

C O L O R A D O P A R K S & W I L D L I F E

# Colorado Mountain Goat Gender Identification Quiz



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Colorado Parks and Wildlife is the state agency responsible for managing wildlife and its habitat, as well as providing wildlife-related recreation. Our public outreach programs promote appreciation, understanding and stewardship of Colorado's wildlife. The agency is funded through hunting and fishing licenses, fees, federal grants and Colorado Lottery proceeds through Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO).

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**COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE  
HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**WELCOME**  
to the Mountain Goat  
Gender Identification Quiz:  
20 questions



## COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

### QUESTION 1



Billy (male) or nanny (female)?

### QUESTION 2



Billy (male) or nanny (female)?



## COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

### ANSWER: QUESTION 1



#### **Billy (male)**

#### **Clues:**

Large horn bases, small space between horn bases. Horns heavy throughout length with gradual curve.

#### **Tip:**

Ears are 4 to 5 inches in length and can be used to help estimate horn length.

*Location: unit G4*

### ANSWER: QUESTION 2



#### **Nanny on left, yearling billy on right**

#### **Clues:**

Thin versus heavy horn bases. Space between horn bases.

#### **Note:**

Both goats are shedding winter coats in early July.

*Location: unit G15*



## COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

### QUESTION 3



Billy (male) or nanny (female)?

### QUESTION 4



Billy (male) or nanny (female)?



## COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

### ANSWER: QUESTION 3



**Billy**

**Clues:**

Large horn bases and heavy throughout length.

*Location: unit G4*

### ANSWER: QUESTION 4



**Nanny on top left, billy at bottom right**

**Clues:**

Nanny has smaller horn bases. Billy has larger bases: larger than eye width.

**Note:**

Hair length varies with season and is not a reliable indicator of sex. Both of these goats are in winter coats.

*Location: unit G4*



## COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

### QUESTION 5



Billy (male) or nanny (female)?

### QUESTION 6



Billy (male) or nanny (female)?





## COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

### ANSWER: QUESTION 5



**Nanny, mid October**

**Clues:**

Thin horns, small bases, wide space between horn bases.

*Location: unit G15*

### ANSWER: QUESTION 6



**2-year-old billy**

**Clues:**

Large horn bases, horns heavy throughout length. Short nose with dish-faced profile indicates that this is a young animal.

*Location: unit G4*



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### QUESTION 7



Billy (male) or nanny (female)?

### QUESTION 8



Billy (male) or nanny (female)?



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### ANSWER: QUESTION 7



#### **Nanny**

#### **Clues:**

Thin horns with wide space between horns.

#### **Note:**

Very poor shot opportunity — animal is standing on cliff and sky lined. You can't tell what is behind or beyond animal.

**Do not take this shot!**

*Location: unit G15*

### ANSWER: QUESTION 8



#### **6(+)-year-old nanny**

#### **Clues:**

Horns are larger and with more gradual curvature than typical for nannies. Bases are not large like a billy's. Wait for additional clues to identify. Long, straight nose indicates a mature animal.



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### QUESTION 9



Billy (male) or nanny (female)?

### QUESTION 10



Billy (male) or nanny (female)?



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### ANSWER: QUESTION 9



**Nanny**

**Clues:**

Small horn bases, thin horns with hook towards the end.

*Location: unit G16*

### ANSWER: QUESTION 10



**Four nannies and two kids**

**Clues:**

Small horn bases, thin horns with most of the curvature, or hook near the ends.

*Location: unit G4*



## COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

### QUESTION 11



Billy (male) or nanny (female)?



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### ANSWER: QUESTION 11



#### **Yearling billy**

#### **Clues:**

Large horn bases and horns heavy throughout length. Base heavy with taper to tip. Note: Ears are 4 to 5 inches long.

*Location: unit G16*



## COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

### QUESTION 12



Billy (male) or nanny (female)?

### QUESTION 13



Billies (males) or  
nannies (females)?





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### ANSWER: QUESTION 12



#### **Yearling billy**

#### **Clues:**

Yearling billies can be mistaken for nannies. Short nose and dished face indicate this is a young goat. Yearling's horns are similar in length to ears (4 to 5 inches). Notice the heavy bases and taper from base to tip even at a young age.

### ANSWER: QUESTION 13



#### **Two nannies and one kid**

#### **Clues:**

Long, thin horns with curvature or hooks near ends. Dark vulva patch visible on both adults.

*Location: unit G16*



## COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

### QUESTION 14



Billy (male) or nanny (female)?

### QUESTION 15



Billy (male) or nanny (female)?

Is this a good shot?



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### ANSWER: QUESTION 14



You cannot positively identify all of the animals in this picture. Labels indicate males and females. This picture shows the importance of being patient and waiting for additional clues or better views to positively identify goats.

