

Dall's Sheep – 2025 Survey Summary

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Background

The National Park Service conducted an aerial survey for Dall's sheep for approximately 1.5 weeks in July 2025. Aircraft surveyed three different areas in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve: Mentasta, Nabesna, and Nutzotin (Figure 2). The survey used a standardized distance sampling protocol. Accurate Dall's sheep abundance and demographic data are critical for sustainable management of Dall's sheep populations and their harvest.



Figure 1. A Dall's sheep (NPS / JARED HUGHEY).

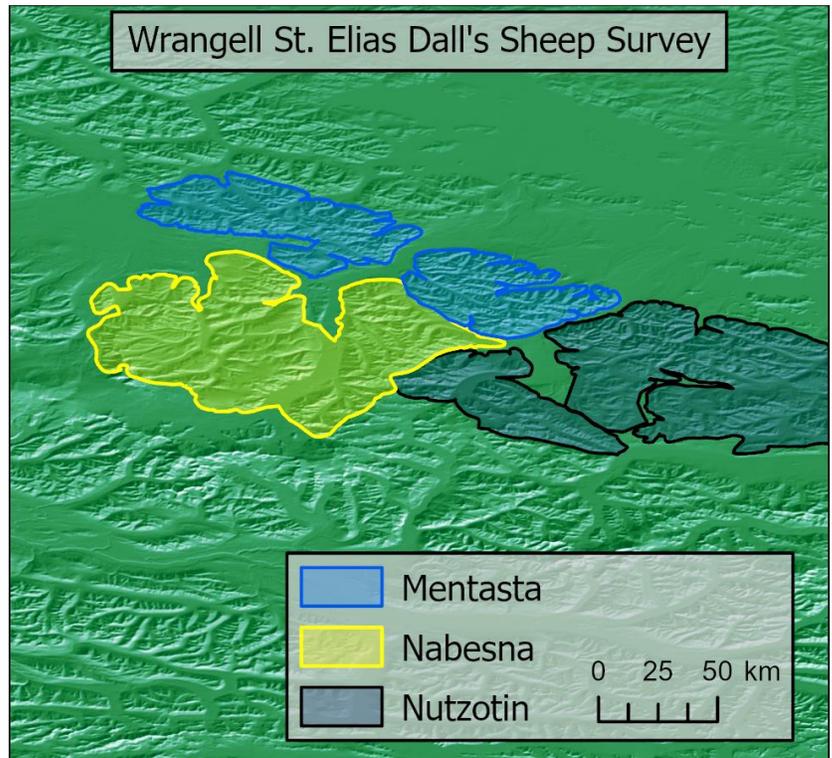


Figure 2. Map of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve Dall's sheep survey areas.

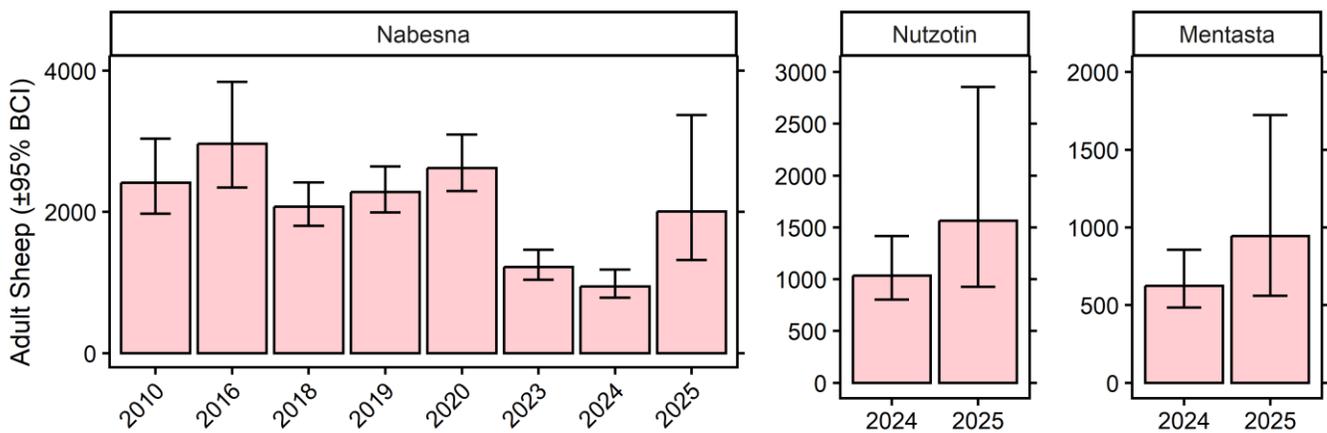


Figure 3. Estimated number of adult sheep in each survey area. Error bars indicate 95% Bayesian Credible Intervals (BCI).



Figure 4. A group of Dall's sheep running through rocky terrain (NPS / DYLAN SCHERTZ).

Population Estimates

All three survey areas saw an increase in estimated adult sheep abundance (Figure 3). The apparent lamb to ewe-like ratio from all three areas are either similar or less than the 2024 estimates (Figure 6).



Figure 5. A Piper SuperCub, the survey aircraft typically used for Dall's sheep surveys (NPS / BRAD SHULTS).

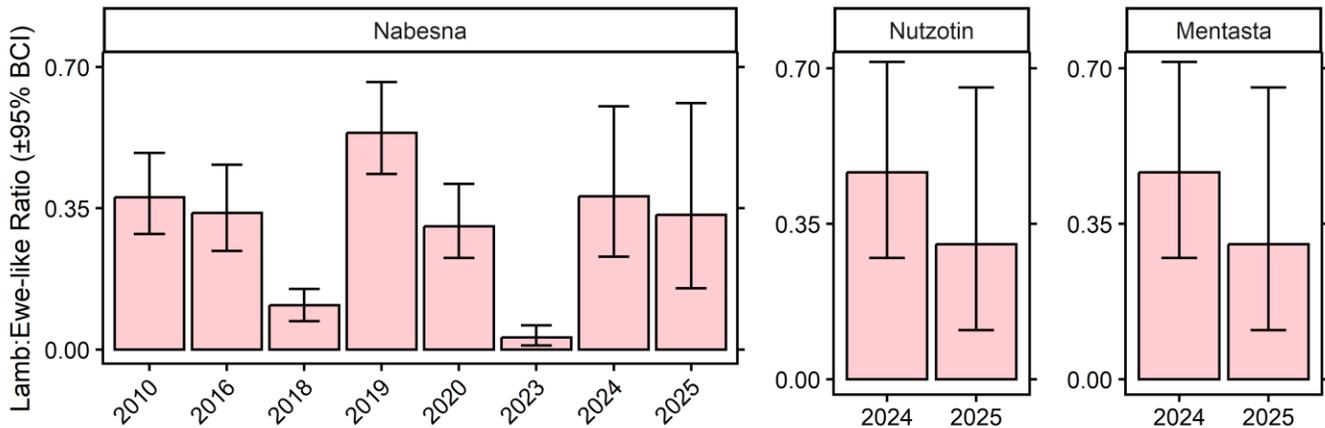


Figure 6. Estimated ratio of lambs to ewe-like sheep, an indicator of reproductive success. Error bars indicate 95% Bayesian Credible Intervals (BCI).

More Information

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<https://www.nps.gov/im/cakn/dallsheep.htm>