

Name: _____

Date: _____



Mountain Goats and Climate Change

Answer the following questions to learn how climate change will impact mountain goats

1 What is **alpine amplification**?

2 What weather changes are expected from climate change?

3 What is green-up? How does the speed of green-up impact mountain goats?

4 What is special about mountain goat coats?

5 What do mountain goats do when they get too warm?

6 What are some things we can do to help mountain goats survive climate change?

7 Bonus: are avalanches good or bad for mountain goats? Why or why not?

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Answer the following questions to learn how climate change will impact mountain goats

1 What is **alpine amplification**?

The effects of climate change happen faster and more drastically in alpine environments.

2 What weather changes are expected from climate change?

Warmer summers, less snowy winters, and more extreme weather events. BONUS: Freeze-thaw cycles in winter can cause thin snow layers, crusting (harder to forage) and increase avalanche risk.

3 What is green-up? How does the speed of green-up impact mountain goats?

The term for the gradual greening of forages in the spring time. Mountain goats benefit from slow green up since this forage is extra nutritious and helps them gain back weight after winter. Climate change is expected to shorten the green-up window.

4 What is special about mountain goat coats?

White, to camouflage in the snow. Insulated and long, to keep them warm in the winter time. Molts in the summer time to help them cool off when it's warmer

5 What happens to mountain goats/what do they do when it gets too warm?

They can suffer from heat stress. They will change behavior - generally reduce activity; forage less in order to find sheltered areas, or find snow packs to cool down in.

6 What are some things we can do to help mountain goats survive climate change?

Protect critical habitat, adjust harvest timing and limits, incorporate long term weather data in studies, VOTE, keep talking about the importance of conservation

7 Bonus: are avalanches good or bad for mountain goats? Why or why not?

Trick question: both! Avalanches can be very dangerous and are a big cause of mountain goat death. They also clear areas for foraging in the winter, and are often the first parts of the mountain to green-up in the springtime.