in possession of wildlife and wildlife parts without a hunting licence.

Under the Treaty Nisga'a have the right to trade or barter wildlife or wildlife parts among themselves or with other aboriginal people.

A transportation permit issued by the Director of Fisheries of Wildlife is required to transport wildlife or wildlife parts outside Nisga'a Lands for trade or barter.

A hunter may transport wildlife and wildlife parts he has killed if he

- Personally accompanies them, and
- Has in his possession his hunting licence and applicable designated species permit authorizing the kill, if applicable.

A person, other than the hunter, may transport wildlife or wildlife parts killed by the hunter if he is in possession of a receipt that shows

- When and where he received the wildlife or parts,
- Who killed them or gave them to him,

- The hunting licence number and applicable designated species permit number of the person who killed them,
- Where the wildlife or parts are being taken, and
- The species and sex of the wildlife if a big game animal.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife may specify and make available form receipts for such use.

Angling Guiding

An angling guiding annual plan is currently being developed by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife. Until such time as the plan has been completed and approved by Nisga'a Lisims Government and the Province of British Columbia, no angling guiding by Nisga'a citizens in the NWA will be allowed except under current provincial regulations.

Trapping

Nisga'a Lisims Government currently holds Trapping Area 0616T014. The area is not currently being trapped. The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife may invite applications for the use of this area in the future. Possible uses include running a trapper training program for youth, individual trapping area, and trapping research area.

Table H-2006 -1. Hypothetical distribution of annual Nisga'a mountain goat harvest.

Mountain Goat Block	Population Estimate	Total Allowable Harvest	Nisga'a Harvest	% of Allowable Harvest
C	156	6	1	17
D	240	10	3	30
E	37	1	1	100
F	172	7	2	29
G	79	3	1	33
H	270	11	1	10
I	415	17	1	6
J	145	6	3	50
8	9	closed	0	0
9	44	2	0	0
10	219	9	0	0
11	133	5	0	0
12	5	0	0	0
13	86	3	1	33
14	143	6	0	0
15	169	7	1	14
16	151	6	1	17
21	58	2	2	100
22	108	4	3	75
23	101	4	3	75
24	108	4	3	75
25	161	6	1	17
26	89	4	1	25
27	94	4	1	25
28	33	1	0	0
29	63	3	2	67
30	29	1	1	100
31	25	1	0	0
33	0	0	0	0
34	8	closed	0	0
All Blocks	3350	133	33	25

Figure H-2006-1. Mountain goat blocks in the Nass Wildlife Area.

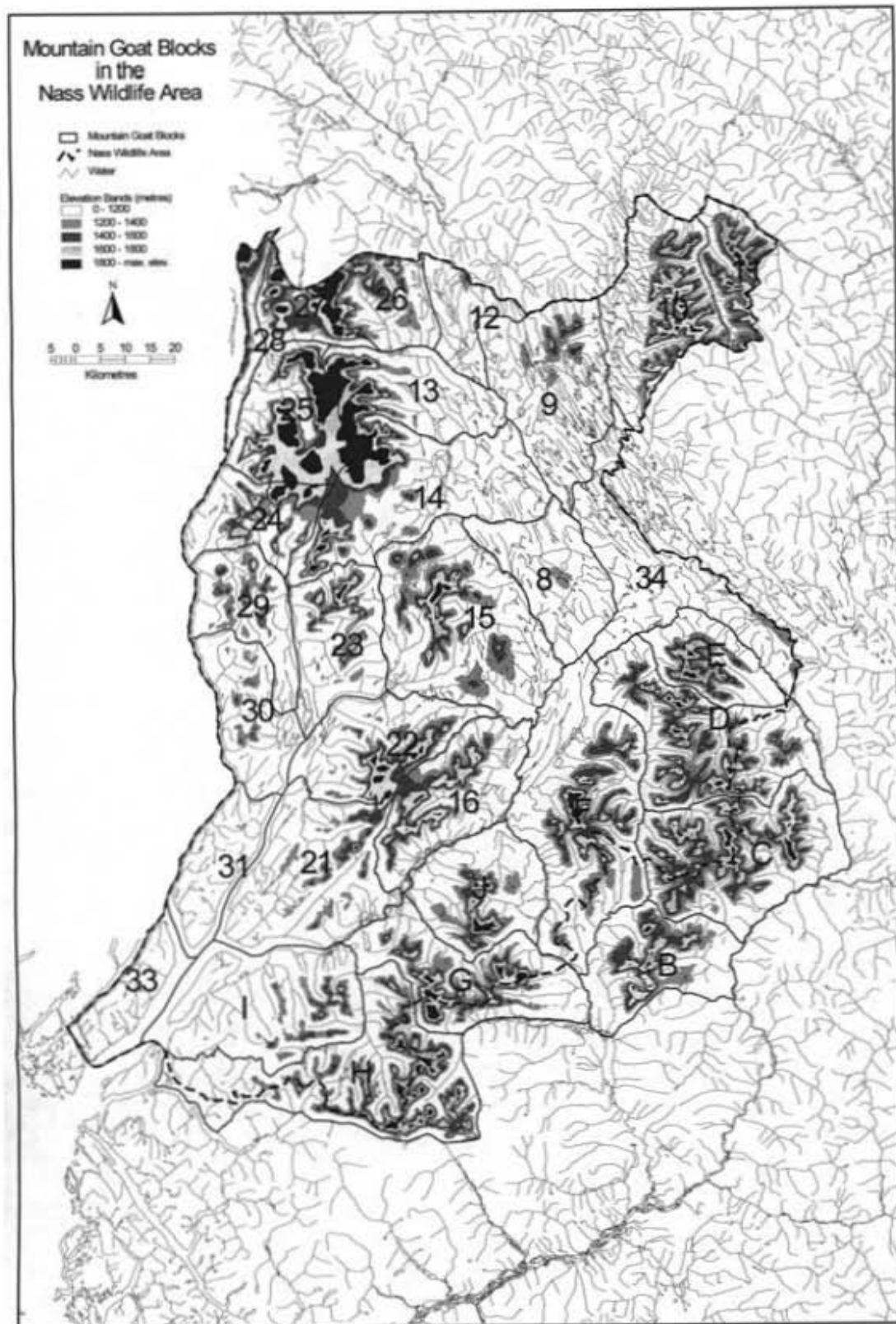
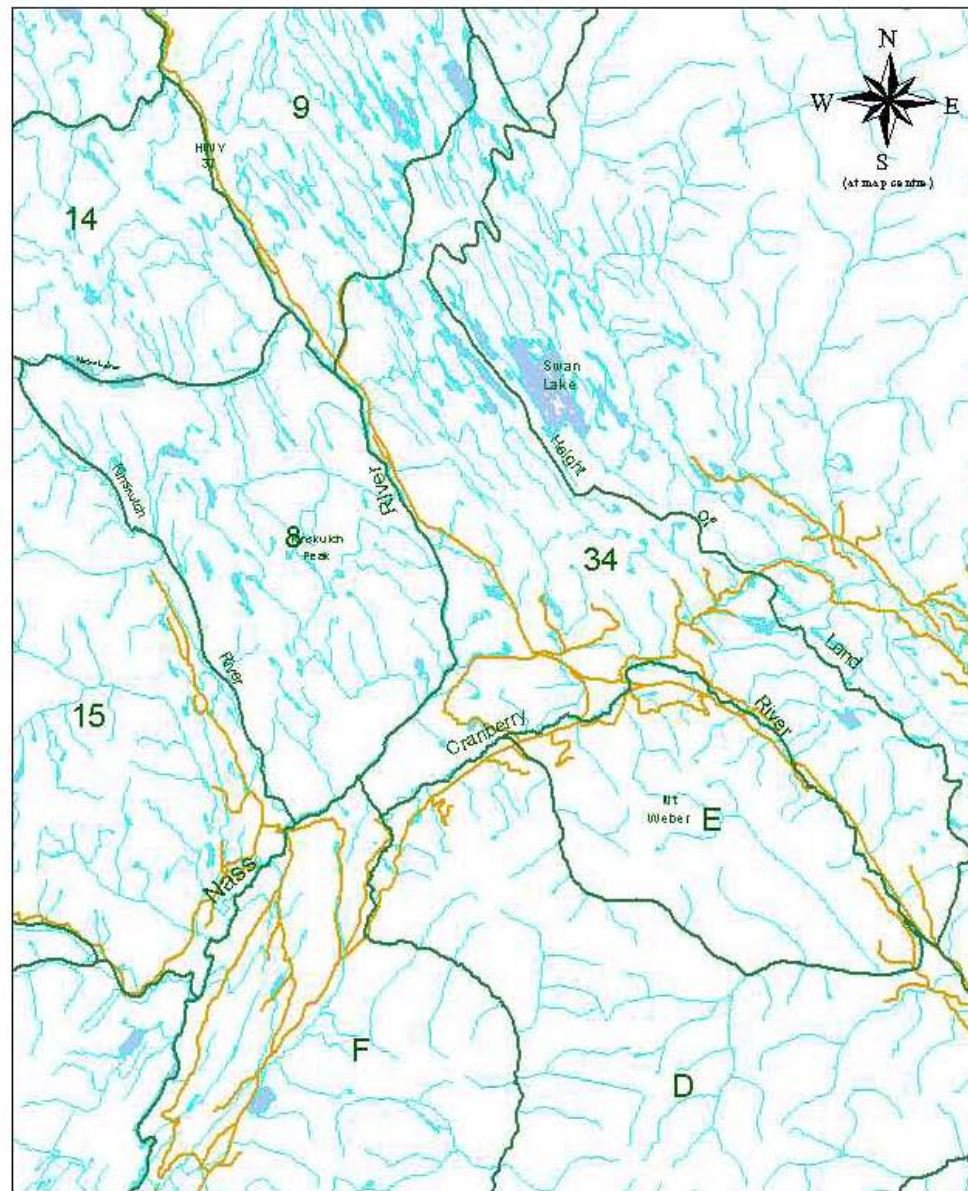


