It would be hard not to classify any mature Rocky Mountain goat as a trophy considering all that goes into a successful hunt for these cliff dwellers. Nevertheless, as with all antlered and horned big game species, there are certain visual indicators that translate to Boone and Crockett score that are valuable tools in judging size of horn in the field.

Accurately field-judging mountain goats has a unique set of challenges. For one, both males and females have horns or antler. The only other North American big game species to regularly exhibit this characteristic are pronghorn, sheep and caribou. In these instances female horn or antler growth is significantly smaller, and therefore this feature alone makes identifying sex in the field rather easy. For mountain goats this is not the case, in fact many wildlife departments allow the taking of nannies purely due to the difficulty of ascertaining the correct sex quickly in the field. They encourage hunters to avoid nannies and in many cases require an orientation course on identifying billies and yet nannies are still mistakenly taken. The key to making this determination and evaluating a goat lies in mass of both horns and body. Nannies rarely grow the mass needed to make B&C minimums (47 Awards, 50 all-time book). The mature billy will exhibit a definitive hump on his back or shoulder and will overall appear “thicker” than a nanny. The horns of a billy will curl over their entire length while a nannies horns will commonly rise straight up, only curling back on the upper 1/3 or 1/4 of the horn.

Another factor to keep in mind is that normally a trophy goat will be a loner. This creates a special challenge for field judging since outside of the rutting season (late November), one seldom sees a mature billy other than alone or as one of a small group. Since a loner is not necessarily always a big mature billy, an assessment of his size, bulk, apparent horn length and mass is essential to proper identification of a high scoring trophy though there is usually not a medium or small billy close by for comparison.

The length of each horn is factored into the final score, so lets start there. When estimating horn length we must take into consideration two factors. One is that horn, especially on males, will grow in a curved, backward configuration and depending on the time of year hunted, long winter coats can hide horn growth at the bases near the skull.

The curvature of the horn can short change the true length of horns in field observations, so it is a good idea to try and visualize the horns as straight. If the apparent horn length is visualized as straightened-out, and it reaches the distance from the nostrils to the bottom of the eye, you are looking at a horn length of probably at least eight, but not over nine inches. If the same comparison yields an apparent length equivalent to the distance from the nostrils to the ear hole, you are unquestionably looking at a records-class billy, providing his horn tips are not broken and he appears to have a thick base on each horn.

Another useful gauge is the apparent length of the horns compared to the visible length of the ear. For trophy quality, one normally must look for a horn that appears to be two and one-half times the visible length of the ear.

Judging the base of a billy goat’s horns is a fine art. Though a general rule to use is that when viewed straight on the bases will appear to nearly touch, on a nanny or lesser billy white will be definitively visible. Be cautious though since billy’s possess two large black glands directly behind the horns which can be mistaken for extraordinary mass. Nannies do not have this gland. A look to the records reveals that the best bases and ultimately the best scoring goats come from the Pacific Coast range, or the west slope of the Rockies, or in the Cassiars. Obviously there are exceptions, but Boone and Crockett records data supports the exceptional bases being more common from Coast Range goats.

Reviewing the top 100 records book goats of All-Time, you will find the base circumferences range from 6 to 6-6/8 with all but ten entries coming from northern coastal locations. The other locations showing up in the top 100 include; Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Montana, Colorado, and Nevada. The remaining 90 entries are all from coastal Alaska and British Columbia.
MAXIMUM VS. MINIMUM
A COMPARISON OF TWO RECORDS-BOOK ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

WORLD’S RECORD
ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT
SCORE: 56-6/8

TROPHY ANALYSIS
- Exceptional length – both measure 12 inches
- Exceptional bases – both measure 6-4/8 inches
- Mass carries well –
  1st Quarter 4-7/8 inches
  2nd Quarter 3-2/8 inches
  3rd Quarter 2 inches
- Only 2/8 inch for symmetry deduction

CLOSE TO MINIMUM ENTRY
ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT
SCORE: 47-4/8

TROPHY ANALYSIS
- Average length –
  averaging 10 inches
- Above average bases – measuring
  5-4/8 and 5-3/8 inches
- Mass drops significantly at
  second Quarter
- Nearly one inch of symmetry
  deduction

RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM THE BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB
Boone and Crockett Club Field Guide to Measuring and Judging Big Game, 2nd Edition

The definitive manual for anyone with a desire to learn the Boone and Crockett Club’s world-famous big game measuring system is now available in this updated, convenient field guide that easily fits into backpacks. Inside you will find detailed instructions on how to score each of the native North American big game categories recognized by the Club, including numerous illustrations to clearly demonstrate techniques for proper measurement. Also included in this field guide are techniques for evaluating and field judging the most popular species of North American big game.

