

DEVELOPMENT OF HELI-SKI AVOIDANCE STRATEGIES FOR MOUNTAIN GOAT WINTER RANGE

LEN VANDERSTAR¹, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations, Bag 5000, 3726 Alfred Ave., Smithers, BC V0J 2N0, Canada

Abstract: Wildlife Guidelines for Backcountry Tourism/Commercial Recreation in British Columbia have been in place since 2002 with a revised version released in 2006. Heli-ski operators must have management plans in place which, in part, incorporate wildlife avoidance strategies as guided by the Provincial Wildlife Guideline document.

Illustrating the process of wildlife avoidance strategy development, specific to Skeena Region mountain goats (*Oreamnos americanus*) and the heli-ski industry, serves as a template for others to follow. The poster display was focused on a visual presentation of goat habitat modeling via a resource selection probability function (RSPF), confirmation of occupancy, spatial overlap with flight paths and ski runs, and a final product with accompanying avoidance strategies (flight path alteration, terrain masking, dropping of runs, altering drop-off and pick-up locations).

Biennial Symposium of the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council 18:153; 2012

Key words: mountain goat, *Oreamnos americanus*, heli-ski, disturbance, habitat model, resource selection probability function.

¹ Email: len.vanderstar@gov.bc.ca