

MOUNTAIN GOAT



SELECTING BILLIES MEANS MORE HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

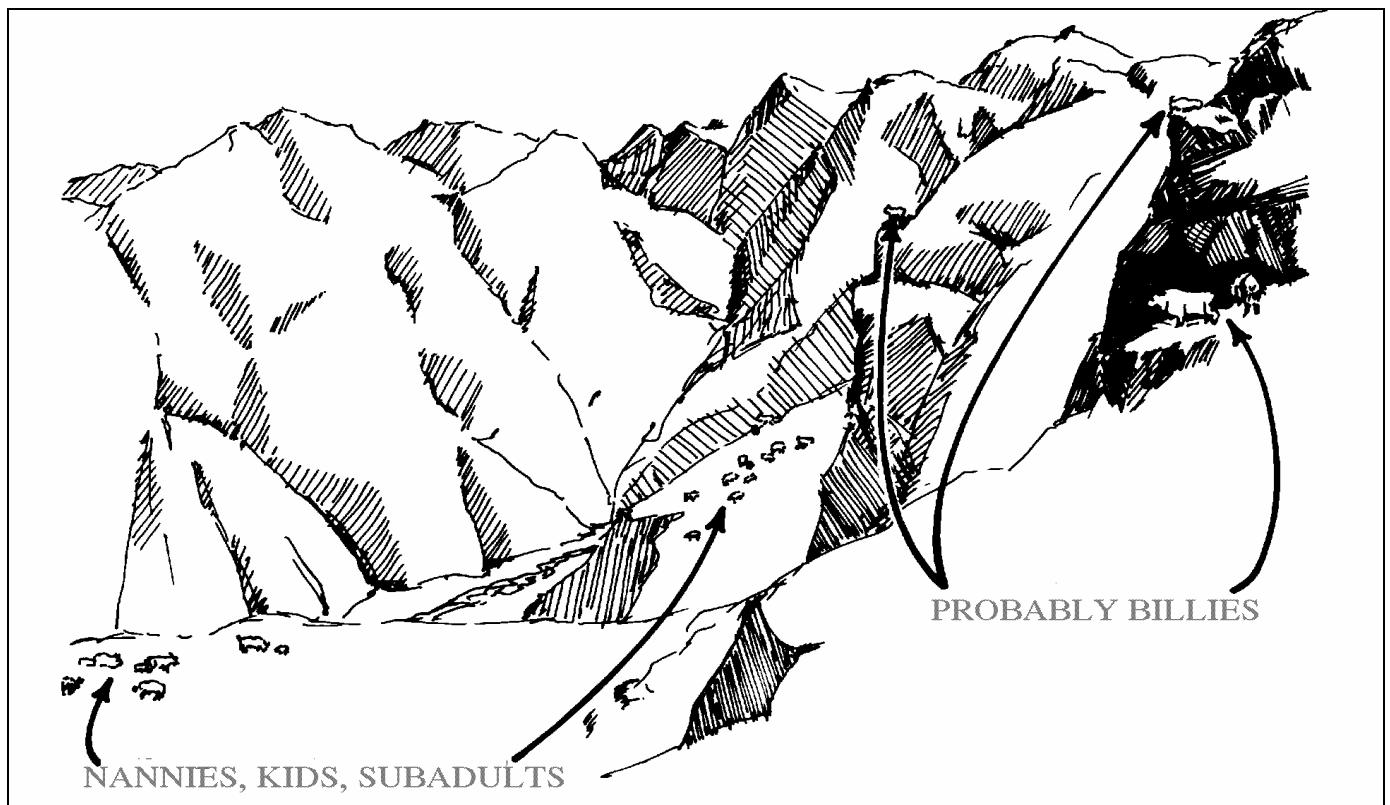
Your Choice Counts

If hunters take the time to select billies instead of nannies, more goats will be available for harvest. More nannies producing kids will remain in the population. In fact, by the end of a seven-year period a small group could double in size if nannies are not killed and if the weather cooperates. You can make a difference! Let's work together to improve goat management.