Figure H-2006-2 Blocks 8 and 34 closed to mountain goat hunting



1:410,000

5 0 5 Kilometers

Appendix H-2007: Nisga'a Annual Wildlife Management Plan for 2007

Summary of the 2007 Wildlife Management Plan

- All Nisga'a hunters must comply with the Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Act and Nisga'a Wildlife Regulations.
- All Nisga'a hunters must carry a Nisga'a Hunting Licence.
- Legal and illegal harvest methods are defined in the Annual Management Plan.
- Nisga'a hunters can hunt anywhere in the NWA that is opened for hunting by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife or that is not closed by the province of British Columbia due to public health or public safety reasons.
- A permit is required to harvest designated species in the NWA.
- Designated species in the Nass Wildlife Area are Moose, Mountain Goat and Grizzly Bear.
- The Nisga'a allocation of moose is 46 animals.
- The goal of the 2007-08 moose harvest season will be zero harvest of cows and calves.
- The Nisga'a allocation of grizzly bears is 6 animals.
- The Nisga'a allocation of mountain goats is 33 animals.
- Hunters are required to submit biological samples of designated species for management purposes
- A transportation permit is required to transport wildlife or wildlife part outside of Nisga'a Lands for trade or barter
- A Nisga'a hunter may transport wildlife that he killed if the wildlife is in his possession and he has with him

his hunting licence and designated species permit, if applicable

- A receipt is required to transport wildlife if the transporter is not the hunter who killed the wildlife.
- Angling guiding management plans are still being developed.

Nisga'a Wildlife Regulations

All Nisga'a hunters are required to comply with the Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Act, Nisga'a Wildlife Regulations, and this Annual Wildlife Management Plan.

Identification of Nisga'a Harvesters

According to the Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Act, Nisga'a citizens who wish to harvest wildlife in the Nass Wildlife Area (NWA) must obtain a Nisga'a Hunting Licence from Nisga'a Lisims Government for a \$25.00 fee. The licence must be carried by the hunter when actively engaged in hunting activities. The harvest licence confirms the individual's right to harvest wildlife in the NWA according to the terms of the Final Agreement and protects Nisga'a rights to hunt from abuse by unauthorized hunters.

All licence holders may be required to provide accurate information on their hunting activities and harvested animals to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife when applying for a licence. This is a component of harvest monitoring as required by the Final Agreement.

Designated Species

The Nisga'a Final Agreement identified moose, mountain goat, and grizzly bear as designated species in the Nass Wildlife Area. No other species have been designated.

Reporting of Accidental Kills

Any big game animal killed unintentionally in the NWA must be reported to a provincial Conservation Officer or Nisga'a Lisims Government. The Director of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for providing the details of all accidental kills reported to Nisga'a Lisims Government to the BC Government. The BC Government in return will provide the details of all accidental kills within the NWA reported to them to the Director of Fish and Wildlife.

Harvest Methods

Modern and traditional methods of harvesting wildlife will continue to be used by Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife in the NWA for food, social and ceremonial purposes. Harvest methods used by Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife in the NWA may differ from those permitted under federal or provincial laws, but only to the extent that they do not compromise public safety. Nisga'a harvest methods that differ from Provincial harvest method restrictions are as follows:

1. Migratory game birds may be hunted using more than one shotgun. Only one shotgun may be loaded.
2. It is legal to shoot at wildlife from a boat propelled by a motor, but not while the boat is under power.
3. It is legal to use a power boat to drive seals and sea lions for the purpose of hunting at times and locations specified by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.
4. It is legal to hunt migratory game birds only from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.

5. It is legal to shoot a big game animal while it is swimming provided that there is a reasonable certainty that it can be retrieved.
6. It is legal to take the eggs of gulls, geese and migratory birds for domestic purposes.
7. It is legal to hunt black bear or grizzly bear by placing bait or using dead wildlife or parts as bait. When using bait the hunter must post at the location of the bait a clearly visible sign that contains that person's name and Nisga'a hunting licence number, and post clearly visible signs that give reasonable warning to individuals who might enter the area that bait for hunting bears have been placed in the area.
8. It is illegal to use any dog off leash to hunt moose.
9. A big game animal that was killed unintentionally by accident or collision may be taken and used for domestic purposes (as part of the Nisga'a allocation) provided that it is reported within 24 hours to Nisga'a Lisims Government.

Regulation of the Harvest

The Nisga'a Final Agreement allows all Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife from anywhere in the Nass Wildlife Area that is open for hunting. Under the Nisga'a Final Agreement, the harvest of wildlife will be monitored and regulated by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Hunting is permitted on cultivated land, Crown land that is subject to a grazing lease while the land is occupied by livestock or on enclosed land as defined in the Trespass Act of BC if the hunter has consent of the owner, lessee, or

occupier of that land. In addition, the BC provincial Wildlife Act and its regulations apply with respect to hunting closure and firearms restrictions to those areas in the Nass Wildlife Area where hunting is restricted or closed for public health or public safety reasons.

Nisga'a hunters that harvest designated species (moose, grizzly bears and mountain goats) must have a designated species permit authorizing the hunting of animals of that species. The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife will consider the Nisga'a allocation for each designated species, will determine the number of permits to be issued, may specify the sex of the animals to be harvested and the locations from which they may be harvested.

With the exception of Moose permits, permits are available on a first-come-first-served basis from the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife, Nisga'a Lisims Government in New Aiyansh. Permits are valid for the period indicated on the permit. To obtain a moose permit, Nisga'a hunters must submit their names to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife no later than 30 September of each year and if the number of names submitted exceeds the allocation then a draw will be made to select Nisga'a hunters no later than 15 October of each year.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife will specify the term of each designated species permit issued. When the number of harvests of each designated species reported to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife reaches the Nisga'a allocation for that species or reaches the permitted number of kills of a particular sex of that species, the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife will cancel the outstanding permits for the harvest of that species or for the harvest of a particular sex of that species, as the case may be.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife may cancel any outstanding permits for designated species or restrict the harvest of non-designated species at any time. Notice of cancellation of permits will be delivered to the

existing permit holders. Hunters will be notified of any restrictions on non-designated species by one of the following methods: posting; transmission by electronic mail; publishing under Nisga'a laws; written or oral notice.

Because it is mandatory that the Nisga'a Lisims Government ensure compliance with the Final Agreement and this plan, enforcement of Nisga'a harvest regulations will be by persons authorized to enforce federal, provincial or Nisga'a laws in respect of wildlife or migratory birds in British Columbia. It is envisioned that Nisga'a conservation officers will take over the lead role in enforcement when an adequate number of officers is trained and employed.

Moose

Harvest Timing

Moose can be harvested from 1 November to 31 December of each year.

Harvest Allocation

According to the Nass Wildlife Plan, the total allowable harvest of moose is based on a population of approximately 638 moose wintering in the NWA. Because of the decline in the population, the Committee recommended a total harvest of 70 moose consisting of 70 bulls, 0 cows and 0 calves. If this total allowable harvest amount is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement, a total annual harvest of 70 moose results in an allocation of 46 moose to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Locations

Most moose are harvested from the eastern portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the Nass Valley including the upper reaches, the Cranberry River area and the Meziadin Lake area.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

If the Nisga'a allocation consists of 46 moose, the Nass Wildlife Committee recommends that 0 can be cows and calves, that the total allocation can be bulls in order to conserve and rebuild the moose population according to the assumptions and results of modeling exercises conducted by the Committee. Nisga'a Lisims Government will direct Nisga'a hunters to select Bull Moose only.

Grizzly Bear

Harvest Timing

Grizzly bears are harvested primarily during the fall period, from mid-September until they den in late November. The spring bear hunt usually concentrates on black bears, but the occasional grizzly bear may be taken during mid-March until mid May.

Harvest Allocation

According to the Nass Wildlife Plan, the total allowable harvest of grizzly bears is based on a population of approximately 400 bears in the NWA. The Committee recommended a total harvest of 16 bears per year. If this total allowable harvest is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement the result is an allocation to Nisga'a hunters of six (6) grizzly bears, of which only two can be female.

