

2013 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 1477 in 2011 (in north side survey area)	River bottoms and willow patches; may cover 20 - 40 miles	HERBIVORE All seasons: mostly browse Spring: Sedges, grasses, <i>Equisetum</i> , pond plants Summer: Willow, aspen, and birch leaves; also pond plants Winter: Twigs, bark, saplings	2 - 3 years late Sept – early Oct/230 days 1 - 2 calves born May-early June (for pregnant cows: 60% have single calves, 40% have twins, 3 calves exceedingly rare), 40 lbs.	Male: 1000 - 1600 lbs. Female: 800 - 1200 lbs. Max.: 7.5 feet at shoulders Lives: up to 12 years (male), 20 years (female)	Bull, Cow, Calf Largest member of deer family. Called "Elk" in Europe. Usually have only one calf. Calf weighs 320-525 (average 436) 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: 800 lbs. Female: 200 - 400 lbs. 6 - 7 feet standing 3.5 feet at shoulders Lives: up to 20 - 30 years	Boar, Sow, Cub Significant predator of caribou and moose calves. Brown and grizzly same species; coastal browns weigh up to 1400 lbs., 9 ft. tall b/c of fish diet. Enter dens in Oct., emerge in April-May. Sow mates every 3 years. Delayed implantation. During dormancy: Body temperature drops 5-10°F, kidneys recycle waste products. Large shoulder muscles (hump) make them proficient diggers.
CARIBOU <i>Rangifer tarandus</i> ~2,200 (estimates over last five years 2,070 to 2,300)	Treeless tundra and mountains, boreal forest	HERBIVORE Summer: Willow, dwarf birch, grasses, sedges, succulents Winter: Lichens, moss, dried sedges	2-3 years late Sept-early Oct/230 days 1 calf born May – early June 8 -24 lbs. (average 17 lbs)	Male ≥ 6yr: 408-613 lbs. (average 513 lbs.) Female ≥4yr: 204 - 326 lbs. (average 263 lbs.) 3.5 - 4 feet at shoulders Lives: up to 12 years (male), 20 years (female)	Bull, Cow, Calf, Herd Caribou and reindeer = same species (N. America versus Eurasia). Only deer family member in which male and female have antlers. Males ≥6 yr. antler length: 48” (average; range is 39-59”). Velvet shed late Aug.-Sept. Antlers shed: mature males, Oct-Dec; young males, Feb-April; barren females, April-early May; pregnant females, at calving. Newborn calf walks within a few hours; outruns a person after 3 days.
BLACK BEAR <i>Ursus americanus</i> Estimate ~200 south of range; no census north	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: up to 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'S SHEEP <i>Ovis dalli dalli</i> ~2500 parkwide; 2321 (2011, northside) 1867 (2011, east survey units); 1724 (2008-2009, east units); 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: Grasses/sedges, lichen, moss	2-3 years late Nov.-early Dec./170 days 1 lamb born May – early June 2 lambs rare average 9 lbs.	Male (adult): 180 lbs. (average, up to 300 lbs.) Female (adult): 125 lbs (average) 3 - 3.5 feet at shoulder Lives: up to 12 years (male), 20 years (female)	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> ~49 wolves in 11 packs monitored (park density of wolves: 3.2 per 1,000 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 (adult): 76-130 lbs. (average 105 lbs.) Female (adult): 70-107 lbs. (average 88 lbs.) 2.5 feet at shoulders Lives: up to 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 4/15/2013, there were 10 packs with collared wolves in them: 8 wolves wearing conventional VHF radio collars and 13 wearing GPS/ARGOS collars (data at least once per day). Study goal is 2 collars per pack.