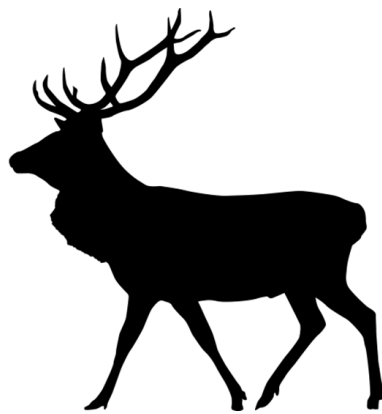


Animals of the Black Hills

Elk





Elk use their strong legs to push through the deep snows of winter. They also use their hooves to paw the snow away in order to reach plants beneath the snow.



Elk love to graze on grasses and browse shrubs. They eat an average of 20 pounds of vegetation daily. When food is hard to find, Elk will eat the inner layer of bark on aspen trees. Aspens all over the Black Hills show scars from where they have been munched on by Elk in the winter!



Elk, like deer, have very large ears and great hearing skills. Their ears are flexible and can be pointed in the direction the an elk hears something!

Elk are able to stay warm in the winter by growing a thicker second coat. In the summer this coat is shed in order to keep the elk cool.





For defense, elk females, called cows, and elk young, called calves, group together in large herds. Herds move from season to season to where the best food is. In the winter, elk herds often move lower in elevation where winter usually isn't as harsh.

Elk feed mostly in the morning and evening, and seek sheltered areas during the middle of the day to digest their grub.



Winter Challenge:

How does your animal solve this challenge?

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