

# Developing a Mountain Goat Management Plan for British Columbia



Gerry Kuzyk

Provincial Ungulate Biologist

Ministry of Environment

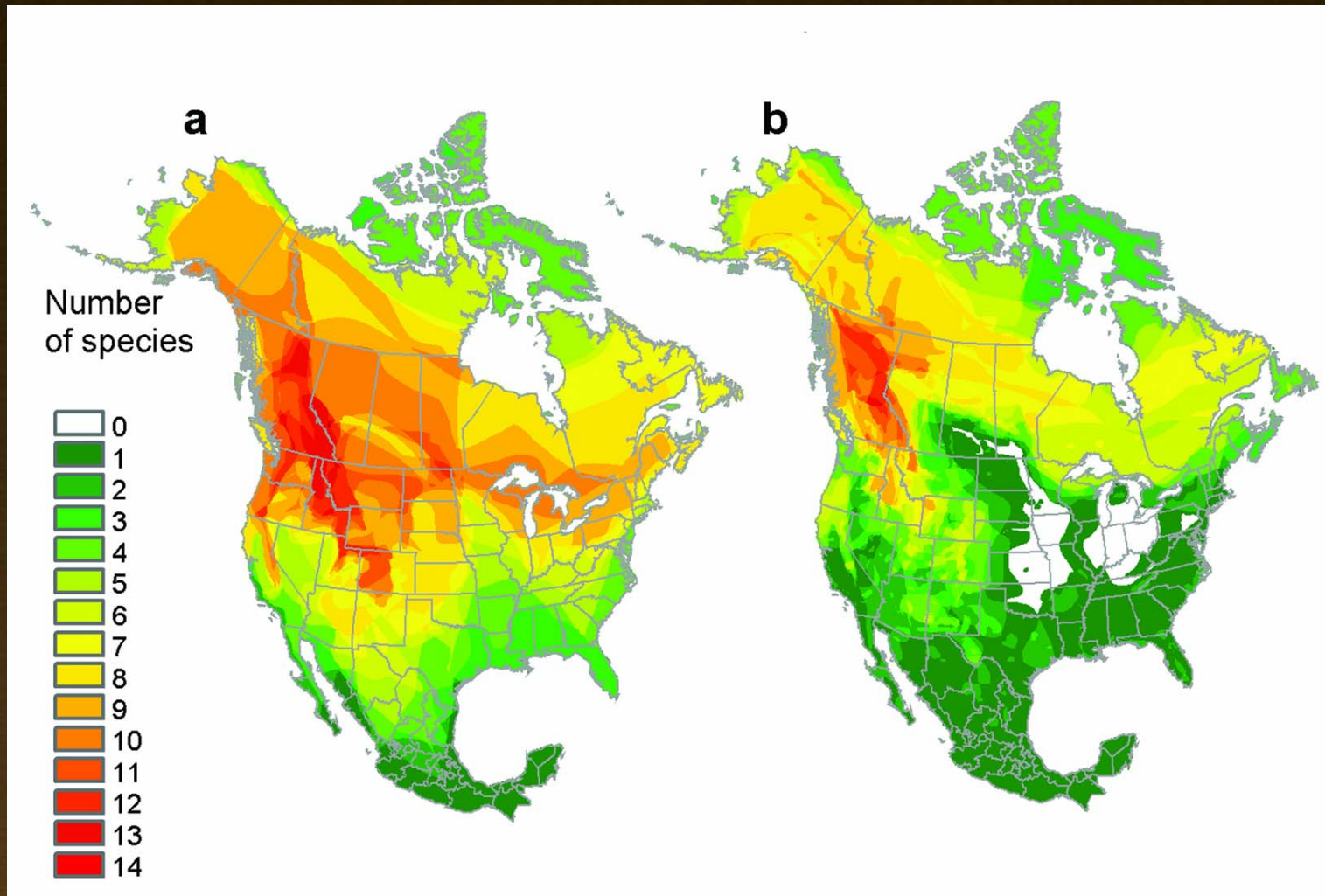
Victoria, BC

# Background

- mountain goats are a valued species with many sectors of society (hunters, viewing, First Nations)
- an important part of ecosystem function



# Times are changing.



Historic (a) and current (b) species richness for 17 ungulates and carnivores

Source: Laliberte & Ripple (2004) BioScience 54

# What is the Conservation Framework?

- New approach in MOE for managing species and ecosystems of “conservation concern”.
- Decision support tool that uses clearly defined criteria to prioritize species.



# How do mountain goats fit in the Conservation Framework?



## Mountain Goat

Goal	Priority
Global contribution	4
Proactive conservation	1
Maintain BC diversity	3

Action Groups: Planning process

# White-tailed Deer

■ range increasing



Goal	Priority
Global contribution	6
Proactive conservation	6
Maintain BC diversity	6

Action Groups: No new action

# Purpose of Mountain Goat Management Plan

An aerial photograph of a mountain range. The peaks are rugged and covered in patches of snow. The valleys below are lush green, with dense forests of evergreen trees. The terrain is a mix of rocky slopes and grassy meadows. The sky is bright and clear.

- provide best advice to enhance the conservation and management of mountain goats and their habitats

# Provincial Mountain Goat Team

HQ: Gerry Kuzyk (Chair)

HQ: Chris Addison

HQ: Steve Gordon

HQ: Daryl Stepaniuk

Reg. 1: Kim Brunt

Reg. 2: Darryl Reynolds

Reg. 3: Doug Jury

Reg. 4: Irene Teske

Reg. 5: Pat Dielman

Reg. 6: George Schultze

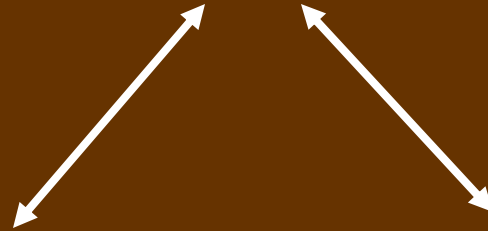
Reg. 7A: Glen Watts

Reg. 7B: Pierre Johnstone

Reg. 8: Brian Harris

- Kim Poole is contractor to write the plan
- two Technical Working Groups (TWG)

# Provincial Team



## Harvest: TWG

George Schultze (Co-Chair)

HQ: Chris Addison

Reg. 1: Kim Brunt

Reg. 2: Darryl Reynolds

Reg. 3: Doug Jury

Reg. 4: Irene Teske

Reg. 5: Pat Dielman

Reg. 7A: Glen Watts

Reg. 7B: Rob Woods

Reg. 8: Brian Harris

## Habitat: TWG

Reg. 7B: Pierre Johnstone -  
(Co-Chair - interim)

HQ: Steve Gordon

HQ: Jennifer Psyllakis

Reg. 6: Troy Larden

Reg. 7A: Bill Arthur

## Progress to Date

- Provincial Team, Harvest and Habitat Technical Working Groups formed
- introduced to PHRAAC (hunting reg's) Nov/08
- work has begun gathering background material and early stages of writing

# Management/Conservation Issues

- Harvest/Populations (i.e. Inventory, Health)
- Habitat Tools
- Behavioural Disturbance
- Climate Change Adaptation



# Output: Identify Research Needs

- coastal vs. interior ecotypes
- demographic information (age of 1<sup>st</sup> reproduction, adult survival) applicable to BC, especially hunted populations
- rigorous analysis of harvest data
- Dr. Mike Gillingham (UNBC), Dr. Robert Hudson (UofA)



**Questions?**