Permits to harvest the Nisga'a allocation of grizzly bear will be obtained by application to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Harvest Locations

Most grizzly bears are harvested from the central portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the Nass Valley, and the Meziadin Lake area.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

The Nisga'a allocation consists of four grizzly bears of which up to one can be female. It is believed that two females can be harvested without negatively affecting the grizzly bear population according to the assumptions of

population size made by the Nass Wildlife Committee. While Nisga'a hunters do not normally shoot sows with cubs, it is possible that hunters may take a young, non-breeding female or the rare breeding female that has lost her cubs or has been separated from her cubs. Nisga'a hunters are not permitted to knowingly kill a sow with cubs. Nisga'a harvest data for grizzly bears are very sparse. Previously, many of the grizzly bears killed by Nisga'a hunters have been males. Therefore, it is likely that the large majority of grizzly bears harvested by Nisga'a hunters over time will be male bears.

The Province of British Columbia does not allow the harvest of grizzly bears less than 2 years of age or any bear in their company. Nisga'a citizens are required to comply with this regulation.

Mountain Goat

Harvest Timing

Although some mountain goats are harvested during the spring (April to mid-May), the primary harvest season for mountain goats is from early September to the end of December. The harvest during the later months of this period is focused on coastal animals that have been driven to lower elevations by heavy snowfall and are thus more accessible to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Allocation

According to the Nass Wildlife Plan, the total allowable harvest of mountain goats is based on a hunt able population of approximately 3333 mountain goats in the NWA. The Nass Wildlife Committee recommended a total annual allowable harvest of 133 goats. If this total allowable harvest amount is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement, a total annual harvest of 133 mountain goats

results in an allocation of 33 mountain goats to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Locations

Most mountain goats are harvested from the western portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the coastal mountain ranges. Because the mountain ranges behind New Aiyansh have been closed to the hunting of mountain goats for a number of years due to conservation concerns, Nisga'a hunters have shifted their harvests to other areas. It may be some years before Nisga'a hunters return to these previously closed areas to resume their harvest of mountain goats there.

For conservation reasons, in order to protect isolated low elevation herds of mountain goats with small numbers the Director of Fish and Wildlife has closed Block 34 and Block 8 to the hunting of mountain goats (see figure H-2007-2). These are permanent closures.

There is little historical harvest data available to determine the specific locations where mountain goats have been harvested.

However, the Nisga'a recognizes that it is necessary to distribute the hunt over a large geographic area in order to refrain from having an adverse impact on local groups of mountain goats occupying specific mountain blocks. For planning purposes, the following table is put forward as an approximation of the distribution of the Nisga'a harvest. The actual distribution will be documented in future years as detailed harvest data are collected. The blocks referred to in Table H-2007-1 are depicted in Figure H-2007-1.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

Mountain goats are harvested according to their accessibility. However, generally females with kids are not harvested. As a result, the harvest is strongly biased towards males.

There is little selectivity for ages with the possible exception that kids may be preferred by some hunters over adults.

Harvest Monitoring

Harvest monitoring in 2007-2008 will be conducted by periodic interviews.

Harvest monitoring will be facilitated with mandatory return of permits and biological samples to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife or authorized Nisga'a wildlife official in each community. All used permits and biological samples must be returned within 3 business days of harvest.

Nisga'a harvests in individual blocks are not specific allocations, but are used for initial planning purposes. Harvests by Nisga'a other First Nation and licenced hunters will be monitored and block-specific harvest allocations made as required.

Harvests will be monitored over a 3-5 year period in order to determine if harvest allocation is required.

The following biological samples are required:

- Hunters are required to remit a lower mandible (jaw) or incisor (front) tooth of each moose or mountain goat killed.
- Hunters are required to remit a lower mandible (jaw) or vestigial premolar tooth of each grizzly bear killed.
- Hunters are required to remit a segment of hide of each grizzly bear killed for DNA analysis.
- Hunters are required to submit the head of each grizzly bear killed for measurement of the skull.
- Hunters are required to remit the uterus (reproductive tract) of all female moose, mountain goat or grizzly bear killed.

- Hunters are required to submit the horns of each mountain goat killed for inspection and measurement.

In the above list, the “remit” is used to indicate that the biological sample required will not be returned to the hunter. The word “submit” indicates that the hunter must provide the required body part or animal for inspection only and the body part will then be returned to the hunter.

Possession and Transportation of Wildlife and Wildlife Parts

Nisga’a living in the Nass Valley may be in possession of wildlife and wildlife parts without a hunting licence.

Under the Treaty Nisga’a have the right to trade or barter wildlife or wildlife parts among themselves or with other aboriginal people.

A transportation permit issued by the Director of Fisheries of Wildlife is required to transport wildlife or wildlife parts outside Nisga’a Lands for trade or barter.

A hunter may transport wildlife and wildlife parts he has killed if he

- Personally accompanies them, and
- Has in his possession his hunting licence and applicable designated species permit authorizing the kill, if applicable.

A person, other than the hunter, may transport wildlife or wildlife parts killed by the hunter if he is in possession of a receipt that shows

- When and where he received the wildlife or parts,
- Who killed them or gave them to him,
- The hunting licence number and applicable designated species permit number of the person who killed them,
- Where the wildlife or parts are being taken, and

- The species and sex of the wildlife if a big game animal.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife may specify and make available form receipts for such use.

Angling Guiding

An angling guiding annual plan is currently being developed by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife. Until such time as the plan has been completed and approved by Nisga’a Lisims Government and the Province of British Columbia, no angling guiding by Nisga’a citizens in the NWA will be allowed except under current provincial regulations.

Trapping

Nisga’a Lisims Government currently holds trapping Area 0616T014. The area is not currently being trapped. The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife may invite applications for the use of this area in the future. Possible uses include running a trapper training program for youth, individual trapping area, and trapping research area.

Table H-2007-1Hypothetical distribution of annual Nisga'a mountain goat harvest.

Mountain Goat Block	Population Estimate	Total Allowable Harvest	Nisga'a Harvest	% of Allowable Harvest
C	156	6	1	17
D	240	10	3	30
E	37	1	1	100
F	172	7	2	29
G	79	3	1	33
H	270	11	1	10
I	415	17	1	6
J	145	6	3	50
8	9	Closed	0	0
9	44	2	0	0
10	219	9	0	0
11	133	5	0	0
12	5	0	0	0
13	86	3	1	33
14	143	6	0	0
15	169	7	1	14
16	151	6	1	17
21	58	2	2	100
22	108	4	3	75
23	101	4	3	75
24	108	4	3	75
25	161	6	1	17
26	89	4	1	25
27	94	4	1	25
28	33	1	0	0
29	63	3	2	67
30	29	1	1	100
31	25	1	0	0
33	0	0	0	0
34	8	Closed	0	0
All Blocks	3350	133	33	25

Figure H-2007-1. Mountain goat blocks in the Nass Wildlife Area.

