

Himalayan Tahr

Hemitragus jemlahicus

Order Artiodactyla

Family Bovidae

Subfamily Caprinae



Tahr occupy rocky areas of high elevation.

Their hooves have a hard keratin edge and a soft center which helps them grip the rocks. They also have dewclaws and callused areas on their knees and sternums used to keep traction on the rocks.

There are currently extensive nonnative populations in New Zealand, California, New Mexico, South Africa, and Canada.

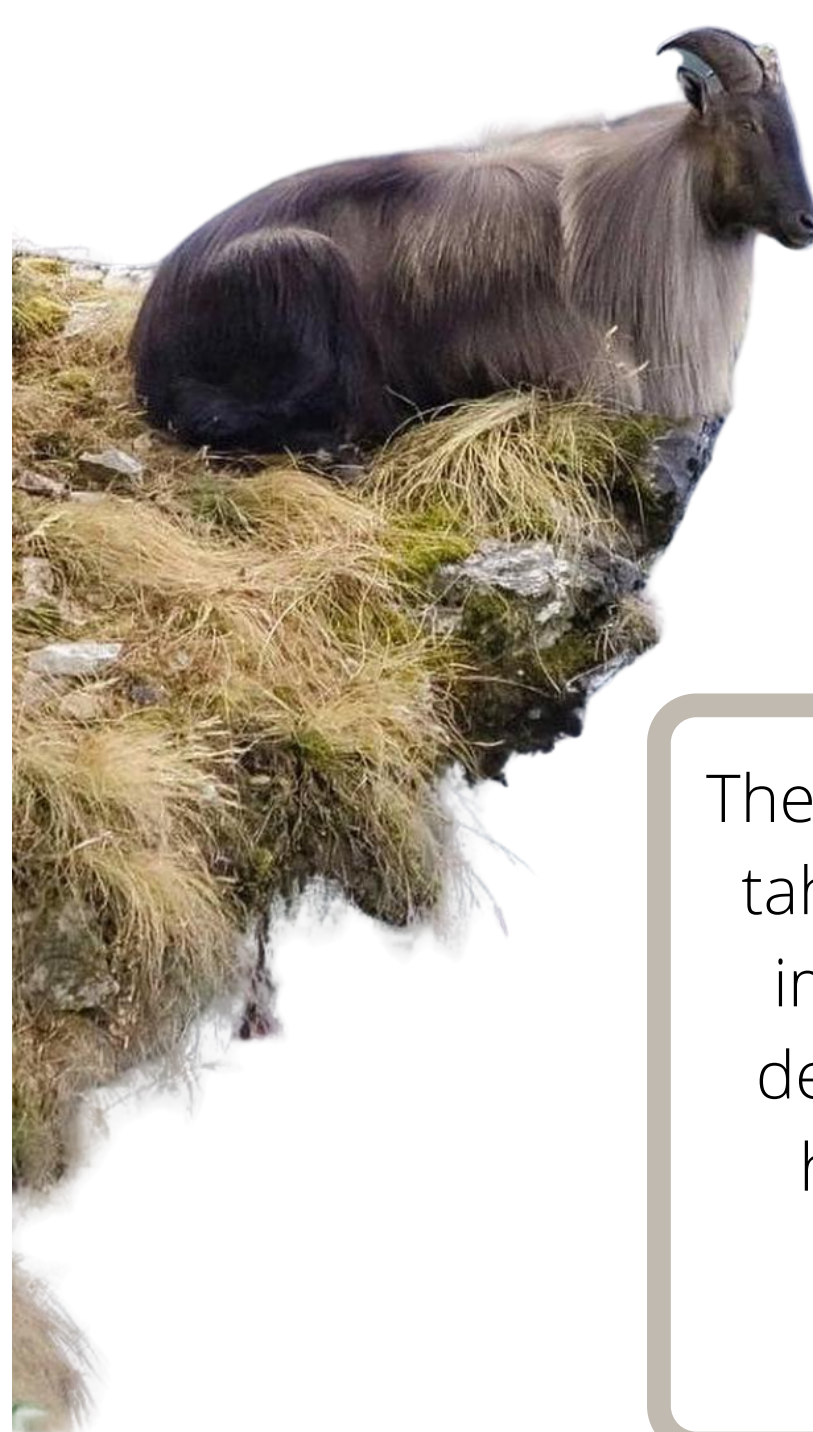
The native population is listed as near threatened. The invasive populations are thriving and efforts are currently being taken to limit their populations.



Himalayan tahr are prey to snow leopards and common leopards. Young tahr are prey to raptors, foxes, and Himalayan yellow-throated martens. They only vocalize when threatened by predators or humans.



This Himalayan tahr is courting the female with one of the most typical behaviors- curling his upper lip with its head raised after smelling the female.



Himalayan tahr diet consists of mostly grasses and sedges.

Tahr reproduce one time per year and typically produce one kid. There is debate among researchers if tahr are monogamous or polygynous.

The ruffs on a Himalayan tahr's neck is the most important feature of determining the male hierarchy and how females identify individuals.

Threats to native Himalayan tahr populations include poaching, habitat quality, and resource competition with domestic livestock. Manpower and funds limit successful management in the native range. New Zealand and South Africa have management plans in place including recreational hunting and government funding hunting from helicopters to keep the populations at or under 10,000 individuals, however, success has been limited. U.S. populations are very small, but still, they are allowed to be recreationally hunted.



Himalayan tahr are commonly affected by Kerato-conjunctivitis (pinkeye) causing blindness, scabby mouth, and other parapox-like (papules on the muzzle) symptoms. These are all transmitted via physical touch with affected individuals. These viruses can also be transmitted to livestock.