Mountain Goat (*Oreamnos americanus*)
Conservation Status Rank Summary

November 7, 2025

For details on assessment and ranking methodology, see: *Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species*

Rarity and Trends

Rank Factor	Date Assessed	Value	Score	Data Source	Comments
Rarity					
Range Extent	2023-12-21	Y: 145194.7 km²	3.930	MTNHP Range Maps	None
Area of Occupancy	2010-04-07		4.130	MTNHP Species Rank Data Table	24,015 square kilometers based on FWP population polygons. | Methodology: NS (2003) | Original Score: H
Number of Occurrences	2025-11-06		2.750	MTNHP Data	Approximately 22 discrete areas with native populations
Population Size	2018-05-03		2.360	MTNHP Species Rank Data Table	2016 estimate from Smith and DeCesare (2017) is 3,685 individuals within the state, with 2,526 of these in introduced (non-native) populations and 1,159 in populations within historic range (native). Only the native population was considered when ranking | Methodology: NS (2003) | Original Score: D
# of Occurrences in Good Condition	2025-11-06		3.300		None
% of Area Occupied in Good Condition			-		**Factor not used in ranking.**
Environmental Specificity	2018-05-03	Narrow	-	MTNHP Species Rank Data Table	**Factor not used in ranking.** Alpine specialist | Methodology: NS (2003) | Original Score: B
Rarity is calculated by averaging weighted factor scores: **((3.93 × 1) + (4.13 × 2) + (2.75 × 1) + (2.36 × 2) + (3.30 × 2)) / 8 = 3.28**					
Trends					
Short-term Trend	2018-05-03		0.000	MTNHP Species Rank Data Table	Across both native and introduced populations, population is stable within 10% over the last decade (Smith, B. L., and N. J. DeCesare. 2017. Status of Montana's mountain goats: A synthesis of management data (1960–2015) and field biologists' perspectives) | Methodology: NS (2003) | Original Score: E
Long-term Trend	2018-05-03		-0.310	MTNHP Species Rank Data Table	Native populations have declined 3-4 fold since the 1940s and 50s. The majority of introduced populations are stable or increasing. In aggregate the number of goats within the state

					has remained stable. | Methodology: NS (2003) | Original Score: E

Trends score is calculated by summing weighted short and long-term trend scores:
((0.00 × 2) + (-0.31 × 1)) = -0.31

Threats

Rank Factor	Date Assessed	Value	Score	Data Source	Comments
Threats					
Overall Threat Impact		Medium - low	[3.670, 5.500]		Genetic isolation, disturbance, climate change
Intrinsic Vulnerability	2023-12-21	Moderately vulnerable	-		**Factor not used in ranking.** Species has shown the ability to recover to some extent after reintroductions or to expand to stable populations after introductions to new habitats after periods of 5-20 years. However, they are not great dispersers and often require direct reintroduction
Threat score is calculated from Overall Threat Impact when available or Intrinsic Vulnerability if not: **([3.67, 5.50]) = [3.67, 5.50]**					

Individual Threats Data

Threat Category	Date Assessed	Impact Score	Scope	Severity	Immediacy	Comments
Climate Change & Severe Weather	2023-12-21	Medium - Low	Large	Moderate-Slight	High	Increased temperatures in alpine environments and loss of thermal refugia. General habitat change. Populations declines in Glacier National Park are believed to be caused by habitat and climate changes. Whether this applies to other areas is unknown
Threat Tally: 0 - Very High, 0 - High, [0,1] - Medium, [0,1] - Low Overall Threat Impact* = Medium - low						

*See Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species for calculation of Overall Threat Impact based on the number and impact of individual threats.

Conservation Status Rank Calculation

Raw score

Rarity: (3.28 × 70%) + Threats: ([3.67, 5.50] × 30%) + Trends: (-0.31) = [3.09, 3.64]

Calculated Rank: S3S4

Accepted Rank	S4
Date Approved	Date Unknown
Approval Authority	Legacy Assessment: MTNHP Staff
Rank Justification	Species is native to the mountains along and west of the Continental Divide. Native populations are declining. Species faces few threats aside from impacts to alpine habitat due to warming temperatures.