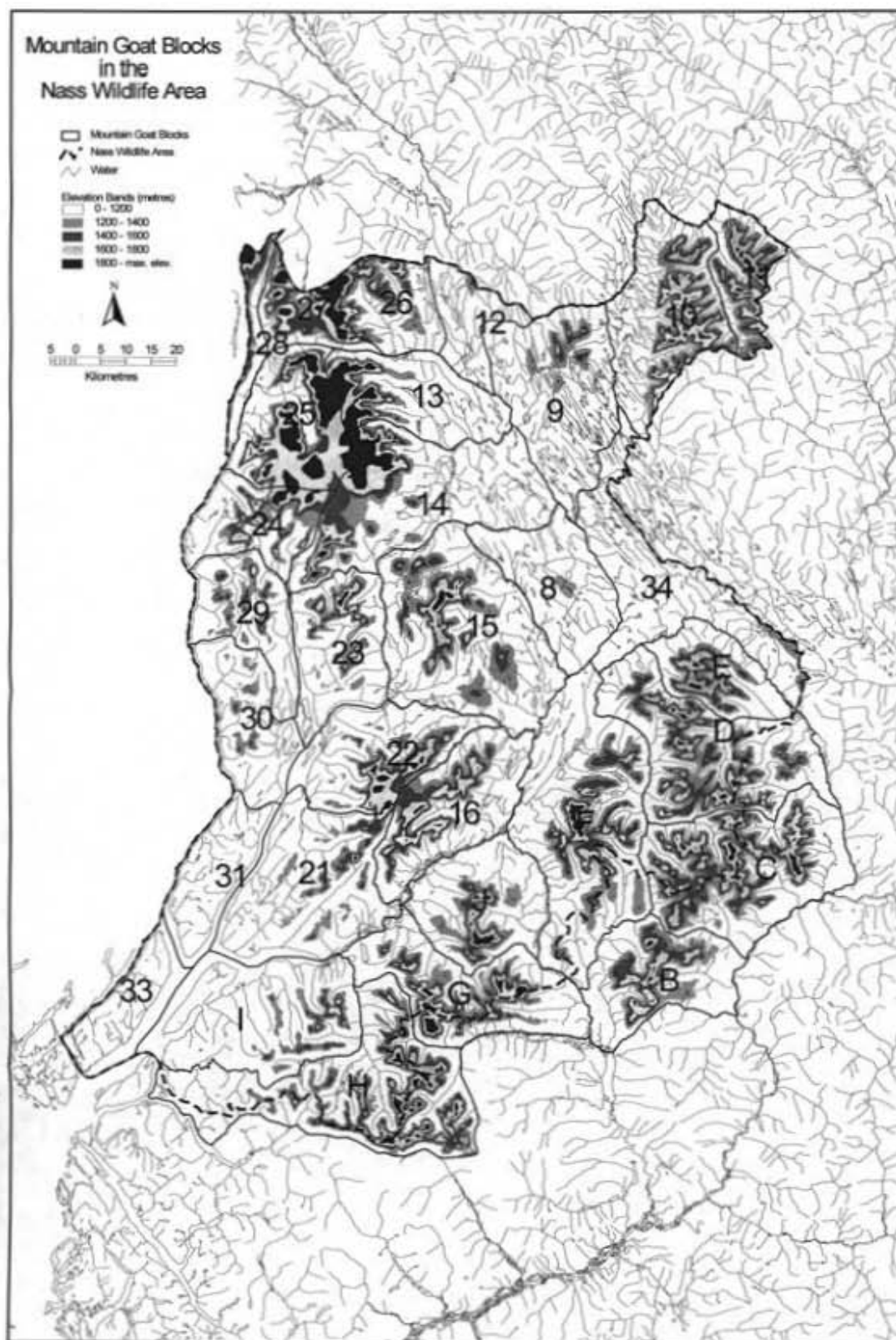
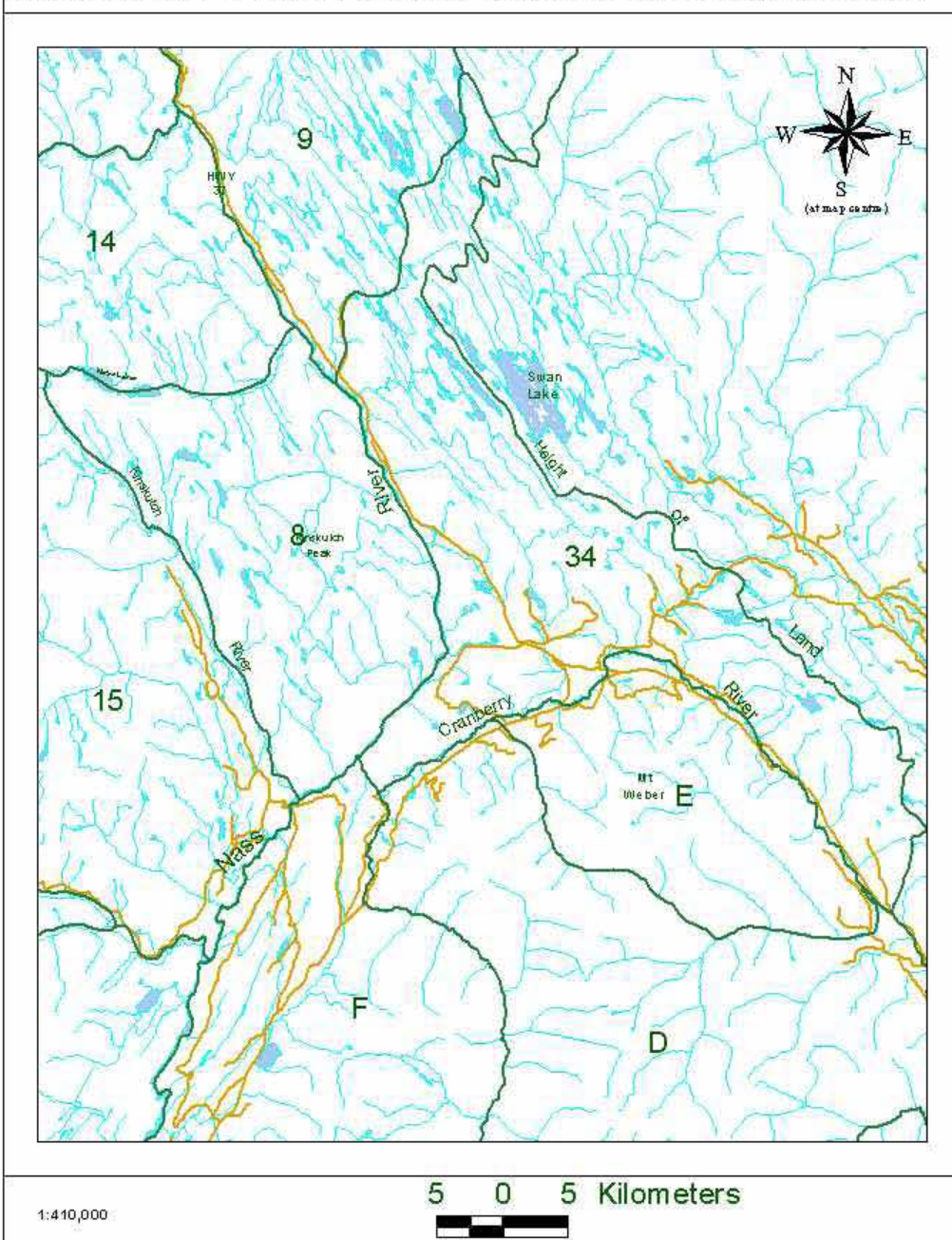


Figure H-2006-2 Blocks 8 and 34 closed to mountain goat hunting



Appendix H-2008: Nisga'a Annual Wildlife Management Plan for 2008

Summary of the 2008 Wildlife Management Plan

- All Nisga'a hunters must comply with the Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Act and Nisga'a Wildlife Regulations.
- All Nisga'a hunters must carry a Nisga'a Hunting Licence.
- Legal and illegal harvest methods are defined in the Annual Management Plan.
- Nisga'a hunters can hunt anywhere in the NWA that is opened for hunting by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife or that is not closed by the province of British Columbia due to public health or public safety reasons.
- A permit is required to harvest designated species in the NWA.
- Designated species in the Nass Wildlife Area are Moose, Mountain Goat and Grizzly Bear.
- The Nisga'a allocation of moose is 46 animals.
- The goal of the 2008-09 moose harvest season will be zero harvest of cows and calves.
- The Nisga'a allocation of grizzly bears is 6 animals.
- The Nisga'a allocation of mountain goats is 33 animals.
- Hunters are required to submit biological samples of designated species for management purposes
- A transportation permit is required to transport wildlife or wildlife part outside of Nisga'a Lands for trade or barter
- A Nisga'a hunter may transport wildlife that he killed if the wildlife is in his possession and he has with him

his hunting licence and designated species permit, if applicable

- A receipt is required to transport wildlife if the transporter is not the hunter who killed the wildlife.
- Angling guiding management plans are still being developed.

Nisga'a Wildlife Regulations

All Nisga'a hunters are required to comply with the Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Act, Nisga'a Wildlife Regulations, and this Annual Wildlife Management Plan.

Identification of Nisga'a Harvesters

According to the Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Act, Nisga'a citizens who wish to harvest wildlife in the Nass Wildlife Area (NWA) must obtain a Nisga'a Hunting Licence from Nisga'a Lisims Government for a \$25.00 fee. The licence must be carried by the hunter when actively engaged in hunting activities. The harvest licence confirms the individual's right to harvest wildlife in the NWA according to the terms of the Final Agreement and protects Nisga'a rights to hunt from abuse by unauthorized hunters.

All licence holders may be required to provide accurate information on their hunting activities and harvested animals to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife when applying for a licence. This is a component of harvest monitoring as required by the Final Agreement.

Designated Species

The Nisga'a Final Agreement identified moose, mountain goat, and grizzly bear as designated species in the Nass Wildlife Area. No other species have been designated.

Reporting of Accidental Kills

Any big game animal killed unintentionally in the NWA must be reported to a provincial Conservation Officer or Nisga'a Lisims Government. The Director of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for providing the details of all accidental kills reported to Nisga'a Lisims Government to the BC Government. The BC Government in return will provide the details of all accidental kills within the NWA reported to them to the Director of Fish and Wildlife.

Harvest Methods

Modern and traditional methods of harvesting wildlife will continue to be used by Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife in the NWA for food, social and ceremonial purposes. Harvest methods used by Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife in the NWA may differ from those permitted under federal or provincial laws, but only to the extent that they do not compromise public safety. Nisga'a harvest methods that differ from Provincial harvest method restrictions are as follows:

1. Migratory game birds may be hunted using more than one shotgun. Only one shotgun may be loaded.
2. It is legal to shoot at wildlife from a boat propelled by a motor, but not while the boat is under power.
3. It is legal to use a power boat to drive seals and sea lions for the purpose of hunting at times and locations specified by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.
4. It is legal to hunt migratory game birds only from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.

5. It is legal to shoot a big game animal while it is swimming provided that there is a reasonable certainty that it can be retrieved.
6. It is legal to take the eggs of gulls, geese and migratory birds for domestic purposes.
7. It is legal to hunt black bear or grizzly bear by placing bait or using dead wildlife or parts as bait. When using bait the hunter must post at the location of the bait a clearly visible sign that contains that person's name and Nisga'a hunting licence number, and post clearly visible signs that give reasonable warning to individuals who might enter the area that bait for hunting bears have been placed in the area.
8. It is illegal to use any dog off leash to hunt moose.
9. A big game animal that was killed unintentionally by accident or collision may be taken and used for domestic purposes (as part of the Nisga'a allocation) provided that it is reported within 24 hours to Nisga'a Lisims Government.