Other important sections of the field guide include:
- A chapter on general measuring techniques for native North American big game
- Scoring instructions and scorecharts for all 38 categories of North American big game recognized by the Club
- Boundary descriptions for species such as elk, blacktail deer, grizzly and Alaska brown bear, whitetail, and caribou
- Table of the quarter locations for easy reference when measuring all big game categories with horns
- A chapter on understanding the dynamics of hunting and spotting optics.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ORDER VISIT
WWW.BOONEANDCROCKETTCLUB.COM OR CALL 406-542-1888

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## Minimum Scores

**Awards All-Time**

| Score | 47 | 50 |

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### Rocky Mountain Goat

#### See Other Side for Scoring Instructions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column 1</th>
<th>Column 2</th>
<th>Column 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Greatest Spread</td>
<td>Right Horn</td>
<td>Left Horn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Tip to Tip Spread</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Length of Horn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-1. Circumference of Base</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-2. Circumference at First Quarter</td>
<td>Location of First Quarter Circumference:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-3. Circumference at Second Quarter</td>
<td>Location of Second Quarter Circumference:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-4. Circumference at Third Quarter</td>
<td>Location of Third Quarter Circumference:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Totals

#### Add Together:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column 1</th>
<th>Exact Locality Where Killed:*</th>
<th>County:</th>
<th>State/Prov:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Column 2</td>
<td>Hunter (Legal Name):</td>
<td>Date Killed:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td>Trophy Owner (Legal Name):</td>
<td>Telephone #:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Subtract:

| Column 3 | Trophy Owner's Address: | | |
| Trophy Owner's Email: | Guide's Name: | | |
| Remarks (Mention Any Abnormalities or Unique Qualities): | | | |

#### Final Score

| | Trophy Owner's Email: | Guide's Name: | |
| Remarks (Mention Any Abnormalities or Unique Qualities): | | | |

*Geographic location (lake, mountain, river, etc.) required for trophies taken in Canada and Alaska.

---

I, ________________________________________________, certify that I have measured this trophy on ____________________

PRINT NAME                         MM/dd/YYYY

at ______________________________________________________________________________________________________

STREET ADDRESS       CITY   STATE/PROVINCE

and that these measurements and data are, to the best of my knowledge and belief, made in accordance with the instructions given.

Witness: _______________________________________________ Signature: ________________________________________________

B&C OFFICIAL MEASURER

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Mail To: Boone and Crockett Club  250 Station Drive, Missoula, MT 59801  (406) 542-1888  www.booneandcrockettclub.com

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The single-most critical element facing the future of hunting and our wildlife is the continued public acceptance of recreational hunting.

When hunting is viewed as a fair and ethical endeavor in support of science-based game management programs the voting majority (non-hunters) accept hunting. Join your fellow hunter-conservationists who believe that ethical sportsmanlike behavior is the only way to ensure a positive public image of hunters and hunting. Become a part of 120-year-old commitment to preserving our hunting heritage.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Boone and Crockett Club to promote the guardianship and provident management of big game and associated wildlife in North America and maintain the highest standards of fair chase and sportsmanship in all aspects of big game hunting, in order that this resource of all the people may survive and prosper in its natural habitats. Consistent with this objective, the Club supports the use and enjoyment of our wildlife heritage to the fullest extent by this and future generations.

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BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB® INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEASURING ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

All measurements must be made with a 1/4-inch wide flexible steel tape to the nearest one-eighth of an inch. Wherever it is necessary to change direction of measurement, mark a control point and swing tape at this point. Enter fractional figures in eighths, without reduction. Official measurements cannot be taken until the horns have air dried at a habitable room temperature for at least 60 days after the animal was killed. The 60-day drying period for a trophy that has been frozen or boiled begins the day it is removed from the freezer or boiling pot, or submersion in any liquid.

A. Greatest Spread is measured between perpendiculars at a right angle to the center line of the skull. **Greatest spread does not add into the final score.**
B. Tip to Tip spread is measured between tips of the horns. **Tip to tip spread does not add into the final score.**
C. Length of Horn is measured from the lowest point in front over outer curve to a point in line with tip.
D-1. Circumference of Base is measured at a right angle to axis of horn. Do not follow irregular edge of horn; the line of measurement must be entirely on horn material.
D-2-3-4. Divide measurement C of longer horn by four. Starting at base, mark both horns at these quarters (even though the other horn is shorter) and measure circumferences at these marks, with measurements taken at right angles to horn axis.