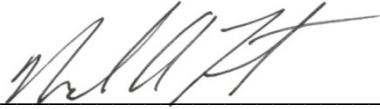


Dinosaur National Monument
Protocol for
Rocky Mountain Goat Restriction and Removal

May 2016

Approved: _____



Mark A. Foust, Superintendent

Date: May 31, 2016

Protocol Purpose

This document establishes a protocol for how Dinosaur National Monument (DINO) will manage non-native Rocky Mountain goats (*Oreamnos americanus*), herein referred to as mountain goats, found within the monument boundary. Mountain goats are non-native to DINO and under the precautionary principal, individual goats that appear in the park should be removed, if possible by practicing early detection rapid response. NPS management direction and policies, which are found in Appendix A, provide the basis for mountain goat management at DINO. This protocol will be updated as necessary and will include cooperation with Utah and Colorado wildlife agencies.

Procedures for Restriction and Removal

Restriction

It is especially important that DINO work cooperatively with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) to monitor for mountain goats in and near the monument. Possible strategies include aerial surveillance where appropriate and permitted for mountain goats during regularly scheduled aerial surveys, such as deer or bighorn sheep counts, and issuance of special take licenses outside the monument, as appropriate, by the state wildlife agency if mountain goats are found in proximity to the monument. Aerial surveys are particularly effective at detecting mountain goats during snow-free periods because their white fur is prominent in the monument's canyon and desert environment. Mountain goats observed or reported near but outside the DINO boundary will immediately be reported to the respective state wildlife agency for management action.

Removal

Education of park staff is important to accurately determine the presence of mountain goats in DINO. NPS staff may receive mountain goat sighting reports from visitors, and proper training can help them to discern mountain goat from bighorn sheep reports as well as be responsive to possible mountain goat sightings. NPS staff can also communicate with the public about identification and management differences between the species. Efforts to confirm a reliable mountain goat report and/or its location will begin as soon as possible. Escalation to helicopter surveillance could occur, however only after the following:

- The animal has been confirmed as credible by NPS to be a mountain goat,
- It has moved to an area that is not safe, accessible or feasible for re-sighting from the ground, and
- Completion of a minimum tool analysis deems it appropriate.

Once a mountain goat is confirmed in the park, removal operations planning should be initiated. The overriding goal is to safely remove the mountain goat from the park as soon as possible.

An assessment of the safety, feasibility including terrain accessibility, and the mountain goat's location for live removal will be made by the DINO Chief of Resource Stewardship and Science and the Chief Ranger, qualified shooters, and other professionals who have responded to assist. Personnel safety is the most important factor and will not be compromised to live capture a mountain goat or recover a carcass. Feasibility for a live removal operation will be based on the

appropriate state agency agreement to accept the goat, NPS review and concurrence with the corresponding state wildlife agencies' established mountain goat capture protocols as well as the availability of adequate funding and an appropriate receiving site/agency. Lethal actions may include shooting by firearm by qualified NPS or state personnel.

If requested by an NPS or state wildlife agency veterinarian and trained personnel are reasonably available, biological samples will be collected before any live mountain goat is relinquished to the receiving agency or from the carcass of a destroyed mountain goat. Personnel safety will not be jeopardized in order to recover a sample from a carcass. The responding veterinarian will advise on type, quantity, handling and storage of biological samples. If a necropsy is warranted based on the clinical condition of the animal, removal of the entire carcass of a destroyed mountain goat will be attempted if it can be completed with mitigated risk to personnel.

If a mountain goat is lethally managed, carcass recovery will be considered and if possible, the goat's remains will be put to beneficial use such as donation for educational or appropriate tribal purposes if requested.

Environmental Compliance

Once a plan of action is developed but before action is taken, an environmental review is required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental laws, regulations, policies and guidelines. It is anticipated that removal actions will typically be categorically excluded from a detailed environmental review under NEPA. The NPS has identified the removal of nonnative wildlife as the type of action that has no potential to result in significant adverse impacts to the human environment under ordinary circumstances. This is referred to as Categorical Exclusion 3.3.E.3:

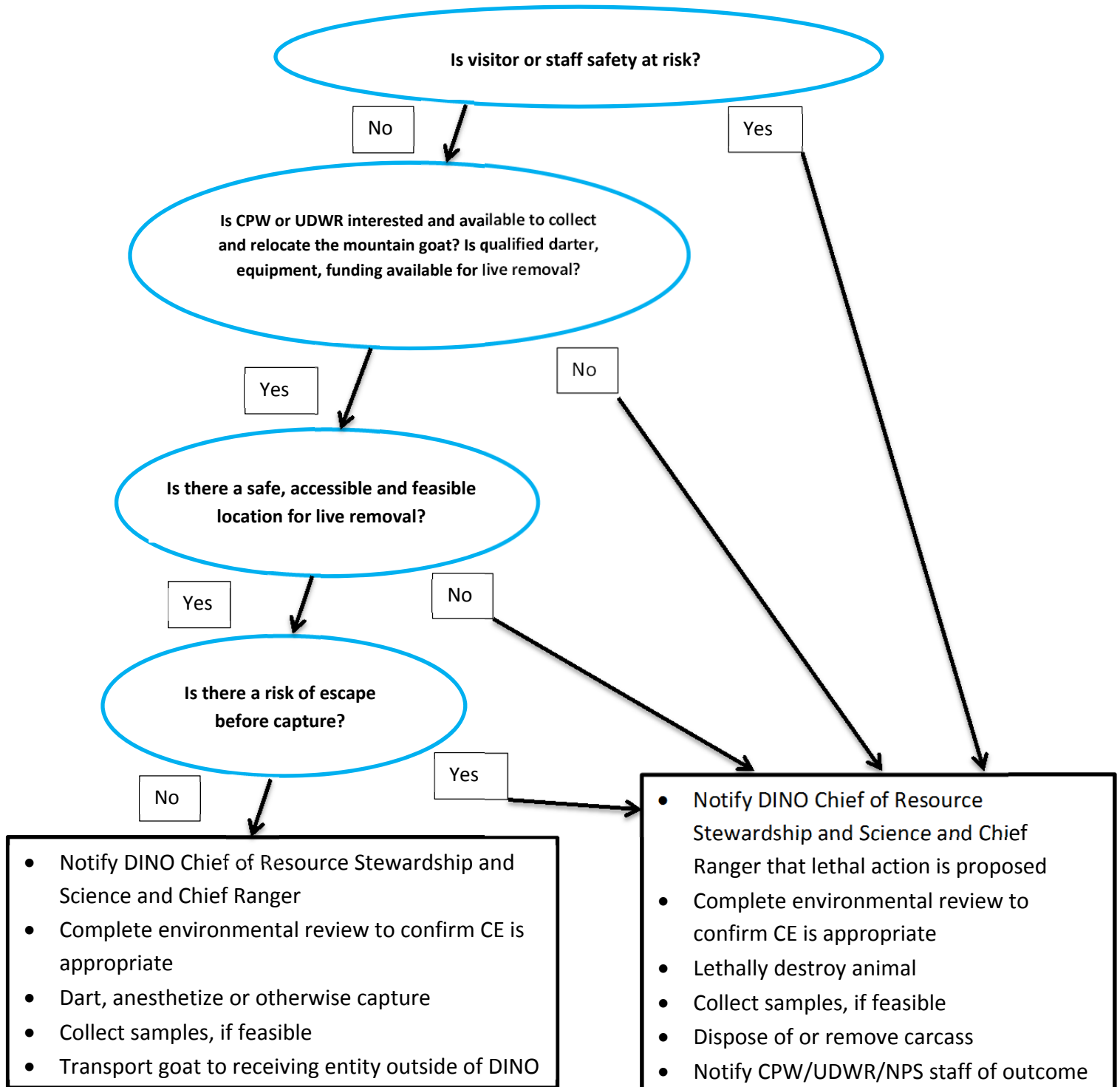
Removal of park resident individuals of non-threatened/endangered species which pose a danger to visitors, threaten park resources or become nuisance in areas surrounding a park, when such removal is included in an approved resource management plan.

A NEPA review will need to be completed for each removal action to verify that no extraordinary circumstances exist that would preclude the use of this CE, following Chapter 3 of the NPS NEPA Handbook. If no extraordinary circumstances exist, a CE form will be completed and signed by the Superintendent. In the unlikely event that extraordinary circumstances are found, a more detailed review will be necessary to determine if an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement is required. Consideration should also be given to other environmental mandates at this time, and appropriate procedures should be followed (e.g., Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act).

The flowchart on the following page outlines actions to be taken for mountain goat live and lethal removal.