Regulation of the Harvest

The Nisga'a Final Agreement allows all Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife from anywhere in the Nass Wildlife Area that is open for hunting. Under the Nisga'a Final Agreement, the harvest of wildlife will be monitored and regulated by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Hunting is permitted on cultivated land, Crown land that is subject to a grazing lease while the land is occupied by livestock or on enclosed land as defined in the Trespass Act of BC if the hunter has consent of the owner, lessee, or

occupier of that land. In addition, the BC provincial Wildlife Act and its regulations apply with respect to hunting closure and firearms restrictions to those areas in the Nass Wildlife Area where hunting is restricted or closed for public health or public safety reasons.

Nisga'a hunters that harvest designated species (moose, grizzly bears and mountain goats) must have a designated species permit authorizing the hunting of animals of that species. The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife will consider the Nisga'a allocation for each designated species, will determine the number of permits to be issued, may specify the sex of the animals to be harvested and the locations from which they may be harvested.

With the exception of Moose permits, permits are available on a first-come-first-served basis from the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife, Nisga'a Lisims Government in New Aiyansh. Permits are valid for the period indicated on the permit. To obtain a moose permit, Nisga'a hunters must submit their names to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife no later than 30 September of each year and if the number of names submitted exceeds the allocation then a draw will be made to select Nisga'a hunters no later than 15 October of each year.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife will specify the term of each designated species permit issued. When the number of harvests of each designated species reported to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife reaches the Nisga'a allocation for that species or reaches the permitted number of kills of a particular sex of that species, the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife will cancel the outstanding permits for the harvest of that species or for the harvest of a particular sex of that species, as the case may be.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife may cancel any outstanding permits for designated species or restrict the harvest of non-designated species at any time. Notice of cancellation of permits will be delivered to the

existing permit holders. Hunters will be notified of any restrictions on non-designated species by one of the following methods: posting; transmission by electronic mail; publishing under Nisga'a laws; written or oral notice.

Because it is mandatory that the Nisga'a Lisims Government ensure compliance with the Final Agreement and this plan, enforcement of Nisga'a harvest regulations will be by persons authorized to enforce federal, provincial or Nisga'a laws in respect of wildlife or migratory birds in British Columbia. It is envisioned that Nisga'a conservation officers will take over the lead role in enforcement when an adequate number of officers is trained and employed.

Moose

Harvest Timing

Moose can be harvested from 1 November to 31 December of each year.

Harvest Allocation

According to the Nass Wildlife Plan, the total allowable harvest of moose is based on a population of approximately 638 moose wintering in the NWA. Because of the decline in the population, the Committee recommended a total harvest of 70 moose consisting of 70 bulls, 0 cows and 0 calves. If this total allowable harvest amount is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement, a total annual harvest of 70 moose results in an allocation of 46 moose to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Locations

Most moose are harvested from the eastern portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the Nass Valley including the upper reaches, the Cranberry River area and the Meziadin Lake area.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

If the Nisga'a allocation consists of 46 moose, the Nass Wildlife Committee recommends that 0 can be cows and calves, that the total allocation can be bulls in order to conserve and rebuild the moose population according to the assumptions and results of modeling exercises conducted by the Committee. Nisga'a Lisims Government will direct Nisga'a hunters to select Bull Moose only.

Grizzly Bear

Harvest Timing

Grizzly bears are harvested primarily during the fall period, from mid-September until they den in late November. The spring bear hunt usually concentrates on black bears, but the occasional grizzly bear may be taken during mid-March until mid May.

Harvest Allocation

According to the Nass Wildlife Plan, the total allowable harvest of grizzly bears is based on a population of approximately 400 bears in the NWA. The Committee recommended a total harvest of 16 bears per year. If this total allowable harvest is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement the result is an allocation to Nisga'a hunters of six (6) grizzly bears, of which only two can be female.

Permits to harvest the Nisga'a allocation of grizzly bear will be obtained by application to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Harvest Locations

Most grizzly bears are harvested from the central portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the Nass Valley, and the Meziadin Lake area.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

The Nisga'a allocation consists of four grizzly bears of which up to one can be female. It is believed that two females can be harvested without negatively affecting the grizzly bear population according to the assumptions of

population size made by the Nass Wildlife Committee. While Nisga'a hunters do not normally shoot sows with cubs, it is possible that hunters may take a young, non-breeding female or the rare breeding female that has lost her cubs or has been separated from her cubs. Nisga'a hunters are not permitted to knowingly kill a sow with cubs. Nisga'a harvest data for grizzly bears are very sparse. Previously, many of the grizzly bears killed by Nisga'a hunters have been males. Therefore, it is likely that the large majority of grizzly bears harvested by Nisga'a hunters over time will be male bears.

The Province of British Columbia does not allow the harvest of grizzly bears less than 2 years of age or any bear in their company. Nisga'a citizens are required to comply with this regulation.

Mountain Goat

Harvest Timing

Although some mountain goats are harvested during the spring (April to mid-May), the primary harvest season for mountain goats is from early September to the end of December. The harvest during the later months of this period is focused on coastal animals that have been driven to lower elevations by heavy snowfall and are thus more accessible to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Allocation

According to the Nass Wildlife Plan, the total allowable harvest of mountain goats is based on a hunt able population of approximately 3333 mountain goats in the NWA. The Nass Wildlife Committee recommended a total annual allowable harvest of 133 goats. If this total allowable harvest amount is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement, a total annual harvest of 133 mountain goats

results in an allocation of 33 mountain goats to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Locations

Most mountain goats are harvested from the western portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the coastal mountain ranges. Because the mountain ranges behind New Aiyansh have been closed to the hunting of mountain goats for a number of years due to conservation concerns, Nisga'a hunters have shifted their harvests to other areas. It may be some years before Nisga'a hunters return to these previously closed areas to resume their harvest of mountain goats there.

For conservation reasons, in order to protect isolated low elevation herds of mountain goats with small numbers the Director of Fish and Wildlife has closed Block 34 and Block 8 to the hunting of mountain goats (see figure H-2006-2). These are permanent closures.

There is little historical harvest data available to determine the specific locations where mountain goats have been harvested. However, the Nisga'a recognizes that it is necessary to distribute the hunt over a large geographic area in order to refrain from having an adverse impact on local groups of mountain goats occupying specific mountain blocks. For planning purposes, the following table is put forward as an approximation of the distribution of the Nisga'a harvest. The actual distribution will be documented in future years as detailed harvest data are collected. The blocks referred to in Table H-2008-1 are depicted in Figure H-2008-1.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

Mountain goats are harvested according to their accessibility. However, generally females with kids are not harvested. As a result, the harvest is strongly biased towards males.

There is little selectivity for ages with the possible exception that kids may be preferred by some hunters over adults.

Harvest Monitoring

Harvest monitoring in 2008-2009 will be conducted by periodic interviews.

Harvest monitoring will be facilitated with mandatory return of permits and biological samples to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife or authorized Nisga'a wildlife official in each community. All used permits and biological samples must be returned within 3 business days of harvest.

Nisga'a harvests in individual blocks are not specific allocations, but are used for initial planning purposes. Harvests by Nisga'a other First Nation and licenced hunters will be monitored and block-specific harvest allocations made as required.

Harvests will be monitored over a 3-5 year period in order to determine if harvest allocation is required.

The following biological samples are required (hunters will be notified of any changes to the requirements as determined by the Director of Fish and Wildlife):

- Hunters are required to remit a lower mandible (jaw) or vestigial premolar tooth of each grizzly bear killed.
- Hunters are required to remit a segment of hide (2cm x 2cm) of each grizzly bear killed for DNA analysis.
- Hunters are required to submit the head of each grizzly bear killed for measurement of the skull (L&W).
- Hunters are required to submit the horns of each mountain goat killed for inspection and measurement.

In the above list, the word "remit" is used to indicate that the biological

sample required will not be returned to the hunter. The word “submit” indicates that the hunter must provide the required body part or animal for inspection only and the body part will then be returned to the hunter

Possession and Transportation of Wildlife and Wildlife Parts

Nisga’a living in the Nass Valley may be in possession of wildlife and wildlife parts without a hunting licence.

Under the Treaty Nisga’a have the right to trade or barter wildlife or wildlife parts among themselves or with other aboriginal people.

A transportation permit issued by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife is required to transport wildlife or wildlife parts outside Nisga’a Lands for trade or barter.

A hunter may transport wildlife and wildlife parts he has killed if he

- Personally accompanies them, and
- Has in his possession his hunting licence and applicable designated species permit authorizing the kill, if applicable.

A person, other than the hunter, may transport wildlife or wildlife parts killed by the hunter if he is in possession of a receipt that shows

- When and where he received the wildlife or parts,
- Who killed them or gave them to him,
- The hunting licence number and applicable designated species permit number of the person who killed them,
- Where the wildlife or parts are being taken, and
- The species and sex of the wildlife if a big game animal.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife may specify and make available form receipts for such use.

Angling Guiding

An angling guiding annual plan is currently being developed by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife. Until such time as the plan has been completed and approved by Nisga’a Lisims Government and the Province of British Columbia, no angling guiding by Nisga’a citizens in the NWA will be allowed except under current provincial regulations.

Trapping

Nisga’a Lisims Government currently holds trapping Area 0616T014. The area is not currently being trapped. The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife may invite applications for the use of this area in the future. Possible uses include running a trapper training program for youth, individual trapping area, and trapping research area.