*Location: unit G16*

### ANSWER: QUESTION 15



The mountain goat is too far away to positively identify gender, illustrating the importance of good optics. The steep slope and loose rocks makes this a poor shot choice. The animal would likely roll downhill, making retrieval difficult and possibly damaging the carcass. Wait for a better opportunity or locate other goats. (From photographer, it is a billy).

*Location: unit G16*



## COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

### QUESTION 16



Billy (male) or nanny (female)?

### QUESTION 17



Billy (male) or nanny (female)?



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### ANSWER: QUESTION 16



#### **Nanny**

#### **Clues:**

Thin, straight horns with curve or hooks near the ends. Long, straight nose indicates this is a mature mountain goat.

*Location: unit G16*

### ANSWER: QUESTION 17



#### **Mature billy in late summer coat**

#### **Clues:**

Base of horn larger than eye width and horns heavy with gradual curvature for entire length. If one looks closely, scrotum is partially visible.



## COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

### QUESTION 18

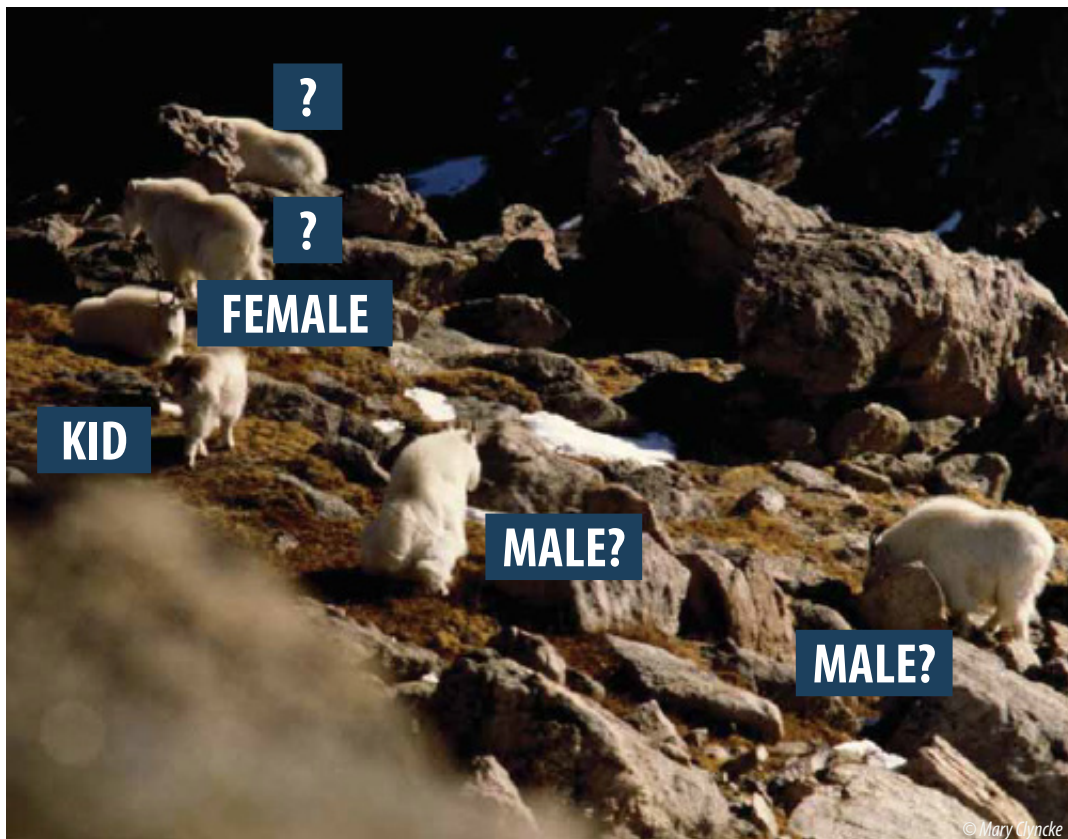


Billies (males) or nannies (females)?



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### ANSWER: QUESTION 18



This picture is another example of how challenging it can be to identify mountain goats from a distance. In this picture, some of the goats can be identified while the others cannot. Hunters must positively identify their target. You cannot assume the gender of an animal, you must be certain. Take your time and watch for multiple clues to identify gender.



## COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM

### QUESTION 19



© Mary Clyncke

Billy (male) or nanny (female)?

### QUESTION 20



© Chris Flohr

Billy (male) or nanny (female)?





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### ANSWER: QUESTION 19



© Mary Clyncke

#### **Nanny**

#### **Clues:**

Horn base approximately same size as eye, thin horns with curve near ends. The long, straight nose indicates this is a mature animal.

*Location: unit G16*

### ANSWER: QUESTION 20



© Chris Flohr

#### **Nanny**

#### **Clues:**

Horn bases same size as eyes. Thin horns with curvature or hooks at ends. Long, straight nose shows that this is a mature goat. Mid-summer photo shows animal shedding.



**COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE  
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**END**

**THANK YOU!**