



## BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAIN GOAT SOCIETY

SMITHERS BC CANADA

MTGOATS@BCNORTH.CA

Newsletter #35

July 24, 2024

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Greetings

### **New Videos**

We have posted four new videos. Here are the links:

[Mountain Goat Outtakes 2 \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Mountain Goat Outtakes 3 \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Just Kidding Around 2 \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Mountain Goats - Danger Trail \(youtube.com\)](#) (watch for the double twins)

### **Industrial Forests and Mountain Goats**

Mountain goats are not affected by tree plantations and industrial forestry as much as other ungulates. But we join many other residents who question converting all of our natural forests to industrial forests, especially after the losses in Europe. See the following recent documentary - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9UprJXSVSg> from Germany.

Our paper on industrial forests and mountain goats can be downloaded at:  
[MountainReportIndustrialForests2024\\_June 4.pdf \(bcmountaingoatsociety.ca\)](#)

Local forestry expert, Jim Pojar, has a paper that addresses many of the same issues in a province-wide context. [Pojar-7mythsfinal-2019.pdf \(sierraclub.bc.ca\)](#)

## Thank Goodness for Alders



Local logging roads open up easy access to mountain goat habitat. After roads are built, locals establish trails to alpine and mountain goats are often displaced. Luckily we have alders. Slowly they close the

logging road. It may take more than 10 years but locals get tired of clearing alders by hand and the road literally disappears, replaced by a green jungle.

Alders have saved the lives of innumerable mountain goats.

## Humans as Super Predator

Recent research has shown that fear of humans can affect the behaviour of large carnivores. The study took place in an urban area, so it may not apply directly to our backcountry. The study involves predators and not mountain goats. But the study has an connection to our discussion about dogs. In the study, humans are viewed by the predators as Super Predators, and dogs are simply an indirect cue for the presence of humans.

Do our mountain goats view humans as super predators? In our wilderness setting, are dogs seen by wildlife as both a direct threat and an indicator of the larger threat – humans? We have observed that mountain goats who have never seen humans behave differently than goats who are familiar with humans. Especially hunted goats. Something to think about.

The study is available at [Fear of the human 'super predator' reduces feeding time in large carnivores | Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences \(royalsocietypublishing.org\)](https://royalsocietypublishing.org/journal/rsos/1000000)



*Recent photo of a McKendrick Mt goat*

Enjoy the rest of summer.

Until the next time,

Jim

Jim Easterday

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