Table H-2008-1Hypothetical distribution of annual Nisga'a mountain goat harvest.

Mountain Goat Block	Population Estimate	Total Allowable Harvest	Nisga'a Harvest	% of Allowable Harvest
C	156	6	1	17
D	240	10	3	30
E	37	1	1	100
F	172	7	2	29
G	79	3	1	33
H	270	11	1	10
I	415	17	1	6
J	145	6	3	50
8	9	Closed	0	0
9	44	2	0	0
10	219	9	0	0
11	133	5	0	0
12	5	0	0	0
13	86	3	1	33
14	143	6	0	0
15	169	7	1	14
16	151	6	1	17
21	58	2	2	100
22	108	4	3	75
23	101	4	3	75
24	108	4	3	75
25	161	6	1	17
26	89	4	1	25
27	94	4	1	25
28	33	1	0	0
29	63	3	2	67
30	29	1	1	100
31	25	1	0	0
33	0	0	0	0
34	8	Closed	0	0
All Blocks	3350	133	33	25

Figure H-2008-1. Mountain goat blocks in the Nass Wildlife Area.

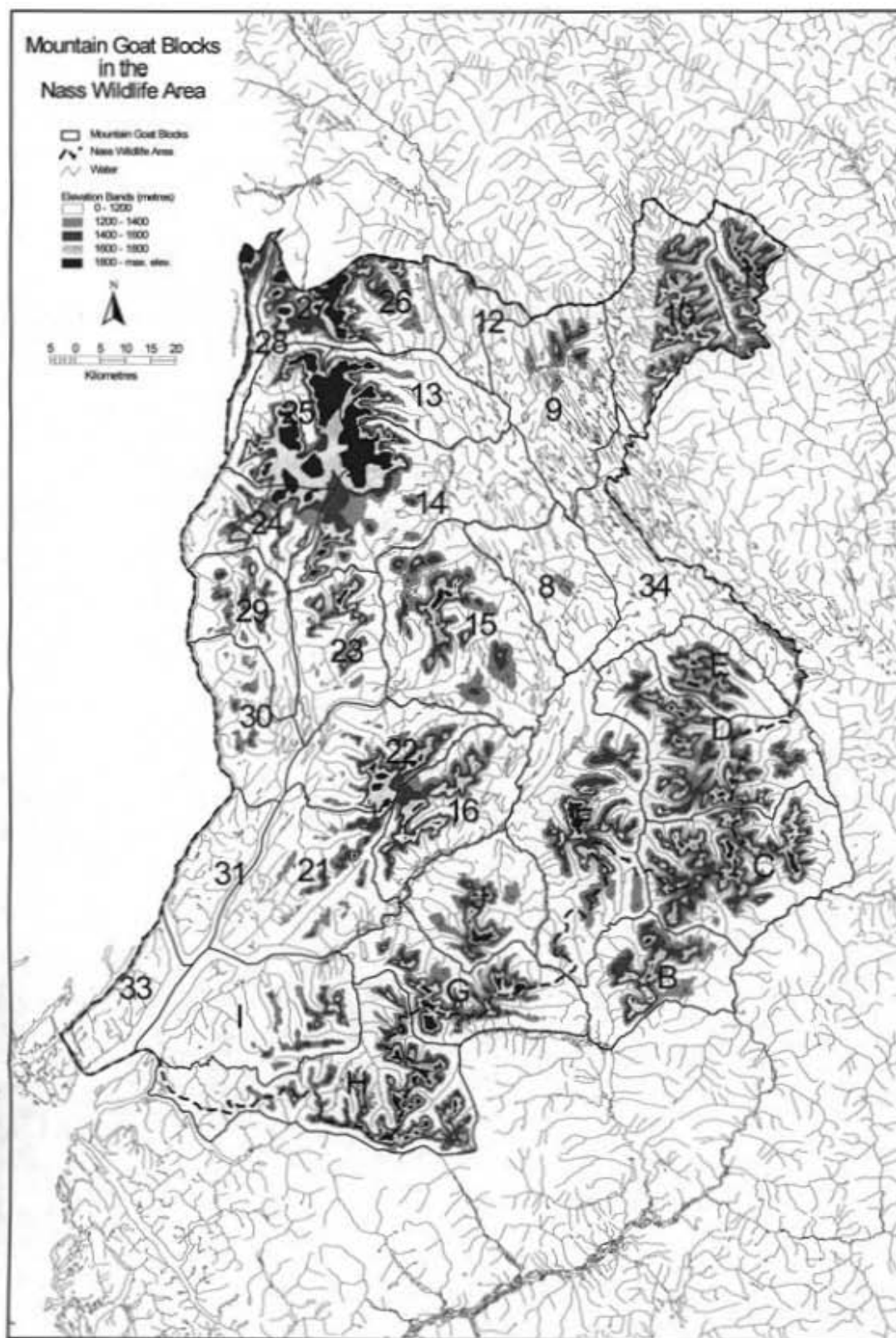
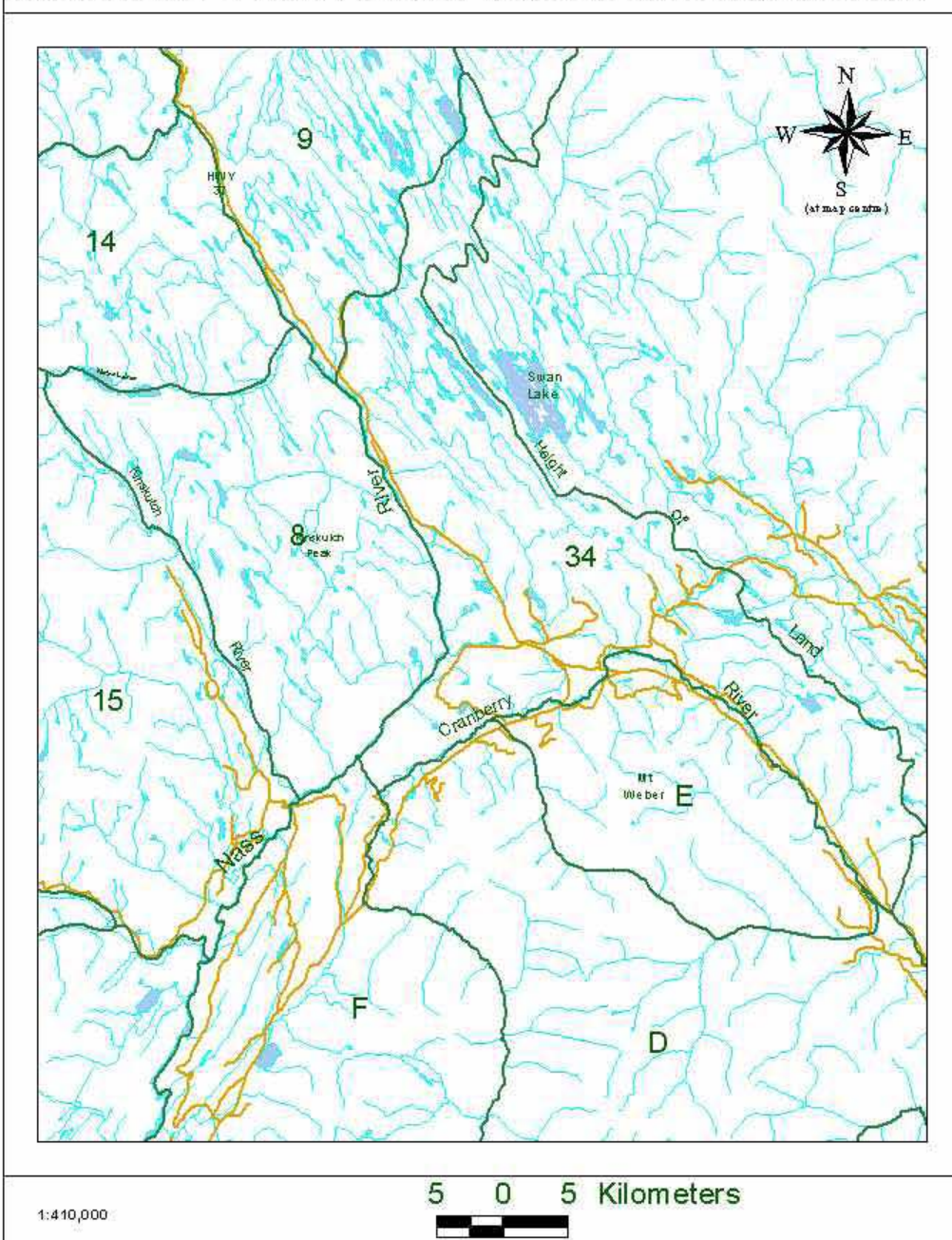


Figure H-2006-2 Blocks 8 and 34 closed to mountain goat hunting



Appendix H-2009: Nisga'a Annual Wildlife Management Plan for 2009

Summary of the 2009 Wildlife Management Plan

- All Nisga'a hunters must comply with the Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Act and Nisga'a Wildlife Regulations.
- All Nisga'a hunters must carry a Nisga'a Hunting Licence.
- Legal and illegal harvest methods are defined in the Annual Management Plan.
- Nisga'a hunters can hunt anywhere in the NWA that is opened for hunting by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife or that is not closed by the province of British Columbia due to public health or public safety reasons.
- A permit is required to harvest designated species in the NWA.
- Designated species in the Nass Wildlife Area are Moose, Mountain Goat and Grizzly Bear.
- The Nisga'a allocation of moose is 46 animals.
- The goal of the 2009-10 moose harvest season will be zero harvest of cows and calves.
- The Nisga'a allocation of grizzly bears is 6 animals.
- The Nisga'a allocation of mountain goats is 33 animals.
- Hunters are required to submit biological samples of designated species for management purposes
- A transportation permit is required to transport wildlife or wildlife part outside of Nisga'a Lands for trade or barter
- A Nisga'a hunter may transport wildlife that he killed if the wildlife is in his possession and he has with him

his hunting licence and designated species permit, if applicable

- A receipt is required to transport wildlife if the transporter is not the hunter who killed the wildlife.
- Angling guiding management plans are still being developed.

