

## **MOUNTAIN GOAT HABITAT SUPPLY MODELING AS A PARADIGM FOR EFFECTIVE FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLANNING**

PAMELA E. HENGEVELD, Wildlife Infometrics Inc, PO Box 308, Mackenzie, BC V0J  
2C0, Canada

R. SCOTT McNAY, Slocan Forest Products – Mackenzie Operations, PO Box 310,  
Mackenzie, BC V0J 2C0, Canada

*Abstract:* Mountain goats (*Oreamnos americanus*) in north-central BC show significant use of low-elevation forested habitats. Successive generations of goats use forested areas to access valley-bottom mineral licks from early spring to late fall, and for forage and cover during winter. In BC, mountain goat populations are considered sensitive enough to warrant special management under the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA). Despite legislated protection under the FRPA Identified Wildlife Management Strategy, many people consider that forest development can reduce or eliminate access to mineral licks, disturb goats on winter ranges, influence predator-prey dynamics, and create access to previously isolated goat populations.

Through a collaboration amongst industry, government, and First Nations stakeholders, we are developing a mountain goat habitat supply model (HSM) with the intent of: a) providing a useful operational planning tool at the Forest Stewardship Plan level, b) facilitating the direct assessment of forest impacts on goat habitat in relationship to timber values, and c) contributing to the development of adaptive management strategies that can also be applied to other geographical areas (e.g., regionally and provincially).

The results will serve industry planners and government resource managers, and are expected to provide measurable progress toward: a) developing standards for demonstrating due diligence and accountability in Forest Stewardship Plan submissions, b) developing innovative policies and improved standards for establishing adaptive management strategies that balance timber supply and mountain goat habitat needs, and c) providing forecasts of habitat supply useful for evaluating indicators of sustainable management as a basis for forest certification.