Look for Small Groups at High Elevation

Look for large billies high on the slopes. They are usually found alone or in groups of two or three in steeper, higher elevation country than nannies, kids and young billies. So, if you see groups of more than three goats that are just above the tree or shrub line, they are probably nannies and young animals. Keep climbing to find that big billy.

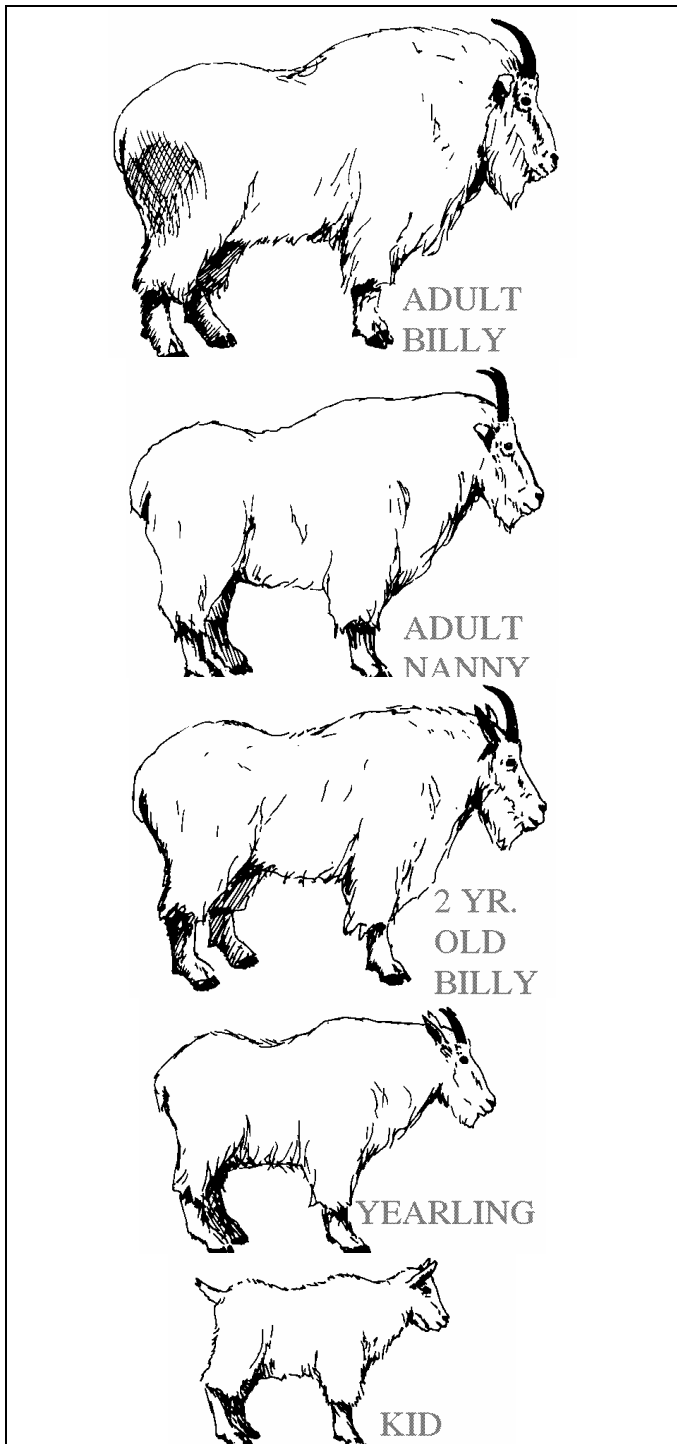
WHERE YOU CAN FIND ADULT BILLIES



Key on Large and Stocky Animals

Adult billies can be recognized from a distance because they are larger and stockier than nannies. But, don't depend on size alone because an adult female could be the largest goat in a group of nannies, kids and subadults. Look for the other clues in addition to size and shape.