Nisga'a Wildlife Regulations

All Nisga'a hunters are required to comply with the Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife Act, Nisga'a Wildlife Regulations, and this Annual Wildlife Management Plan.

Identification of Nisga'a Harvesters

According to the Nisga'a Fisheries and Wildlife Act, Nisga'a citizens who wish to harvest wildlife in the Nass Wildlife Area (NWA) must obtain a Nisga'a Hunting Licence from Nisga'a Lisims Government for a \$25.00 fee. The licence must be carried by the hunter when actively engaged in hunting activities. The harvest licence confirms the individual's right to harvest wildlife in the NWA according to the terms of the Final Agreement and protects Nisga'a rights to hunt from abuse by unauthorized hunters.

All licence holders may be required to provide accurate information on their hunting activities and harvested animals to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife when applying for a licence. This is a component of harvest monitoring as required by the Final Agreement.

Designated Species

The Nisga'a Final Agreement identified moose, mountain goat, and grizzly bear as designated species in the Nass Wildlife Area. No other species have been designated.

Reporting of Accidental Kills

Any big game animal killed unintentionally in the NWA must be reported to a provincial Conservation Officer or Nisga'a Lisims Government. The Director of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for providing the details of all accidental kills reported to Nisga'a Lisims Government to the BC Government. The BC Government in return will provide the details of all accidental kills within the NWA reported to them to the Director of Fish and Wildlife.

Harvest Methods

Modern and traditional methods of harvesting wildlife will continue to be used by Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife in the NWA for food, social and ceremonial purposes. Harvest methods used by Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife in the NWA may differ from those permitted under federal or provincial laws, but only to the extent that they do not compromise public safety. Nisga'a harvest methods that differ from Provincial harvest method restrictions are as follows:

1. Migratory game birds may be hunted using more than one shotgun. Only one shotgun may be loaded.
2. It is legal to shoot at wildlife from a boat propelled by a motor, but not while the boat is under power.
3. It is legal to use a power boat to drive seals and sea lions for the purpose of hunting at times and locations specified by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.
4. It is legal to hunt migratory game birds only from 1 hour before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset.

5. It is legal to shoot a big game animal while it is swimming provided that there is a reasonable certainty that it can be retrieved.
6. It is legal to take the eggs of gulls, geese and migratory birds for domestic purposes.
7. It is legal to hunt black bear or grizzly bear by placing bait or using dead wildlife or parts as bait. When using bait the hunter must post at the location of the bait a clearly visible sign that contains that person's name and Nisga'a hunting licence number, and post clearly visible signs that give reasonable warning to individuals who might enter the area that bait for hunting bears have been placed in the area.
8. It is illegal to use any dog off leash to hunt moose.
9. A big game animal that was killed unintentionally by accident or collision may be taken and used for domestic purposes (as part of the Nisga'a allocation) provided that it is reported within 24 hours to Nisga'a Lisims Government.

Regulation of the Harvest

The Nisga'a Final Agreement allows all Nisga'a hunters to harvest wildlife from anywhere in the Nass Wildlife Area that is open for hunting. Under the Nisga'a Final Agreement, the harvest of wildlife will be monitored and regulated by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Hunting is permitted on cultivated land, Crown land that is subject to a grazing lease while the land is occupied by livestock or on enclosed land as defined in the Trespass Act of BC if the hunter has consent of the owner, lessee, or

occupier of that land. In addition, the BC provincial Wildlife Act and its regulations apply with respect to hunting closure and firearms restrictions to those areas in the Nass Wildlife Area where hunting is restricted or closed for public health or public safety reasons.

Nisga'a hunters that harvest designated species (moose, grizzly bears and mountain goats) must have a designated species permit authorizing the hunting of animals of that species. The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife will consider the Nisga'a allocation for each designated species, will determine the number of permits to be issued, may specify the sex of the animals to be harvested and the locations from which they may be harvested.

With the exception of Moose permits, permits are available on a first-come-first-served basis from the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife, Nisga'a Lisims Government in New Aiyansh. Permits are valid for the period indicated on the permit. To obtain a moose permit, Nisga'a hunters must submit their names to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife no later than 30 September of each year and if the number of names submitted exceeds the allocation then a draw will be made to select Nisga'a hunters no later than 15 October of each year.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife will specify the term of each designated species permit issued. When the number of harvests of each designated species reported to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife reaches the Nisga'a allocation for that species or reaches the permitted number of kills of a particular sex of that species, the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife will cancel the outstanding permits for the harvest of that species or for the harvest of a particular sex of that species, as the case may be.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife may cancel any outstanding permits for designated species or restrict the harvest of non-designated species at any time. Notice of cancellation of permits will be delivered to the

existing permit holders. Hunters will be notified of any restrictions on non-designated species by one of the following methods: posting; transmission by electronic mail; publishing under Nisga'a laws; written or oral notice.

Because it is mandatory that the Nisga'a Lisims Government ensure compliance with the Final Agreement and this plan, enforcement of Nisga'a harvest regulations will be by persons authorized to enforce federal, provincial or Nisga'a laws in respect of wildlife or migratory birds in British Columbia. It is envisioned that Nisga'a conservation officers will take over the lead role in enforcement when an adequate number of officers is trained and employed.

Moose

Harvest Timing

Moose can be harvested from 1 November to 31 December of each year.

Harvest Allocation

According to the Nass Wildlife Plan, the total allowable harvest of moose is based on a population of approximately 638 moose wintering in the NWA. Because of the decline in the population, the Committee recommended a total harvest of 70 moose consisting of 70 bulls, 0 cows and 0 calves. If this total allowable harvest amount is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement, a total annual harvest of 70 moose results in an allocation of 46 moose to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Locations

Most moose are harvested from the eastern portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the Nass Valley including the upper reaches, the Cranberry River area and the Meziadin Lake area.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

If the Nisga'a allocation consists of 46 moose, the Nass Wildlife Committee recommends that 0 can be cows and calves, that the total allocation can be bulls in order to conserve and rebuild the moose population according to the assumptions and results of modeling exercises conducted by the Committee. Nisga'a Lisims Government will direct Nisga'a hunters to select Bull Moose only.

Grizzly Bear

Harvest Timing

Grizzly bears are harvested primarily during the fall period, from mid-September until they den in late November. The spring bear hunt usually concentrates on black bears, but the occasional grizzly bear may be taken during mid-March until mid May.

Harvest Allocation

According to the Nass Wildlife Plan, the total allowable harvest of grizzly bears is based on a population of approximately 439 bears in the NWA. The Committee recommended a total harvest of 16 bears per year. If this total allowable harvest is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement the result is an allocation to Nisga'a hunters of six (6) grizzly bears, of which only two can be female.

Permits to harvest the Nisga'a allocation of grizzly bear will be obtained by application to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife.

Harvest Locations

Most grizzly bears are harvested from the central portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the Nass Valley, and the Meziadin Lake area.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

The Nisga'a allocation consists of four grizzly bears of which up to one can be female. It is believed that two females can be harvested without negatively affecting the grizzly bear population according to the assumptions of

population size made by the Nass Wildlife Committee. While Nisga'a hunters do not normally shoot sows with cubs, it is possible that hunters may take a young, non-breeding female or the rare breeding female that has lost her cubs or has been separated from her cubs. Nisga'a hunters are not permitted to knowingly kill a sow with cubs. Nisga'a harvest data for grizzly bears are very sparse. Previously, many of the grizzly bears killed by Nisga'a hunters have been males. Therefore, it is likely that the large majority of grizzly bears harvested by Nisga'a hunters over time will be male bears.

The Province of British Columbia does not allow the harvest of grizzly bears less than 2 years of age or any bear in their company. Nisga'a citizens are required to comply with this regulation.

Mountain Goat

Harvest Timing

Although some mountain goats are harvested during the spring (April to mid-May), the primary harvest season for mountain goats is from early September to the end of December. The harvest during the later months of this period is focused on coastal animals that have been driven to lower elevations by heavy snowfall and are thus more accessible to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Allocation

According to the Nass Wildlife Plan, the total allowable harvest of mountain goats is based on a hunt able population of approximately 3333 mountain goats in the NWA. The Nass Wildlife Committee recommended a total annual allowable harvest of 133 goats. If this total allowable harvest amount is approved by the provincial Minister, then under the Final Agreement, a total annual harvest of 133 mountain goats

results in an allocation of 33 mountain goats to Nisga'a hunters.

