

# Climate Change

Position Paper



## Climate Change

Scientific consensus is that human induced climate change is happening – and alpine systems will feel it faster and more drastically.



## Habitat Changes

Shorter green-up windows and shrinking alpine meadows will make foraging more difficult for mountain goats.



## Weather Response

Mountain goats are specifically adapted to cold temperatures. Too much warmth will heat stress, change their behavior, and alter habitat selection



## Species interactions

Many parasites and predators are currently limited by the extreme cold of alpine winters. More and different species will be introduced to mountain goat habitats.



## Management Implications

Critical habitat must be protected from resource extraction and development, requiring jurisdictional cooperation. We will need to incorporate new technologies and monitoring methods.

## REFERENCE DOCUMENT

NWSGC Position Statement

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