Protocol for Mountain Goat Sighting Confirmed in Dinosaur National

1. Notify DINO Resource Stewardship and Science Division
2. Notify CPW/UDWR
3. Notify NPS Wildlife Health Branch



List of Contacts for Mountain Goat Management Actions

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Northeastern Region: (435) 781-9453

Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Meeker Office: (970) 878-6064

NPS IMR Wildlife Biologist: (303) 969-2929

NPS Wildlife Health Branch: (970) 225-3593

NPS Invasive Animal Coordinator: (970) 225-3566

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Appendix A

NPS Policies and Management Direction Related to Management of Exotic Species

Executive Order 11987 provides direction to the NPS for the control of exotic species. The Order mandates that "*Executive agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, restrict the introduction of exotic species into the natural ecosystems on lands and waters which they own, lease or hold for purposes of administration; and shall encourage the States, local governments, and private citizens to prevent the introduction of exotic species into natural ecosystems of the United States.*"

NPS Management Policies 2006 state the following:

4.4.1.3 Definition of Native and Exotic Species

Native species are defined as all species that have occurred, now occur, or may occur as a result of natural processes on lands designated as units of the national park system. Native species in a place are evolving in concert with each other. Exotic species are those species that occupy or could occupy park lands directly or indirectly as the result of deliberate or accidental human activities. Exotic species are also commonly referred to as nonnative, alien, or invasive species. Because an exotic species did not evolve in concert with the species native to the place, the exotic species is not a natural component of the natural ecosystem at that place. Genetically modified organisms exist solely due to human activities and therefore are managed as exotic species in parks.

4.4.4 Management of Exotic Species

Exotic species will not be allowed to displace native species if displacement can be prevented.

4.4.4.1 Introduction or Maintenance of Exotic Species

In general, new exotic species will not be introduced into parks.

Domestic livestock such as cattle, sheep, goats, horses, mules, burros, reindeer, and llamas are exotic species that are maintained in some parks for commercial herding, pasturing, grazing, or trailing; for recreational use; or for administrative use for maintaining the cultural scene or supporting park operations.

4.4.4.2 Removal of Exotic Species Already Present

All exotic plant and animal species that are not maintained to meet an identified park purpose will be managed—up to and including eradication—if (1) control is prudent and feasible, and (2) the exotic species interferes with natural processes and the perpetuation of natural features, native species or natural habitats, or disrupts the genetic integrity of native species, or disrupts the accurate presentation of a cultural landscape, or damages cultural resources, or significantly hampers the management of park or adjacent lands, or poses a public health hazard as advised by the U. S. Public Health Service (which includes the Centers for Disease Control and the NPS public health program), or creates a hazard to public safety.

High priority will be given to managing exotic species that have, or potentially could have, a substantial impact on park resources, and that can reasonably be expected to be successfully

controlled. Lower priority will be given to exotic species that have almost no impact on park resources or that probably cannot be successfully controlled. Where an exotic species cannot be successfully eliminated, managers will seek to contain the exotic species to prevent further spread or resource damage.

The decision to initiate management should be based on a determination that the species is exotic. For species determined to be exotic and where management appears to be feasible and effective, superintendents should (1) evaluate the species' current or potential impact on park resources; (2) develop and implement exotic species management plans according to established planning procedures; (3) consult, as appropriate, with federal, tribal, local, and state agencies as well as other interested groups; and (4) invite public review and comment, where appropriate. Programs to manage exotic species will be designed to avoid causing significant damage to native species, natural ecological processes, cultural resources, and human health and safety. Considerations and techniques regarding removal of exotic species are similar to those used for native species (see 4.4.2.1 NPS Actions That Remove Native Plants and Animals).

Dinosaur National Monument 1986 General Management Plan Resource Management Objectives (pp. 251-252):

- Protect, manage, and maintain natural plant and animal communities within the monument.
- Repress the occurrence and spread of exotic species where feasible.
- Protect monument resources and values from adverse external influences.

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Hunting in Dinosaur National Monument

36 CFR 2.2(a) The following are prohibited: (1) The taking of wildlife, except by authorized hunting and trapping activities conducted in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section.

36 CFR 2.2(b) Hunting and trapping. (1) Hunting shall be allowed in park areas where such activity is specifically mandated by Federal statutory law.

Dinosaur National Monument has not been mandated by Federal statutory law to allow for hunting.

Grazing in Dinosaur National Monument

36 CFR 7.63 (b) *Stock grazing* (1) Privileges for the grazing of domestic livestock based on authorized use of certain areas at the time of approval of the act of September 8, 1960 (74 Stat. 857, Pub.L. 86-729), shall continue in effect or shall be renewed from time to time, except for failure to comply with such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Superintendent in these regulations and after reasonable notice of default and subject to the following provisions of tenure:

(b)(vi)(8)(iii) Stock will be allowed to graze only on the allotment designated in the permit