

### Goats' best friends

- 1 A few years ago, employees at Glacier National Park noticed that mountain goats were hanging out with visiting tourists, far from the goats' cliffside habitats. Now researchers have figured out why. Where there are people, there are fewer predators like bears and where there are people, there is pee. An acquaintance with people thus affords mountain goats two prized essentials: safety and salt. A mountain goat will lick a urine patch for up to 10 days.
- 2 After officials closed off a large part of the area because of a wildfire, the local goats retreated to the hills. Wesley Sarmiento, who tracked animals in Glacier National Park for three years, found that the bears had returned. The promise of leftover urine was apparently not worth the risk for the goats.



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