Supplementary Information

Montana Natural Heritage Program. 2021. Conservation Status Assessment Definitions, Process, Rank Factors, and Calculation of State Ranks for Montana Species. 18 p.
https://mtnhp.mt.gov/docs/Montana_State_Rank_Criteria_20211201.pdf

Montana Field Guide Species Account:
https://fieldguide.mt.gov/speciesDetail.aspx?elcode=AMALE02010

Predicted Suitable Habitat Model:
https://mtnhp.mt.gov/resources/models/?elcode=AMALE02010

Information Needs

Information needs are assessed by considering the availability of factors used to assess species status as well as the quality of these assessments. Current information availability and quality to inform Conservation Status Rank for this species are highlighted.

Rank Factor	Assessment Category	Value	Criteria
General Status	Status Quality	Adequate	Calculated rank has low uncertainty and is represented by a single rank (e.g. S3); accepted rank may be adjusted to a range rank (e.g. S2S3)
		Poor	Rank assessed as SU or calculated rank has notable uncertainty and corresponds to a range rank with 2 or more values (e.g. S2?, S1S3, or S4S5)
Rarity	Range Quality	Adequate	Range polygon adequately represents area of probable occupancy and does not include substantial unoccupied areas; range may be adequately defined and still include areas of unsuitable habitat (e.g. mountain ranges for plains species)
		Marginal	Range polygon defined, but may include or exclude notable areas where the species may or may not occur on the landscape
		Poor	Range polygon not defined
	Habitat Quality	Adequate	Species-habitat relationship is well-defined (e.g. relevant literature or robust habitat model available)
		Marginal	Understanding of species-habitat relationship is adequate among some but not all habitats (e.g. literature covers similar habitats outside of Montana or habitat model performance is only somewhat adequate)
		Poor	Species-habitat relationship is not well understood
Threats	Threat Quality	Adequate	Threat Impact is a single value (including "Unthreatened")
		Marginal	Threat Impact assessed at more than one value (e.g. "High - Medium")
		Poor	Threat Impact is Unknown but Intrinsic Vulnerability is assessed
		Unknown	Threat Impact is Unknown and Intrinsic Vulnerability is not assessed
Trends	Recency	Current	Short-term Trend assessment date less than 10 years old
		Out of Date but Adequate	Short-term Trend assessment date is more than 10 years old or Unknown, but species is Unthreatened
		Out of Date	Short-term Trend assessment date more than 10 years old
		Not Available	Short-term Trend data are not available
	Trend Quality	Sufficient	Short-term Trend assessed at a single value or multiple values with a minimum trend greater than -10% (stable or increasing)
		Unknown but Sufficient	Short-term Trend is Unknown, but species is Unthreatened
		Poor	Short-term Trend is less than -10% (in decline) with two or more values selected
		Unknown	Short-term Trend is Unknown

Summary of Information Availability

All data to calculate rank are available.

Summary of Information Needs

More precise trend data would help better understand ongoing declines. Research to better quantify climate related threats.

Additional Threat Details

The table below contains the complete threats assessment for this species. While the Conservation Status Rank Calculation is based on cumulative, broadly categorized (Level 1) threats data, threats are assessed and tracked for more specifically categorized (Level 2) threats when available.

Threat Category	Date Assessed	Assessed By	Data Source	Scope	Severity	Imme-diacy	Comments
Climate Change & Severe Weather - 11	2023-12-21	Dan Bachen	None	Large	Moderate-Slight	High	Increased temperatures in alpine environments and loss of thermal refugia. General habitat change. Populations declines in Glacier National Park are believed to be caused by habitat and climate changes. Whether this applies to other areas is unknown