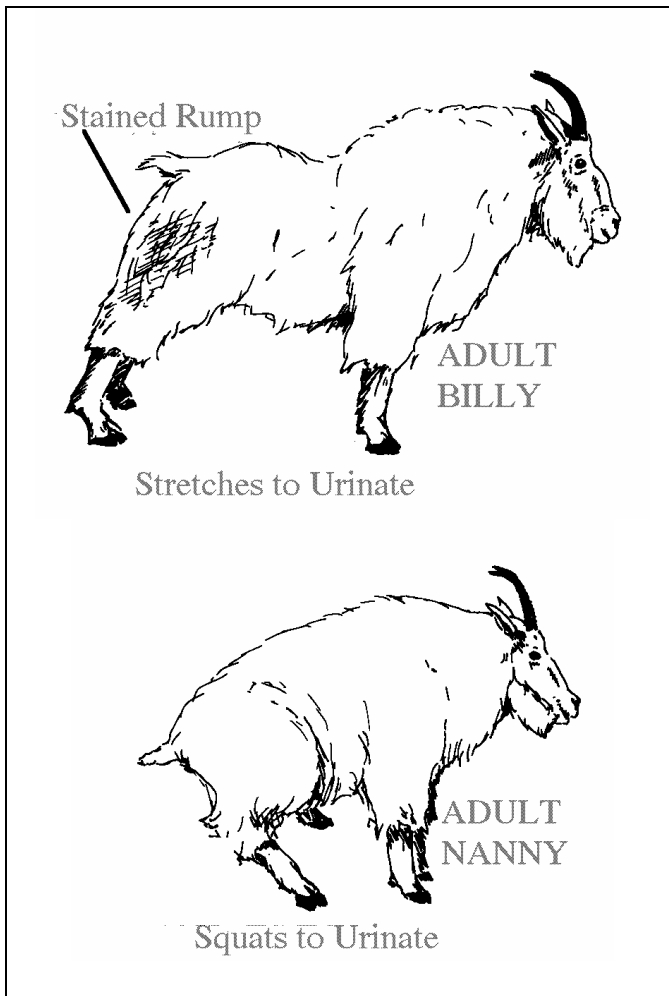
SIZE AND SHAPE



Look for Stained Rumps and Stretching During Urination

As you get closer, you often will see stained hindquarters on billies. Nannies usually do not have this discoloration. Billies also will stretch while urinating. Nannies will squat to urinate. Watch your goat to see how it behaves.

