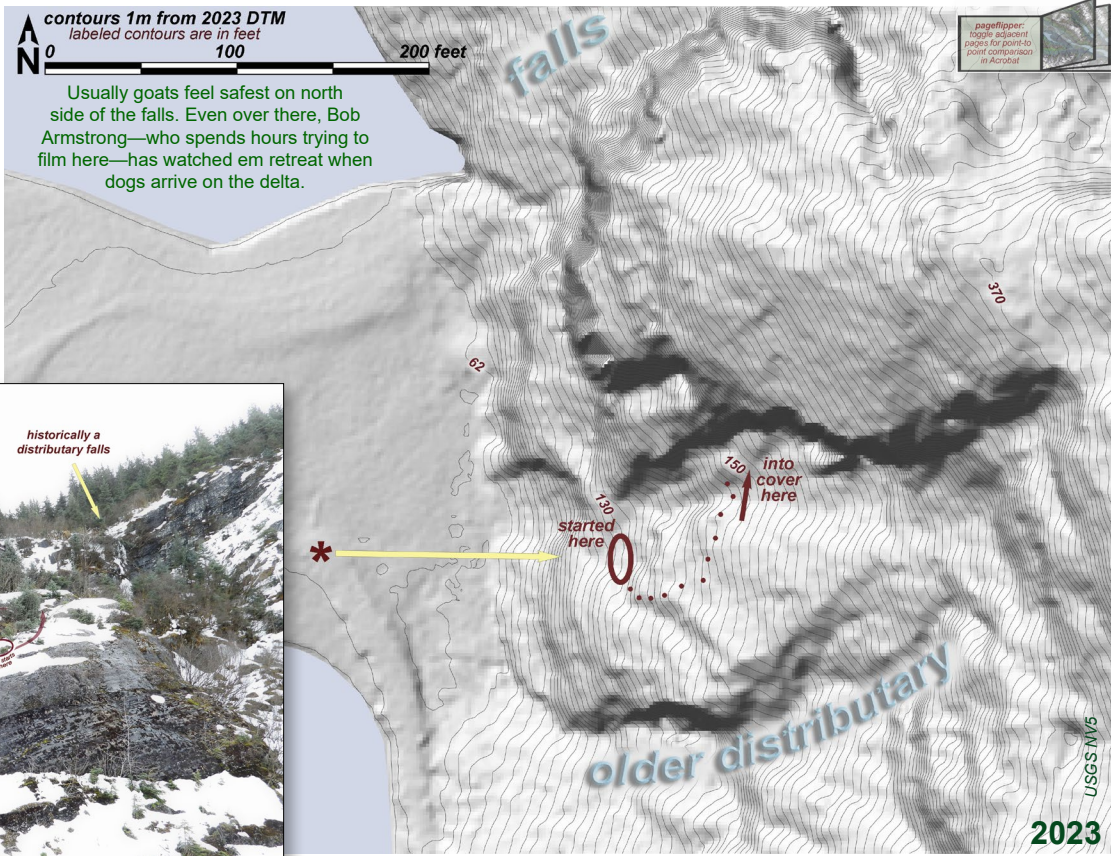


20260405 Nugget Falls

Noon, C&I met Brita at Vis Center for a walk out to the falls. Washed-out skies, but we beat the predicted rain. Fingers crossed for goats, and boy did I finally strike it rich!

01 Nearside basin A mature, rump-painted billy browsed hemlock needles on a bench at 130 ft—60 yds map distance & only 70 ft above us. P1K at that range can frame-fill a goat's head. Pretty radical cliffs that only the craziest dog would try to climb. He probably first came here with his



pagetipper:
loggia all'ascia
lagoa del bivio
bivio capanna
di Alpi

0405vid Nugget male... 4 min 18 sec

mom around 7 years ago, and has become habituated to human company—maybe sometimes appreciates us for **wolf** security. Occasionally he glanced down with lordly disinterest at the assembled *paparazzi*, then returned to stuffing his rumen with yán (western hemlock)

Sít' áa, *glacier lake*, is about 60 feet above sea level, so this ultimate mountaineer, descending almost to that shore, says something about snow depths and severity of the 2025-26 winter. Unlike Goatlandia—ranges above town—where towering old-growth spruces on cliffy slopes alternate with lush lady-fern slide paths, this guy's winter home is mostly young, recovering from glaciation only a century or two ago.

I don't spend enough time goating here



ADOT

2024



to understand implications of youthful landscapes to annual goat movements. To my knowledge, ADF&G has never collared goats in this watershed (*or* in Goatlandia)—instead prioritizing hunted units where monitoring population trends is more critical.

He does have access to steep, SW-facing old growth on toeslopes of Bullard [noTN?] I suppose he could even be part of the Thunder Mountain herd, beyond the Little Ice Age advance of Áak'w Táak Sít'i (M-word glacier).

07 Options Last clip in the video shows him postholing through 12-to-18 inches. Except on steepest faces, winter forbs are covered. So scrub alder and hemlock in this shot are his main options until avalanche slopes melt free.

09 Keishish slide alder Climbing from 130 to 150 feet, he passed through a thicket, and stopped to browse the overwintered buds and still-hard catkins.

