

2011 Natural History Information For Large Mammals

Mammal, Species, Population	Habitat	Food	Reproductive Age, Mating Season/ Gestation Period, Offspring Stats	Weight, Size, Longevity	Male, Female, Young, Group, Other Facts
MOOSE <i>Alces alces gigas</i> ~ 2000 – 2200 1279 in 2008 (in north side survey area)	River bottoms and willow patches; may cover 20 - 40 miles	HERBIVORE Spring: Sedges, grasses, <i>Equisetum</i> , pond plants Summer: Willow, aspen, and birch leaves; also pond plants Winter: Twigs, bark, saplings	2 - 3 years Sept. - Oct./240 days 1 - 3 calves born May-June 28 - 35 lbs.	Male: 1000 - 1600 lbs. Female: 800 - 1200 lbs. Max.: 7.5 feet at shoulders Lives 17 - 20 years	Bull, Cow, Calf Largest member of deer family. Called "Elk" in Europe. Usually have only one calf. Calf weighs over 300 lbs. at 5 months. Max antlers 80 inches. Velvet shed Aug.-Sept. Antlers shed Nov.-Dec. Wolf is primary predator of adult moose. Alaska population is 130,000-160,000.
GRIZZLY BEAR <i>Ursus arctos</i> 300 - 350 (north side); density is 27 (north) or 28 (south) bears per 1000 km ²	Typically open tundra but may be found anywhere; winter dens are often at higher elevations	OMNIVORE 80-85%: Roots, grasses, berries 15-20%: Ground squirrel, moose calves, caribou calves, rodents, carrion	6 - 10 years May-July/180 – 260 days Twins common, born Jan - Feb Less than 1 lb.	Male: 300 - 500 lbs. Max: 700 lbs. Female: 200 - 400 lbs. 6 - 7 feet standing 3.5 feet at shoulders Lives at least 20 – 30 years	Boar, Sow, Cub Significant predator of caribou and moose calves. Brown and grizzly same species; coastal browns weigh 500-1400 lbs. and are 9 ft. tall b/c of fish diet. Enter dens in Oct., emerge in April-May. Sow mates every 3 years. Delayed implantation. Body temperature drops only 5-10°F during dormancy. Waste products recycled by kidneys during dormancy. Large shoulder muscles (hump) make them proficient diggers.
CARIBOU <i>Rangifer tarandus</i> ~2000 2070 in fall 2010 2130 in fall 2009 2070 in fall 2008	Treeless tundra and mountains, boreal forest	HERBIVORE Summer: Willow, dwarf birch, grasses, sedges, succulents Winter: Lichens, moss, dried sedges	3 years October/240 days 1 calf born May - June 10 - 15 lbs.	Male: 350 - 400 lbs. Female: 175 - 225 lbs. 3.5 - 4 feet at shoulders Lives at least 11 - 12 years	Bull, Cow, Calf, Herd Caribou and domestic reindeer are same species. Only member of deer family in which both male and female have antlers. Record antlers: 44 inches. Velvet shed Aug.-Sept., antlers shed in Dec. (pregnant females shed antlers Apr.-June). Newborn calf can walk after 1 hour, run after 2 days.
BLACK BEAR <i>Ursus americanus</i> No census	Forested areas but may be found from sea level to alpine areas	OMNIVORE Freshly sprouted green vegetation, winter-killed animals, moose calves, berries, ants, grubs, other insects	3-6 years June – July/210 days 1-4 cubs, 2 most common, born Jan - Feb Less than 1 lb.	Male: 180-200 lbs., females smaller 30 in. tall at shoulders, 60 in. long Lives 25 - 30 years	Boar, Sow, Cub Colors range from black to white around the state. Mostly black and cinnamon in Denali. Delayed implantation. Hibernate Fall to Spring. Short curved claws make them proficient tree climbers.
DALL SHEEP <i>Ovis dalli dalli</i> ~2500 parkwide; 1724 (2008-2009) in 15 survey units; in 13 survey units: 1526 (2008), 1563 (1996)	Alpine ridges, meadows, and steep craggy slopes; some migrate between Alaska Range and Outer Range	HERBIVORE Summer: Mountain avens, flowers, grasses, willows, sedges Winter: Mosses, lichens	3 years Nov.-Dec./180 days 1 lamb born May - June 2 lambs rare	125 - 200 lbs. 3 - 3.5 feet at shoulder Lives 11 - 14 years	Ram, Ewe, Lamb, Band Nursery gatherings in May-June. Horns are never shed but continue to grow. Rings on horns give approximate age. Full curl at 7-11 years. Record spread of horns 35 inches. Male and female remain in separate bands except during rut. Wolf is main predator.
GRAY WOLF <i>Canis lupus</i> ~70 wolves in 10 packs monitored (park density of wolves: 3.9 per 1000 km ²)	Widespread; territorial, but may make long forays in winter	CARNIVORE Moose, caribou, sheep, carrion, rodents, hare, beaver, birds	2 years Feb.-March/63 days 2 - 10 pups (avg. 5) born May	Male: 85 - 135 lbs. Female: 75 - 105 lbs. 2.5 feet at shoulders Lives 9 - 12 years	Dog, Bitch, Pup, Pack Individual color varies from black to white, gray most common. 200-600 sq. mile per pack. Average pack size is 4.5 wolves. As of 4/20/2010, 13 wolves in 12 packs wearing VHF radio collars, and 7 wolves wearing GPS collars. Study goal is 2 collars per pack.