RUMP STAINS AND URINATION



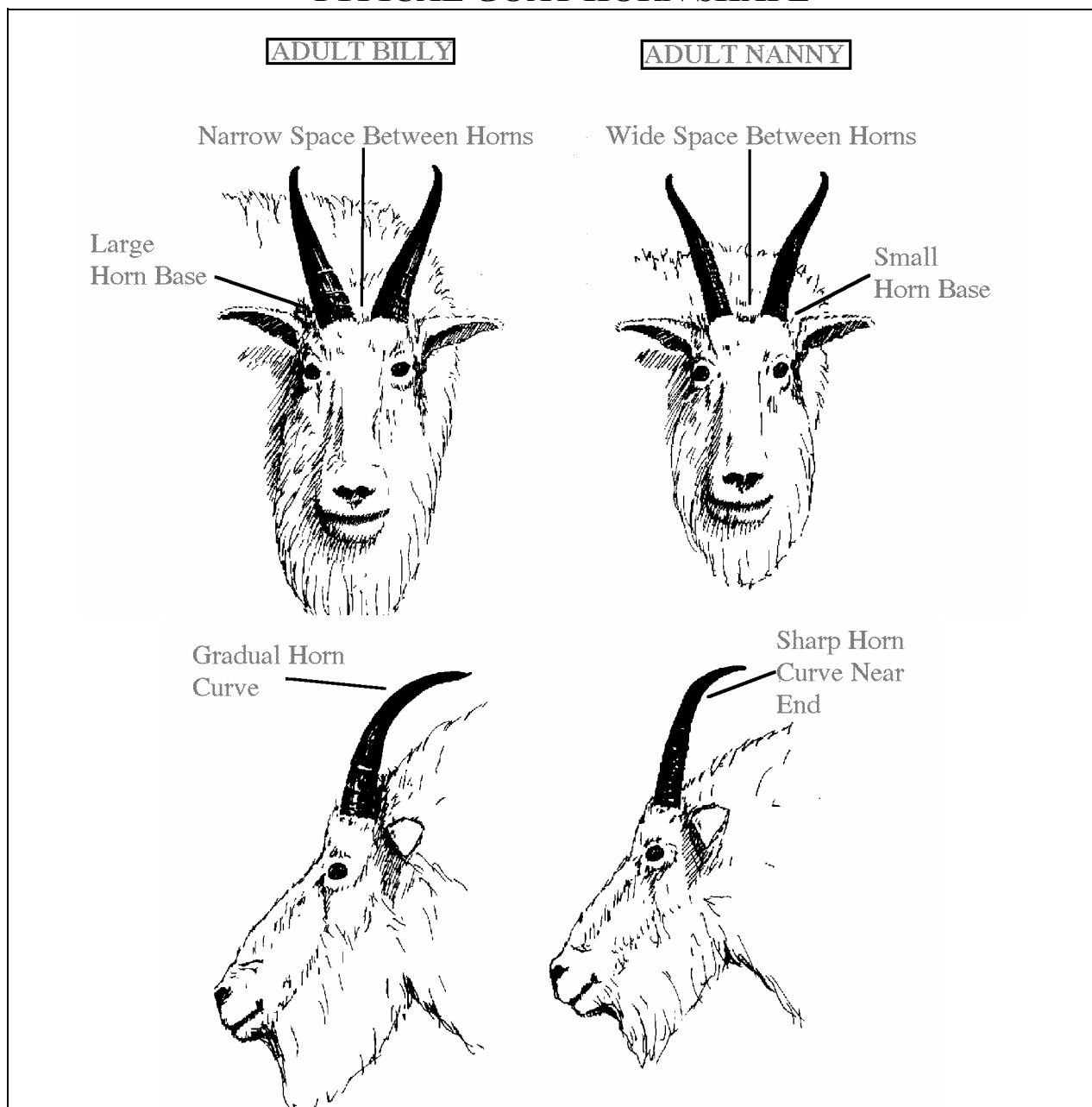
Watch For Narrow Space Between Horns, Large Horn Base, and Gradual Curve in the Horn

The most effective way to identify a billy is by stalking close enough to see the size and shape of the horns. As compared to adult nannies, adult billies have less space between the horns at the base, have larger diameter at the base, and have horns that curve gradually. Nannie horns curve sharply near the end.

Get Close Enough to Make a Clean Kill

Working in close to your goat will accomplish two things. First, you will not take a female by mistake. Second, you will greatly increase your chances of making a clean kill because you will have reduced the range. Clean kills reduce crippling loss. Also, making a clean kill will reduce the chances of damage to meat and horns caused by slow-dying animals falling from cliffs.