Harvest Locations

Most mountain goats are harvested from the western portion of the NWA which consists primarily of the coastal mountain ranges. Because the mountain ranges behind New Aiyansh have been closed to the hunting of mountain goats for a number of years due to conservation concerns, Nisga'a hunters have shifted their harvests to other areas. It may be some years before Nisga'a hunters return to these previously closed areas to resume their harvest of mountain goats there.

For conservation reasons, in order to protect isolated low elevation herds of mountain goats with small numbers the Director of Fish and Wildlife has closed Block 34 and Block 8 to the hunting of mountain goats (see figure H-2006-2). These are permanent closures.

There is little historical harvest data available to determine the specific locations where mountain goats have been harvested. However, the Nisga'a recognizes that it is necessary to distribute the hunt over a large geographic area in order to refrain from having an adverse impact on local groups of mountain goats occupying specific mountain blocks. For planning purposes, the following table is put forward as an approximation of the distribution of the Nisga'a harvest. The actual distribution will be documented in future years as detailed harvest data are collected. The blocks referred to in Table H-2009-1 are depicted in Figure H-2009-1.

Sex and Age Composition of the Harvest

Mountain goats are harvested according to their accessibility. However, generally females with kids are not harvested. As a result, the harvest is strongly biased towards males.

There is little selectivity for ages with the possible exception that kids may be preferred by some hunters over adults.

Harvest Monitoring

Harvest monitoring in 2009-2010 will be conducted by periodic interviews.

Harvest monitoring will be facilitated with mandatory return of permits and biological samples to the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife or authorized Nisga'a wildlife official in each community. All used permits and biological samples must be returned within 3 business days of harvest.

Nisga'a harvests in individual blocks are not specific allocations, but are used for initial planning purposes. Harvests by Nisga'a other First Nation and licenced hunters will be monitored and block-specific harvest allocations made as required.

Harvests will be monitored over a 3-5 year period in order to determine if harvest allocation is required.

The following biological samples are required:

- Hunters are required to remit a lower mandible (jaw) or incisor (front) tooth of each moose or mountain goat killed.
- Hunters are required to remit a lower mandible (jaw) or vestigial premolar tooth of each grizzly bear killed.
- Hunters are required to remit a segment of hide of each grizzly bear killed for DNA analysis.
- Hunters are required to submit the head of each grizzly bear killed for measurement of the skull.
- Hunters are required to remit the uterus (reproductive tract) of all female moose, mountain goat or grizzly bear killed.

- Hunters are required to submit the horns of each mountain goat killed for inspection and measurement.

In the above list, the “remit” is used to indicate that the biological sample required will not be returned to the hunter. The word “submit” indicates that the hunter must provide the required body part or animal for inspection only and the body part will then be returned to the hunter.

Possession and Transportation of Wildlife and Wildlife Parts

Nisga’a living in the Nass Valley may be in possession of wildlife and wildlife parts without a hunting licence.

Under the Treaty Nisga’a have the right to trade or barter wildlife or wildlife parts among themselves or with other aboriginal people.

A transportation permit issued by the Director of Fisheries of Wildlife is required to transport wildlife or wildlife parts outside Nisga’a Lands for trade or barter.

A hunter may transport wildlife and wildlife parts he has killed if he

- Personally accompanies them, and
- Has in his possession his hunting licence and applicable designated species permit authorizing the kill, if applicable.

A person, other than the hunter, may transport wildlife or wildlife parts killed by the hunter if he is in possession of a receipt that shows

- When and where he received the wildlife or parts,
- Who killed them or gave them to him,
- The hunting licence number and applicable designated species permit number of the person who killed them,
- Where the wildlife or parts are being taken, and

- The species and sex of the wildlife if a big game animal.

The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife may specify and make available form receipts for such use.

Angling Guiding

An angling guiding annual plan is currently being developed by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife. Until such time as the plan has been completed and approved by Nisga’a Lisims Government and the Province of British Columbia, no angling guiding by Nisga’a citizens in the NWA will be allowed except under current provincial regulations.

Trapping

Nisga’a Lisims Government currently holds trapping Area 0616T014. The area is not currently being trapped. The Director of Fisheries and Wildlife may invite applications for the use of this area in the future. Possible uses include running a trapper training program for youth, individual trapping area, and trapping research area.

Table H-2009-1 Hypothetical distribution of annual Nisga'a mountain goat harvest.

Mountain Goat Block	Population Estimate	Total Allowable Harvest	Nisga'a Harvest	% of Allowable Harvest
C	156	6	1	17
D	240	10	3	30
E	37	1	1	100
F	172	7	2	29
G	79	3	1	33
H	270	11	1	10
I	415	17	1	6
J	145	6	3	50
8	9	Closed	0	0
9	44	2	0	0
10	219	9	0	0
11	133	5	0	0
12	5	0	0	0
13	86	3	1	33
14	143	6	0	0
15	169	7	1	14
16	151	6	1	17
21	58	2	2	100
22	108	4	3	75
23	101	4	3	75
24	108	4	3	75
25	161	6	1	17
26	89	4	1	25
27	94	4	1	25
28	33	1	0	0
29	63	3	2	67
30	29	1	1	100
31	25	1	0	0
33	0	0	0	0
34	8	Closed	0	0
All Blocks	3350	133	33	25

Figure H-2009-1. Mountain goat blocks in the Nass Wildlife Area.

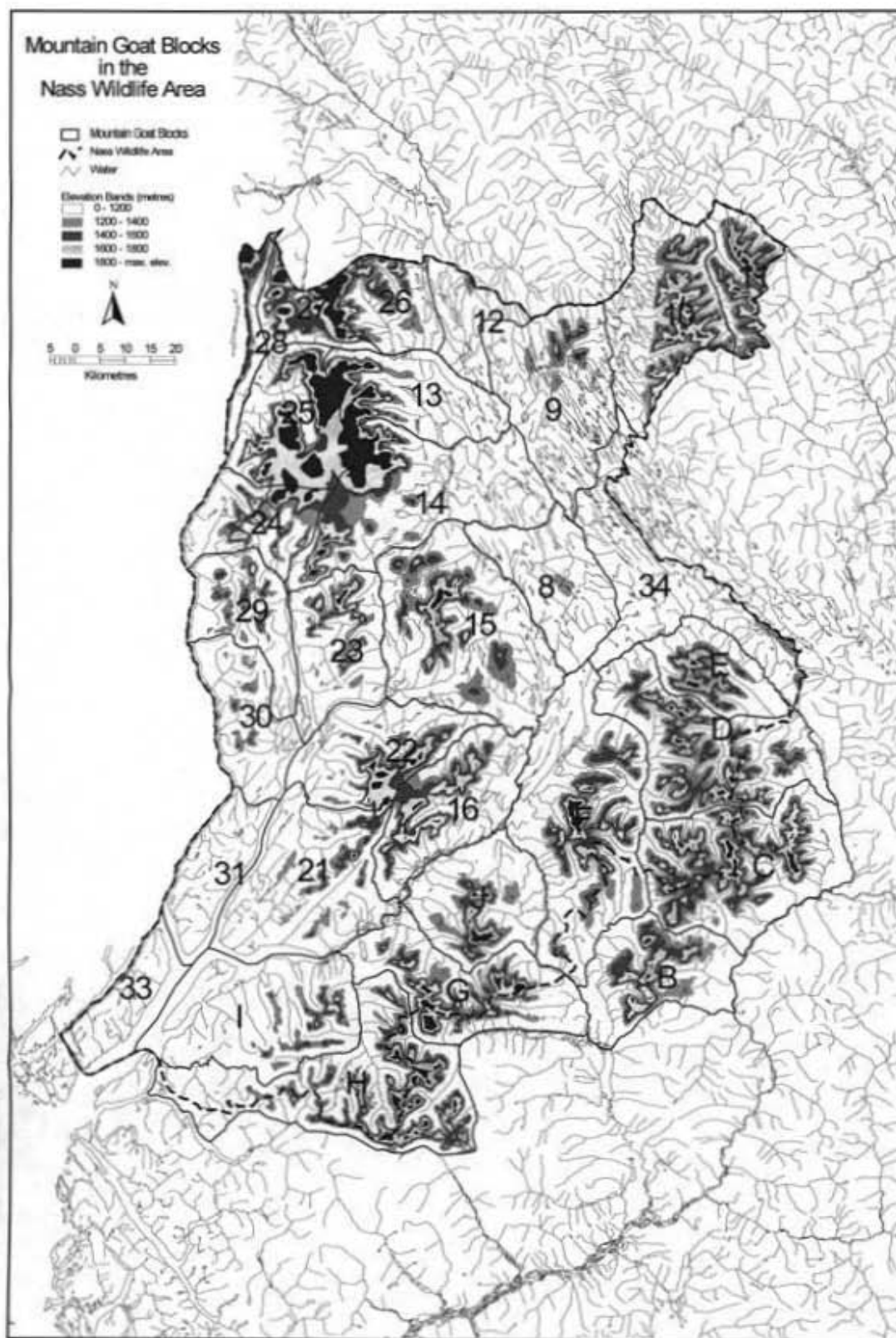


Figure H-2006-2 Blocks 8 and 34 closed to mountain goat hunting

