



Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Jackson Region

March 2015 Newsletter



Mountain Goat Research Continues

For the third straight year, local Game and Fish personnel teamed up with the department's Veterinary Services personnel and researchers from Montana State University to capture and collar mountain goats in the Snake River Canyon near Alpine. The research was initiated in 2013 with the capture of four goats, eight in 2014 and two more this year. The goal is to learn more about the health of the herd, their seasonal movements and survival. The local effort is also part of a larger research project called the Greater Yellowstone Mountain Ungulate Project being led by Montana State University in conjunction with wildlife managers of Wyoming, Idaho and Montana.



Mountain goats were first introduced in the Snake River Range by the Idaho Fish & Game Department over a three year period from 1969-1971. Since that time, the goats have slowly, but steadily, expanded their range into Wyoming. An aerial survey completed in 1996 noted 24 goats in Wyoming. The latest survey completed in August of 2014 recorded 165. The goats have not only increased in number, but also their distribution, with animals now being sighted in the Wyoming, Salt River and Teton mountain ranges.



In order to provide a recreational opportunity, and help curb the growth, the WGFD implemented a hunting season for the Palisades herd in 1999, offering four licenses. The number of licenses was increased to eight in 2005 and it is proposed to increase that number to 12 for the fall of 2015.



Photos: (Counter clockwise from left) 1) South Jackson Wildlife Biologist Gary Fralick fits a nanny mountain goat with a GPS collar 2) Fralick gets standard measurements of the nanny 3) Fralick and crew negotiate the steep terrain in pursuit of a goat 4) G&F Wildlife Vet. Mary Wood draws a blood sample 5) A collared nanny pauses briefly after being released.



Photos by Mark Gocke, WGFD