TYPICAL GOAT HORN SHAPE



Harvest of Adult Billies Pays Off

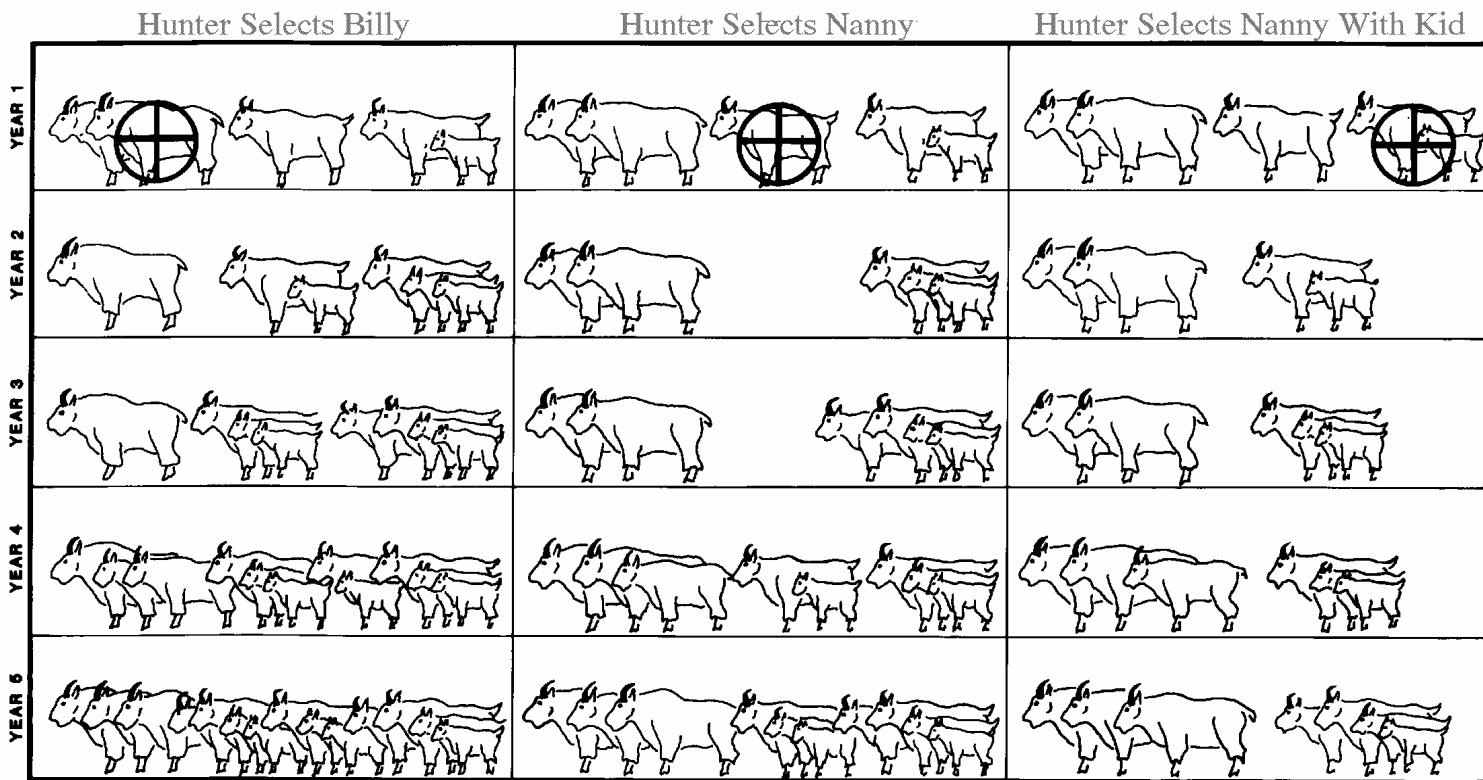
Selective harvesting of adult billies makes sense and is good management. High harvest of females reduces the productivity of the herd because fewer nannies producing kids remain in the population. The chart below illustrates the benefits of harvesting billies and passing up nannies, especially nannies with kids.

It is true we encourage the harvest of cow moose and caribou in some areas. We do this only in situations where populations are at high levels,

harvests are small, or populations need to be reduced. None of these situations currently exist in south-central Alaska.

Remember, when hunting mountain goats, try to limit your take to a male goat. We realize this is not always possible, and some nannies will be taken. If you are not sure that your target is a billy - don't shoot immediately - try to get in a better position for you to determine sex. You are part of wildlife management in Alaska. Do your best to select a male goat and help ensure excellent goat hunting opportunity in future years.

BENEFITS OF HUNTER SELECTION



NOTE: This leaflet is not a substitute for the Alaska Game Regulations booklet. For more complete information on hunting read the regulations and the permit hunt newspapers. They are available at Fish and Game offices (ADF&G) or where you buy your license and tags.